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# Magicians: Life in the Impossible

By Unknown

for me, magic is  
a tiny grain of deception  
Wrapped in this  
world of truth.  
It gives you  
that visceral feeling  
That we don't  
know everything.  
Just to have this  
possibility of something  
that's boundless...  
...That's what I want  
people to feel.  
when I was a kid,  
I used to read about  
the magic castle...  
...A place where people  
went to see magic.  
oh!  
You see some of the best  
magicians in the world  
Showing you things that  
you've never seen before.  
- No!  
this place is  
an epicenter of magic.  
As a layperson,  
you come to see greatness...  
...And as a magician,  
you come and be great.  
And I wanted to be here.  
Early in my career,  
I would do a show,  
people would say to me  
"oh, that's so great.  
So what do you do  
for a living?"  
Oh!  
Argh.  
Gut wrenching.  
It was really important  
for me to always seem like  
I was a professional  
magician.

So how do you come across  
in a way that's engaging,  
So when people walk  
out of the showroom,  
They want to  
hang out with me?  
They want to be my friend.  
ladies and gentlemen,  
This performer that  
you are about to meet--  
One of our favorites here  
at the magic castle--  
Please put your hands together  
for mr. Jon armstrong.  
thank you.  
We'll do a matching trick.  
So just touch a card.  
-All right.  
-That one there?  
Yeah.  
- You're gonna say "stop" quick.  
- -stop.  
I'll put this down, okay.  
That's one, two,  
three, four, five, six,  
seven, eight, nine.  
That's nine, so  
the number here is nine,  
That means that that  
would have to be a nine  
for it to match.  
Could you turn that over?  
-Okay, good.  
-Shut up!  
Ah, that worked out.  
I looked in the mirror--  
I'm pale and doughy and  
I'm really into comic books,  
And I'm essentially  
just a big geek.  
And I decided that  
I'm gonna apply all that stuff  
to who I am on stage.  
I bring this with me

wherever I go.  
--because you never know.  
Go ahead, and show  
the card now to everybody.  
Everybody see it?  
--what?  
I know, I'm really  
good at this.  
-So this one here?  
-Yeah.  
Okay, so we'll leave that  
on the table, good?  
-You want to change  
your mind, or--  
-nope.  
good, okay.  
stop.  
Were you here earlier  
by any chance?  
--11, 12,  
13, 14, 15.  
See, the idea is that  
the number of cards  
Has to match  
the number here,  
that's 15.  
Well, it's a good thing  
I have one of those.  
-Uh, it's a 15.  
-No!  
on the card...  
These are hilarious  
at blackjack, by the way.  
I never wanted anything  
out of magic.  
I just wanted to do  
my good magic.  
Made myself bulletproof  
from anything  
That anyone could have said  
from any audience.  
so that whenever I did it,  
I knew I was in control.  
the magic castle's a pretty

important place to me,  
So I decided to get my own.  
It's a perfect  
magician house.  
I've got gags  
all over the house that  
make it pretty entertaining.  
Over here we have  
our wall of fame  
And celebrities  
we performed for,  
Like stevie wonder,  
paul mccartney, johnny depp,  
harrison ford.  
As far as anybody's  
concerned, these are all  
my best friends.  
This is sisuepahn's room.  
We were  
boyfriend and girlfriend  
for eight years.  
We've been broken up  
for seven years now.  
She lives here,  
I live in the other room.  
And she's got a boyfriend  
and I've got a girlfriend,  
you know.  
When we first broke up  
there was some turbulence  
And you know, we weren't  
sure if we were gonna  
Keep the act together  
or whatever,  
But we did.  
We didn't tell  
any agents or anything  
That we were broken up,  
'cause they would've  
stopped booking us.  
And, uh...  
--we, uh...  
And so now  
we're great friends

And performing partners,  
so everything works out.  
Since the recession,  
things have been  
kind of tough,  
And I've got a big nut.  
I've got this castle  
I have to pay for.  
It's a little bit  
distressing.  
So I've just gotta  
kind of concentrate  
on booking the gigs  
And paying the bills.  
Yeah, and you--  
don't interrupt me.  
No, my lips are sealed.  
I started magic  
at the age of six,  
I got a magic set,  
and that's typically how  
every magician starts  
I met frank,  
and that was basically--  
He brought it to a,  
you know...  
-A professional level.  
-To a professional level,  
And I was 18.  
It was the smurfs on tour.  
You shouldn't  
mention that one.  
And I did the major part.  
No, it's my life.  
Yeah, it's your life.  
It's true.  
I was in  
a touring show...  
He was the magician  
in the smurf musical,  
fabulous.  
Do you want to make it  
a short overview about my--  
No, okay.

Go on.

I first came to vegas  
when I was 18 years old.

I decided, "okay,  
one day you're going  
to work here."

-Here I am.

-It was like "alice  
in wonderland."

The first time  
in vegas, so...

But it's true.

For a boy who wants  
to be a magician,

It's still--

vegas is--

that's the place to be.

But here he's

not so well known

as he was in germany.

Oh!

here he had to

start from zero.

And everybody here

from the business,

They told us,

"oh, you know what?

Don't do vegas.

You're going to lose

all your money."

He's in a meeting?

Everybody in america

is in a meeting,

all the time.

Can you tell him that frank

called, from illusions?

All right.

Okay, bye bye.

People always still

think that the casino or

the hotel books the show.

In 95%, it's not like that.

It's-- for example,

even copperfield

books his own theater.  
He's not booked.  
So you see, they don't  
approach him  
And pay him money.  
It's his own business.  
So what do you--  
what did you want to ask?  
what was the purpose  
of your call?  
It sounds  
a little bit arrogant,  
but it's true.  
He has all the potential  
to be a real big star in vegas,  
But you have to  
work on your luck,  
you have to force it.  
So I want him on the strip.  
There's like a metaphor  
for me personally  
with magic,  
And the possibilities  
that it represents.  
--thank you.  
Think of the card.  
If it was a red card,  
You might notice your hand  
getting warmer,  
And I think  
it was a red card.  
If something seems  
impossible, I want it  
to happen even more.

**Audience:**

Do you have a driver's  
license or something  
with your photo on it?  
Watch.  
I'm like the stepchild  
of magic.  
I'm not going through  
the normal channels.



