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PROFESSOR'S
NIGHTMARE
THE AWAKENING



By Ron Dayton

AKA KOTAH

**Foreword By
Ed Solomon**

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Professor's Nightmare– The Awakening

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FOREWORD

When asked to write a foreword or an introduction to a book, one is flattered and honored to be asked. To be a part of one of Ron Dayton's books is indeed a privilege, and of course, I agreed to do so.

Having read each and every one of these fascinating tales, enjoying the word play and the wisdom, I would have to stand up in the auditorium seating and shout bravo. There are a few places that make me giggle. There are some lines that make me smile. There are some of the stories that make me weep and wish that I had written them. I told Ron that this is the way I would start a foreword to this book for I am amazed with his versatility.

Professor's Nightmare is one of those ageless effects that are in the repertoire of many magicians. In recent times we have learned of its origin and journey through the hands of dealers and false claims of originality. It, like so many clever magical effects, has undergone various names and descriptions, and the workings of the effect have appeared in many magical instruction booklets. The performance of this rope routine has become a staple of many young magicians who delight in showing to their audiences. If you have seen it once, you have seen it a dozen times, but the most difficult part of doing it is a story, or a logical reason to be doing it in the first place. That is where it often fails.

Now along comes Ron Dayton, our friendly word charmer, with a delightful collection of Nightmare stories wrapped around this magical rope routine to fit almost any unique presentation occasion.

As you read these, don't look for special handling of the ropes. Don't look for fancy sleight of hand. Read and be amazed at the variety of ideas and let your mind be immersed in the creative process of one of our most clever magical thinkers. I think you will join me as one of the ardent KOTAH fans, and will say with me, "Miralonomas." (Lo and behold.)

In the Craft,
Ed Solomon

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**Dedicated to the memory of Bob Carver,
inventor of The Professor's Nightmare.**

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Introduction From The Publisher

Ron did not write his own introduction for this booklet, preferring instead to write a conclusion that sums up his ideas. I wanted to take a moment to write this brief introduction to share with you only one or two brief thoughts.

Ron Dayton is one of the treasures of magic. He has authored countless books and invented tens of dozens of tricks- many of which you may do today without knowing their origin. Ron's interests are varied and wide, and he is a talented writer. He is also a deep thinker and deep person. Deep persons and deep thinkers are often moody and sentimental- Ron is no exception. You will see the moodiness within these stories not in anger or sadness but in variety of styles themes and tones. In this I was most impressed as I read these presentations.

Within the various routines, the brief directions or notes are given parenthetically, while all the rest of the text represents spoken words. Much of Ron's writing must be read aloud and approached as prose to get a feel for how it is to be delivered, where the pauses go, and how to tell the story for maximum impact.

I hope you enjoy this, and will join me in thanking Ron for this contribution... One legend of magic, Ron Dayton meets another legend of magic- The Professor's Nightmare!

Dean Montalbano—2008

WHAT LENGTH ?

My life is not an orderly one, and my thoughts are unorganized as well. From time to time however, an unexpected connection is made, one thread of thought intertwining with another.

I admit having a fascination with the unsolved case of Jack the Ripper. The facts of this case fit well in my quest for bizarre and arcane knowledge.

While seated at the desk of my study, in a cluttered drawer I found three lengths of rope, blood red in color. Each was a different length.

Where did they come from? I could not recall.

In my mind , I saw one of them drawing tightly around a woman's neck. Like a blood red premonition of the crimson gash his swift blade would slice.

(Three ropes are removed from your pocket and tossed out on the table. Picking one up ...)

Way too short to even be considered.

(Displaying the second length...)

Too long to be efficient.

(The third and final length is shown...)

This, the happy medium, just might be the ticket !

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(The lengths are gathered , doubled and ends held between your hands, as per the standard Professor's Nightmare method .)

Logic may allow us to know the length he chose; but no one knows the lengths to which a madman goes.

Give a man enough rope , they say, and he will hang himself. But old Jack never hung, never swung for what he did.

What if the size of the rope indicated height rather than length! Was Jack a tall man? Almost six feet like the renter at 22 Batty Street, or five foot five as some eye witnesses claim, or was he somewhere in between?

Is it a stretch?, (As you say 'stretch', your hands separate and the ropes stretch to equal lengths.) When it comes to the potential of every man to become a killer, all men and their darkest deeds are equal.

The justice of it?

Justice lies with God, rather than at the end of a rope.

(Three nice lengths of burgundy color, twisted, quarter-inch sash cord looks very nice. Glue the ends with clear drying Elmer's Glue to prevent fraying. The cord handles well and looks rich.)

