

# The Big Con Story Of Confidence Man David W Maurer

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Dot.Con Anthem Press

"It's a startling and disconcerting read that should make you think twice every time a friend of a friend offers you the opportunity of a lifetime." —Erik Larson, #1 New York Times bestselling author of *Dead Wake* and bestselling author of *Devil in the White City* Think you can't get conned? Think again. The New York Times bestselling author of *Mastermind: How to Think Like Sherlock Holmes* explains how to spot the con before they spot you. "[An] excellent study of Con Artists, stories & the human need to believe" —Neil Gaiman, via Twitter A compelling investigation into the minds, motives, and methods of con artists—and the people who fall for their cons over and over again. While cheats and swindlers may be a dime a dozen, true conmen—the Bernie Madoffs, the Jim Bakkers, the Lance Armstrongs—are elegant, outsized personalities, artists of persuasion and exploiters of trust. How do they do it? Why are they successful? And what keeps us falling for it, over and over again? These are the questions that journalist and psychologist Maria Konnikova tackles in her mesmerizing new book. From multimillion-dollar Ponzi schemes to small-time frauds, Konnikova pulls together a selection of fascinating stories to demonstrate what all cons share in common, drawing on scientific, dramatic, and psychological perspectives. Insightful and gripping, the book brings readers into the world of the con, examining the relationship between artist and victim. The Confidence Game asks not only why we believe con artists, but also examines the very act of believing and how our sense of truth can be manipulated by those around us.

*Telling the Story of America's Favorite Card Game* Sarah Crichton Books

A whimsical resource for low-risk grifters provides a treasury of humorous tips and historical facts about the art of the con, in a volume that outlines easy-to-follow swindles that can be used to score free meals, good tickets, bar bets, and more.

*The True Story of How Washington Got Hoodwinked and Hijacked by Crackpot Economics* D&B Publishing

The long-awaited new novel by "the class act of the urban thriller" (Entertainment Weekly) YOU BELONG TO ME . . . Paul Reeves is a successful immigration lawyer, but his passion is collecting old maps of New York, tangible records of the city's rich history in an increasingly digital world. One afternoon he attends an auction with his neighbor Jennifer Mehrzad, the beautiful young wife of an Iranian financier-lawyer, but halfway through the auction a handsome man in soldier fatigues appears in the aisle and whisks Jennifer away. YOU BELONG TO ME . . . A long-lost lover from Jennifer's rural Pennsylvania past, the man sets off a series of alarming events as those close to Jennifer try to figure out who he is and how the two are connected, including her high-powered and possessive husband, whose ultimate goal is to make this embarrassing intrusion into his marriage disappear. YOU BELONG TO ME . . . At the same time, one of the world's rarest and most inaccessible maps suddenly goes on sale, but before Paul can finalize a deal, another buyer snatches it out from under Paul's nose, sending him on a quest to find out who the mysterious buyer is and how to get the map for himself. Eight years after his last critically acclaimed thriller, *The Finder*, Colin Harrison returns with *You Belong to Me*. Filled with compelling characters and a loving but biting satire of New York City, *You Belong to Me* is an exceptional novel, and Colin Harrison is at the top of his game.

*Trick Mirror* Crown

The classic 1940 study of con men and con games that Luc Sante in *Salon* called "a bonanza of wild but credible stories, told concisely with deadpan humor, as sly and rich in atmosphere as anything this side of Mark Twain." "Of all the grifters, the confidence man is the aristocrat," wrote David Maurer, a proposition he definitely proved in *The Big Con*, one of the most colorful, well-researched,

and entertaining works of criminology ever written. A professor of linguistics who specialized in underworld argot, Maurer won the trust of hundreds of swindlers, who let him in on not simply their language but their folkways and the astonishingly complex and elaborate schemes whereby unsuspecting marks, hooked by their own greed and dishonesty, were "taken off" — i.e. cheated—of thousands upon thousands of dollars. *The Big Con* is a treasure trove of American lingo (the write, the rag, the payoff, ropers, shills, the cold poke, the convincer, to put on the send) and indelible characters (Yellow Kid Weil, Barney the Patch, the Seldom Seen Kid, Limehouse Chappie, Larry the Lug). It served as the source for the Oscar-winning film *The Sting*.

