

DARK MATTERS



THE ARCANES THAUMATURGY OF
DOCTOR JACOB TORDOFF

ROGER CURZON

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It is very heart-warming to think that good friends from the world of bizarre magick have seen fit to make contributions. I am forever grateful to Master Magician Roni Shachnaey for his excellent routine '*Alchemy*'. Likewise, to pals and fellow performers Andrew Normansell and Ashton Carter for '*Vampyre*' and '*The Cup From Cana*' respectively. You may wish to check out Andrew's website for a wide range of effects and books on the bizarre. Not content with all the hard work he has put in Steve Drury has also contributed one of his wonderful effects '*The Initiation*'. Plus, I am delighted that Ron Dayton has given permission to include one of his beautiful poems called '*That Night*'. Many thanks, Ron.

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Some of the effects in this work have seen print before, although most have been updated. Hence, many thanks to Peter Duffie for giving permission to use *'The Devil Rides Out'* from *Mindblasters*.

Thanks to Russell Hall for allowing me to use *'Gematria'* from *Pentalism*. Also *'A Gift from Elizabeth Francis'*, *'The Pen and the Pendulum'*, *'Quadtasense'* and *'Automatism'* from *Sublimations*.

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Foreword ~ Jim Critchlow

My progression through the general interest of magic has been coins, cards, close-up, parlour, a little stage, mentalism and finally the niche area *Bizarre Magick*. I was a regular attendee of The Edinburgh Gathering and had spent time with Charles Cameron (*The Godfather of Bizarre Magic*) and had developed a few simple routines around basic magic techniques and storytelling but nothing I considered great.

I first met Roger Curzon in what could be described as the perfect environment for Bizarre Magic. It was winter time, the day was dark and overcast, in the shadows of Sheffield's industrial past in a secret back room of an old fancy dress shop (at first, I did ask myself if in fact Roger Curzon was Mr Ben).

Little did I know that this chance meeting would shape my whole future in magic. It was fantastic to find someone on the same wavelength and for the next few years our Saturdays were exclusively for the pilgrimage to Sheffield. Talking magic with Roger is like a master class in inspiration and ideas. Along with Tony McMyllor we have had some success with things I have brought to market '*White Star*', '*The Fallen*', '*Titanic*' and '*Till Death Do Us Part*'. Each of these effects was conceived with the sole intention of showing Roger on Saturday. For a while I gauged my success in magic on whether or not I got the comment from Roger, "*How've ya done that Jim?*"