I'm not trying to  
get to vegas.  
But I want to  
reach more people,  
I want to continue to  
create new magic that's  
never been seen.  
And this year I'd love  
to have my own tv show.  
You know, we've had these,  
like, street magicians  
for the last ten years,  
That have been really great,  
but that has been done,  
And so now it's time to  
sort of bring it into  
a new era.  
It's a lot different  
to perform magic  
on television,  
Because people have  
more scrutiny.  
And it doesn't matter how  
amazing what you're doing is.  
I mean, I could fly around  
this room right now and  
you would freak out.  
Here, let's, uh...  
Let's just...  
Grab something.  
So if I did something  
on television,  
And you were watching,  
You would maybe be  
a little skeptical,  
But because it's right here  
And because I'm about  
to do this for you  
in person,  
You know that what you're  
seeing is actually real,  
Because you're seeing it  
with your own eyes.  
that is awesome.

you're never gonna  
get the same experience  
If you watch it  
on television.  
But it's fun to try.  
Here you go.  
Good-looking guy, huh?  
You like really good close-up  
magic, and I love it,  
We have a young man  
tonight from the magic castle,  
brian gillis.  
Magician brian gillis.  
Brian gillis.  
A very clever magician,  
brian gillis is here tonight.  
Brian gillis.  
Brian?  
my favorite performance  
that I've ever done  
Was performing  
for johnny carson  
on "the tonight show."  
I think johnny's favorite  
trick that I did  
Was one that I invented,  
the sweet 'n' low trick.  
It involves somebody  
taking a bill and tearing off  
the serial number  
So they can  
identify it later.  
And then I light  
the bill on fire,  
- ay, yi, yi.  
-Went in the sugar bowl.  
And it ends up inside  
a sealed sweet 'n' low packet  
That's been on their table  
the entire time.  
- can't be done.  
- there's no way.  
it's a trick, I tell you.  
there is a bill in here.

match the number.  
Make sure it's the same.  
I do not believe  
what I'm seeing.  
-Are you guys ready  
for some magic?  
-Of course.  
Can I scoot in here,  
so you can all have  
a good vantage point?  
Somebody have a bill,  
like a 20, a 50, a 100?  
Write your initials  
on jackson's forehead,  
So now I can't  
switch the bill.  
You guys may have  
seen me do this one  
on "the tonight show."  
I did it on "the tonight show,"  
both for johnny and for jay.  
We're gonna fold this back  
into itself, light it.  
It's a bill inside,  
slightly burned.  
Got your initials.  
is that cool?  
Want me to take this home  
and dispose of it?  
Appreciate that.  
Thank you.  
Did you have a dog  
when you were little?  
- I did.  
-Okay, think of it.  
When I came over here,  
I brought a little dog with me.  
It's a little stuffed dog,  
and the collar of the dog,  
In little beads,  
it spells out a name.  
If it matches the name of  
the dog you're thinking of  
It'd be pretty

impressive, right?

Yeah.

What was

the name of the dog?

Snorky.

Oh my--!

It's a miracle!

you get to keep that.

Oh, my god,

thank you!

I'm gonna cry!

Oh, my gosh.

- snorky!

- -snorky.

-That's unbelievable.

-I have two gifts for you.

You get the free dog.

You also get the free watch.

You get the free watch.

-The free watch.

-Huh? Ah!

I love doing it,

but it's exhausting.

Every time I perform at a table,

I have to be totally aware

Of where

everybody's looking,

What they're doing

with their hands.

Everything takes

a lot of concentration.

Did you see what happened?

See, this floats up

instead of down.

Thank you, sir.

I think of what

I want now.

I think of where I want

to go with my career.

Over the years,

I've been copied a lot

by other magicians,

So my style and everything

is not as unique as it was

20 years ago.  
I think there's ageism  
in the business, you know.  
I'm getting older.  
They want younger guys  
or whatever.  
I would like to be comfortable  
and not have to  
Hustle as much as  
I used to have to hustle,  
But, um, from here  
I don't really know where  
I'm heading,  
So it's a little  
disconcerting.  
so it must be great  
to be at the riviera.  
yeah, frank sinatra  
and liberace,  
And they all  
were on this stage,  
all the big stars.  
Did you hear we just  
got voted best magic show?  
That was gonna be my next  
question, actually.  
the best of vegas.  
There are some big names in vegas.  
-Yeah, absolutely.  
-So this is a good-- yeah.  
And I think  
the other magicians--  
how you say?  
They are okay with it.  
can you hear me?  
yes, I can hear you, frank.  
Can you give us,  
in general,  
Just a little bit more light  
backstage, something?  
direct from germany,  
Master illusionist  
jan rouven.  
thank you very much

for your applause.  
My name is Jan Rouven,  
and I came all the way  
from Germany to be here  
for you tonight.  
What you are about  
to see tonight,  
it's dangerous.  
For this show,  
for "illusions,"  
I wanted to bring something  
you never, ever saw before  
in other magic shows.  
-Great job!  
-Thank you!  
I signed that for you.  
- Thanks for coming.  
- -thank you.  
All the best.  
Au revoir.  
I'm soaking wet,  
jump out of my cloth.  
I blow-dry my hair all  
in three and a half minutes.  
That's my biggest  
miracle.  
Good night!  
Amazing as always.  
- Ah, yes, this is good.  
-It's not real.  
-Yeah, it is.  
-Touch it.  
-It's a real tattoo.  
- How cool is that?  
See, that's a true fan.  
if I do any sort  
of marketing,  
I sell me  
and not magic.  
There's this sort of  
geek chic-ness now,  
right?  
'cause it's cool  
to be this way?

It wasn't always cool.  
I've been this way  
my whole life,  
But now it's cool  
to be this way.  
So-- and now that  
it's cool to be this way,  
I think it's totally  
fair that I can be--  
I'm cool, and so I'm going to  
put that out there  
And be-- look, hey,  
I'm a geek but whatever.  
You're supposed  
to love me anyway.  
I've been coming  
to comic-con as a fan  
For many, many,  
many years.  
Because of this comic book  
that I helped create  
That does magic  
and is about magic,  
I get to be on  
the other side of the table,  
Taking people who  
might not like magic  
And then make  
fans out of them.  
Comics is an amazing medium  
in which you can direct  
Someone exactly the way  
you want them to go.  
The author is  
in complete control of  
what they're seeing.  
You just tell me when  
we see the two of hearts.  
And magic's the same way.  
I'm in control  
Of what you see  
and what you won't see,  
And give you the experience  
that I want you to have.

I am sitting here  
right now with mike costa  
and jon armstrong,  
Creators of  
"smoke and mirrors."  
It's an amazing book that  
actually does magic for you  
As you read it.  
It's incredible.  
You see these cards here?  
All right,  
so just think of one.  
Got one?  
All right.  
So now as you turn the page  
and you read along  
in the story,  
He's gonna tell you that  
your card is gone, and look,  
your card is gone.  
-Yeah, yeah, okay.  
-Well.  
Yeah.  
-And how did you do that?  
-It's magic.  
Look at that.  
There'll be a q&a  
at the panel.  
By all means,  
ask at the panel.  
Thank you.  
- We do "smoke and mirrors."  
- " -we love "smoke and mirrors."  
You love "smoke and mirrors"?  
They love "smoke and mirrors"!  
That one there?  
All right, take it out.  
You can look at it  
but don't show me.  
Just say--  
just say "stop."  
-Stop.  
-Okay, good.  
There you go.



