



ASCANIO'S

WORLD
OF
KNIVES

ASCANIO'S WORLD OF KNIVES

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Second Edition

Published by



MEIR YEDID MAGIC
www.MyMagic.com

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Arturo de Ascanio (1970s)

FOREWORD

This is the first book dedicated to magic with *Color-Changing Knives*. It was originally released in Spanish in 1958 and later in English in 1975. The English edition, which was likely the first Spanish magic book translated into English, helped popularize magic with *Color-Changing Knives* in the United States. It also helped introduce the Ascanio name to many Americans who came to realize his genius.

In 1995, when Jose de la Torre decided to move back to Spain, I purchased the rights and inventory to all of his books and a number of the routines he marketed. *Ascanio's World Of Knives* was the main reason for the purchase.

When Ascanio found out that I now owned the English rights and intended on rereleasing the book, he was very happy. He also made two requests: First is that he wanted me to publish a literal translation of the original Spanish book instead of this "highlights" version. The second request was to dedicate the book to Fred Kaps, whom the original Spanish edition was dedicated. I said great and went about finding a new translator. Unfortunately, before I was able to publish the new book, Ascanio passed away in 1997.

Shortly thereafter his estate "re-sold" the rights to the book, which happens often in such cases, especially in magic. The new publisher did release a literal English translation which made me doing the same thing impractical.

Jose de la Torre's publication of *Ascanio's World Of Knives* is different from the original book by Ascanio. Jose

purposely did not do a literal translation and referred to his book as containing “selected parts” of the original 1958 book.

It was Jose’s desire to teach some great magic using Color Changing Knives and made arrangements to use the original Ascanio book as a basis for this book. The explanations are very direct and often incorporate additional ideas and applications from Jose and his friends. Jose also added many original photographs and illustrations to further simplify the learning of these incredible routines and techniques. This edition was also written 17 years after the original and it benefited from some additional ideas and insights. Luckily Jose kept all the original mechanicals, halftones, illustrations and photographs which help this edition become superior to the original.

In editing this book I decided to keep Jose’s original writing and tone while only making some minor grammatical changes. There are a few expressions that you will have to get used to: The now popular paddle move is referred to as a “turn” and the word “change” is often used instead of the more common “switch.”

So if you want to learn some great magic using *Color Changing Knives* you can’t go wrong with this book. Once you learn these routines you can still track down the literal translation, titled *Knives and Color-Blindness*, for further study of the variations and psychology.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Meir Yedid', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Meir Yedid
February, 2011

ASCANIO'S WORLD OF KNIVES



The *Color-Changing Knives* is a magic classic. Generally credited to Walter Jeans it became a popular pocket trick in the 1930s.

In 1958 Arturo de Ascanio, who went under the stage name Marcus, wrote the definitive book on the subject in Spanish. In 1975 Jose de la Torre released *Ascanio's World Of Knives* in English, which helped make the routine a staple of every close-up magician's act.

The book was also one of the first Spanish magic books to be translated into English, introducing the genius of Ascanio to magicians around the world.

After being out of print for decades *Ascanio's World Of Knives* is back and is better than ever, with many clear photographs and illustrations that make all the techniques and routines easy to learn. This book teaches you the many tools you need to create your own routines with pocket knives that change color on command.

Techniques and routines include:

Classic Paddle Move (Modernized), Cleaning Paddle Move, Passing The Knife From Hand To Hand, Appearance By The Pinkie, Turn With The Ring Finger, Ultra Fast Turn, Classic Color Change, Ascanio's Half Turn, Bringas' Color Change, Ganson's Color Change In A Spectator's Hand, One Hand Color Change, Color Change With Normal Knives, Manipulating The Knife As A Cigarette, Push-Through Palm, Two Fu Manchu Passes, Stealing With A Pull, Change Of Normal Knife To A Gimmicked One, Ascanio's Fast Change, To Tell The Sides Of The Knife By Touch, A Knives Classifier, Three Psychological Procedures, Psychological Aspects Of The Color Change, A Fred Kaps Routine, The Handkerchief Pass, A Short And Easy Routine, Ascanio's Knives And Color-Blindness and much more.



The main reason the *Color-Changing Knives* are a classic of magic and a staple of many professional close-up magicians' repertoire is that you are able to create beautiful and visual magic with ordinary objects. Once you learn these techniques you will never leave home without a set of *Color-Changing Knives* in your pocket.



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ISBN 978-0-9819166-4-4



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