Kotah

SPIDERS IN THE TREE

Old world legend says poor mother cleaned her home in anticipation, preparation for the most wonderful day of the year. Christmas Day, the day the Christ child would bless the house. Not a speck of dust remained. Even the harmless spiders had been banished from their corner of the ceiling.

Confused, they retreated to the safety of the attic. From there, they could not see the beautifully decorated tree nor the presents left for the holy child. The eldest and wisest spider suggested they wait until the family slept. In the dark they crept down to see the tree. Joyfully they danced and played among the branches, leaving the tree covered in a veil of webs.

When the holy child saw this in the morning, he felt dismayed. Though he loved the little spiders, he also knew how hard the poor woman had worked to make things perfect. So with love in his heart and a smile on his lips, he reached out and gently touched the fragile webs. The slender threads began to sparkle and shimmer; each web turning to silver and to gold. That is the legend told. That is why to this day, people hang tinsel and shining garland on their tree. It has also become custom for some to include a spider among the decorations.

(Three different lengths of silver garland are displayed, shown individually, then doubled and the ends held in each hand.)

Some say of the spider web, "Oh what a tangled web we weave." But at Christmas it is not easy to deceive.

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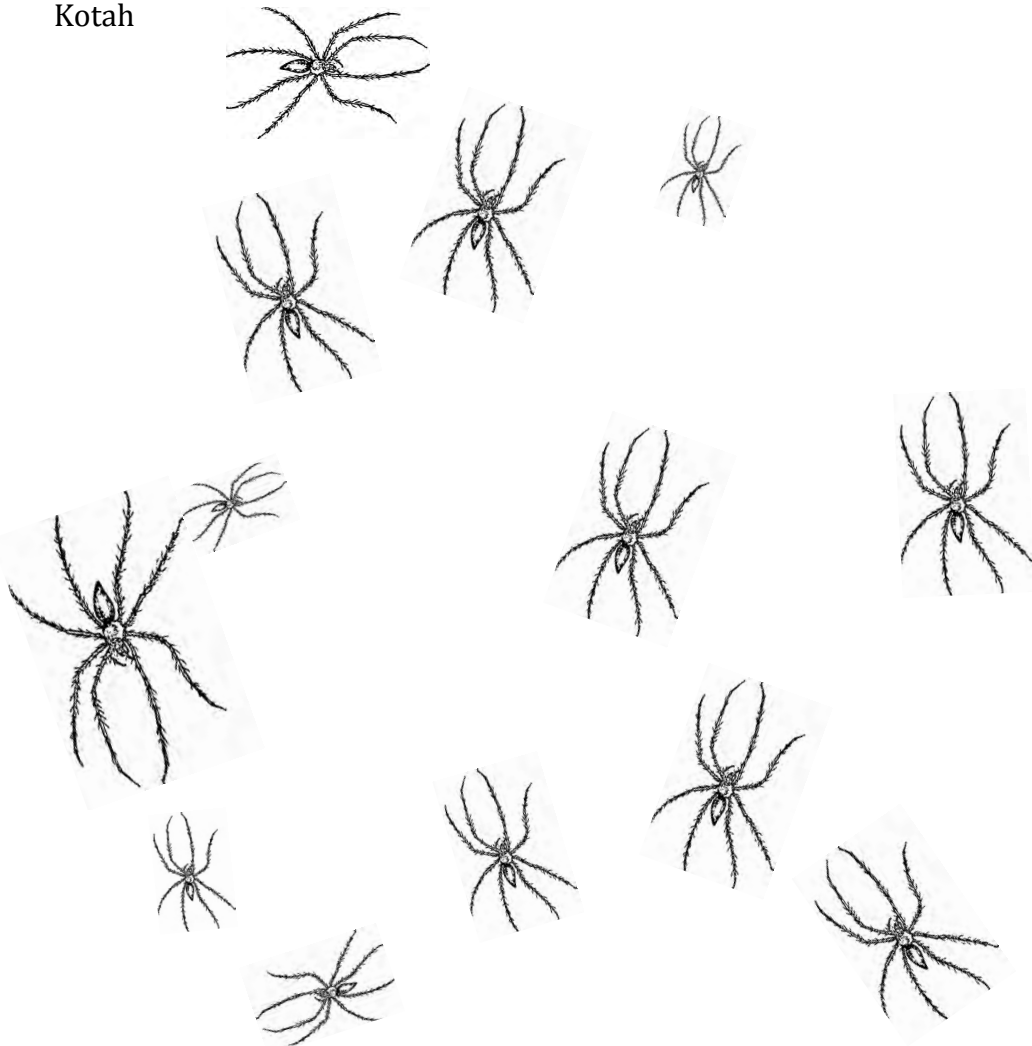
The strength and length of the season's joy, depends upon how truly we believe.