-Put it back in.  
-Upside down.  
There you go.  
We have one left of our  
exclusive con-- issue one,  
But I'm sold out of issue  
twos and threes and fours.  
- that's good.  
-Sold out of everything.  
Now this is very,  
very important.  
This card here...  
Is that your card?  
No? All right,  
do me a favor.  
Go  
on the card.  
Yeah?  
Okay, good.  
That's it?  
Thank you very much.  
All right.  
No problem, man.  
When you ask me  
what it feels like,  
I am giving them something  
special and memorable,  
But it's also scary to me.  
True, hard-hitting,  
emotional things,  
Something that magic  
can really do,  
Something that magic  
can really bring out,  
That is way too much  
pure emotion  
That I don't want to deal with  
and I don't want to feel.  
So I have to keep it  
happy and humorous,  
To make me feel better  
about having that kind of  
impact on somebody.  
It's hard to stop myself

from not just making  
the next joke,  
To not just say  
the next sarcastic comment,  
Which is how I've always  
sort of pushed people  
away from me.

All right.

- ready?

-Yeah, let's rock.

ladies and gentlemen,

Are you ready

to transcend reality?

Let's hear it for

david minkin!

we'll start with

something really simple.

You probably wouldn't even

have noticed this

If I hadn't

pointed that out.

**Audience:**

I could distract you

just by doing that, right?

Oh, my god!

--now that

I have your attention.

- oh, my god!

You know what?

I'm losing them.

What's going on?

are you not watching this?

You guys are so

distracted.

This is short

attention span theater

going on right here,

So, um, I gotta

keep it simple,

Simple it down for this group

a little bit,

Because the artistic,

deeper stuff,

Is not gonna flow.  
People always think that  
I use sleight of hand  
to do this stuff,  
And I just-- I think  
I get a little insulted  
When people accuse me  
of sleight of hand, you know?  
- honestly?  
- -oh, my god.  
where does it go?  
We want to know where it goes.  
So don't be too impressed.  
That was just 13 years  
of college down the drain.  
Give it up for michelle,  
the bachelorette.  
Watch closely.  
Four coins.  
mm-hmm.  
-From this hand...  
-Mm-hmm.  
What the fuck--?  
wait, wait, david.  
Can you do this if  
you're naked, though?  
- That's the real question.  
- -yeah, naked.  
- What's this?  
- -naked, naked!  
naked! Naked!  
That's a whole other  
price of a ticket.  
in your little skimmies.  
wear your little skimmies!  
You guys don't even need me  
to be doing magic up here.  
Right?  
I should just-- here.  
You know what?  
Here.  
I'm just gonna  
take her seat.  
Entertain them.

There's like 15 bachelorettes  
yelling my name right now,  
And I have no interest  
in going in there.  
There's actually a girl  
passed out in the front row.  
Physically unconscious  
in the front row.  
That was a first.  
That was actually a first.  
I've never had someone  
pass out in my show before.  
so we decided that  
I would move out.  
I went from a 4,000  
square foot castle  
To a 300 square foot  
studio apartment.  
It's great.  
I love it, yeah.  
I looked for a  
aaa battery the other day,  
And I just opened  
the drawers right there,  
you know?  
And I open the refrigerator,  
and everything in  
the refrigerator  
Is stuff that I like.  
It's kind of tight.  
My routine is I have certain  
clothes that I wear,  
So I put on pants and shirt.  
I always wear short-sleeved  
shirts 'cause I do  
sleight of hand.  
I get a lot of mileage  
out of that.  
And uh, and a vest.  
And I have 13 pockets  
in this vest.  
Deck of cards,  
extra deck of cards.  
An extra wallet.

Business cards.  
Do you want to see  
humpty dumpty's card trick?  
Can you take a card?  
Don't let humpty dumpty  
see it.  
Just pull one out.  
- You got one?  
- -yep, okay.  
Okay, know what it is?  
Put it back.  
Here you go.  
Humpty, humpty.  
Humpty dumpty.  
Take a card.  
Take a card.  
He-- he picked up  
this card.  
-What was your card?  
-Seven of hearts.  
What a good boy!  
There's a smart doggie.  
-Who knew?  
-That's a good boy.  
we just moved  
into this new house.  
This is perfect.  
I have gates.  
It's great.  
You don't even  
have a bell.  
of course it's great.  
There's an office  
building in the front,  
Warehouse in the back.  
A pool house.  
We can basically  
tour the bathrooms.  
The americans  
love bathrooms.  
We have 12, I think.  
And if there is an emergency,  
there's another bathroom.  
It's enough, basically.

And if I don't want  
to see jan,  
I'm just staying  
in the west wing  
And he stays in  
the east wing,  
so it's easy.  
I never, ever went  
into a bar and did magic.  
"hey, how's it going?  
Buy you a drink?  
Pick a card."  
It's stupid.  
But being a magician  
and doing all this  
Has definitely allowed me  
to date far more  
Than a guy who  
looks like me should.  
I mean, I always used  
to say that I'm married to  
the magic and that's it.  
But I met rachel  
and I decided that I wanted  
to be with her.  
She's pretty awesome.  
When I said that to my mom,  
"oh, I'm dating a magician,"  
She was like,  
"did you say musician?"  
And I had to explain to her  
that no, it was magician.  
And it took  
my mom and my family  
a little bit of time  
To, like, wrap their heads  
around how someone could do it  
professionally.  
-And I mean--  
-it takes everybody  
a long time  
To wrap their heads  
around that.  
The wedding actually

causes quite a lot  
of agita.  
It really does.  
If I had it my way,  
it'd be drive-thru in vegas.  
But my mom, actually,  
when she rsvped wrote  
"thank you for not doing  
the drive-thru in vegas."  
But between jon,  
who is actually  
a sentimental romantic  
Who wanted  
to have a wedding,  
And my mom who wanted  
to have a wedding,  
I am now having a wedding.  
-It's gonna be a good time.  
-It's gonna be a good party.  
I've convinced her  
of that much, so we're good.  
-We have open bar,  
so it will be fine.  
-Yes.  
Ready?  
Okay.  
Come on,  
open your mouth.  
I got cosmo from  
a german shepherd rescue.  
Come here, come here.  
He was jumping up  
on the counter and  
knocking things over,  
And completely insane,  
out-of-control dog,  
But he's mellowed out  
a little over the last  
14 years.  
This is my best friend.  
You're my best buddy.  
He's, as you can see,  
a little bit--  
You know, he's in

his golden years here.  
So while this--  
while this tv thing  
is coming together,  
I have to stay  
close to home,  
And I just basically have to  
take local gigs right now.  
Mmm.  
Magic for me is my life.  
It always was,  
and it always will be.  
As a kid, I always combined  
magic and business.  
I always was a magician,  
But in germany you couldn't  
make money with magic.  
I always loved the big shows  
in america.  
So I always said,  
"that's what I want to do."  
When I see him on stage,  
I'm really proud.  
He's performing a show  
on the las vegas strip  
And he does that  
with so much passion  
and the people love him  
And he's funny.  
That's quite something.  
Sometimes I miss  
performing,  
But I'm still  
living this magic dream.  
I'm living the magic life  
within jan.  
- you nervous yet?  
- -I'm completely nervous.  
I love you so much.  
Sorry, I'm really  
stressed out.  
I know, sweetie.  
Don't be.  
Take a drink.



