

## v. the performance

They were in New Orleans. It was Mardi Gras, the streets were crowded and full of color. During the day they explored a bit with everyone but soon as they headed back to the theater that they were going to perform in. Daniel needed to make sure that everything was in check and going smoothly. He was a control freak as he can't have anything out of place. Evelynn and the other Horsemen were hanging out in the back room. Evelynn had her hand on Jack's lap as he played with her hair. They were all joking around and saying nonsense, to get them to the right audience ready mood.

From Evelynn's vision, she could see Merritt get up and walk over to sit next to Henley. "Do me a favor," he started. "Visualize your most adventurous sexual experience." When he finished Evelynn snorted. To make it even better Evelynn's can see Daniel's head popping out from behind a pillar.

"Stay out of my head you perv."

"Well, no. If I stay out of your head, I'm never gonna get into your pants. So, let's stick with this exercise." Evelynn laughed at Merritt and Henley. Jack looked from them to Daniel grinning.

"Pardon the intrusion," a voice at the door announced, she could tell that it was Thaddeus Bradley without even looking up to see. "I just wanted to wish you good luck tonight."

"What? So you can try to expose us later on your little website?" fired Jack.

"And on demand," Thaddeus agreed, nodding.

"That's not gonna happen," Henley informed him.

"Oh, no? Operating on a special plane because of The Eye?" At the statement, she saw Merritt look over at Henley. Evelynn, who was unconcerned closed her eyes and listened. "I heard it's a lovely place. Lots of star shine and moonbeams. Make any magician's wish come true. You've come a long way, much further than anyone expected of a bunch of wannabees and has-beens."

"Oh! If by has-been you're referring to me, I just wanna say I'm flattered because I always considered myself a never was. Do you mind if I do I quick read on you?" Merritt asked.

"By all means," Thaddeus answered.

"Okay, I'm picturing a little boy. He wants to be a great magician someday and though he's good, he's not quite good enough. So he ends up at the bottom of the entertainment food chain, feeding off those who have talent that he never did. Tell me, am I getting close?"

Evelynn peeked open one of her eyes to see Thaddeus's expression and it was amazing. She saw Daniel got up and closed her eyes once again, losing interest about what he would do. Jack got up and in the process placed her head down on the couch without bothering her.

"Wait, before you go. I'm working on something new, do you have a second?" There was a pause that Evelynn took as a yes. "Okay, name a card."

"King of hearts."

"Knew it," called out Merritt.

"Okay," a snapped could be heard. Then the sound of Daniel blowing something could be heard.

Thaddeus took a while to respond, "Up your sleeve."

"Is it? No, no. I don't see it up there," The rest of the horsemen also confirmed there was no card up his sleeve. "You know, why don't you check your unnecessary velveteen pocket there?"

Evelynn assumed the silence that followed as he was Thaddeus looking into his pocket. "Ah, anyways, thank you so much for coming by, but this is kind of a talent area only so..." Daniel trailed off.

"Break a leg," was his response.

"Hey, you break something, too," Merritt called out.

Evelynn opened her eyes one more time to see a card on the ground that read the words 'SUCK IT' on it. Shaking her head she went back to trying to take a nap.

"Ladies and gentlemen, the Savoy management welcomes you to tonight's special performance, the Five Horsemen: Act Two." The booming could be heard from outside. Evelynn groaned knowing that she wouldn't be able to take a nap. "Unlike traditional performances, The Five Horsemen encourage you to film. Call your friends, upload, stream, and tweet the show freely. Thank you, the show will begin in a few minutes."

"I'm tired," Evelynn whined.

"Sucks for you," Daniel told her. "Come on get ready we need to go right now."

She sighed and got up, "Fine."

The show was about to begin and everyone got to their places. "Arthur Tressler present, Jack Wilder, Evelynn Par, Henley Reeve, Merit McKinney, and Daniel Atlas. The Five Horsemen," the crowd cheered for them as they examine the audience.

"Thank you. Before we begin, we'd like to single out two people in particular," Daniel said as he raised his hand to show where they were. "A man and a woman to whom we'd like to dedicate tonight's performance."

"FBI Agent Dylan Rhodes and the lovely, if somewhat inexperienced, Interpol Agent Alma Dray, everyone!" Everyone in the crowd started booing them.

"Yeah, Agent Rhodes has personally vowed to quote, 'nail us'," Jack informed the audience.

"And we encourage him to do so," McKinney told him.

