

MODERN FAMILY

"ABRACA-DANGIT"

Written by

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ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT. JAY AND GLORIA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - EVENING

On the couch sits JAY, GLORIA, MITCHELL, CAMERON, CLAIRE, LUKE, ALEX, MANNY, LILY, HALEY, and JOE.

PHIL stands before everyone dressed like a Vegas magician in a top hat. He holds a black cane.

PHIL
Welcome to the amazing --

JAY
Is this going to take long?

PHIL
(to Jay)
Someone's a little eager. Just let
the magic unfold as it will.
(then to everyone)
The amaz --

JAY
'Cause there's a game on, you know.

PHIL
(to Jay)
It'll be quick.
(to everyone)
The amaz --

JAY
Let's go, already!

PHIL
Okay, okay. This is called, "The
Messenger."

Phil executes some flourishes and spins the cane.

Everyone except Jay looks impressed.

After more flourishes, Phil turns the cane into a handkerchief and then a real pigeon. He bows.

Jay looks like he's trying to work out what happened.

Everyone applauds.

Jay gets up and leaves the room, shaking his head.

Phil looks like the wind has been taken from his sails.

JAY'S INTERVIEW

Jay looks as if he's attempting to solve a complex equation.

JAY

How the hell did he do that?

INT. JAY AND GLORIA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - MORNING

A dozen open jars of sauce are spread out on the counter. Gloria, in a filthy apron, works furiously on a second batch.

Jay enters the kitchen and gets some juice from the fridge.

JAY

What's all this?

GLORIA

I'm making some Diablo Sauce for Manny's classmates. It's a surprise, so don't tell him.

Jay doesn't look interested.

Manny enters the room and sits on a bar stool by the sauce.

Gloria goes back to stirring.

JAY

I wish I could figure out how Phil did that trick.

GLORIA

Maybe he's just good at slice of ham magic.

JAY

I think you mean slight of hand.

GLORIA

That's what I said. You could ask him.

Manny scoffs.

MANNY

He'll never tell. He respects the Magician's Code. Besides, half the point of magic is not knowing how it works.

JAY

I can get it out of him. Everybody has a price. Where did I put my...?

Jay heads deeper into the house.

Gloria stirs sauce while Manny reads the newspaper.

GLORIA

Sweetie, don't you have a career day at school coming up?

Manny looks mildly fed up.

MANNY INTERVIEW

Manny looks tired for a moment.

MANNY

I have to bring a parent to my economics class to talk about their career. I mean, it's a noble cause, but I already asked Jay if he would present his very successful closet business.

After a beat...

MANNY (CONT'D)

I know she's making the sauce for me but I can't take it to class. I'm pretty sure it's hot enough to burn off a toenail.

INT. JAY AND GLORIA'S KITCHEN

Gloria twists a lid onto one of the jars.

GLORIA

I think my sauce would be an excellent contribution. I'm good in front of people, too.

She holds up the sauce next to her face and smiles.

MANNY

I already asked Jay. I'm sorry, mom.

He leaves.

GLORIA
 (to herself)
 We'll see.

INT. MITCHELL AND CAMERON'S DUPLEX - LIVING ROOM - THE SAME MORNING

Cameron is preparing to leave the duplex with a duffel bag slung over his shoulder.

CAMERON
 Please?

Mitchell looks worn down.

MITCHELL
 Fine. If it'll make you stop asking. Fine.

Cameron claps triumphantly.

MITCHELL AND CAMERON INTERVIEW

Mitchell and Cameron look at each other and then Mitchell gestures for Cameron to talk.

CAMERON
 I'm bringing the rodeo clown out of retirement for a charity event. I promised I would bring three clowns, but all my old colleagues have moved on. Which is why Mitch lovingly volunteered to help.

MITCHELL
 He begged me for six days.

CAMERON
 But now I need a third clown.

INT. DUNPHY HOUSE - KITCHEN - LATER

Phil sits at the kitchen table eating an apple and looking at an old National Geographic.

Cameron enters the kitchen.

PHIL
 Hey Cam, I didn't hear you come in.

Phil gets up and tosses the magazine on the counter.

PHIL (CONT'D)

What's up?