Take a breath.  
Everything is  
gonna be fine.  
Oh, boy.  
All right, let's--  
places, people, places.  
Rachel, I'm not  
a perfect person,  
But you see through my faults  
and you love me anyway.  
I promise to love you,  
to care for you,  
To make you laugh  
every day.  
No matter what happens,  
it will always be me and you  
Against the world.  
I now pronounce you  
husband and wife.  
I love you.  
Ladies and gentlemen,  
mr. And mrs. Jon armstrong.  
magic is a men's world.  
My friend and I  
came up with a theory  
Why there aren't  
that many female magicians.  
A man does not like  
to be fooled by a woman.  
And also, we don't have  
to pick up chicks.  
- hello.  
- -hi.  
-How are you?  
-Fine, how are you?  
I just got  
a match.Com call.  
So brian's been  
on match.Com.  
I was on one too, and I--  
She would get  
a date every day.  
I'm just--  
I'm just joking.

-Okay.

-I'm just joking.

You look handsome.

Isn't he handsome?

Brian is 80 years old.

Look at him.

Shut up.

There's no wrinkle

at all!

Tell people why

you look so young.

'cause I use oil of delay.

why is it that you

couldn't stay together

As a couple,

do you think?

- Um...

'cause she had sex

with my best friend?

What? No, you can't

say that to them!

No, that's not true.

We're just kidding.

and-- okay.

Well, he's just joking.

But anyway, we--

No, no, no, no.

We broke up.

one of my concerns was,

You know, I'm signing off

on the house,

She might end up making

like \$200,000 in equity

When she finally

sells the house.

Well, if I have a date

or something,

I can't take a date

to my tiny little

closet-sized apartment

With my three dogs,

you know.

I can take her over here,

we can have a glass of wine,

And, you know,  
and hang out.  
This is your concern,  
not getting laid?  
I'm concerned about  
children starving--  
Oh, come on.  
You're concerned about  
making a lot of money.  
Well, then  
I'm gonna donate--  
I don't see any  
starving children  
around here.  
Not around here,  
but all over the world.  
But you know what?  
You can't take your  
money with you.  
I'm not gonna keep any,  
so I'm gonna give it  
to the kids.  
Just give me some  
so I can take it with me.  
- Okay?  
in the next few minutes...  
I told you it's dangerous!  
The bed of death.  
Here we have five swords,  
connected to these strings.  
If she pulls any string,  
it releases a sword.  
The sword falls down  
into the tabletop  
And that's how  
the bed of death works.  
The interesting part:  
She doesn't know  
Which string will release  
exactly which sword.  
Four of them, if released,  
they fall down.  
It looks scary,  
it looks dangerous

But they wouldn't hit me.  
They'd fall down really  
close to my body  
But they wouldn't hit me.  
But holly, there is one sword  
which is extremely dangerous,  
This one right here  
in the middle.  
It would hit me  
right here.  
We don't want to see  
that happen tonight, holly.  
And therefore  
I need your help.  
And now holly, please start  
to mix up the strings.  
Put one string  
at each number.  
When you're ready.  
On my command,  
Three, two,  
One,  
Pull!  
Pull!  
Pull.  
Two strings remaining.  
One safe, one dangerous.  
Three, two,  
One, pull!  
It was safe.  
Now I would like to show  
to the audience what  
would have happened  
If you would have  
pulled the last one.  
Pull!  
You saved me!  
Mike weatherford,  
the entertainment reporter,  
He called me and he said  
criss angel's filming  
For his new tv series,  
doing a new stunt.  
The press release sounded

like my bed of death,  
Like exactly  
the same concept.  
And criss saw  
the show twice here.  
I can't believe that  
it's really the same  
Because he would have  
called me probably.  
Barbara will release  
each of those pins  
Releasing their swords,  
And hopefully not  
penetrating my heart.  
So, we've got  
a lady inside.  
-Okay.  
-And she's gonna pull,  
But he says you  
the audience will choose  
which pin she pulls,  
And he says, "literally,  
my life is in your hands."  
So that's--  
So, sounds pretty  
similar to me.  
Yeah, to me, too.  
Pull one.  
Pull it and drop it  
on the ground.  
the only thing I would have  
appreciated is a call,  
To say "listen, jan,  
I'm working on something.  
I do it a little bit  
different,  
But it's falling swords,  
and I saw your show.  
Just be prepared,  
people might call you.  
This is what I do."  
and then I'm prepared.  
take your hand off five.  
Take it--

- Oh!

Holy.

people, when they are all  
racing towards the same goal,  
And their goal is  
to be noted and respected  
and make money  
And have fame  
in this profession,  
They are going  
to not like the competition.  
For years, I had a rival.  
I had somebody who I hated,  
So much.  
Hated him...  
So I considered him  
my arch-nemesis.  
Like, so it's like a  
comic book type of thing.  
I hated him.  
We've since patched it up,  
And it was the worst  
decision I ever made,  
Because I have been  
incredibly unmotivated  
After I patched up with him.  
That wand up  
on that shelf,  
That "close magician  
of the year" wand?  
That was a direct result  
of me hating that guy.  
I worked so hard  
to get that.  
As a--  
that wand--  
That wand sticks  
right here.  
Right-- right there.  
That's where  
that wand goes.  
That's not the best reason  
to get that wand.  
That's a lot of hate.

I'm glad I don't have somebody  
else to fill that role.

I'm a far better  
person for it.

Just might not be  
as productive.

My parents sometimes are  
a little, like, subdued

In their response  
to good news,

And so I've sort of become  
accustomed to the fact

That, like, don't expect  
them to go crazy.

hey, david,

what's going on?

-How are you, dad?

-Good.

-Honey?

-Hi, how are you?

I was in the running for  
a show on travel channel.

There was eight magicians  
being considered for,

like, this show.

What, just

doing magic like

You're on "candid camera"

kind of thing?

Yeah, like,

locational magic.

They had narrowed us down to,

like, you know, three

or whatever.

And uh, I got it.

Oh, you did?

