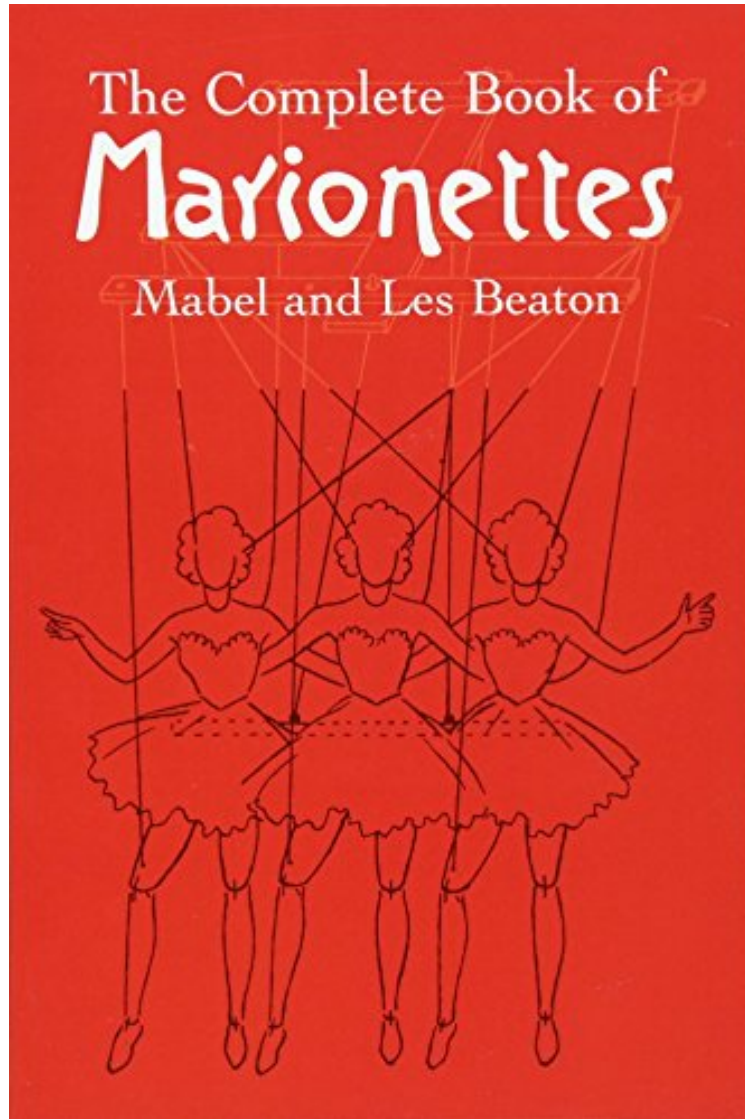


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## The Complete Book of Marionettes

*Mabel and Les Beaton*

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**Mabel and Les Beaton : The Complete Book of Marionettes** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Complete Book of Marionettes:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. THE BEATON BIBLE: STILL BEST OF THE BEST!By Rick MorseProfessional puppeteers and devoted amateurs have cherished this book since its original publication in 1948, calling it the Beaton Bible. It has EVERYTHING one needs to design, build, costume, and perform with professional-quality marionettes representing humans (there is no section for animal marionettes).Some have complained that the book is dated. This is true in only two instances. First, the section on lighting is indeed outdated, though one should

have no problem substituting modern lighting instruments. Second, using Plastic Wood to cast heads is now impossible thanks to Plastic Wood's formula being changed over the years; many professionals now use a product called MendAll which works exactly as the original, old-formula Plastic Wood did. I have used MendAll many times and recommend it highly. For those few who find the Beaton Bible doesn't (somehow) suit their needs, I am happy to recommend books that will. Cheers! 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. This is the best how-to book I have ever read or used. By Laurel Hoffmann This book was a Christmas present from my uncle when I was 12. I poured over it, making two marionettes. It gives every step, everything one needs to know about making marionettes, stages, and performances. No wonder it's still in print. I bought a copy for my young private student. She was thrilled. I recommend this book highly. It's fabulous. Even a child can understand and follow its instructions. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. I'm a puppet! By CatOfNineTales I was a puppeteer when I was around my pre-teen years. I made all kinds of dolls and puppets, and I helped to make a marionette... I still have that marionette--It's only a few years younger than I am. I want to make marionettes again! This book, *The Complete Book of Marionettes* has patterns that you can actually use and shows you a great control bar, like the one we made for my marionette... This book even tells you how to make a papier mache head! I haven't read it entirely, yet, because I have so many other artistic projects I want to get into 3D form. But I love this book.

"Highly recommended." *Library Journal* Marionettes, those beguiling, animated little actors on strings, have endeared themselves to puppet show lovers for generations. Constructed to approximate most nearly the movement and appearance of humans and animals, the jointed figures appear today in a variety of places in the theater, motion pictures, schools, and even as an advertising medium. This instructive and engaging guide, written by professionals with a passion for their art, provides everyone from beginners to veteran performers with all the information needed to create these beloved figures and the stages on which they perform. Enhanced with more than 200 sequenced photographs and diagrams, the comprehensive manual contains valuable advice for making heads, bodies, wigs, and puppet clothing and includes entire chapters on how to manipulate the puppet, set up and furnish a stage, light scenes, and even how to build miniature pieces of furniture. A production chapter tells how to incorporate music, put on sketches, parody celebrities, and arrange programs. There's even a complete script for *Beauty and the Beast*, as well as a section on the history of puppeteering.