(As your hands part, the silver strands magically stretch to equal lengths.)

The greatest treasure; joy faith and brotherhood in equal measure.

(A visual and poignant tale in which garland replaces the standard rope. Silver strands given as a memento of the performance.)

Kotah



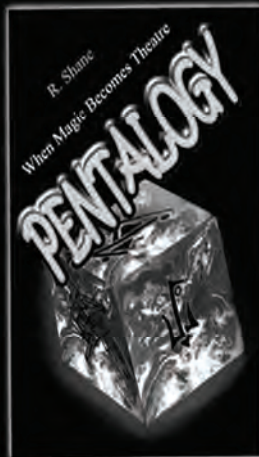
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Psychic
Entertainment
General Magic
Bizarre



Hard Cover
Soft Cover
Magical Effects

Always something new
Wholesale Exclusively Through Murphy's Magic Supply
Available from YOUR FAVORITE DEALER



Pentalogy is almost 500 PAGES long with ZERO FLUFF! Pentalogy is a collection of FIVE smaller books that R. Shane wrote and released over the course of five LONG years!

Pentalogy is a powerful set of routines of easy to do, NON-finger flinging close-up magic that is more accurately called Close Up THEATRE!

Pentalogy is filled with themes, stories, effects and ideas that provoke emotion and involvement. From the romantic to the frightening, from the bizarre to the beautiful. R. Shane has poured his heart and soul into this collection of real pieces of magic that he has tested and performed.

Pentalogy is real, useable magic that has been used in front of real audiences!

Pentalogy is an inch thick! And Thicker Is better!

Pentalogy is fun, funny and FASCINATING as R. Shane tells you a lot about how and why he structures things the way he does and gives a look inside his head. (And BOY is it dark in there.)

This 480 page hard cover, this book is an AWESOME value as I PROMISE that you can find more than a few gems that you will actually perform.

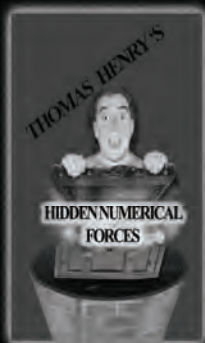
A Darker Light- From the fertile mind of Ronald J. Dayton (a.k.a Kotah) is a collection of dark stories and poems entangled in a web of magic. Some 120 plus pages of material for the Bizarrist. Twisted, and thought provoking stuff. Dark but real, pages from the tests of life. Tales that will touch emotions, and possibly a nerve or two. Things which once heard, will not soon be forgotten. Presentations gathered over the past three years and all released in one book for the very first time. A Darker Light is sure to please the dark side of your performers soul. Come, walk this shadow path, bathed in a darker light. In its glow you will come to know magic differently. This is the best of Dayton, at Dayton's best! The imagery of words used as tools of creative inspiration.

This book features over 30 bizarre effects presented in story form. Not for the novice, this book simply hints at methodology, preferring instead, as with all good bizarre magick, to focus on the presentation and mood.

A Darker Light will be printed in soft cover 8.5" X 11" format, and is sure to please the dark side of your performer's soul.



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Hidden Numerical Forces Prepare to be surprised...

Within these pages lies a thorough investigation of the mathematics, psychology and subtleties of numerical methods in mentalism and mental magic. Despite the theme, Hidden Numerical Forces is not a book of number tricks. While numerical quantities and operations do figure in, they take a back seat to the unexpected twists in presentation.

Hidden Numerical Forces is truly a book of principles. Various complete effects are explained, but the emphasis is more on developing general techniques you can apply to create new handlings of your own. Think of it as a do-it-yourself toolkit brimming with unusual ideas for compelling psychic entertainment.

Thomas Henry has had over 130 articles published on a variety of subjects. Among these are several on mentalism, including a One-Man Parade, which appeared in The Linking Ring

Magictales "Magictales" - The Definitive Book of Storytelling Magic!

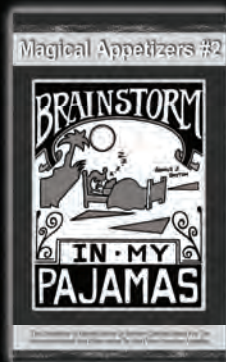
Do YOU want to perform Magic routines that are memorable, magic that people will talk about for days?

