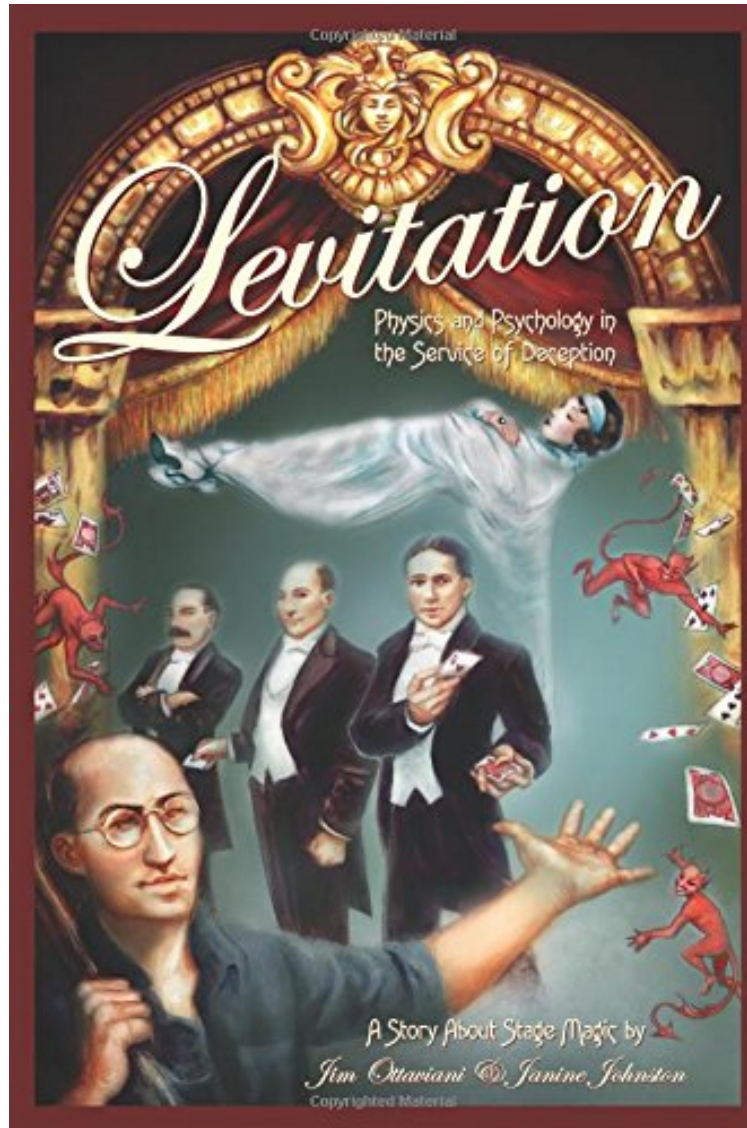


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# Levitation: Physics And Psychology In The Service Of Deception

*Jim Ottaviani*

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#2008290 in Books Jim Ottaviani 2007-07-31 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.80 x .30 x 5.90l, .26 #File Name: 097880370180 pages Levitation Physics and Psychology in the Service of Deception | File size: 64.Mb

**Jim Ottaviani : Levitation: Physics And Psychology In The Service Of Deception** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Levitation: Physics And Psychology In The Service Of Deception:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Lighter than air By JPS An enjoyable but very brief account of the levitation illusion passing from magician to magician. The story is well drawn, but there's not much content. Overall it

strikes me as one of Ottaviani's weaker books -- I preferred *Fallout*, *Two-Fisted Science* and *Dignifying Science*, for example. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. better story than comic book  
By S J Kurtz  
It would be a better story than a comic book. Note that page count; this is a pretty slender story  
6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Both facinating and accurate  
By Todd Schall-Vess  
A surprisingly detailed and accurate account of one of the most beautiful pieces in magic history. Some magicians will bristle at what is revealed here...but understanding does not preclude wonder...not if the information is artfully presented.

*Levitation* tells the story of the most dazzling gravity-defying illusion ever performed on stage, and features a cast of characters that seems almost too good to be true: John Neville Maskelyne, the very proper scientist-magician and the trick's inventor; Harry Kellar, the brash American who fails to buy the illusion, so steals it instead; Howard Thurston, the handsome and charismatic performer who inherits the act from Kellar; and Guy Jarrett, the rough-and-tumble engineer who perfects the levitation and guides us through the unfolding drama. But true it is — you'll never look at magic, or the mysteries of science — the same way again.

From Publishers Weekly  
This nonfiction graphic novel gives the history of three early 20th-century magicians and the invention of the standard levitation trick. It's claimed that Entranced Fakir, or *The Levitation of the Princess of Karnak* came from India, but in reality it was stolen from European magician John Neville Maskelyne by American Harry Kellar, who took it back to the States. Years later, it was passed on to Howard Thurston, who had the voice and bearing of a preacher with the manner of a carnival barker. (Kellar notes that the two professions are not so different.) The art is lively with nice Georgian and Jazz Age touches, especially in face shots that resemble old, hypnotic-eyed daguerreotypes of mesmerists in frock coats. It's all good fun, but the story never finds its heart, only touching on the obsessive control the great traveling magicians must have had, and their life on the road. The hard economics they faced comes through splendidly, however. To perform, they had to look like gentlemen. To survive, they had to act like cutthroat rogues. The story contains two revelations: one is the diagram explaining the trick. The other is the revelation that even when audience members are quietly shown how it works, they don't tell.  
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From Booklist  
In an empty theater, 1920s premier magician Howard Thurston flips playing cards into the auditorium while rehearsing a line of patter. Behind him, three men open packing crates. They're led by Guy Jarrett, who sets up Thurston's most famous trick, the levitation of comely "Princess Karnac," and whose opinion of Thurston emerges as, after the magician splits, he tells the two stagehands the illusion's history. Thurston bought it from Harry Kellar, who "stole" it from its inventor (actually, Kellar figured it out and improved it). Jarrett thinks Thurston's a dope because he lets audience members inspect the act on stage. That close up, they see the wires. But then, get this: Thurston tells them they're now part of the act, so don't blow it—and they don't! Ottaviani's expository procedure is the same as in *Wire Mothers* (2007) but no less effective, and Johnston's artwork is considerably suaver than Dylan Meconis' in *Wire Mothers*. The two short books on what Ottaviani calls "the science of the unscientific" come as a set (9780966010695) as well as individually.  
Olson, Ray  
About the Author  
About the storytellers: All of Jim Ottaviani's books have been nominated for multiple awards, including Eisners ALA Popular Paperback of the Year, and they also receive critical praise in publications ranging from *The Comics Journal* to *Physics World* to *Entertainment Weekly* to *Discover Magazine*, and get national broadcast attention in outlets such as NPR's *Morning Edition* and the CBS *Morning Show*. Janine Johnston began her comics career over 10 years ago as an artist for *Star Wars: Tales of the Jedi*. She went on to adapt and paint for the *Elfquest* series "Blood of Ten Chiefs" and currently works as a painter, muralist, and on numerous projects in both the comics and gaming industry.