



# IN CONVERSATION WITH **ANNA HAYS,** AUTHOR OF *VANISHED:* *SEVEN WOMEN MAGICIANS WHO SIMPLY DISAPPEARED*

**VANISHED TELLS THE STORY OF SEVEN WOMEN MAGICIANS WHOSE LEGACY WAS LOST TO TIME. HOW DID YOU FIRST DISCOVER THEIR STORIES?**

My husband and I are members of The Magic Castle in Los Angeles where we've met a number of women magicians, some of whom have become my friends. The more time I spent with contemporary women conjurors, the more I wondered about their predecessors. I started researching and quickly discovered once-famous women magicians who had led incredible lives and since been forgotten. I knew these stories had to be told, and that's when my journey began.

**WAS THERE ANYTHING YOU LEARNED DURING YOUR RESEARCH THAT YOU WEREN'T ABLE TO INCLUDE IN THE BOOK?**

There were so many supporting and colorful characters who mixed with the women in *Vanished* I would love to have explored further—the skeptics, mystics, competing magicians, royalty, and celebrities of the time. I chose to focus on the women's personal journeys as magicians and not stray too far from that, but it would have been fun to dig a little deeper into the incredible characters who surrounded them at the time.

**THE WOMEN IN THIS STORY PULLED OFF SPECTACULAR AND DEATH-DEFYING ILLUSIONS AND ACTS. DID YOU MASTER ANY MAGIC TRICKS WHILE WRITING THIS BOOK?**

I'm not a magician or a performer but was able to live vicariously through the women in *Vanished* as I was writing about them. I'm not nearly as fearless as they were when they stepped onto the stage and performed the impossible every night.

**WE'VE SEEN AN UPTICK IN STORIES FOCUSED ON THE FORGOTTEN WOMEN OF SCIENCE, ART, MEDICINE, AND OTHER DISCIPLINES. WHY DO YOU THINK IT'S SO IMPORTANT FOR THESE STORIES TO BE TOLD NOW? ESPECIALLY TO YOUNG READERS?**

There are so many rich stories from history that haven't taken centerstage yet. By uncovering these extraordinary heroines from the past, it sends a message to young readers to look beneath the surface, ask questions, and never stop exploring. Stories like these hopefully inspire young readers to find parallels in their own lives, pursue their aspirations, and develop their gifts, despite the odds and obstacles, just as these forgotten heroines did... and succeeded!

