(Printed with the demonstration version of Fade In)

# Disappearing Act

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Draft 4

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FADE IN:

INT. WAITING ROOM - DAY

Louis and Connor are sitting in a waiting room full of performers. They are the last on the list. Louis and Connor are wearing the typical magician get up of a black long-coat tuxedo and top hat.

LOUIS
I'm getting nervous.

CONNOR
Don't worry man, we've got a solid act. I'm sure that we'll get through.

PERFORMER
Well, you better hope that you're better than me, because I know I'm good and I'm getting in.

Performer leaves the room to get in the office. Connor and Louis are all that's left after them.

LOUIS
Oh no, this really sucks.

CONNOR
Hey man, they're just an asshole. We've got this.

They pace for the remainder of the next act.

SECRETARY
You're up, break a leg.

The two breathe in and give each other a confident look.

INT. AUDITION OFFICE -DAY

SECRETARY
Introducing our next talent, the wonderful pair known as LouNor!

Magician scoffs.

CONNOR
Howdy Folks! My name is Connor and this is my other half of the show Louis.

LOUIS
Howdy. Good to be here. Would someone be so kind as to join us on stage? How about you good sir/lady.

PANEL MEMBER
Of course. What do you need me to do.

CONNOR
If you wouldn't mind inspecting this deck of cards and affirming the audience that it is in fact a regular deck.

Connor spreads the cards, Louis is in the background preparing two PISTOLS.

CONNOR (cont'd)
Is this good.

PANEL MEMBER
Yes that seems normal.

Louis walks back and smacks the cards down on the ground.

LOUIS
That's good, because a card trick simply wont do for us! Please take your seat, a round of applause for your fellow panel member.

CONNOR
Today's wonderous trick is called, "A shot in the dark".

Louis dual wields some pistols in his hand pulling the triggers while pointing at Connor.

The magician under his breath says:

MAGICIAN
How original.

LOUIS
We shall need a volunteer to inspect the-

MAGICIAN
Go on and do the trick, I trust the guns are "Normal".

The panel chatters in agreement, they seem to be losing them.

CONNOR
Ok. Louis, will you please hand me a pistol.

Louis nods and hands him the pistol, Connor faces away back to back, they begin pacing. The pair flip around pointing the gun at one another. They shoot.

FADE TO BLACK

CONNOR (cont'd)
Oh god. Louis! Louis!

ONE YEAR LATER...

CUT TO:

EXT. BUS STOP -AFTERNOON

There is an advertisement on the wall showing a Magic competition. Connor looks down at his ankle where his ankle monitor is. He diverts his attention to the incoming bus and gets up to leave. As he gets up to leave a figure in a black morphsuit and same magician's get up as earlier appears beside where he was. The Morphsuit Magician watches Connor board the bus. The bus drives into frame and then out and the black morphsuit magician disappears.

CUT TO:

INT. CONNOR'S APARTMENT - EVENING

Connor grabs his keys and opens the door. Once he got in and closed the door he let out a sigh.

CONNOR
That was a long day.

He grabs a drink from the fridge. He sees his deck of cards along with a card trick book that has Magician's face on it.

He swipes the book and cards off the table and takes a swig of his drink.

CONNOR (cont'd)
Waste of time.

Connor goes to his room. The black morphsuit magician appears.

INT. CONNOR'S APARTMENT - MORNING

The table has been reset to the way it was before Connor went to bed. With one small difference as Connor glances at it confused.

CONNOR
What the hell.

Connor's heart is racing. The cover of the book reads "Waste of Time". Connor is flipping through the pages. The black morphsuit magician is hovering over his shoulders. As he flips through the pages, he hears voices whispering getting stronger and stronger.

VOICES
Waste of time. It's your fault. It's your fault. Waste of time. You two will never make it as magicians.

CONNOR
AAAAAGH!! SHUT UP.

The voices go quiet,The morphsuit magician disappears. Connor lurches up and gets ready to do a gig for his roommates.

CUT TO:

INT. CONNOR'S APPARTMENT - DAY

Connor stops in front of his door. He breathes in. He walks towards the living room.

FRIEND
Hey. Good to see you, thanks for doing this. I'll get you set up in the back, the kids are gonna be here in a few minutes.

CONNOR
Anything for a friend. Let's hope I don't fuck up.

FRIEND
I won't hear anything of that, you are gonna do great.

As they both walk to the living room, they pass a mirror. In the mirror is the black morphsuit magician, watching him walk by. Inaudible whispers are heard.

