

Advanced Magick for Beginners

Alan Chapman



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A new paradigm that delivers a genuine transformation of occultism. The author assumes no previous knowledge, only a willingness to explore what magick offers, yet its apparent to anyone with a background in the subject that Alan Chapman is drawing on a wide range of experience, from classical Crowleyean Magick, to eastern metaphysics, and back again to Discordianism and Chaos Magick. Chapman's writing-style is humorous, direct, seductively logical, and his enthusiasm for the benefits of magick is both tangible and infectious. The novice magician will indeed find themselves equipped to commence all sorts of magickal operations: trance work, enchantment, divination, and even some of the higher forms of spiritual development. To experienced magicians, Chapman offers a subtler challenge: he revitalises magick by cutting it free from the extreme relativism Chaos Magick bequeathed, provocatively redefining it as: the art, science and culture of experiencing truth.

Advanced Magick for Beginners Details

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From Reader Review Advanced Magick for Beginners for online ebook

Greyer Jane says

This book breaks magick down quite nicely into action then results. He even has little scientific tables breaking each part of the experiment down. Anything that has been done in magick, he neatly codifies it, simplifies it. You can then add complexity to it to suit your artistic taste, and he even talks about that. Magick is the Art that encompasses all other arts, turn your life into Art!!

Misty says

Solidly Good Book

Although I, at times, found the author to be a bit wishy washy it was mostly very good. Humor is used to great effect, the exercises accurately reflect the points he was making, most of his statements were sufficiently backed by reasonable explanations, and he did it all without being needlessly wordy.

Kirby Coe says

Really interesting

Glad I read this intriguing book. Highly recommend for both folks interested in Magick and folks who just want a really thought-provoking read.

Edric Unsane says

Loved it!

Taylor Ellwood says

As I read this book, what I found myself thinking was that while I found the exercises useful and some of the author's points salient to what he was trying to teach, there was also an odd mixture of push button magic (we don't need to know how it works) and traditional perspectives, which actually in a way fits, but also reveals what I'd consider problematic about this book. There's a tendency to stick with tried and true in occultism and this book fits that tendency. The decrying of asking how magic works fits with the traditional perspectives the author takes toward evocation and other practices and ironically defeats his criticisms of occult culture, because he ends up embodying what he is critiquing.

Is it a good book? I'd say there is some useful information here, and that an occultist will benefit from

exploring the ideas. At the same time, what would be the most useful exercise for this book (and really any other book in general) is to question everything the author says, and also don't buy the push button, we don't need to know how it works model. If we don't need to know why it works, why write a book on the subject?

Megan says

My husband asked me what I was reading and when I told him the title he stared at me blankly for a moment and then asked if that wasn't an oxymoron, was the author trying to be funny. Having finished it I can tell you I'm pretty sure that's exactly what he meant.

The book is short, easy to read, and expressly to the point. Chapman has broken magic down to its most bare bones; if you want to know how to make magic happen you can literally toss out your library and just begin by following this formula over and over. And add the other books back in once you've mastered this philosophy. Even a beginner to magic will be able to completely grok and follow this book and make magic start happening.

But be aware this book is a complete deconstruction. If you are the type of person who likes the layers - history, theology, philosophy, symbols and smells and bells and whistles - you are going to detest this book. Chapman's main purpose is to strip away those layers and leave only the necessary scaffolding remaining. Consider yourself forewarned.

Despite this easy beginner approach I wouldn't recommend it to my friends and clients who are just dipping their toes into magic. Not because they couldn't learn from and work with it, but because I think they would miss out on a layer of purpose written into this book. (There are also some things that a true beginner who's read very little else will wonder what the hell he's talking about - not the practices he recommends but the ideas he's deconstructing.) Chapman's deconstruction perfectly works to strip down those layers of tradition and habit and thinking that can be passed on by other teachers and books simply because that's how they were told to do it or it doesn't feel like magic without it, etc... It seems to me that this book is meant to address you after you've ingested some of these other ideas and started forming your own habits and need to have your own magic and thinking taken back to bare bones again. Therefore, not for the beginner, but exactly for the person who is just now ready to begin moving from beginner magic into advanced magical work. A beginner at advanced magic is exactly who this book is ideally for.

So if you've already gotten started on magic and you are at the crossroads that Chapman describes in his book, that place where you feel the call to either "quit dabbling" and go do something serious with your life (though I personally find this option feels more like "it's cool to dabble and go do something real with the rest of your life") or "dedicate your life" to chasing magic. If you're at that crossroads (one of many of them in my experience) and you feel the latter branch calling you to move deeper then this book is exactly the next thing you should read.

Merri-Todd Webster says

A refreshing new approach to the Western Magical Tradition that revitalizes the core elements *and* makes the reader laugh out loud. I am going to re-read this, take notes, and ponder deeply.

Justin says

Very readable with a great sense of humor/humility

Wesley says

Food for thought

Not a book to take lightly. The hand grenade on the cover seems appropriate. Any aspiring chaotic might find this a useful book.

Froztwolf says

Usually, books on magical workings and related subjects are esoteric, full of symbolism and hard to follow. This one is clear, to the point and simple to understand.

In just over 150 pages Chapman manages to give a high-level overview over the entire field of magic, and even touches on how it relates to religion. The writing is incredibly concise and easy to understand.

Irreverent, sardonic and dismissive at times. May well be insulting if you have a strong link to a particular school of magic, or religion.

Would recommend to: Anyone that is curious about what magic is and why they should care.

Obi says

I love the author even when he seems to mock my naivety. It's like having witty parents who explain with humour, how you would get hurt if you dare to touch fire with your bare hands.