**Whiz Mob** Harper

Named one of the best books of 2013 by the 'Financial Times', 'Huffington Post' and 'Forbes', this debate-shifting book debunks the myth of the State as a static bureaucratic organization only needed to 'fix' market failures, leaving dynamic entrepreneurship and innovation to the private sector. Case studies ranging from the innovations that make the iPhone so 'smart' to the current developments in clean technology reveal the reality, whereby the private sector only invests after the entrepreneurial State has made the bold, high-risk investments.

*The Encyclopaedia Britannica* Simon and Schuster

"The definitive account of covert election interference between the United States and Russia from the Cold War to 2016 - and why the threat is greater than ever in 2020"--

*The Factory of Facts* Quirk Books

Born in Massachusetts, Jared Bibler relocated to Iceland in 2004 only to find himself in the middle of an unprecedented financial crisis a handful of years later. Personally wiped out and seeking to uncover the truth about a collapse that brought the pastoral country to its knees, he became the lead investigator into some of the largest financial crimes in the world. This work helped Iceland to famously become the only country to jail its bank CEOs in the wake of the 2008 crisis. But the real story behind that headline is far more complex — and sinister. A decade after the investigations, the story can be told at last and in full. The crisis, barely understood inside or outside of Iceland even today, is a cautionary tale for the world: an inside look at the high crimes that inevitably follow Wild West capitalism. With the next global financial meltdown just around the corner, this untold tale is as timely as ever.

*The Big Con* Bloomsbury Publishing USA

Geek girl Ellie hopes to go to ExcelsiCon Cosplay to meet the actor (closet nerd Darien) scheduled to play Federation Prince Carmindor in a reboot of the movie *Starfield*.

*Columbine* Random House Trade Paperbacks

Shares insights from confidence men and swindlers on the schemes they used to cheat their victims  
*King Con* Vintage

The Big ConThe Story of the Confidence ManAnchor

*Long White Con* Harper Collins

The Mafia comes to Comic-Con in this fast-paced suspense caper and outrageous pop culture satire.

**Con Quest!** Rowman & Littlefield

The acclaimed author of *Low Life* reinvents the memoir in a cunning, lyrical book that is at once a personal history and a meditation on the construction of identity. Born in Belgium but raised in New Jersey, Luc Sante transformed himself from a pious, timid Belgian boy into a loutish American adolescent, who eschewed French while fantasizing about the pop star Françoise Hardy. To show how this transformation came about—and why it remained incomplete—The Factory of Facts combines family anecdote and ancestral legend; detailed forays into Belgian history, language, and religion; and deft synopses of the American character.

*A Perfect Swindle, a Cunning Revenge, and a Small History of the Big Con* Penguin

'Of all the gifters, the confidence man is the aristocrat,' wrote David Maurer, a proposition he

definitively proved in *The Big Con*. A professor of linguistics who specialised in underworld argot, Maurer won the trust of hundreds of swindlers. They let him in on not simply their language, but their folkwys and the astonishingly complex and elaborate schemes whereby unsuspecting marks, hooked by their own greed and dishonesty were 'taken off' - i. e. , cheated - of thousands upon thousands of dollars. The products of amazing ingenuity, crack timing and attention to every last detail, these 'big cons', as thoroughly scripted and rehearsed as any Hollywood production, richly deserve Maurer's description as 'the most effective swindling device which man has ever invented.'

*The Big Con* is a treasure trove of American lingo (the write, the rag, the pay-off, ropers, shills, the cold poke and the convincer) and indelible characters (Yellow Kid Weil, Barney the Patch, the Seldom-Seen Kid, Limehouse Chappie and Larry the Lug). First published in 1940, *The Big Con* makes compelling reading whilst being the most authentic and utterly authoritative study on the con artist and his game.

*Reflections on Self-Delusion* Running PressBook Pub

A tale as old as time is made new in Ashley Poston's fresh, geeky retelling of Beauty and the Beast—now with a bonus Starfield story! In this third book of the *Once Upon a Con* series, Rosie Thorne is feeling stuck—on her college application essays, in her small town, and on that mysterious General Sond cosplayer she met at ExcelsiCon. Most of all, she's stuck in her grief over her mother's death. Her only solace was her late mother's library of rare Starfield novels, but even that disappeared when they sold it to pay off hospital bills. On the other hand, Vance Reigns has been Hollywood royalty for as long as he can remember—with all the privilege and scrutiny that entails. When a tabloid scandal catches up to him, he's forced to hide out somewhere the paparazzi would never expect to find him: Small Town USA. At least there's a library in the house. Too bad he doesn't read. When Vance's and Rosie's paths collide, sparks do not fly. But as they begrudgingly get to know each other, their careful masks come off—and they may just find that there's more risk in shutting each other out than in opening their hearts.