INT. APPARTMENT LIVING ROOM - DAY

Connor is setting up a table with some tricks. As he sets up the table, the whispers start to get louder.

VOICES
You can't do it. Waste of time. Waste of time.

Connor grabs his head in distress but snaps out of it when he hears his roommates coming. Connor begins with simple card tricks.

CONNOR
Was this your card? Of course it was, I'm a magician.

ROOMMATE
That was cool and all but, do you have any cooler tricks you can show us?

CONNOR
I'm a bit out of practice but there is one trick I can show you. It's an updated classic, how about the rabbit in the hat.

ROOMMATE
Oooh, yes please.

CONNOR
Alright, here we go, take a look into my hat,you see, empty. Well, not for long.

Connor, with a wave of his fingers, flip of his hat around his roomates head, appears a rabbit.

CONNOR (cont'd)
Ta-da. A rabbit in the hat, go ahead take it and show your friends. A gift from me, to you.

The roomate leaves in amazement with the rabbit. Connor's friend comes up to him.

FRIEND
That was amazing! Parties are a waste of time for you. You should be someone.

The black morphsuit magician briefly appears whispering into his ear.

VOICES
Waste of time. Waste of time.

The black morphsuit magician disappears.

CONNOR
You're right but I can't, I just can't.

FRIEND
Nonsense Connor! I know that what happened last year was terrible, but I really believe that you can do it. I think that you should try again.

CONNOR
But-

FRIEND
No buts, I signed you up, you have to go, show that magician what you can really do. If not for me, for Louis.

CONNOR
Ok, I'll do it. Thanks for pushing me man, I think this is what I've needed.

CUT TO:

INT. CONNOR'S APARTMENT - EVENING

Connor opens the door. He looks at the book again. He reads the first page, it says:

MAGICIAN
If you can figure out the hidden cypher, one of the very simplest and best card tricks will be at your disposal.

CONNOR
That's what I have to do, I have to learn that trick.

A compilation begins of Connor pacing around, sitting weirdly and just generally reading the book in multiple fashions to try and figure it out. Connor notices that there are multiple words on every page misspelled.

CONNOR (cont'd)
That's it!

Connor starts writing all of the letters that are misspelled on a piece of paper.

MAGICIAN
Go to my website and add /unlock to the end of the url.

Connor goes to the magician's website.

MAGICIAN (cont'd)
Congratulations reader, you have figured out my secret. I tip my hat to you. I'm recording this the same day I shoot the cover for my book, so forgive me for looking the same. Here's the card trick.

The magician performs a trick.

MAGICIAN (cont'd)
Remember, Card tricks may be the simplest but, they are in my opinion the best because they are simple. Do this trick well and you'll have my respect.

Connor pauses the video and starts practicing every exact movement. The black morphsuit magician appears.

VOICES
The simplest trick. The worst trick. Waste of time.

The black morphsuit magician disappears. Connor covers his head.

CUT TO:

INT. WAITING ROOM -DAY.

TWO WEEKS LATER...

Connor is sitting in the green room with the rest of the performers for this year's talent scouting. The performer from last year comes over to Connor.

PERFORMER
I want to apologize for the way I acted last year, You and your friend did great, break a leg man.

CONNOR
Thanks, I appreciate it.

STAGE MANAGER
You're next.

The black morphsuit magician appears as Connor takes in a deep breath before walking towards the stage.

INT. AUDITION OFFICE -DAY

SECRETARY
Up next we have, the talented, Connor the Simple!

Connor steps out with his deck of cards in hand.

CONNOR
May I please have a volunteer, perhaps, you.

The panel member walks up to the stage. Connor pulls up the deck of cards, simply inviting the person to inspect them.

CONNOR (cont'd)
In front of your eyes is a deck of cards, would you mind choosing one of those cards.

The panel member selects a card.

CONNOR (cont'd)
Please shuffle the deck at your discretion.

PANEL MEMBER
Ok, will do.

Panel member shuffles the cards.

PANEL MEMBER (cont'd)
Done.

CONNOR
Thank you very much.

Connor then places a card in discretely. Connor has the deck in one hand and the other is empty. He claps the two hands together brings them up to his face and blows all of the cards. The black morphsuit magician appears at the top of the audience. Connor faces the last card to the audience.

CONNOR (cont'd)
Was this your card?

PANEL MEMBER
Yes!

Connor lets out a smile. The Magician walks up and congratulates him on the execution of the trick. The black morphsuit magician takes off his top hat, revealing Louis, he gives a nod and a wink, and finally disappears.

FADE TO BLACK