CAMERON

I would like you to join Mitchell
and I for a night of fun filled --

PHIL

Yes. I'm in. When do we leave? Let
me get my coat.

Phil turns toward the coat rack.

CAMERON

Oh, no, it's not until tomorrow.
And I didn't even get to the good
part.

Cameron opens the duffel bag and produces a rodeo clown
jumpsuit and a wig.

PHIL

Oh, awesome. But I can't tomorrow.
I have a house walkthrough. I'm
trying to sell the Mercer place on
Roland Ave.

Cameron nods with regret.

PHIL (CONT'D)

You should ask Claire. She could
use the distraction. Work has
really been piling up for her the
last few days. She'll say no,
though. Especially with the, uh...

He points to the duffel bag.

CAMERON

It's worth a shot. I'll ask
Mitchell for help. Thanks.

Cameron heads for the door.

PHIL

Good luck!

Cameron waves goodbye as Phil turns back to his magazine.

As soon as Cameron is out of sight, Jay enters the kitchen.

PHIL (CONT'D)

Jay, to what do I owe this
pleasure?

Jay puts on a fake smile.

JAY

What? I can't come see my favorite son-in-law?

PHIL

Lucky Cam didn't hear that.

Jay pulls out a kitchen table chair.

JAY

Sit, please. Can I get you anything? Maybe a beer?

Phil looks at his watch.

PHIL

It's a little early for --

JAY

Or a Cuban?

Jay gets a cigar from his jacket pocket and hands it to Phil.

Phil's eyes light up and he puts the cigar between his teeth.

PHIL

Well isn't this nice? I knew you and I had a common kinship. It would just take time for you --

JAY

Yeah, yeah. Listen, how did you do that trick the other night? The one with the cane.

Phil laughs and removes the cigar.

PHIL

Is that what all this is? I can't tell you that. We magicians have a code of honor. It is sacred. All our secrets will die with us.

Jay looks mildly frustrated.

JAY

Are you sure there isn't anything I can do to change your mind?

He produces another cigar.

PHIL
I'm sorry Jay, but I can't be
bought. I have my ethics.

Phil stands but avoids eye contact with Jay.

PHIL (CONT'D)
I think you should leave, sir.

Jay looks ready to shout. Instead, he snags the cigar from
Phil's hand and storms out.

PHIL INTERVIEW

Phil has a straw in his mouth like a cigar. He pinches it
between his fingers and removes it.

PHIL
I don't even like cigars, but, for
a second, I felt like one of the
cool kids.

He places the straw back in his mouth.

PHIL (CONT'D)
He'll be back. They always come
back.

He mock puffs at the straw.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWOINT. PRITCHETT'S CLOSETS AND BLINDS - CLAIRE'S OFFICE - LATER

Claire looks stressed out, sitting behind a pile of paperwork, as Mitchell and Cameron enter her office.

MITCHELL

Knock, knock.

Claire looks up for only a second.

CLAIRE

Hi, guys. What do you need? I'm very busy.

MITCHELL

This will be quick and we'll be out of your hair. We just wanted to invite you to come to a rodeo with us tomorrow night. And...

Cameron begins to pull the jumpsuit out of the duffel bag.

CLAIRE

Oh, guys, thank you, but I'm just too swamped here. Room in a Room Magazine is doing a cover story on our Hidalgo model, and we barely have a concept. I just can't right now. But thank you. Next time, yeah?

The phone rings and she answers it.

Cameron looks crestfallen, the jumpsuit clutched in his fist.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

(into the phone)

No! The Hidalgo is the one that can fit a team of horses. The Hudson is the one with the dual vanities.

She waves goodbye to Cameron and Mitchell.

They regretfully leave her office.

INT. PRITCHETT'S CLOSETS AND BLINDS - HALLWAY

Cameron and Mitchell stop just outside Claire's office.

MITCHELL
I told you she'd say no.

CAMERON
What now? Help me.

Mitchell thinks for a beat.

MITCHELL
I have an idea.

INT. JAY AND GLORIA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - LATER

Jay sits on the couch with a laptop and his glasses perched on the edge of his nose.

He studies the computer intently.

A website on the computer screen reads, "How to perform popular magic tricks."

