

Ex Libris by Joaquin Ayala, Ph.D.

Hello everyone and welcome to the Ex Libris article for November 2019! Here in our little corner of the world we have actually experienced a gradual season change, as opposed to the last few years when we went straight from summer to winter and the leaves went from green to dead! It is very pretty to see all the colors of the leaves when they change from green to yellow to orange to red – the color provides a very nice contrast to the darker, dank days of the autumn season. Speaking of color...

We will be focusing on a book called *Self-Working Handkerchief Magic* by **Karl Fulves**. This is a 184-page softcover book originally published in 1988 by **Dover Publications** and was illustrated by **Joseph K. Schmidt**. It is a collection of effects from various performers, some very well-known and others unknown, *literally!*

The effects in here range from easy to ridiculously easy. Do not be misled by the term 'self-working' because even those can be screwed up, and not every effect described thusly actually fits into that category. However, the effects here do not require any knuckle-busting sleights, nor do they require you to do anything complicated. It is all about remembering simple steps.

This book includes some classics like the *Ring on Rope* where a ring can be put onto and taken off a length of rope under cover of a handkerchief. *No Pockets* is a great gag from **Slydini** where you produce a silk from a pocket that does not exist! It also teaches various ways to produce and vanish silks/handkerchiefs from various implements including rolled-up newspapers, boxes, etc.

You will learn many ways to make various objects penetrate silks/hankies, such as pens, pencils, coins, thimbles and more. You will learn how to make two silks, which are tied together, magically come apart inside a glass or a paper bag and how to cause a chosen silk to vanish and reappear in another location. You will even learn a semi-impromptu version of the *Haunted Hanky* (a.k.a. 'Glorpy') and a way to do a *Zombie* effect, both with the help of some silverware! The book also shows you how to create a mouse and a rabbit out of a hanky (puppets) and you will learn a secret about the actual book itself...

That is all for this month folks – give this book a try because there are some classic effects hidden inside and they are all easy to do! Join me again in December for the last newsletter of 2019(!)

Yours in the Secret Art – **J. M. A.**