

Contents

1	Of All Things Visible and Invisible.....	1
	Ancient Mythology	2
	Unseen Beasts	3
	Magical Powers.....	4
	Invisible Ink	6
	Smokescreen	7
	Dimension Shift	9
	The LHC and Extra Dimensions.....	11
	Irreversibly Invisible: Black Holes	12
	Time Shift	14
	In the Eye of the Beholder	14
	The Cottingley Fairies.....	16
	The Multiverse	17
	The Trojan Horse	19
	The Vanishing Pyrex Block	19
	Wood and Strutt Explain	20
	Blending In.....	21
	Seeing the Impossible	23
	The Ultimate Optical Illusion	27
	Tripping the Light Fantastic.....	28
2	A Very Brief History of Light	29
	Beginning at the Beginning.....	29
	The Act of Seeing	30
	The Laws of Reflection and Refraction	32
	The Writings of Alhazen.....	33
	The Dreams of Dr. Mirabilis.....	34
	Too Quick, Even for Galileo	35
	Hooke's <i>Micrographia</i>	36
	Moving Heaven and Earth	37

Dealing with Descartes	38
Snell's Law.....	38
Fermat Finds the Quickest Way	40
Newton's <i>Opticks</i>	42
The Inconstant Moons of Jupiter	43
The Aberration of James Bradley	45
Waves and Wave Interactions.....	46
The Triumph of Waves.....	47
Faster or Slower? A Crucial Test	49
Polarization	52
Sight and Sound	53
3 Mirror Tricks, the Art of Cloaking and Seeing the Impossible	57
Smoke and Mirrors: Without the Smoke	57
The Infinity Box	58
Pepper's Ghost	59
The Tachi Invisibility Cloak.....	60
A Moment's Reflection	63
Cats' Eyes	64
Seeing Through a Door.....	67
Alpha Blending to Half Transparency	69
Crystal Vision and the Invisible Touch	70
Augmented Reality	72
Fata Morgana	73
Earth's Atmosphere and the Sunset Deception.....	75
The Green Flash.....	76
How to Catch an Atom Bomb.....	77
Mirages: Inferior and Superior.....	78
A Cosmic Mirage	80
Proving Einstein Right.....	82
The Impossible Sunrise.....	85
Optical Fibers and Deep-Sea Sponges.....	87
From High Fashion to Cuttlefish and Squids	89
Eaton's Singular Cat's Eye Lens.....	91
Maxwell's Super Fisheye Lens	93
The Luneburg Cloaking Array	94
A Crystal Invisibility Cloak	97
The Cone of Silence.....	99
Sonic Crystals	100
A Wave-Less Sea	102
And Earth Stood Still	104
4 Maxwell's Marvelous Waves	107
Magnetic Attraction	107
Laying on the Leyden Jar.....	108
Michael Faraday.....	111

Faraday's Lightning Cloak.....	115
Gauss Lays Down the Law	115
A Beginning with String	116
A Prelude to Electromagnetic Waves.....	118
Making Waves.....	119
All Waves Together.....	123
Lights Out for the Aether.....	123
Putting the Particles Back	126
Absolute Light Speed.....	127
Warp Speed and Absolute Invisibility Cloaking.....	127
5 The Metamaterial Revolution	131
The Black Arts	131
The Strange Paper by Dr. Veselago.....	133
Marconi All at Sea	139
Negative Refractive Index Engineered.....	141
Split Ring Resonators and Metamaterials.....	142
The Harry Potter Project	146
Superlenses	148
The First Vanishing	153
Nanomaterials and a Small Slice of Black.....	156
Total Absorption	158
Carpet Cloaking	161
Nothing Is Perfect	171
Transformation Optics	174
Harry Potter's Sleeves and Eyesight for the Blind.....	179
Where Next for Metamaterials?.....	180
Optical Dynamics and Experimental Cosmology.....	181
Out of Space and Time.....	185
Afterword.....	189
Appendix 1 Black Holes in the Laboratory	191
Appendix 2 Atmospheric Refraction, Extinction and Scattering.....	195
Appendix 3 How Big Is a Photon?.....	199
Index.....	201

The Physics of Invisibility

A Story of Light and Deception

Beech, M.

2012, XVII, 206 p. 135 illus., 55 illus. in color., Softcover

ISBN: 978-1-4614-0615-0