The doorbell rings and Jay frantically closes the computer.

Mitchell and Cameron enter.

JAY
Hey, guys.

MITCHELL
Hi, dad.

Mitchell notices the laptop as Jay puts it on the coffee table.

MITCHELL (CONT'D)
What were you looking at?

After a beat...

JAY
Closets. We have an interview coming up with a closet magazine. It's a tabloid, really, not even worth our time.

CAMERON
That's actually why we're here.

Cameron looks to Mitchell.

MITCHELL

We want to bring Claire to a rodeo tomorrow but she's too busy with this interview.

JAY

She shouldn't be. The Hidalgo is crap. We're going to have to throw out the whole design anyway.

MITCHELL

Great. Then, could you convince her to come with us tomorrow?

Jay looks thoughtful for a moment.

JAY

Sure, but only if you do something for me.

Cameron and Mitchell look nervous.

MITCHELL

Okay...

JAY

I want to find out how Phil did his magic trick with the cane but he won't tell me.

CAMERON

Magician's Code.

JAY

Something like that. I want you two to get it out of him.

CAMERON

Oh, I don't know, Jay. That's a tall order. Phil would never give up trade secrets.

JAY

Figure it out. I'll go pay Claire a visit.

Jay starts to head for the front door.

MITCHELL

Why do you want to know so badly?

Jay considers his answer

JAY
I'd tell you, but I have my own
code.

He heads out the front door.

Cameron and Mitchell both look confused.

JAY INTERVIEW

Jay shifts restlessly.

JAY
I haven't been able to sleep since
the trick. I couldn't even take my
nap today. All I could see was Phil
with that cane. I have to know how
he did it or I might never sleep
again.

EXT. MANNY'S SCHOOL - PARKING LOT - DAY

Gloria leans against her car, smiling and waving at MRS.
BENSON, 38, as she walks away. Mrs. Benson holds a jar of
Diablo Sauce.

Manny approaches.

MANNY
Was that my econ teacher?

Gloria avoids eye contact.

GLORIA
Was it?

She opens the car door.

GLORIA (CONT'D)
Let's go.

INT. GLORIA'S CAR - MOMENTS LATER

Manny sits in the passenger seat as they drive home.

He looks thoughtful.

MANNY
That was Mrs. Benson.

GLORIA
So, how was school today?

MANNY
Did she have a jar of your sauce?

GLORIA
I don't know what you mean.

Manny shoots her a skeptical look.

GLORIA (CONT'D)
Okay, yes, it was. I am sorry, but
I want to be included in your
school life. People will like my
sauce!

Manny looks fed up.

MANNY
So you bribed my teacher?

Gloria gets defensive.

GLORIA
I've done worse things for less!

Manny looks upset.

EXT. DUNPHY HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - LATER

Mitchell and Cameron step out of their car and close their doors. They walk toward the front door.

EXT. DUNPHY HOUSE - PORCH

They stop at the door.

CAMERON
I'll do the talking. As a fellow
performer, I speak his language.

MITCHELL
Okay. What do I do?

CAMERON
Look beautiful as always.

Mitchell looks flattered by the comment.

Cameron lifts his hand to knock when the door swings open to reveal Phil.

Phil looks surprised to see them.

PHIL

Oh, hi guys. Back so soon? I'm just heading out to the Mercer place to get things prepped.

He steps onto the porch and closes the door behind him.

CAMERON

Yeah, we just really wanted to congratulate you on such a great performance last night. Very masterful.

MITCHELL

Like something out of Fantasia.

Cameron motions for Mitchell to be quiet.

PHIL

Well, thanks, guys. That's really nice of you. You know, I think I actually impressed Jay.

Mitchell and Cameron look nervous, but they force laughs.

PHIL (CONT'D)

There's a first time for everything, huh?

Phil starts to push past them toward his car.

Cameron stops him with a gentle hand on his shoulder.

CAMERON

There was one thing we wanted to know.

PHIL

Sure.

Cameron looks like he's struggling to find the words.

After a beat...

CAMERON

We loved the hat. Where did you get it?

Mitchell looks confused and Phil looks pleased.

