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Confessions Of A Conjuror



Synopsis

The inside of Derren Brown's head is a strange and mysterious place. Now you can climb inside and wander around. Find out just how Derren's mind works, see what motivates him and discover what made him the weird and wonderful person he is today. Obsessed with magic and illusions since childhood, Derren's life to date has been an extraordinary journey and here, in *Confessions of a Conjuror*, he allows us all to join him on a magical mystery tour - to the centre of his brain... Taking as his starting point the various stages of a conjuring trick he's performing in a crowded restaurant, Derren's endlessly engaging narrative wanders through subjects from all points of the compass, from the history of magic and the fundamentals of psychology to the joys of internet shopping and the proper use of Parmesan cheese. Brilliant, hilarious and entirely unlike anything else you have ever read before, *Confessions of a Conjuror* is also a complete and utter joy.

Book Information

Paperback: 336 pages

Publisher: Channel 4 (September 1, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1905026595

ISBN-13: 978-1905026593

Product Dimensions: 5 x 0.8 x 7.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.5 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.7 out of 5 stars 30 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #722,849 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #160 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Performing Arts > Magic & Illusion](#) #187 in [Books > Sports & Outdoors > Outdoor Recreation > Surfing](#) #204 in [Books > Humor & Entertainment > Puzzles & Games > Magic](#)

Customer Reviews

"Weird, whimsical and, at times, uproarious... Brown takes us on a meandering pleasure cruise downriver. It is worth the journey" * *The Sunday Times* * "It combines a playfully baroque prose style with pinpoint observation and almost excruciating levels of self-examination, if not loathing. It's a fascinating experience" -- AL Kennedy * *Guardian*, Books of the Year * "A fantastic voyage into Derren Brown's intensely sharp brain... A deeply funny and eccentric triumph" * *Heat* * "Closer to the work of someone like Malcolm Gladwell than to the... reminiscences of Brown's memoirs-writing contemporaries" * *Word* * "A lovely kind of magic trick in book form" * *Boing Boing* *

Derren was born in 1971 in Croydon. A precocious and puzzling only child, he liked to paint, foster obsessive habits and once set fire to a neighbour's boat by accident. In 1999 he was asked by Channel 4 to put a mind-reading programme together for television. It was an immediate success and gained Derren a cool underground kudos. Two more series followed and then in October 2003 Derren caused an international furore by playing Russian Roulette live on television. This secured his notoriety with the public and his big apartment in London. Further specials have followed, including The Seance, still the most complained about show in the history of television. Derren's workload keeps him exhausted and irritable fifty-two weeks a year and he continues to live in London with a large collection of taxidermy and a fatalistic parrot. He spends any free weekends painting and likes to receive gifts.

Derren Brown is now the most popular entertainer in the U.K., although he is practically unknown in the Western Hemisphere. That may change if his videos are released in Region One (North America) format, but as of now, only Americans with quirky interests are aware of him. I count myself among the Brown votaries, and I've watched videos of his stage performances over and over, because he is, I believe, the greatest performer of any kind in the world. As a magician he is as entertaining as Penn & Teller; as a mentalist, he takes up where the Amazing Kreskin left off; his powers seem to equal those of *À Mandrake the Magician*, and in addition to his charisma, Derren Brown (like both Penn & Teller) is erudite, knowledgeable and a sincere skeptic. Nevertheless, I warn you not to buy this book. Scattered throughout 327 pages is an explanation of how a common card trick is done (misdirection), but most of it reads like the words of a late-night phone call you may have received from a very needy acquaintance who has gone off his medication or into the bottle. It's stream-of-consciousness writing on the level of what a hyperactive eight-year-old who has taken a shine to you might say, but even worse, it's horribly overwritten, and Brown's talent as a writer is nowhere near that of his talent as a public performer. There is no organization to the book, and his accounts of quotidian activities include descriptions of handkerchiefs (for their original purpose, not for magic), his favorite toilet paper, his favorite reading while on the toilet, reflections on nose picking, what he sings while cleaning his teeth, and the technique of wiping one's anus. Most topics are interrupted by at least one agonizingly long and tedious footnote concerning something related, or -> zoom!

One of my favorite magicians. I stumbled upon him by mistake when I was watching you tube

videos on close up magic and mentalism. He is a true performer and his showmanship to me is unmatched. If you ever have the opportunity to see him perform than you are lucky but listening to him speak is great because his books read, in my mind at least, just like he speaks.

This book is largely a stream of conscious. In addition, there are so many tangents upon tangents I found the first quarter of the book rather hard to digest. As I continued reading, I adapted to Derren's style and allowed myself to go along with the flow. I was glad I did. This book is actually quite different from *Tricks of the Mind*. It provides much more backstory to his life and frustrations with such. You will sometimes read where we are able to peer or glimpse into an author's mind. In this case, you will get much more than a mere glimpse; you will find yourself fully immersed. Rather than finding his thoughts troubling, I found myself thinking that he is 'more like us' than I had thought in the past. Maybe that is good or maybe that is bad but it is what it is. If the reader is expecting to find the secrets behind some of his illusions, you will be disappointed. Although, Derren does provide an ample wealth of the psychology that is embedded in most of his work. If you are a Derren Brown fan, you will like the book. If not, then you will probably think it is rubbish. I would recommend you read *Tricks of the Mind* before buying this book. It may satisfy your need to know what kind of bizarre mind ticks behind that skull. I hope you find this review helpful. Michael L. Gooch
- Author of *Voodoo Fever*

I love the inside perspective to things only a conjuror would know (like how slick and smooth or slippery and clumsy a deck of cards can be, for example). DB's prose is EXTREMELY rich. it's enjoyable reading this book because of the author's first-hand account of so many of his enthralling (or at times embarrassing) experiences. Derren's extremely rich, witty, and hysterical phraseology ("lubricated glutton" is one phrase that had me in stitches) has continued on (and is much richer I feel) from his first book into this one. This is definitely a treat. Also some of the immense detail in the descriptions of scenes depicted make this incredibly unique. It's not Joyce (but in a way, quite close), but for a book that's read primarily because of the author's non-literary profession (conjuring, hypnotism, and showmanship), this is a smashing good and incredible book. His savant-like attention to detail (indubitably vital to the completion of some of his tricks) is preposterously funny and amusing at times. Derren's tricks for mnemonics and cognitive connections are back in a bold new (and even more helpful) flavor. It truly is a set of (humiliating and hysterical and fascinating and impressive) confessions. To anyone who admires derren's work, this book is incredible. Also reading this book I realized how much of Derren's nuance preferences differ from my own. I had liked to

think I had more commonalities with Derren instead of differences, but it seems that the contrary is more accurate; I share less in common with him than I thought. Oh well, it's still a royally hilarious and informative books at moments.

Enjoy the way Derren, looks at the world. It's nice to get a glimpse into that most interesting brain!
Now I know how to poach an egg to perfection :)

Witty and delightful, here you'll learn Darren's thoughts on a plethora of topics all set to the tune of a singular magic performance in a restaurant years ago.

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