Oh, you just casually--

Dad swore

he wouldn't tell you.

You knew?

Why wouldn't you tell me?

-'cause I made him promise

that he wouldn't.

-Why?

'cause I wanted to,  
you know.  
-He wanted to  
surprise you.  
-Yeah.  
-Did I not tell you  
about the travel--  
-you did not tell me.  
I didn't tell you that  
I was even up for it?  
You did not tell me.  
-We need to talk  
more often, you know?  
-Yeah, dave, okay.  
So you want  
something to eat?  
We don't have  
anything to eat.  
--oh, this is  
my agent calling.  
Hey, how's it going, andy?  
One little tiny thing  
in there is that  
If I bring my ideas  
to the table that  
I've worked 13 years on,  
That they remain, you know,  
intellectual property of me  
And that I can  
perform them elsewhere,  
And that they're not  
gonna use another magician  
To perform the effects  
that I created.  
Okay, cool.  
Perfect, man!  
Let's get it going.  
Okay, man.  
Talk to you tomorrow.  
there was an article today  
On "bild"'s site?  
It's a german  
gossip newspaper.  
It's the german--



the biggest.  
The german gossip  
newspaper.  
So it's a story about  
me and criss angel,  
about the bed of death.  
"who owns the bed of death?"  
"who owns  
the bed of death?"  
It goes a little bit on--  
not just on my nerves,  
It makes me a little stomach  
pain, that whole thing.  
I don't want to have this.  
It should be all positive.  
Yeah, but you know,  
positive.  
If it would be positive,  
nobody would write anything.  
And they spelled  
your name right.  
It's the most  
important thing.  
For me it seems like  
he tried to get away with it,  
Doing it, and thinking  
I'm not important enough  
anyways,  
Nobody will jump on that.  
But of course everybody  
jumped on it  
Because they said, "jan,  
we saw you performing it.  
It's a very magic thing,  
magic business thing.  
They pretend to be  
each other's best friends--  
they are not.  
They just pretend.  
It's just because you're here,  
performing in vegas,  
You're younger,  
you're good looking,  
You still have your hair,

you're not too fat.  
You can't be  
everybody's friend.  
I don't know,  
it's not possible.  
It's just not possible.  
It's sad, but you can't.  
It's not possible.  
--mm-hmm.  
We have a meeting with mark.  
okay, go ahead  
and have a seat,  
I'll let her know  
that you're here.  
Over there?  
I see siegfried and roy.  
--hello.  
- hi.  
-I'm mark travis.  
-Hi mark, I'm jan.  
-Jan, nice to meet you.  
Hi, frank.  
Hi, nice to meet you.  
-Very nice to meet you.  
-How are you guys?  
Now how are  
you two related?  
- He's my manager.  
- -he's your manager, okay.  
-And he's your manager.  
-No, he's-- he's my--  
He's my dear colleague,  
peter.  
Okay, hi.  
It is different in europe.  
Here in america,  
it seems like everybody's  
suing each other  
And by getting more successful,  
I think there are more  
people who want something.  
There are multiple levels  
of protection to shows.  
But if I see a magic trick

somebody else invented,  
99.9% I know anyway  
how it works, and vice versa.  
It's not about the secret,  
it's about the idea,  
the basic concept.  
The people in the audience,  
they don't care how you do it.  
Perhaps you have the idea  
to make this flower appear,  
And then, another magician  
sees that and says,  
"okay, I make a flower  
appear, too.  
I do it in a different way,"  
but for the people,  
You know, that's not  
a difference.  
They just see that "oh,  
he makes a flower appear."  
So could you  
protect a visual...  
-An idea?  
-...What people see?  
-The basic concept?  
-If it's really  
nothing simple,  
If it's something really  
never has been seen,  
And you make a little drawing  
of what the spectator sees,  
Without explaining the secret,  
to protect it  
Even though someone else  
in a couple of years  
steals it?  
Can a trick become  
so well-identified  
With one individual,  
so clearly associated  
with him,  
That any time someone  
sees that trick,  
They think of

a particular magician?

-Hmm.

-And the answer

is yes.

That becomes

their trademark.

when you go out and

you see a bad singer,

You think, "well,

that's a bad singer."

And if you go out

and you see a bad actor,

You go, "well,

that's a bad actor."

But if you see a bad magician,

you go, "oh, magic sucks."

You don't blame

the one guy.

You think of

the entire thing.

And I don't know why

that is that way.

I lecture all across

the country,

Doing magic and also

teaching magic.

If I can help

these amateur performers,

magic enthusiasts.

Hobbyists,

whatever they might be,

Make their own magic better,

That makes magic better.

How many times have you

gone up to a group of people,

Spread a deck of cards

And they say,

"I've seen this before"?

Card magic is wonderful,

and I've made my living

As a card magician.

95% of the material

that I perform

On a regular basis is with

a deck of playing cards.  
Thus, if people really  
don't like card tricks,  
Then for the last 20 years,  
everyone's been  
very nice to me.  
Tell you what.  
Let's do a little experiment.  
Think of a card, any card  
in a deck of cards.  
Got one?  
Okay.  
Go through the cards,  
take out the card  
you're thinking of.  
Hold on to that card.  
Give me back the rest of them.  
And look where I am, guys.  
I'm in the part I would be  
if I would have said  
"here, pick a card."  
This is a tiny plunger,  
The newest member  
of the show,  
And uh, he's about  
a year and a half old.  
I love this thing.  
--got it?  
Young man.  
Give me a number  
between one and ten.  
-Eight.  
-Eight.  
Any particular reason  
why "eight"?  
-No.  
-Just liked  
eight, okay.  
The plunger has heard you  
say "eight."  
One, two, three, four,  
Five, six, seven, eight.  
Perfect, okay.  
Tiny plunger.

So, um-- so yeah.  
Did I mention  
I'm selling them?  
- And...  
Yeah, so there's that.  
So, uh,  
thank you very much.  
It was a pleasure  
meeting all of you.  
\$40.00, sir.  
There.  
Four bucks, sir.  
\$45.00.  
Yes!  
in order to buy...  
The plunger you  
have to buy a cd?  
Yeah.  
can you show me something?  
Yeah.  
A magician always should  
find where he puts the aces,  
So could you cut the deck  
into four spots?  
Now, um, put one there.  
Put one there.  
And that should...  
Very nice.  
Thanks, buddy.  
Good work.  
- See you guys.  
- -take care.  
Here, let me see  
what I got in my trunk.  
All right, you, sir,  
are a proud owner  
-Of a light blue plunger.  
-Cool.  
-Thank you so much.  
-You're welcome.  
I would hug you,  
but I'm a guy.  
It's okay.  
Guys can still hug,

But it's okay,  
you don't have to.  
-Thank you.  
-No problem, man.  
that must make you  
feel good, though.  
It does.  
It does.  
It works.  
hello?  
Hey, it's david minkin.  
-Come on in.  
-Thanks.  
there's all this  
good stuff going on,  
But my dog is basically,  
you know...  
I have to put him down,  
so...  
Aah.  
Yeah, this is, uh...  
I can't fucking  
do this, man.  
This is...  
He's still got his dog smile  
once in a while,  
But it's--  
he's not--  
I don't think he wants  
to be around anymore, so...  
Hey dr. Holmes.  
It's david minkin calling.  
Just wanted to go ahead  
and schedule  
Uh, that appointment  
with you for cosmo.  
And if you're  
back in town on Sunday  
That might be  
a good day, so...  
Uh, whenever you have a moment,  
just give me a call back.  
Okay, thanks.  
Bye bye.