PHIL

That is so sweet. But I can't tell you. Magician's secret, you know.

They all laugh, Phil sincerely, Cameron and Mitchell uncomfortably.

Phil presses on to his car and waves goodbye as he climbs in.

Mitchell and Cameron wave back mechanically.

After Phil's car is out of sight, Mitchell spins on an abashed looking Cameron.

CAMERON

I just couldn't ask him. As a performer, I know how important it is to keep the codes we live by sacred. I could never ask another performer to give that up.

Mitchell pats Cameron comfortingly on the shoulder.

CAMERON (CONT'D)

I felt bad enough for asking about the hat.

INT. PRITCHETT'S CLOSETS AND BLINDS - CLAIRE'S OFFICE - LATER

Claire stands behind her desk, phone to her ear. She looks angry.

CLAIRE

What do you mean, you stopped? That is unacceptable. Start again.

Jay walks into the office.

Claire notices him come in.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

(into the phone)
I'll call you back. This isn't over.

She slams the phone down.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

Can you believe the bozos in production stopped the concept construction on the Hidalgo? Room in a Room will be here in two days!

Jay is calm.

JAY

I know. I told them to stop. It's a bad design. Who needs three vanities? A cover story on it won't do us any good.

Claire looks shocked.

CLAIRE

Dad, you can't just go over my head and...I've been working on this interview for...How could you?

JAY

You seem stressed out. I did you a favor with this, trust me. Nobody reads Room in a Room except for sycophants and closet roadies.

He crosses to her and comforts her.

She starts to settle down.

JAY (CONT'D)

Look, Mitch and Cam want to take you somewhere special tomorrow night. Go with them. Have some fun. Relax. You deserve it.

Claire looks to be coming around to his way of thinking.

She looks at her messy desk.

CLAIRE

I guess I have been a little overworked. Okay, maybe I'll go. Maybe.

JAY

That's my girl.

Jay's cell phone rings.

He steps out of Claire's office.

INT. PRITCHETT'S CLOSETS AND BLINDS - HALLWAY

Jay pulls his phone from his pocket.

JAY

Hello?

EXT. DUNPHY HOUSE - DRIVEWAY

Mitchell holds his cellphone to his ear while Cameron stands nearby.

MITCHELL
Hey, dad. How is it going with
Claire?

INT. PRITCHETT'S CLOSETS AND BLINDS - HALLWAY

Jay looks smug.

JAY
It went just fine. She should be
ready to go with you tomorrow. How
are things with Phil? Did you get
the answer?

EXT. DUNPHY HOUSE - DRIVEWAY

Mitchell hesitates.

He tries to hand the phone to Cameron who refuses.

He pulls the phone back to his ear.

MITCHELL
Uh, well...It went, uh...We didn't
exactly get the information you
wanted.

INT. PRITCHETT'S CLOSETS AND BLINDS - HALLWAY

Jay looks angry.

JAY
I knew it. I knew you wouldn't be
able to pull it off. I'll just do
it myself.

He hangs up.

He turns back to Claire's office and pokes his head inside.

INT. PRITCHETT'S CLOSETS AND BLINDS - CLAIRE'S OFFICE

Only Jay's head is poked into the office.

JAY
 On second thought, do the
 interview. It'll be good for
 business. I'll get the production
 staff going again.

He pops back out.

Claire looks blind-sided.

EXT. DUNPHY HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - LATER

Phil stands in the garage, the automatic door open. He
 examines a sign that says, "For sale."

Jay's car pulls into the driveway.

Phil waves as Jay parks.

Phil approaches as Jay exits his car.

PHIL
 Sure have a lot of visitors today.

Jay looks frustrated as he steps toward Phil.

JAY
 Tell me how you did your trick.

PHIL
 And fans. I'm sorry Jay, we already
 went through this. I just can't
 tell you. It's the Magician's --

JAY
 Yeah, it's your damn code. Well, I
 have a code too.

Jay pulls his checkbook and a pen out of his pocket.

JAY (CONT'D)
 How much?

Phil puts up his hands and steps back.

PHIL
 Jay.

JAY
 Come on. Everybody has a price.

PHIL

I'm not going to take your money.
What's ethical about that?

