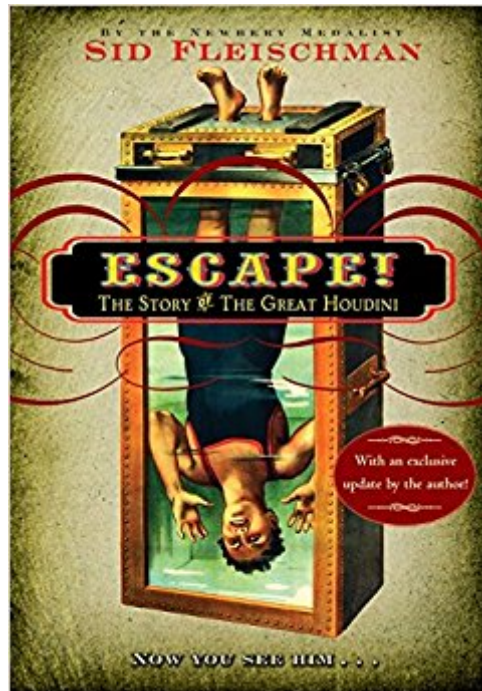




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# Escape!: The Story Of The Great Houdini



## Synopsis

How did he walk through walls, escape drowning, and shatter iron chains that were tightly wrapped around him? The rare photos in this book might help you figure it out. So might the exclusive update about the rumor that Houdini was poisoned. But just remember, a true magician never reveals his tricks. . . .

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 940 (What's this?)

Paperback: 240 pages

Publisher: Greenwillow Books; Reprint edition (April 22, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0060850965

ISBN-13: 978-0060850968

Product Dimensions: 7 x 0.5 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 33 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #94,651 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #9 in [Books > Children's Books > Activities, Crafts & Games > Games > Magic](#) #35 in [Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Performing Arts](#) #208 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > United States](#)

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Grade 4-8 **A** Award-winning author Sid Fleischman, a magician himself, has written a fascinating and engaging biography of Houdini (Greenwillow, 2006). The author's eye for good storytelling is matched only by the showmanship of Houdini as we learn about the mysteries the magician and illusionist created about his birth, his early life, his public stunts, his show business career, and more. Although Houdini's secrets are never revealed, this is an entertaining and informative biography. Fleischman narrates the preface and epilogue, highlighting his own experience in Houdini's world. Taylor Mali narrates the bulk of the story, and his enthusiasm is obvious as he leads listeners through the tumultuous life of the master magician. Be sure to pair the audiobook with the print version so listeners get the opportunity to see the many fascinating photos. An excellent choice for reluctant readers. **A** Karen T. Bilton, Mary Jacobs Memorial Library,

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Gr. 6-9. Could there be anyone more qualified than Newbery Medalist Fleischman to profile the "monarch of manacles" for young audiences? After all, as described in his autobiography, *The Abracadabra Kid* (1998),<sup>B</sup> Fleischman first earned his bread as a magician. This same background imposes an unexpected limitation: although the bibliography suggests publications to aid aspiring illusionists, Fleischman states upfront that an unspoken covenant among magicians prevents him from revealing Houdini's secrets. It's a tribute to Fleischman's zinging prose that, even without spoilers, his account remains terrifically engaging, delivered in a taut sideshow patter packed with delicious vocabulary (prestidigitator, bunkum) that may prompt even the most verbally indifferent to a new enthusiasm for their dictionaries. The showy language comes with real substance, too, as Fleischman explores his subject's tireless self-reinvention (born Ehrich Weiss in a Budapest ghetto, the ambitious lad's stage name was just one of many image-buffing ruses); his virulent egomania; and his forays into early aviation and cinema. The show-biz details are as fascinating as the transformation of an immigrant whose "biggest sleight-of-hand was himself," and, thanks to the widely spaced type and compelling visuals, this will draw even those readers without a biography assignment hovering overhead. That's some trick, indeed. Jennifer Mattson Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

I got this book for my 8 year old son, thinking it was the kind of topic he might enjoy. Certainly the author has done his research and homework into the life of Houdini, and it is the kind of story that many kids would love. However, for me the book was marred by being, frankly, very badly written. The author employs every cliché, clunky metaphor and irrelevant digression possible. The awful prose kind of ruins the story as well as making it hard to work out what he is saying sometimes.

I bought this book for one of my students that I tutor, and prior to giving it to her, read the book myself and I can see why her 7th grade teacher assigned it. Well written with a few images to illustrate Harry Houdini's life, and even learned a few things that I didn't know even after visiting Appleton, WI back in 2006. Its one of the few books that she has been assigned that I would recommend for adults.

I have never been disappointed by a Sid Fleischman book and this one is no exception. The work is

well-researched and the photos are phenomenal. My only heads up is that I did get this book for my almost 9 year old who is a great reader, but this was way over his head. I would say that as an independent read it is for tweens and up, however it made a great read-a-loud and vocabulary/history builder for him. Thank you Sid for another stellar piece of literature.

got it for my son's reading class requirement and he really enjoyed it.

No issues with book.

I bought this book for a Valentine's present for my husband, who has been doing magic tricks and illusions since he was a young boy. He has always been fascinated by the Great Houdini, so when I saw this book, I took a chance. We have both enjoyed this book tremendously. It is written in very nice, simple language, with large print, and wonderful never-seen before photos. I would highly recommend this little magical gem!

Good Book

awesome

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