Yeah.

All right, I'm gonna...

I'm gonna go roll.

I'll be back.

So you're gonna

take your coin,

And you're gonna put it  
into the bottom of this bottle.

Not through the top.

Actually, you can't even  
get it in that way, either.

But through the bottom,  
so take the coin.

Think of a goal in your life  
that you're trying to reach

That feels like there's  
an obstacle in front of you.

Now imagine just going  
through that obstacle,

Take the coin-- you're gonna  
hit it into the bottom  
of the bottle.

-Great.

-Whoops, oh!

That's awesome.

let's run one through,  
And just kind of review  
as we go.

You're gonna take  
your coin and you're  
gonna put it in this--  
Into this.

How about this,  
right here?

So...

All right, good.

Think of a goal, think of  
blah, blah, blah, blah, blah,  
Now think of a goal,  
blah, blah, blah, blah, blah,  
The goal thing... Shit.

Okay,

take that one more time.

Maybe if you got



a little higher and were  
shooting more down on it.  
Are you good?  
Okay... Fuck.  
It's just knacky,  
you know?  
It's one of those things  
that's like,  
We might have to shoot it  
a few times to get it right.  
Not through the top  
to the... Grr.  
I don't like it.  
- I get it.  
Now I need to be here,  
and I'm protecting here.  
And it's-- you know,  
it's all...  
-And every time we--  
-can't let that  
get out of shot.  
When I first did it  
in there, the first time  
I ever tried it,  
-It went perfectly.  
-Nice.  
And I was like  
"holy shit!"  
-Like, "all right,  
this is good."  
-yeah.  
getting on television  
is very important.  
If you can get  
a national program,  
It's gonna do great things  
for your career.  
But if you don't really  
hustle and sell yourself,  
Then you're not  
gonna make a living.  
Fine, how are you?  
So it's all up to you.  
I do close up magic,

and I do, like,  
some mentalism stuff.  
I have a couple tricks  
that I invented  
That are my thing that you'll  
never see anybody else do.  
And I do a lot of  
sleight of hand, and...  
My show's, like,  
real fast paced and  
I have a lot of comedy,  
And pretty strong magic.  
Yeah. Well, if you want  
I can meet you at  
the magic castle  
And have a drink  
or something.  
I've said this to my wife

**a jillion times:**

We hit the lottery.  
I have \$15 million.  
My life does not change.  
The \$15 million  
goes in the bank.  
I'm still doing  
the restaurant on Sunday.  
Nothing changes.  
Not because of some sort  
of frugality,  
But because I still like  
doing magic.  
do you think you've  
made progress  
Or headway or whatever?  
I've made headway--  
That--  
that is such a--  
I have achieved  
everything I've ever  
set out to do.  
Everything.  
Absol-- here.  
Look at this.

This is a list  
That I imported into my--  
into this one day,  
And this is a list  
of every goal I ever had  
as a child.  
Okay, here we go:  
"have my own show  
at walt disney world.  
Become a member of  
the magic castle--  
Become a member  
of the magic castle--  
Win close-up magician  
of the year,  
Travel out of the country,  
lecture to magicians,  
Have a dvd set,  
Work in film and tv  
as a magic advisor,  
Make my sole living  
in magic,  
Do something in comics,  
Write a magic book  
for the public--"  
That's the only one  
I haven't done, really--  
"write a magic book  
for magicians--"  
Kind of.  
"perform on national  
television,  
Create magic  
for other performers,  
Create a theater show."  
I've done every single one  
of those  
Except for write a book  
for the public.  
Though, if you--  
I did do a comic book,  
And that is  
for the public, so...  
So, yeah, of course.

I've achieved everything.  
Everything  
I've ever wanted.  
I have no--  
I have nothing.  
I have no other goals.  
To stay fresh in magic  
is like anything in  
business nowadays.  
If you rest,  
you're lost.  
You can't just play around,  
you just can't...  
Do magic.  
"show business" is two words,  
and "business" is  
the longer word.  
You know, I decided,  
we're not gonna sue criss.  
We're gonna move forward.  
And we're gonna beat him.  
Simple.  
You're gonna design  
something new,  
better, bigger.  
-We're about here.  
-He's gonna be right here.  
-Yeah.  
-It has to look scary.  
I don't want to do it.  
It's too scary.  
I just closed the book  
on bed of death,  
And look forward  
into bright future.  
Has to be detailed,  
it has to be--  
It has to be sexy.  
It has to be...  
A design, yeah.  
It's possible.  
Get your checkbook.  
Yeah, yeah, yeah.  
Oh, that looks great.

Nothing can happen now,  
but still, if you go here,  
like...

-Oh.

-This is a very  
physical show,  
So he really has  
to stay in shape.  
I appreciate.  
I love it.

But you have to keep  
an eye on him because we see  
So many magicians  
who put on weight.  
He can't eat noodles,  
he can't eat potatoes  
in the middle of the night.  
It's not possible.

- hey, jan rouven?

- -yeah!

I got my first  
billboard, see?

-We have to check it.

-Wow!

Where's your presentation,  
riviera?

Riviera, yeah!

You can walk.

Okay. Hey man,  
you like tacos?

-Come on.

-Yes, yes, yes.

You all can come  
and see the show.

You come in for free,  
but your guests, you know  
what I mean?

-Your customers.

-Your customers.

Okay.

Thank you very much.

I have to write it  
down here, give me--

I always come and watch

this and have a taco.

Oh, thank you.

-Is this pineapple?

-Yeah.

You all set?

Test, test, test,  
test, test-- ahem.

Catch a cacophonous cornucopia  
of curious and cryptesthetic  
conjuring.

I love corporate gigs.

They're usually real  
appreciative and real fun.

Pays the kind of money

I used to get a few years ago

Before the-- you know,  
the market went down.

we have a gentleman,  
brian gillis, with us.

Johnny carson's  
favorite magician.

--my name is brian gillis

I'm a trained practitioner  
in the ancient art  
of prestidigitation.

That's sleight of hand magic.