Jay snarls and puts his checkbook back.

He turns and heads for his car.

Phil looks thoughtful.

PHIL (CONT'D)

You know, there is one way I could
tell you.

Jay stops dead in his tracks.

JAY

I'm listening.

PHIL

There is only one honorable way for
a magician to pass on trade
information.

Jay looks eager and impatient.

PHIL (CONT'D)

You would have to become my
apprentice.

Jay's look shifts from eager to disgusted.

Phil looks excited.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREEEXT. DUNPHY HOUSE - DRIVEWAY

Phil looks at Jay with a big grin on his face.

Jay looks shocked.

After a beat...

JAY

You want me to be what?

PHIL

Everyone has to start somewhere, my friend. If you want to know the secrets of the craft, this is the only way.

Phil stretches his arm to Jay's head and retrieves a quarter from behind Jay's ear.

Jay looks annoyed.

JAY

No way. Not a chance. I don't want to know that badly.

He climbs into his car and shuts the door.

Phil takes the quarter and makes some flourishes before producing a scarf from his sleeve.

Jay watches.

After a beat he begins to pull away.

Phil dashes into the garage, rifles through some boxes, and comes back with the black cane.

INT. JAY'S CAR

Jay stops the car short.

He watches Phil do a few spins and flourishes before the cane turns into a pigeon that flies away.

Phil watches the pigeon with a look of regret.

After a beat...

JAY

Son of a...

He shifts gears on the car and pulls back into the driveway.

EXT. DUNPHY HOUSE - DRIVEWAY

Jay climbs out of his car and walks up to Phil, stopping mere inches from Phil's face.

JAY

If anyone ever finds out...

PHIL

I won't tell a soul.

Phil crosses his heart with his fingers in a strange pattern.

Jay looks confused.

PHIL (CONT'D)

Magician's Honor.

Phil stretches out his hand and waits for a handshake.

Jay glares at Phil for a beat before taking Phil's hand.

PHIL (CONT'D)

Meet back here tonight after ten.

Jay nods and walks back to his car.

PHIL (CONT'D)

Wear something that can get wet.

Jay stops and looks back at Phil. He looks like he regrets his decisions, then he gets into his car and drives away.

Phil waves.

PHIL INTERVIEW

Phil absently rolls a quarter between his fingers. He looks eager and excited.

PHIL

I've wanted an apprentice for years now. Jay may be a little past the cutoff age, but I've always felt he possessed the spirit of a magician. It's also known as bullheadedness.

He waits as if he expects a laugh.

After a beat his expression changes to somber.

PHIL (CONT'D)

I keep forgetting to not do the
pigeon trick outside. That's the
third one I've lost this week.

INT. JAY AND GLORIA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - LATER

Manny watches TV on the couch.

Gloria is in the kitchen behind him. She looks as if she is solving a complicated problem.

Jay walks through the front door.

Gloria hustles over to him. She looks angry.

GLORIA

I know what you are doing!

Jay takes a step back. His expression turns from shocked to wary and suspicious.

JAY

What do you mean?

Gloria ushers him into the kitchen.

INT. JAY AND GLORIA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN

They stop at the counter.

GLORIA

I know you're trying to win being a
parent with Manny.

Jay looks genuinely confused.

JAY

What the hell are you talking
about?

GLORIA

You want to steal all my parenting
thunder by going to his class with
your closets. Closets, with their
vanities and their shoe holders
that don't hold enough shoes. You
are ruining our relationship!

JAY

Whoa, whoa. Don't blame me for that. Besides, you can go to his class. Is that what you want?

Gloria nods.

JAY (CONT'D)

That's fine by me. I'm sure the kids will be thrilled.

Gloria looks skeptical at Jay, as if he's trying to pull a fast one on her.

GLORIA

Okay, but you have to tell him.

JAY

Fine.

Jay walks into the living room.

INT. JAY AND GLORIA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

Jay sits in a chair across from Manny.

JAY

Look, pal, I'm not going to be able to make it to your career day.

Manny switches off the TV.

MANNY

Did mom talk you into this?

He looks over his shoulder into the kitchen.

Gloria panics and tries to look as if she's doing anything but eavesdrop.