Do you want to learn entertaining routines that don't require knuckle-busting sleights or complicated mechanical equipment? You will find all of the above in Leslie Melville's new book, entitled: 'MAGICTALES' - The Definitive Book of Storytelling Magic! Author of the recently acclaimed book, "Kismet or the Enchanted Stepping Stones!" Leslie has written another, more comprehensive work in the field of Storytelling Magic!

The material includes seventeen complete storytelling routines.

Finally, we have included the entire text of my previous work. "Kismet - or The Enchanted Stepping Stones!" So you will have two major books in one about a subject of which little so far has been written!" 'MAGICTALES' - The Definitive Book of Storytelling Magic!

Is a collection of magical routines with entertaining story presentations that YOU WILL PERFORM! No pipe dreams! - No difficult moves! - No complicated apparatus!



Brainstorm In My Pajamas

Here we have Ronald Dayton's newest book, "Brainstorm In My Pajamas" a humorous title for one heck of an idea book. Ron Dayton is one of the most prolific mind in magic, and his alter ego-KOTAH as been popular on the bizarre scene for years as well.

Well, Ron has compiled a series of ideas, tricks, improvements for his creations and MUCH MORE. We offer it here as the second in our "Magical Appetizer" series! Within two months the book will be available for preview, but we wanted to share it with you now so you could get excited!

Best of all, this book will include a reprint of the long unavailable Dayton Razor Blade Miracle! Ron's version of the razor blade trick is superb in that it uses only ONE set of razors, and nothing need be concealed in the mouth at the beginning or the end. Yes, the EXACT same razors that go in to the mouth separate, are the exact same ones that emerge strung together at the end!

180 Plus full sized pages, with illustrations!

Dustin It Off! By Julie Sobanski and Dean Montalbano

This book is the first in our magical appetizers series. This series will be dedicated to a set of small "idea" books and single effect manuscripts. The idea is to spark creativity or offer powerful clever thinking in small packets to get your creative juices flowing.

In "Dustin' It Off", Julie Sobanski and Dean Montalbano revisit their 1980/90's Genii column Tarbell Treasures. In that old chestnut, the authors would take an old outdated item from the Tarbell Course In Magic and dust it off with a new twist, idea or presentation. Here, for the first time in once place are many of those routines, plus some new ones never seen before and several articles dedicated to magical thinking.

Dustin It Off features routines based on Rope and Tape Principle, One Ahead, Thumb Tips, Coin Penetrations and so much more. There are children's routines, bizarre magic, stand up, close-up and more. But more importantly, there is inspiration to encourage YOU to take some old outdated magic, and give it a face lift!

This 6 X 9 Soft Cover 128 page book is only \$25.00



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AUTOMATA Automata is a collection of effects based on self working magic- WAIT- I know what yer thinking.... Counting and math, OH NO!

No Indeed!!! Yes, the principles behind most of these are based on tried and true mathematical principles which, in their original form are not particularly performable, but WOW what R. Shane has done with them.

The subtitle of this book is Self-working magic with HUMANITY! That says it all. Here are simple methodologies enshrouded in AWESOME presentations that make the "tricks" into magic theatre that entertains, amazes and inspires. R. Shane begins each effect with a treatise on the original method and effect and then explores variations on the theme. R. Shane is also a master at finding a hole and plugging it up. He finds the "flaw" in a method that prevents it from being a masterpiece, and finds a way to seal that hole so the mystery won't escape.

In this 140 Plus page book, you will find over a dozen plus principles, PLUS complete performable routines based on each of them and literally DOZENS of variations on each one.

In **TRACTARE**, Shane takes a series of simple effects. Many of which you may know. He starts by sharing the original effect, talking about why he liked or in some cases DISliked the original. Then he starts "Shane-Ifying" it.... He talks about the psychology behind the trick, why it works. He talks about the weaknesses and strengths of it. Sometimes he runs off on tangents (and Oh yeah it sounds JUST like Shane talking... That makes it fun to read- even if sometimes mind spinning) and brings in other effects.

The thing about the material in **TRACTARE** is it uses no real sleights. There are some moves, little movements or things one does to make the magic happen, but in some cases they are as simple as turning over a stack of business cards. Yes- THAT little of a move.

Finally, Shane shows you what HE did with it all. Like mixing ingredients together for a cake, (Ever taste vanilla by itself? BLECHA!) the end is MUCH more delightful than the parts. Often the final routine and indeed EFFECT are not recognizable from the original, but ALWAYS Shane weaves a well thought out audience tested plot, with simple magic to leave you with Miracles. I HATE reading the word Miracle in magic descriptions, but that's all I can call much of his magic.