I'm gonna flash through  
the cards.

As they go by,  
you look at them,

Pick a card  
in your mind.

-Did you pick one out?

-I did.

Did you pick one out?

Occasionally kids  
will actually try to mess up  
the magician.

- I--

I hate kids.

As they go by,  
just pick one in your mind.

Did you pick one out?

So concentrate on

the value of the card.  
Yours was lower than a seven?  
It was a four?  
-Yep.  
-Four of clubs?  
Have a seat.  
Six?  
-Six of diamonds?  
-Yep.  
Have a seat.  
Jack of spades?  
Have a seat.  
You had a king?  
King of diamonds.  
- All right!  
Thank you, appreciate it,  
and let's have a round  
of applause  
For sisuepahn.  
-What's your name?  
-Pam.  
Pam, do you remember  
the first name of the first  
boy you ever kissed?  
-Nobody saw what  
you wrote?  
-Nope.  
And nobody knows this, right?  
Okay.  
Sisuepahn is actually  
a sketch artist.  
She's actually  
sketching what she thinks  
the person looks like.  
Pam, did he look  
anything like this?  
- no!  
- -what was his name?  
-Steve.  
-Steve?  
Oh, yes.  
Here he is.  
Oh, yes.  
--there is steve for you.

Take steve  
home with you.  
Sir, open this book,  
any part of any page.  
Pick out any word.  
Make it an interesting word,.  
Three or four syllables.  
Can you see the page  
he stopped me at?  
Mm-hmm.  
Turn to the same page  
in that book,  
And look at  
the very top word,  
Very first word  
on the page.  
s-- scaffolding?  
-That's correct.  
-"scaffolding"  
is your word.  
Thank you very much.  
Scott, does your word  
start with an "s"?  
-No.  
-No, no.  
But it's got an "s"  
in there, correct?  
-No.  
-No.  
Because I thought  
the word would start--  
was like, "smashing."  
-What is your word?  
-"jackhammer."  
"jackhammer."  
- Somewhat close.  
- -thank you guys.  
If you enjoyed the show,  
remember it's brian gillis  
And sisuepahn.  
Thank you.  
Thank you.  
You didn't know  
what the word was?



I thought it was  
the letter "s."  
Right,  
you'd said "smashing,"  
But why didn't you say,  
"okay, you're thinking  
of 'jackhammer'?"  
Why did you say,  
"what's your word?"  
I don't know.  
You know, I get really  
close to "smashing"  
And he said "jackhammer."  
Like, I got really  
close to it.  
No, you didn't get close.  
"smashing" is not close  
to "jackhammer."  
So why would the book--  
You have to tell him  
"jackhammer."  
Okay, I got it.  
I went on this  
long lecture tour.  
I was gone  
almost two months.  
And that was  
the beginning of the end  
of my relationship.  
I mean, look,  
the times in my life  
Where someone has  
actually just seen me,  
Talked to me, and then  
been interested in me  
Are very few  
and far between.  
She never really saw me  
do my show until  
much later on,  
When we were dating.  
So magic wasn't really  
what made us meet.  
She recognized me as me.

Well, I really wanted--  
I mean, I was there to  
make it work.  
I tried to--  
I mean...  
I, uh...  
At least I really thought  
I was trying to make it work.  
And-- and be there,  
and do everything.  
I really, like...  
I really liked  
the idea of being married,  
and being married to her.  
I gotta take  
these wedding photos down.  
this dog has never  
been up here.  
He just never  
came up before.  
He didn't like stairs.  
And now he's like  
friggin' hanging out.  
My little buddy.  
in my life, I've experienced  
a lot of ups and downs.  
I've had relationship  
problems.  
I've had  
financial problems.  
I've had all the problems  
that everybody has.  
But I haven't felt that  
magic has ever let me down.  
This is my new  
little two-bedroom house.  
It's a guest house in  
the back of a bigger house.  
Nice big refrigerator,  
stove and dishwasher  
And everything,  
so it's great,  
'cause I was in that  
little tiny apartment.

I just had, like, a little hot plate and that was it. Getting out of there really did a lot for my psyche. I had to wake up every morning thinking "oh, my god, I'm a failure, Living in this little tiny place and owing all this money. Now I feel a hundred times better. I've got a nice place to live and I've got two gigs this weekend. I'm starting to travel a little bit with it again. You know, I wasn't traveling very much before. So it's-- it's looking up. I'm just happy having a huge impact on an audience. That's the most rewarding part. They have stories to tell and it's nice being part of that. I'm a prime example of somebody knowing a couple tricks and doing them my entire life, My entire career. I don't do very many conventions. I don't do very much lecturing or anything. I've always felt that I don't have much of a repertoire, So what am I gonna lecture on? I realized I can just tell you some of my act. As they go by, pick one in your mind.

Did you pick one out?  
Not the end card.  
Pick one in your mind.  
Did you pick one out?  
As they go by,  
pick a card in your mind.  
Did you pick one out?  
Roy, yours was lower  
than a seven?  
It was a five?  
Five of hearts?  
Have a seat.  
King of diamonds?  
-Yep.  
-Have a seat.  
-Eight of clubs?  
-Yes.  
- All right.  
I developed this  
a long time ago.  
I think it's a great opener  
and it's an opener  
I've used for years.  
I do three over here,  
and then I just do  
a quick fan,  
And then I do  
the other three.  
And I've got 'em.  
And the fact that everybody's  
picking a different card  
Belies the theory that  
I'm showing everybody  
the same card over and over.  
Spongy ball.  
Squeeze it tight  
in your left hand.  
-Are you ready?  
-Yep.  
Hold this tight.  
All right.  
Did you--  
Did you feel  
anything happen?

-Yeah.

-No, for real.

-No.

-Oh, good.

A lot of times when I get  
somebody up to help me,  
I like to give them  
a little gift.

You're such a nice guy  
you get the free watch.

Stealing a watch  
is always fun,  
Because people  
remember it forever.

I have people come up  
to me and say,  
"you know, you stole my watch  
15 years ago."

You know, they don't  
forget it.

This one, you've got like  
a little lock here,  
So you have to undo that,  
And you're gonna concentrate  
on that hand.

While you're doing that,  
I'm loosening this up  
And I'm pulling it  
off the end like that.

I'll be stealing watches,  
And I'll go up  
to a small group  
and somebody'll say,  
"you're not getting  
this watch."

I'll say, "no,  
you know about it.

I can't steal  
a watch now because  
you know I'm doing it."

And then I would  
steal his watch.

