

THE MAGIC SPELL

Bob Friedhoffer
New York, New York

(Based on Jim Steinmeyer's 9 card Problem)

Using your amazing mystical powers, or is it your knowledge of an exotic mathematical principle unknown to your friends, you tell them the name of a book that they have freely selected

EFFECT: Business card sized pieces of cardboard or paper, each imprinted with the name of a different book, are displayed to the audience. The back side of each card is plain. A book title is selected by a spectator. The face down card with the title's name is mixed in with the other face down cards by the spectator. The spectator spells out the name of the book's author (supplied by the magician) by dealing the cards onto the tabletop. The magician finds the proper card with no fumbling or guesswork.

PROPS: There are 9 cards, each imprinted on one side, with the title of a book. The 10th card contains a list of the book titles and their authors.

Hand the cards to a spectator.

She is to keep all of the cards so you, the magician, cannot see the titles.

Have her select one title and place that card face down on the table mix up the remaining face down cards, and create two piles of four cards, each face down, on the tabletop.

The selected title should then be placed face down on one pile. The remaining pile is then placed on top of the selection.

Place the list of titles and authors in front of your helper so she can clearly read both the titles and the author's names.

The spectator should once again pick up the packet of face down title cards.

Have her then silently spell out the name of the selected book's author, as follows.

One card represents one letter of the name. The author's first name is spelled out one card a time, placing the top card of the packet face down onto the table, the next card goes atop the first card until the first name is fully spelled and a pile has been formed. At this point, the balance of the cards in the spectator's hand is placed atop the tabled pile.

The same process is performed using the author's middle name (if there is one) and then the surname.

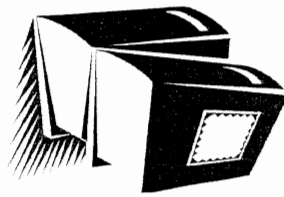
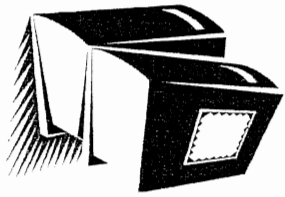
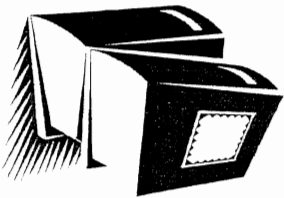
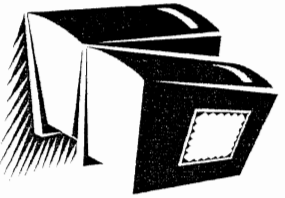
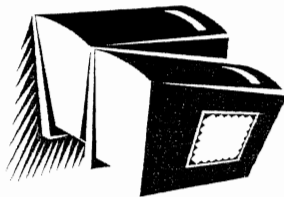
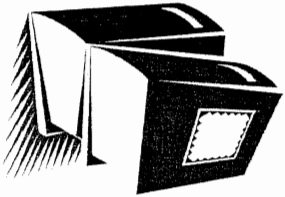
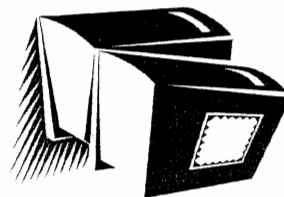
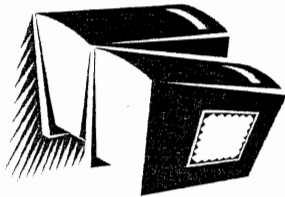
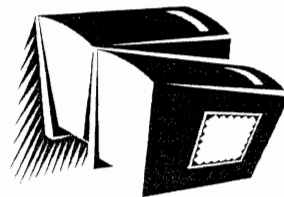
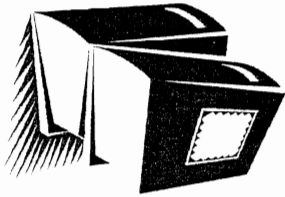
While the spelling is being performing, avert your eyes, so it is obvious that you are not counting the number of letters in the name.

The selected book title will be the fifth card from the top (or bottom).

Pick up the face down tabled cards and apparently weigh them one a time in your hands, proclaiming that the selected card has picked up some energy from the spectator and feels a bit heavier, or warmer, or colder, etc. when handled by the spectator.

NOTE: This trick works on a principle called fixed point mathematics. As long as the card starts off in the fifth position and a minimum of five cards are dealt out, the card will always remain in the fifth position.

A fixed point is a point that does not change when a mathematical operation is applied to a group of numbers. This principle is used in mathematics, computer programming, and logic and has even been used within economic theory.



**ALICE
IN
WONDERLAND**

**SILENT
SPRING**

**THE
JUNGLE**

**BRAVE
NEW
WORLD**

**A TALE OF
TWO
CITIES**

**ANIMAL
FARM**

**LITTLE
WOMEN**

**TOM
SAWYER**

**THE
SHADOW**

ALICE IN WONDERLAND.....LEWIS CARROL
THE JUNGLE.....UPTON SINCLAIR
A TALE OF TWO CITIES..... CHARLES DICKENS
LITTLE WOMEN.....LOUISAMAY ALCOTT
THE SHADOW.....WALTER GIBSON
SILENT SPRING.....RACHEL CARLSON
BRAVE NEW WORLD.....ALDOUS HUXLEY
ANIMAL FARMGEORGE ORWELL
TOM SAWYER.....SAMUEL LANGHORNE CLEMENS