

Ex Libris by Dr. Joaquin M. Ayala, Ph.D.

Hello folks and welcome to the Ex Libris article for October 2018! I have said it before and I will say it again: Boy, oh boy am I glad autumn is here! This is my absolute favorite season of the year with all of the things changing and transforming, preparing for the coming of Old Man Winter (does this line give you a little sense of déjà vu?). Speaking of changes, I thought I would do something that I have never done before with this article, namely, bringing on a guest contributor!

The idea here is that I know the book we will be discussing this month is great, and for various reasons, but I wanted you all to see that there are others out there that also know this to be true.

The book we will be focusing on this month is *Ted Lesley's Paramiracles* by **Ted Lesley & Stephen Minch** and here to tell you a little bit about it in his own words is our first(!) guest contributor, **Mr. Kevin Peshick!**

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Paramiracles is a 293-page hardcover book, written by **Ted Lesley** and **Stephen Minch** and published in 1992 by **Hermetic Press**.

Ted Lesley (1937 - 2008) was a German Mentalist who entered the performance world in 1974. Prior to the release of *Paramiracles*, he had published around 80 articles in the German magic magazine *Magsiche Welt* (Magical World.) Much of this material was included in his book *Mental Up* which was then translated into the English language as *Paramiracles* in 1992, taking the magic world by storm. True to the prefix "para", the material in this book can create a near miracle for the dedicated performer.

In the first chapter, he introduces a series of different breather cards that are probably well known to the average card magician. After that there are ten effects using these three different types of breather crimps. These effects are not theoretical but have been honed to perfection by Lesley's years of performance.

Throughout the rest of the book there are many utilities that belong in the mentalists' bag. These include switching pads, the center tear, hidden cribs, the **Koran/Bagshawe** forcing deck, a variant of **Ed Mishell's Holdout** device, a playing card pocket index and a switching envelope.

The effects cover such topics as psychometry, the magic square, Book Tests, an effect using Trivial Pursuit cards, a Headline Prediction, Living & Dead tests, his presentation of **Eddie Joseph's Premonition** (an effect I performed in high school), a card teleportation effect, a pocket watch time prediction effect combined with a paper tearing stunt, and a Hydrostatic Glass. The last chapter is dedicated to a famous PK effect of Lesley's called *Mindbender* in which he bends the stem of a wine glass!

Many of these effects will take dedication to pull together all the required props. These are not props you buy from the magic store, but items you will seek out to create the routines. However, as I mentioned earlier, with the effects having been honed to perfection by actual performances, the hunt will be well worth your effort.

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Thank you very much, Kevin, for this contribution! As he mentioned, the effects in this book vary greatly, and some take considerable time to make (some requiring you to make one-time use items), but they are all worth the effort in the end. The effects given in this book have stood the test of time and are, to the lay audiences, as near to miracles as they will ever witness. The material is also very adaptable to themes, but most are also very suitable for mentalism shows and shows with a bizarre/storytelling theme.

That is all for this month folks! Join us again next month as we delve into another great book, but this time it will be a newer book... *J.M.A.*