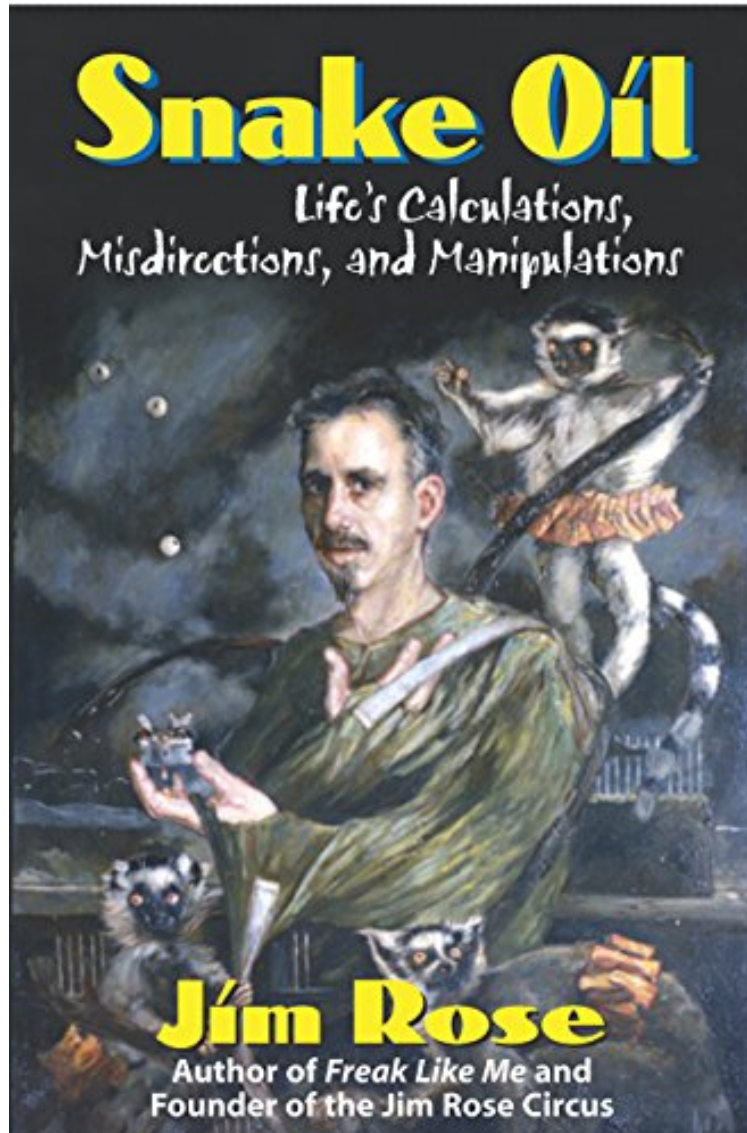


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Snake Oil: Life's Calculations, Misdirections, and Manipulations

Jim Rose

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Jim Rose : Snake Oil: Life's Calculations, Misdirections, and Manipulations before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Snake Oil: Life's Calculations, Misdirections, and Manipulations:

13 of 13 people found the following review helpful. Twice-Told Tales From One Who Knows Better By Kevin T. Keith This book is interesting and informative, but clearly a quick-'n-dirty effort. Rose claims he wants to tell "all he has learned" about con games and sideshow ruses, before he starts to forget any of it. In fact, it's obvious that he

merely rattled off whatever happened to come into his head as quickly as he could and slapped it between two covers. In some places, he tells the same stories twice in the space of a few pages - apparently forgetting he had already mentioned them - and in many places he merely retails well-known parlor tricks as "insider secrets". There is no attempt in the book to be systematic - it is a hodgepodge of magic tricks, rigged carnival games, actual con scams, math tricks, mentalism, bar bets, and just about any other kind of "tricky" move, but only a few of each. Anyone who has read even a little about any of the above subjects will find they already know most of what he has to say - and that a vast range of lore in each category has been left out. The book would work well if it were billed as an introductory review of different kinds of tricks and scams - maybe for kids who are intrigued by such things but haven't started to read up on them yet. (It also needs some serious editing and better organization.) With that less-ambitious aim in mind, the book can be read for pleasure and information - but as a comprehensive review of every scam ever pulled, from an insider expert, this book itself is its own best scam. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Not great.... By P. Delahunty Pretty poor to be honest. 5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Master work by the circus master By Freak of Nurture I'd have given this book five stars but for the fact the book was shorter than I'd have liked and some of the info doubles up in subsequent chapters. However having gotten my very small beef out of the way this book is fascinating. If you ever fantasize about joining the circus or becoming a con man then you'll love this book!!! From mentalism to sword swallowing, from pimping to card sharpening. More scams than you can shake a stick at.

The gyp, hoodwink, shuck, sandbag: An art form that has been passed down through generations of hustlers, con men, and freaks. Selling snake oil is the ultimate con, and readers will find within these pages everything from classic deceptions to the most recent of ruses. From fooling your friends to dangerous stage stunts, Jim Rose, snake oil salesman extraordinaire, provides new angles to old tricks. Those who dare to explore these pages will find themselves enticed by this special brand of snake oil. Step right up: it's all here. There's nothing it won't cure!

. . . a sort of Bible of anti-tech entertainment and troublemaking. -- Knoxville News Sentinel, April 18, 2005. . . the tricks of the trade that only somebody of Rose's far-flung freakish experience can impart. -- Des Moines Register, March 25, 2005 A mind-bending journey . . . if people can be fooled by it, it's in Rose's book. -- Las Vegas Sun, April 26, 2005 About the Author newsletters on politics and tea and has written books on engineering, humor, Israel.,