

Book Review by John Philip Machniak...

## **The Art of Fortune Telling – How to Predict the Future for Fun and Profit**

by Jonathon Royle

473 pages

If you've ever wanted to learn "psychic belly button reading," "tree slapping," "pawology" (palm reading of dogs' paws) and "psychic tree reading," this is the book for you. But, beyond these quirky and amusing talents, mentalists and magicians – no matter how experienced – will discover a wealth of information that pertains to mentalism, magic and the allied arts in this book.

The author, Jonathon Royle (aka Alex William Smith) is a very talented English magician, mentalist, and hypnotist. He has a reputation for being controversial, brash and self-promoting. He's also someone that I ABSOLUTELY think that every mentalist and magician who's serious about their craft should learn from.

The book begins with a brief autobiographical look at the life of the author. It's a fascinating life, detailing his early performances as a young child. The book also has video links in it, making it useful for magicians and mentalists who like to see things performed.

My one criticism of the book is that it lacks pagination, a table of contents and an index. This makes it a bit difficult to read and to reference sections when you want to go back and review sections that strike your interest. Nonetheless, it is a very practical and useful compendium of knowledge for magicians and mentalists.

The book breaks up the subject matter into different sections. In "Energetic Psychometry," the author explores the use of cold reading. The "Gypsies Glimpse" technique is very clever and one that mentalists can definitely use. The author also suggests researching information, like national statistics, to work into a reading. He also references well known magicians and mentalists, like Ken De Courcy and Richard Webster. An effect in this section on what object belongs to which person works on a very clever principle that could convince an audience that the mentalist really is psychic.

The next section is on numerology. This section includes the use of "tick sheets" to keep things simple. This section includes ACAAN, The

Amazing Magic Square and the Magical Power of Numbers & Groups.  
The "Toxic Number Force" is very clever.

The numerology section is followed by one on astrology. "Visible Deception" is an interesting example of "astrology mentalism" based on Hoy's "The Tossed-Out Deck." The next section is on Viking rune meanings for divination and fortune telling, including a mnemonic system. Other mnemonic systems are referenced in other sections in the book, too. Very useful! Other sections in the book include the following: Tarot and playing card reading, graphology, gemstone and colour readings, "denrographology" ("psychic tree reading,") clairvoyance, universal stock readings (with sources) and a reiteration of Forer's Barnum Statements – very useful and good stuff to know.

Royle gives insightful ways for "psychic readers" to discover information that can potentially be used in a cold reading. For example, he references learning from Freud and his personality theories, the use of the Luscher Color Test and studying demographics and psychographics to give the client information that "you couldn't possibly know."

The book is filled with "real world" information that any working mentalist or magician will appreciate. In "The Master Key to Success," for example, Royle gives the reader the "word for word script that I use at the start of my readings..." at psychic fairs or in an office setting. In "The Keys to Psychic Success," he gives a cold reading mnemonic system that mentalists will find very useful.

Other gems in the book include how to make predictions and how to turn misses into hits, "navel-gazing" and cold reading, linking the information together, tasseography (tea leaf and tea bag reading), pendulum power, ouija boards and glass moving, dark seances, ghost hunting and paranormal investigation events, past life regressions, astral projection and remote viewing experiences and psychic experiments.

The book includes a great deal of the information how to turn the "art of psychic reading" into a money-making proposition, with sections on attracting clients, using "tick sheets" and selling pitch books for profit, the working psychics secrets method (very good), how to give a reading (great section), the secret gypsy [*sic*] guide to 'cold reading' on how anyone can learn to tell fortunes easily and with great accuracy (very good). The final section includes "The Talking Tarot," and a section on

Final Thoughts, with Royle summing up what he believes anyone interested in doing readings needs to know.

Any magician or mentalist who's interested in learning more about the art of doing "psychic readings," or about how to apply the techniques used by "psychic readers" to their mentalism act will definitely find what they're looking for in this book. The psychological look at deception that mentalists should be adept at is both explicitly and implicitly explored by Royle. And, it's all very practical, very useful information. I hope the book reaches a wide audience. It deserves one.

## THE ART OF FORTUNE TELLING - HOW TO PREDICT THE FUTURE FOR FUN AND PROFIT

(Also Contains Psychic Style Mentalism Routines Galore)

EBOOK =

<https://jonathanroyle.sellfy.store/p/the-art-of-fortune-telling-how-to-predict-the-future-for-fun-and-profit/>

HARDBACK =

<https://www.lulu.com/en/us/shop/alex-smith-and-jonathan-royle/the-art-of-fortune-telling/hardcover/product-y9696k.html>

PAPERBACK =

[https://www.amazon.com/Art-Fortune-Telling-Predicting-Future/dp/B08K3YHZ6C/ref=sr\\_1\\_6?dchild=1&keywords=the%20art%20of%20fortune%20telling&qid=1601995970&sr=8-6&](https://www.amazon.com/Art-Fortune-Telling-Predicting-Future/dp/B08K3YHZ6C/ref=sr_1_6?dchild=1&keywords=the%20art%20of%20fortune%20telling&qid=1601995970&sr=8-6&)

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