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a guide to the practices tools and rituals of new orleans voodoo as well as the many cultural influences at its origins includes recipes for magical oils instructions for candle workings and directions to create gris gris bags and voodoo dolls to attract love money justice and healing and for retribution explores the major figures of new orleans voodoo including marie laveau and dr john exposes the diverse ethnic influences at the core of voodoo from the african congo to catholic immigrants from italy france and ireland one of america s great native born spiritual traditions new orleans voodoo is a religion as complex free form and beautiful as the jazz that permeates this steamy city of sin and salvation from the french quarter to the algiers

neighborhood its famed vaulted cemeteries to its infamous mardi gras celebrations new orleans cannot escape its rich voodoo tradition which draws from a multitude of ethnic sources including africa latin america sicily ireland france and native america in the new orleans voodoo handbook initiated vodou priest kenaz filan covers the practices tools and rituals of this system of worship as well as the many facets of its origins exploring the major figures of new orleans voodoo such as marie laveau and dr john as well as creole cuisine and the wealth of musical inspiration surrounding the mississippi delta filan examines firsthand documents and historical records to uncover the truth behind many of the city s legends and to explore the oft discussed but little understood practices of the root doctors voodoo queens and spiritual figures of the crescent city including recipes for magical oils instructions for candle workings methods of divination and even directions to create gris gris bags mojo hands and voodoo dolls filan reveals how to call on the saints and spirits of voodoo for love money retribution justice and healing

traces the history of good fortune traditions from sacred divination to modern gambling reveals how dice were originally considered sacred objects of divination and details the techniques and meanings of a dice oracle looks at medieval grimoires for fortune telling and other divination traditions including those using cowrie shells bones coins cards sticks and stones examines how dice became a means of gaming and gambling and how gambling gave rise to specialized lucky charms some believe that our future is predetermined while others assert that we have free will and our future can take many different courses depending on our actions in ancient times it was believed that the will of the gods determined people s lives and divination or sacrifices to the gods could change or improve one s future of the deities devoted to luck and the future the roman goddess fortuna is most famous having two shrines in italy where divination was conducted under her guardianship tracing the history of the culture of good fortune from sacred divination to profane gambling nigel pennick explores the many ways people through the centuries have sought to divine the future ensure protection and draw the full benefits from days of good omen he shows how dice were originally considered sacred objects of divination and reveals the divinatory geomancy techniques and meanings of a dice oracle exploring how dice became a means of gaming and gambling pennick details the forms of trickery and crooked dice used in games of craps by cheating gamblers and the dream books that served as oracles for those who played the policy game in addition to dice he looks at how cowrie shells bones coins cards sticks and stones were used to form meaningful patterns for interpretation and how these cultural divination practices were often accompanied by texts or

oral traditions that explained the meanings of the patterns revealing how divination and gambling are two sides of the same coin pennick shows how whether you are a gambler relying on lady luck or a diviner querying the gods we re all looking to fortuna in the quest for a better richer life

in a highly readable work that engages topics in american cultural social and business history ann fabian details the place of gambling in industrializing america card sharps and bucket shops investigates the relationship between gambling and other ways of making profit such as speculation and land investment which became entrenched during the nineteenth century while all these undertakings ran counter to deeply ingrained american and protestant work ethics only gambling took on a stigma that made other efforts to acquire wealth socially acceptable fabian considers here the reformers who sought to ban gambling psychological explanations for the deviant gambler numbers games in the african american community and efforts by speculators to draw distinctions between their own activities and gambling she combines first rate cultural analysis with rigorous research and along the way provides a wealth of colorful details characters and anecdotes

bill traylor ca 1853 1949 is regarded today as one of the most important american artists of the twentieth century a black man born into slavery in alabama he was an eyewitness to history the civil war emancipation reconstruction jim crow segregation the great migration and the steady rise of african american urban culture in the south traylor would not live to see the civil rights movement but he was among those who laid its foundation starting around 1939 traylor by then in his late eighties and living on the streets of montgomery took up pencil and paintbrush to attest to his existence and point of view in keeping with this radical step the paintings and drawings he made are visually striking and politically assertive they include simple yet powerful distillations of tales and memories as well as spare vibrantly colored abstractions when traylor died he left behind more than one thousand works of art in between worlds the art of bill traylor leslie umberger considers more than two hundred artworks to provide the most comprehensive and in depth study of the artist to date she examines his life art and powerful drive to bear witness through the only means he had pictures the author draws on a wealth of historical documents including federal and state census records birth and death certificates slave schedules and interviews with family members to clarify the record of traylor s personal history and family life the story of his art opens in the late 1930s when traylor first received attention for his pencil drawings on found board and concludes with the posthumous success of his oeuvre

immediate and spontaneous the blues focuses on the present moment creating an experience of time for performer and listener time in the blues offers an interdisciplinary analysis of the forms of temporality produced by and reflected in the blues within the historical context of jim crow segregation sharecropping racist violence and migration

they can be found along the side streets of many american cities herb or candle shops catering to practitioners of voodoo hoodoo santería and similar beliefs here one can purchase ritual items and raw materials for the fabrication of traditional charms plus a variety of soaps powders and aromatic goods known in the trade as spiritual products for those seeking health or success love or protection these potions offer the power of the saints and the authority of the african gods in spiritual merchants carolyn morrow long provides an inside look at the followers of african based belief systems and the retailers and manufacturers who supply them traveling from new orleans to new york from charleston to los angeles she takes readers on a tour of these shops examines the origins of the products and profiles the merchants who sell them long describes the principles by which charms are thought to operate how ingredients are chosen and the uses to which they are put she then explores the commodification of traditional charms and the evolution of the spiritual products industry from small scale mail order doctors and hoodoo drugstores to major manufacturers who market their products worldwide she also offers an eye opening look at how merchants who are not members of the culture entered the business through the manufacture of other goods such as toiletries incense and pharmaceuticals her narrative includes previously unpublished information on legendary voodoo queens and hoodoo workers as well as a case study of john the conqueror root and its metamorphosis from spirit embodying charm to commercial spiritual product no other book deals in such detail with both the history and current practices of african based belief systems in the united states and the evolution of the spiritual products industry for students of folklore or anyone intrigued by the world of charms and candle shops spiritual merchants examines the confluence of african and european religion in the americas and provides a colorful introduction to a vibrant aspect of contemporary culture the author carolyn morrow long is a preservation specialist and conservator at the the smithsonian institution s national museum of american history

the language of the blues explores the origins and meanings of the language of the blues ranging in alphabetical order from words that have infiltrated the american mind like mojo and boogie to more obscure terms like woofin verbal boasting and mootie marijuana which have

resurfaced in today's hip hop hits accompanying blues terms and their definitions are lively and informative profiles of many of the blues most legendary artists including Robert Johnson, Bessie Smith, Sonny Boy Williamson, Willie Dixon, and Bonnie Raitt. Occasionally raunchy and often surprising, this book is sure to be both informative and wildly entertaining to jazz and blues aficionados worldwide.

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