*How to Get Something for Nothing* Penguin

A nationally syndicated columnist furnishes an eye-opening exposé that reveals how a small cadre of economic hucksters, obsessed with radical ideas that benefit no one but themselves and their business interests, have seized control of the American political system to dictate the nation's policies and American agenda. Reprint.

**How to Think Like Sherlock Holmes** The Big ConThe Story of the Confidence Man

This book examines a broad range of infamous scams, cons, swindles, and hoaxes throughout American history—and considers why human gullibility continues in an age of easy access to information. • Explores figures such as "Yellow Kid" Weil, Charles Ponzi, Orson Welles, and Frank Abagnale, among others • Provides insight into human nature—gullibility being one aspect of it—throughout the ages, addresses the power of rumor and legend, and identifies the social conditions that have allowed some scams and hoaxes to flourish • Presents information that can serve academic research projects as well as fascinate and entertain general readers • Features the original stories behind the Hollywood movies *The Sting*, *Catch Me If You Can*, *Argo*, and *American Hustle*

**The Big Con: Great Hoaxes, Frauds, Grifts, and Swindles in American History** University Press of Kentucky

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**The Confidence Game** Harriman House Limited

The uproarious, bestselling true story of the world's most sought-after con man, immortalized by Leonardo DiCaprio in DreamWorks' feature film of the same name, from the author of *Scam Me If You Can*. Frank W. Abagnale, alias Frank Williams, Robert Conrad, Frank Adams, and Robert Monjo, was one of the most daring con men, forgers, imposters, and escape artists in history. In his brief but notorious criminal career, Abagnale donned a pilot's uniform and copiled a Pan Am jet, masqueraded as the supervising resident of a hospital, practiced law without a license, passed himself off as a college sociology professor, and cashed over \$2.5 million in forged checks, all before he was twenty-one. Known by the police of twenty-six foreign countries and all fifty states as "The Skywayman," Abagnale lived a sumptuous life on the lam—until the law caught up with him. Now recognized as the nation's leading authority on financial foul play, Abagnale is a charming rogue whose hilarious, stranger-than-fiction international escapades, and ingenious escapes-including one from an airplane-make *Catch Me If You Can* an irresistible tale of deceit.

**Tricky Vic** Imprint

When the first American tax on distilled spirits was established in 1791, violence broke out in Pennsylvania. The resulting Whiskey Rebellion sent hundreds of families down the Ohio River by flatboat, stills on board, to settle anew in the fertile bottomlands of Kentucky. Here they used cold limestone spring water to make bourbon and found that corn produced even better yields of whiskey than rye. Thus, the licit and illicit branches of the distilling industry grew up side-by-side in the state. This is the story of the illicit side—the moonshiners' craft and craftsmanship, as practiced in Kentucky. A glossary of moonshiner jargon sheds light on such colorful terms as "puker," "slop," and "weed-monkey." With a new foreword by author Wes Berry, David M. Maurer's classic history of this subject is tongue-in-cheek, but nevertheless provides a realistic look at the Kentucky moonshiner and the moonshining industry.

**The Biggest Score of His Life** Penguin

A New York Times Book Review Best Illustrated Children's Book of 2015 In the early 1900s, Robert Miller, a.k.a. "Count Victor Lustig," moved to Paris hoping to be an artist. A con artist, that is. He used his ingenious scams on unsuspecting marks all over the world, from the Czech Republic, to Atlantic ocean liners, and across America. Tricky Vic pulled off his most daring con in 1925, when he managed to "sell" the Eiffel Tower to one of the city's most successful scrap metal dealers! Six weeks later, he tried to sell the Eiffel Tower all over again. Vic was never caught. For that particular scam, anyway. . . . Kids will love to read about Vic's thrilling life, and teachers will love the informational sidebars and back matter. Award-winner Greg Pizzoli's humorous and vibrant graphic style of illustration mark a bold approach to picture book biography.

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