JAY

It was my idea. Your mother just wants to be a part of your life. Is it really that bad?

MANNY

Yes! It's bad enough that all the boys in my class think she's ho...

He chokes on the word.

MANNY (CONT'D)
....hot. They tease me about it.
Relentlessly.

Manny shivers.

Jay looks surprised but smug.

JAY
They do? Ah, that's just kids being
kids. Don't let it get to you.
Think about how happy it'll make
her to help you out.

Manny considers for a moment.

MANNY
Fine. But tell her to wear
something with a high neck. Like
that turtleneck sweater I got her
for her birthday.

JAY
Is that why you bought that?

Manny looks ashamed but nods.

JAY (CONT'D)
Deal.

Jay stands up and throws a thumbs up to Gloria before heading
up stairs.

Gloria gives him a thumbs up back and a huge smile blooms on
her face. She waves to Manny.

Manny waves back before turning to the TV. He looks as if he
just lost a football game.

INT. DUNPHY HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Claire sits at the kitchen table with pictures of closets
spread out before her.

Phil enters the kitchen and heads for the fridge. He gets a
drink out and walks over to the kitchen table.

He examines the pictures.

PHIL
Is this the closet for the big
interview? It'll be great, hun.

Claire seems distracted.

CLAIRE

You know, dad was right. The Hidalgo is terrible. Three vanities? What were we thinking? Is it a closet for sister-wives?

PHIL

Maybe a stylish coven.

CLAIRE

I'm just going to cancel the interview. It's not worth it. And he was right about Room in a Room.

She holds up a Room in a Room magazine and reads from the cover.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

Ten reasons why your closet is trying to kill you.

She skips to another headline.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

The closet that broke up Brad and Angelina and what it could be doing to your relationship.

She looks disgusted as she tosses the magazine on the table.

PHIL

So, just don't do it. It doesn't seem like it's worth the trouble.

CLAIRE

It's really not, but it was a lot of work to get to this point.

Phil puts his hand on her shoulder to comfort her.

PHIL

That just means you'll be all the more prepared when a real magazine comes knocking.

CLAIRE

I guess you're right. I'll have to scrap the Hidalgo. Not a lot of witch covens in the market for new closets around here.

Phil sits next to her.

PHIL
You know what I think you need?

CLAIRE
A drink?

PHIL
No, a relaxing evening with Cam and Mitch. Which might include a drink. Cam was here this morning looking for you. They want to take you out tomorrow night.

Claire perks up.

CLAIRE
That's right. I forgot about that. Do you know what they have planned?

Phil hesitates for a beat.

PHIL
Something fun and not at all out of your comfort zone, I'm sure. Give Cam a call.

CLAIRE
I think I will.

Claire kisses Phil's forehead and leaves the kitchen.

Phil flips through the magazine for a few moments before looking at this watch.

PHIL
(to himself)
Time to prepare.

He gets up and leaves the kitchen.

EXT. DUNPHY HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - 10 P.M.

Phil stands off to the side of the driveway behind a bush. He wears workout clothes.

He peaks out from behind the bush as if he's up to no good.

Luke crosses the driveway to Phil.

LUKE
Hey dad.

Phil jumps, startled.

LUKE (CONT'D)
What're you doing? Why are you
dressed like that?

PHIL
Nothing. I'm exercising. Go back
inside.

LUKE
Doesn't look like exercising.

Car breaks squeal in the distance and Phil perks up.

PHIL
Here.

He reaches into his sweatpants' waistband. He produces a
small wad of cash and hands it to Luke.

PHIL (CONT'D)
Go see a movie or something.

LUKE
Okay, cool!

He takes the money and his expression shifts to disgust.

LUKE (CONT'D)
It's wet and it smells like sweat.

PHIL
Just go.

Phil retrieves his car keys from his waistband and tosses
them to Luke.

LUKE
Excellent.

Luke walks over to Phil's car, gets in, and leaves.

As he pulls away, Jay's car pulls into the driveway.

The lights flash twice.

Phil steps out from behind the bushes.

Jay exits his car and hurries over to Phil. He wears ill
fitting workout clothes.

JAY
Did I just see Luke leaving in your
car?