"If he has the brains and the fur," Evelynn added smiling.

Everyone else went to the back of the stage. "What is magic? Our argument is nothing but targeted deception. So I want you to look, look as closely as possible because the tricks you are about to see may not seem connected. But we assure you, they are. Is it what follows one hundred different tricks? Or is it one giant illusion?" Daniel ended off. The light turned off and as the audience were cheering they all left the stage unnoticed.

Now, it's Daniel and Henley's bit. Evelynn listened in as she got things ready for her own trick. As their trick, it was Evelynn's turn. "Hiya guys! So, my trick is quite a basic little stunt. You see this mirror here?" she asked as she waved at it. "Well my trick is that I am going to walk through it, now I can't do that without some props. So, my good friend and for this act, my assistant will come up to help me out. Everyone, give a round of applause to Jack Wilder." Then Jack walked up with a red cloth. Not only that, he had bunny ears on and even a bunny tail. When the crowd saw him they started cracking up.

"Isn't he cute? I picked it out myself," she told the crowd, laughing along with them.

"I'm going to get you back for this," he told her.

"Scary. Now, I will knock everywhere on the mirror to make sure that it had nothing wrong with it." She proceeded to knock on the front and back and slide her hands all over it. "Seems pretty solid right? Now, I'm going to have Jack help me out," She got behind the mirror that almost fit over her whole body. He handed her the piece of cloth which she grabbed. Evelynn's hands were on either side of the mirror and was gripping the cloth with both.

"So now, I have a bet to place, you know? Make it interesting. If anyone can tell me how I did my trick I have one hundred dollars that have your name on it," Jack showed the said bill. "Jack, would you keep it safe for now while I perform my trick? Thank you."

She then popped her head out both sides once again and then raised the cloth so that it covered the whole mirror. Then she lowered it half way and again all the way up then let go. She was revealed in front of the mirror effortlessly passing through the mirror. The audience applauded and she smiled at them all holding up her hands to stop their applaud.

"Anyone wants to debunk the magician for a hundred bucks?" she asked the crowd.

She saw that a few had their hands up. She also saw a very attractive looking guy she pointed at him. "Okay, you sir, right there, come up and my lovely assistant will hand you a microphone."

She made a quick evaluation of her volunteer. He was around her age, just by visuals she could tell. He traveled a lot, a very outside person. He had a boyfriend, wait, friends with benefit?

"I hate you," Jack mumbled as he passed her. Her grin only widens at the statement.

"Please, what is your name?"

"Percy Clarke," he answered.

"Mister Clarke."

"Please, Percy is fine," he told her chuckling.

"Well Percy, how did I do that trick?"

"Easy, the secret is in the cloth and the reason you have gloves on. On the cloth where your right hand should have been was just a glove glued to look like a right hand. When the cloth was up you moved around the mirror and lowered it a bit but you were still in front of the mirror and that's how you did it," he told her.

"Percy you seem like a smart dude, really know your magic but I didn't do it that way."

"Really?" he challenged. "How did you do it then?"

"Well, I literally phased through the mirror."

"I won't believe it until you prove it."

"Well, okay then. Percy why don't you stand off to the side and watch. Jack, would you please turn the mirror three hundred and sixty degrees? Ah perfect. As you can see this is a normal, mirror, and what I am going to do is run throw a solid mirror. Jack be a doll and move it so the mirror is facing the side. Thank you very much. Now, watch."

Evelynn stepped back a few feet and started running towards the mirror. When she was right in front of the mirror, the audience gasp, believing that she would hit it. Instead, she passed right through the mirror as she said she would with no harm and nothing was broken. The mirror was as solid as ever. The audience cheered for her. "Percy, since you did volunteer I'll give you the money anyways. Why don't you buy someone pretty with that."

He raised an eyebrow, "That was amazing but you can keep it in exchange for your number."

Her almond eyes widened, she did not expect that response. Is he... flirting with me? she thought

"Sorry dude, guess you're just gonna have to take the money. I know it's the worst option but you can bare with a hundred bucks." Jack told him and out the bill in Percy's shirt pocket. The lights of the stage dimmed down. Everything seemed to vanish except Percy who was still standing still in shock, he quickly left to his own seat.

Evelynn turned to Jack, "Good job."

He rolled his eyes, "I hate you."

She smiled at him but soon it faded. "Our real trick hasn't even started yet. We need to focus on that for now."

Jack looked over at the determined girl and grinned, "I guess we do."