

Review *In Order to Amaze, The Linking Ring*, December 2016 (Rolando Santos)

It was an absolute pleasure to read Pit Hartling's book on the memorized deck. Everything about it felt right. The texture of the cloth-covered book and the raised lettering on the cover feels inviting in the hand. The high-quality, easy-on-the eyes, glossy pages and color photos make the time learning the twenty-one effects included in the book fly by. The ribbon page marker sewn into the book helps you keep your place. Of course, the title, *In Order To Amaze*, is perfect for the magic that Hartling is internationally known for and shares with you.

Most importantly, the content is nothing short of exceptional. This is not a book meant to teach a stack. It's a book of proven effects that are designed to be deceptive and amazing. Of all of the tricks in the book, only three require the Tamariz stack; the others can be done with any stack at all. Some of the effects are quick reveals, while others are multiphase and cover themes like mentalism and lady luck. Effects using two decks provide multiple climaxes and dissuade the possibility of mere coincidence.

In Order to Amaze is organized into three sections. The first ten effects are miscellaneous stack miracles. The first one, "Catch Me If You Can," is a sandwich effect, where a freely selected card appears sandwiched between two cards in one deck and then between the same two cards in another deck that the magician never touches! It is so easy to do, yet it's impossible for spectators to figure out. Even magicians who don't know you use a stacked deck will be hard put to figure it out. I saw Pit perform another of the effects, "Duplicity," at a 4F convention, and it is astonishing! In this effect, two matching poker hands are dealt *after* a spectator shuffles the deck.

The second section of the book, "Quartets," really intrigued me. The seven effects all deal with being able to control freely named four-of-a-kinds. For example, the magician puts four cards in his pocket, then cuts to any four of a kind named by a spectator. The climax comes when the selected four-of-a-kind vanishes from the deck and is found to be the cards that were previously placed in the pocket.

The last section of the book has three effects that use the Tamariz stack and one that can be used with either the Tamariz or Aronson stack. I have seen Pit perform many of

these in person, and they are all jaw dropping effects that leave even veteran magicians clapping and whistling.

In Order to Amaze is filled with handling tips, scripting and timing techniques, as well as subtle linguistic nuances and emotional audience hooks that will be useful for all your magic performances. It is not a book for beginners, nor does it teach stacks. Some of the routines require a cull or second deal and you need to be comfortable thinking on your feet. It would be an outstanding addition to your library.

If you use any stack at all, this will help you get the most out of it.

By the way, Pit is one of the most approachable magicians that I know. If you see him perform, take time to introduce yourself and ask him about this book or his other effects. You won't regret it.

Highly recommended.