PHIL

It was a close one. Come on.

He leads Jay to the backyard.

EXT. DUNPHY HOUSE - BACKYARD

In the center of the back lawn are several magic objects: A box for sawing a person in half, an empty bird cage, and the black cane.

Phil and Jay stand in the middle. Phil attempts to look regal and important.

PHIL

Magic. Illusions. The slight of hand. From Houdini to Blaine, we are the line between the real and the unreal. We are the gate keepers between the known, and...

He spins and scatters a deck of cards into the air.

PHIL (CONT'D)

....the unknown.

Jay looks bored.

JAY

Oh, come on. How much more of this is there?

Phil loses some of his confidence.

PHIL

I prepared a small speech.

JAY

I came here to learn the cane trick, so that's exactly what you're going to teach me.

Jay steps over to the cane and reaches for it.

Phil rushes over and stops him with a slap to the hand.

Jay recoils and looks angry.

PHIL

You cannot touch the tools of our trade until you've mastered the history of magic and the breathing exercises.

Phil starts to laugh.

PHIL (CONT'D)
You don't even know the Magician's
Stance. How are you supposed to
perform without your knees?

Jay stares, dumbfounded.

JAY
This is insane. I can't believe I
agreed to this.

PHIL
You wanted to know how I do it.
This is the only way.

Jay throws up his hands.

JAY
Fine. Let's do this.

PHIL
Okay. We'll start with the
breathing exercise.

Phil stands with his legs spread apart and his arms
outstretched to the sides.

Jay reluctantly follows suit.

PHIL (CONT'D)
This is called fifty-two breath
pickup.

JAY
Did you say fifty-two?

PHIL
Yes. We breath in, from the knees
up, fifty-two times. Once we've
reached --

JAY
No. No way. I can't do this. I
thought I could, but no.

Jay breaks his stance.

JAY (CONT'D)
It just isn't worth it.

PHIL

I thought you wanted to learn the trick?

JAY

Not like this. Okay, Phil, this is it. I've got five thousand dollars with your name on it if you tell me how you did your trick. No more of this nonsense.

He gestures to all the magic paraphernalia.

PHIL

This is the only way. I will hold to the Magician's Code until I die, sir. You may become my apprentice, or you may live without the answers you seek.

Jay stares at Phil.

JAY

You may have some odd ball practices, but damn it if I don't respect a man who sticks to his principles.

Jay extends his hand.

JAY (CONT'D)

You can keep your secrets.

They shake hands.

Jay pulls Phil closer. His attitude turns threatening.

JAY (CONT'D)

And one of those secrets you'll be dying with is this entire apprentice affair. Got it?

PHIL

Yes sir.

EXT. OUTDOOR RODEO - STANDS - THE NEXT NIGHT

Jay, Gloria, Manny, Haley, and Phil sit in the stands watching a COWBOY try to stay on a bucking horse. Cam is down in the arena dressed as a clown.

Lily, Mitch, and an embarrassed looking Claire walk through the stands, all three dressed as clowns. They banter with GUESTS in the stands.

Luke appears and sidesteps his way to his seat. He carries a paper plate of nachos.

Jay watches the nachos.

JAY
Where did you get those?

LUKE
There's a nacho stand.

Jay cranes his neck while he pats his pockets.

JAY
Hey, where's my wallet?

Phil turns to him.

PHIL
You mean...

He does some flourishes with his empty hands and then Jay's wallet appears in his palm.

PHIL (CONT'D)
....this?

Jay looks angry.

JAY
When did you...?

PHIL
Magician's Code.

Jay scoffs and grabs his wallet.

JAY
Give me that.

END OF ACT THREE

TAGINT. MANNY'S ECON CLASSROOM - DAY

Gloria stands in front of a class full of STUDENTS. A few jars of sauce are on a table. She wears a turtleneck sweater that is far too tight.

GLORIA

And here, we have my Diablo Sauce.
It's my little Manny's favorite
sauce. It's the knees of a bee.

She winks at Manny.

All the male students are watching her with rapt attention.

Two GIRLS point at Manny, whisper, and giggle.

Manny looks embarrassed and he drops his head to his desk.

END OF SHOW