

Fiction Books

Magician's Assistant by Ann Patchett

After her magician husband dies, Sabine is surprised by what she finds in his will. She begins to realize that there were more illusions than just in his act, as she uncovers many secrets about her husband's past.

The Prestige by Christopher Priest

Set in London around the turn of the twentieth century, this novel details the rivalry between two successful magicians and the lengths they take to try and steal the other magician's trick.

Carter Beats the Devil by Glen David Gold

In this fictionalized account of the real Charles Carter, we follow the life of the aspiring young magician as he learns the tricks of the trade. Washed-up but still performing, Carter is under suspicion after President Harding mysteriously dies a few days after he has volunteered to be in Carter's show.

Mr. Sebastian and the Negro Magician by Daniel Wallace

Main character Henry has been a magician for years, devoted to a life-long search of his sister who he made disappear years ago. Later, in an attempt to boost his popularity, Henry is persuaded to take melanin pills to make his skin appear black and is immediately a celebrity. The pills eventually wear off, but Henry dons blackface and performs under both black and white identities.

The Jungle by Upton Sinclair

An excellent social and political commentary of the meat packing industry during the heart of the Progressive Era. While it does not depict the entertainment or magic world, it is an excellent example of what life was like for industry workers in the beginning of the twentieth century.

Triangle by Katherine Weber

Told from the perspective of the last living survivor of the Triangle Shirtwaist Fire of 1911, this book recounts the tragic events in the New York City factory which served as a catalyst for progressive labor law and work safety reform.