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# Preface

How would you like to impress family and friends at your next social gathering or holiday celebration by showing them some astounding card tricks—tricks that don't require a great deal of preparation, that no one in the audience will see through, and that are guaranteed to work?

Magic based on mathematics has all these advantages, and in this book you will find many suggestions for making use of the “magical” aspect of this subject.

If you are someone who doesn't just want to use tried and true recipes but wants to understand how the magic tricks that you perform work as they do, then you will find here all the necessary information. And the applicable mathematics will be fully and carefully explained.

It would make me happy to know that this book has awakened in someone an interest in magic or mathematics—or perhaps both—or if such an interest already exists, that my book has helped to deepen it.

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