I've got the watch steal dvd.  
It tells how to get

every kind of watch.  
But when I'm doing it...  
I flash and  
you'll see the king.  
I love being part  
of the magic community  
And I love  
having an influence on  
that magic community.  
It's a wonderful feeling.  
Oh, yeah, it's great.  
People remember it forever.  
Magic is my home.  
That's never gonna change.  
- hey!  
-Hello.  
-Hi.  
Hey, how are you?  
Thanks for coming.  
Is there an extra  
chair here?  
Yeah?  
Okay, dad.  
Hey dad.  
Here, have a seat.  
-All right, go ahead.  
-Right, on the count  
of three?  
Firmly into the bottle,  
go for it.  
oh, my god!  
No way.  
Oh, my god.  
It was so much fun  
to work with these guys,  
And with mike and the rest of  
the crew, and like--  
Really it was all a whole  
team coming together,  
So hopefully  
we'll get picked up and  
there'll be more episodes  
Congratulations.  
We're really excited.

it was nice to see  
people enjoy it.  
Thanks for being here.  
I'm very proud of him.  
Our sons are--  
are just our love.  
my mom...  
Told me she has like five tvs  
on at home right now,  
Hoping to get  
my ratings up.  
My only son!  
I'm super, super grateful  
For the opportunity to have  
done magic on television,  
But I know I can do  
even better than that.  
Really?  
Okay.  
And that's what  
drives me right now.  
Magic can open up  
a door for people to  
possibilities,  
Make them feel like there's  
more than what we think  
we know about everything.  
-It was great.  
-Very proud.  
-Thank you, dad.  
-Good job.  
Just like I taught you.  
that's a rare feeling.  
The owner of the tropicana was  
looking for a new show,  
And he came  
and bought a ticket.  
Which I appreciate,  
by the way.  
To my show  
at the riviera,  
And first question was,  
"do you want to stay in vegas  
Or do you want to go

back to germany in  
a couple of years?"

To make a long story short,  
he offered us the theater.  
Siegfried and roy started  
their career at the tropicana  
When they first  
came to vegas.

It's a piece of history so now,  
we have jan rouven here,  
We have david copperfield  
across the street,  
And you have my favorite  
friend on the other side.  
It's the magic triangle.  
It's a beautiful theater,  
huge stage.

It's one of the biggest  
stages in vegas.  
it has all those chairs.  
I said, "oh, my gosh.  
This is not a step,  
this is a leap."

No, I don't think  
that success changes me.  
I hope not.

-What?

-No, I wasn't going  
to say anything.

Welcome, america!

Yeah!

Good evening!

you know, sometimes,  
I'm sitting in the audience,  
I directed it.

It's all good.

He's on stage and I can't do  
anything anymore,  
He just talks and  
talks and talks.

-Drives me crazy.

-You like it.

No, you talk too much.

Yeah, larger than you



expected, huh, christie?  
Is that your wife?  
Is she handy?  
What's your favorite one?  
You mix up all the stands.  
When you're finished,  
you scream out loud,  
"I'm finished!"  
Just like that.  
By the way, I'm looking  
for new management.  
Aah!  
to see jan on that stage  
at the tropicana,  
I'm really proud.  
You know, it's very obvious  
that we're living together  
Nearly 20 years--  
I shouldn't even  
mention that.  
But it's true.  
In germany we had a big article  
in a very serious magazine  
And they mentioned  
that we are living together,  
we are partners,  
And it's so funny,  
because my mother, she's 86,  
And she called me  
and said, "you know, son,  
I'm really proud  
That it's finally, eventually  
they mentioned it."  
And I was totally surprised  
because she was proud  
about that fact.  
I always dreamed about having  
my own show in las vegas.  
When you actually have it,  
It creates a kind of emptiness  
not having a next goal  
Because you made it.  
sometimes you just have  
to realize

That happiness comes  
with things you do have  
And not things  
you want to have.  
- hello!  
- -hey, mom.  
-Hi.  
-Hey.  
You all right?  
Jon was always gonna  
be the next houdini  
or david copperfield,  
And as long as he had a deck  
of cards in his hands,  
He was in his glory.  
This is what I call  
my "wall of jon."  
This was one of  
the write ups that he had  
in the "orlando sentinel."  
This is where he was at  
the rose and crown pub  
at epcot.  
This was in boca raton.  
This was his life.  
He studied to do what  
he really wanted to do  
To fulfill his dream.  
That's the whole trip  
that I took to california  
with you.  
He didn't really think  
I supported him, but I did.  
I was the one who took him  
to a lot of his meetings  
and programs  
And drove him back and forth  
until he finally got  
his license.  
And 'course it was rough  
when he said he was leaving  
and going to california,  
But I'm real proud of him.  
Real proud.

Mr. Bedwell, how are you?

Good to see you.

Good to see you.

Remember chris?

You're welcome to

bring in a refreshment.

Tonight we have jon armstrong,

a local favorite,

One of the best

card magicians in

the world today.

This town goes nuts

every time jon's in town,

We know that we're gonna

sell out every seat.

I mean, to have a winner of

"close up magician

of the year,"

Right from orlando florida,

to come back and do

my little theater

Is pretty cool.

There's been a few greats

in magic.

Right now you guys are lucky

to see the future

of card magic.

Put your hands together

for mr. Jon armstrong,

everybody.

See?

All right, before

the show, did we meet?

Do I know you?

Okay, you're not the guy.

--concentrate.

- Got it?

-Show the people.

-I'm gonna scream

and run away.

My husband's convinced

it's voodoo.

Yes.

Yes, that's what I did.

I sold my soul  
for card tricks.  
My name is jon armstrong.  
It was a pleasure  
seeing you all.  
- Jon armstrong, everybody!  
- Thank you.  
Stop that.  
- Ah, ha, ha!  
I feel a lot of support  
from those guys.  
Two, three, smile.  
- there you go.  
-Thank you.  
they look at me  
like proud papa.  
For you.  
That's for you, my friend.  
Oh, look at this!  
You don't have that picture,  
'cause I took that one.  
Look at that!  
How old were you then?  
-Uh...  
-Out of diapers yet?  
Uh, I'm in my 20s, man.  
I'm 20, 21.  
They made me  
the magician I am today.  
I am in awe.  
Oh, that's so nice  
of you to say.  
And you know, I've never  
said that to anybody before.  
Oh, I don't believe that,  
but thank you.  
No, no, I haven't.  
and being able to go back  
and do my show  
And everybody excited about  
seeing this kid  
that they knew  
Who was 14 and couldn't  
look at people in the eye...

It's just a good feeling.  
I mean, hang out, man.  
Yeah, let's do it.  
I really want to.  
You're gonna come too?  
You should come hang out  
with us, too.  
Come hang with us.  
This relationship  
not working out,  
It was really tough,  
But at least I knew I always  
had magic to be there.  
I have no idea what  
I would do with myself  
if I wasn't a magician.  
For the last 30 years,  
this has been what I care about  
the most.  
I've given up a normal life,  
A regular paycheck  
and security,  
But every day,  
I get to do what I love.