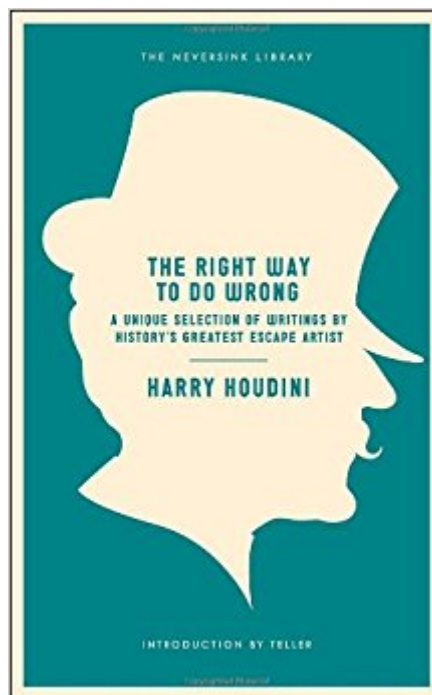




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# The Right Way To Do Wrong: A Unique Selection Of Writings By History's Greatest Escape Artist (Neversink)



## Synopsis

One of the most intriguing and recognized figures of the twentieth century conducts a masterclass in subversion. Originally published in 1906, *The Right Way to Do Wrong* was a masterclass in subversion conducted by the world's greatest illusionist. It collected Houdini's findings, from interviews with criminals and police officers, on the most surefire ways to commit crime and get away with it. This volume presents the best of those writings alongside little-known articles by Houdini on his own brand of deception: magic. Revealing the secrets of his signature tricks, including handcuff and rope escapes, and debunking the methods of his rivals, he proves himself to be just as clever and nimble a writer as he was a magician—and surprisingly free with trade secrets! All of which makes this unique selection of works both the ultimate anti-etiquette guide and proof that things are not always as they seem. In an exclusive introduction to this volume, Teller—magician, comedian, and silent sidekick of Penn Jillette—speaks up about the greatest magician of modern times.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“Houdini was the scourge of spiritualists.” —The Wall Street Journal  
“There is no trick of the recognized masters, from Cagliostro's magic mirror to Kellar's Hindoo lamp and Maskelyne and Devant's Haunted Window, that Houdini did not succeed in fathoming and, when he liked, duplicating.” —The New York Times  
“He was the wonder of the world in an old world hungry for wonders. . . He was the embodiment of something incredible. . . He came to

represent the sum of all amazements." • "The Guardian" "A master of cunning and endurance."  
"NPR" "He remains a mystery. His naivete and his shrewdness, his shyness and his exhibitionism, his kindness and his unforgiving antagonisms proclaim a complicated and unknowable man."  
"New York Review of Books" "He seemed to express in his whole being and in his whole deportment: 'I am who I am. I am the greatest. I am Harry Houdini.'" • "E.L. Doctorow" "Houdini is a witty writer and writes unselfconsciously about subjects that surely would have scandalized his contemporaries." • "Reference and Research Book News

HARRY HOUDINI (born Erik Weisz, 1874–1926) was a Hungarian-born American escapologist, magician, stuntman, actor and film producer, and one of the most iconic figures of the twentieth century. Towards the end of his career he focused his energies on debunking spiritualists and mediums, and on the ethics of magic and illusion. TELLER (Introduction) is one half of magic and comedy duo Penn & Teller. He is the author of *When I'm Dead All This Will Be Yours: Joe Teller's A Portrait By His Kid* and, with Penn Jillette, of *How to Play in Traffic, How to Play with Your Food* and *Penn & Teller's Cruel Tricks for Dear Friends*. TV credits include the series *Penn & Teller: Bullshit!*, in which, like Houdini, the duo set out to debunk common beliefs.

This is an entertaining collection of insight and short stories about the art of illusion. There are several essays written by Mr. Houdini on some of the popular acts of deception during his time; such as sword swallowing, rock swallowing, cryptography, and, to a small extent, escape artistry. Following the articles is his short book, *The Right Way to do Wrong*. In the book is a collection of stories, organized by type of property criminal (thief, pickpocket, burglar, etc.). Mr. Houdini was one of the world's greatest escape artists, but his writing reflects the character of a man that wants to be sure the reader is aware of his fame and talent. I would recommend this to anybody interested in the life of one of history's greats, and any aspiring illusionist, but probably not to the indifferent reader.

This book is HILLARIOUS! I can't remember the last time I had such a blast reading a book. Houdini was such a character and the stories about the people he met and worked with are incredible. Also, Teller's intro is great too. This is a fantastic book from cover to cover.

This is a great collection of writings, including both Houdini offering his advice and opinions about performing magic and his interviews with street criminals on the tricks of their trade. Houdini worked as an escape artist and therefore frequently encountered and befriended police officers, which

provided him an "in" for getting interviews with street criminals, who were in turn happy to talk to the most famous stage performer of the day. This is an unique collection of writings that is an easy read and a lot of fun.

If you are interested in reading about Houdini and his ventures, as well as be given a small peek into the world of dishonest men, this is your book.

Learned a lot about the craft of magic, the man himself, the time period. Absolutely delightful, would recommend for anyone who has a fascination with magic.

Houdini's legacy is often fragmented in my cultural consciousness: magician, escape artist, film pioneer, spiritualist debunker, and tragic victim of celebrity life (his appendix ruptured, allegedly, after a fan punched him in the abdomen backstage at the Princess Theater). I never knew as an writer or expert on pickpockets, con men, swindlers, and cat burglars before reading this charming edition to the Neversink Library. Taken with some measure of forgiveness for antiquated stylistic choices and a cornball wit that peeks through from time to time, this volume reads like an earlier version of Joseph Mitchell's oddest articles. Recommend for any fan of the Houdini myth and all who dream of a time when one could make off with a million in jewels with so much confidence and chewing gum.

Very, very interesting.

I bought two of these books one for myself and one for a friend, he loves the book and said he savors every word, I will start my book tonight and am looking forward to enjoying it very much.

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