More Food For Your Bizarre Mood

For those who enjoyed Ron Dayton's HIT "A Darker Light" we present this sequel, "By Darkness Influenced."

Over 120 pages of bizarre poems, stories, effects and more. Bizarre magic is NOT for every audience nor for every performer, but every performer WILL benefit from learning how to take simple methods, sometimes only hinted at- wrap them in a dramatic or disturbing story, and make them in to something WONDERFUL. Some food for thought, some food for performance, and some, well- just down right disturbing!

By Darkness Influenced features Magick stories, poems and effects that range from necrophiliac paranoids who are killed by giant spiders, to paper butterflies that flap to life in a flash of fire. Poems about children who turn parents into living Mister Potato Heads, to clever card tricks used to illustrate a story of an old western shootout! From the Beautiful to the disgusting... it's all here!

MIND CANDY!

Contained herein are over 50 original effects and presentations for the Psychic Entertainer or Metnalist.

Mind Candy is over 150 pages of material, some never before published, glossy hard cover book filled with clever, off beat, actually performed mind reading material.

How often do you hear an ad for a magic book say, "This one effect ALONE is worth the price of the book." Well, we could certainly say that several times over. Consider this: What would you pay for an effect where instead of bending spoons, you bend WRENCHES! How about an effect where a deck of cards is hurled into the audience and random spectators merely THINK of a card that they catch... the performer is able to name those! A randomly selected cassette tape among hundreds ends up correctly predicting a randomly selected card, using an ordinary cassette player and ordinary cassettes! A Russian Roulette effect using Deadly Snakes!

All this and more in **MIND CANDY!**



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FROZEN

Ok, you will HAVE to see the video to believe this, but here is a 100% honest description:

The performer walks up to a total stranger and asks them if they have a coin which the magician will use. Spectator initials or marks the coin. Spectator drops the coin in the performer's hand.

The performer steps back a few feet, holds his hands at arms length and then blows toward his hand. Billows of "cold breath" puff forth with a cloud of (safe) smoke, like when you breath on a cold day.

The performer holds his hands over the spectator's, and cold drops of water drip forth. The performer slowly opens his hands, and a chunk of ice falls out into the spectator's awaiting hands. The spectator can then take the ice with them and wait for it to thaw to retrieve his coin.. yes it is the same one.

It is that clean, and THAT amazing

SOS, Self Opening Soda

Imagine, you show the spectators a (real) can of soda, or other canned beverage. (Such as Tea for instance.) You place the can on the table, or even in the palm of the spectator, hold your hands a foot or more AWAY from the can, and have everyone concentrate on the can. As everyone watches, the tab of the can visible and loudly cracks open and pulls upward! You then pour the beverage out of the can (Yes, really) and show the can to the audience for inspection!

This is a monograph of a little over 40 pages, and over a hundred photographs! It is soft cover and written in a conversational tone so the learning process is very personal as similar to watching a video as the step by step pictures unfold.

Real can, real soda, really amazing! Can even be done while the can is held by a spectator. Several versions, PLUS a bonus effect of a self opening beer bottle. This will work with almost any beverage can in an aluminum tab container.



The Devil Of A Bar And Pub is known to readers of Linking Ring, Members of the exclusive Shadow Network and elsewhere. The Scribe has long written reports about the goings on of this pub, and the peculiar cast of characters that frequents it. Those people are the alter egos of a veritable Who's Who of the magic, bizarre and storytelling world!

Who are they and who is The Scribe? Well, that has never been made publicly known... Until now! Yes, in addition to over 60 of the scribe's reports- in addition to never before published reports- in addition to reprints of the Linking Ring Pub specials, here you will learn the identity of the Scribe and his cohorts!

Leaping Lizards Magic is proud to have been chosen to bring this VERY exclusive hard cover collection of storytelling, bizarre and psychically entertaining magic together for the first and ONLY time. This dust jacketed book will top out close to 300 pages and is sure to become a collector's item.

Theatrical Magic, in the simplest terms, is magic that is character and story driven.

Whether it is known as Story Telling Magic, Bizarre Magic, Gospel Magic, or some other title, it is magic that is used by the performer to accomplish several goals. 1) To tell a story, 2) to establish or showcase their character, 3) to solve a problem, 4) to make a statement, or 5) to instruct/educate.

Often, magic accomplishes several of these goals at once. Of course it should go without saying that a fundamental purpose of theatrical magic is to entertain, amaze, and create wonder within the story.

You want new routines, there are here. But John, in his wisdom, has instead focused upon theatre and philosophy, using the routines to teach the fundamentals of character, plot, conflict resolution, theatre language blocking and more.

