

BAKERSFIELD,  
CALIFORNIA.



OH, IF YOU'RE TAKING THOSE DOVES TO SZYMON, WOULD YOU MIND THANKING HIM FOR ME?



ALSO, ROSEMARY.



OUT OF MY WAY, DUMBASS. THESE ARE FOR SZYMON.



# Disillusioned

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**"BEHOLD! A PERFECTLY ORDINARY CHILD'S BIRTHDAY PARTY IN KENOSHA, WISCONSIN!**

**"AND PERFORMING AT THAT PARTY...AN EVEN MORE ORDINARY MAGICIAN WITH THE DUBIOUS MONIKER OF THE AMAZING RANDO."**

FOR MY NEXT FEAT, I REQUIRE A VOLUNTEER FROM THE AUDIENCE.

**"AND SITTING AT THE FEET OF THIS PEDESTRIAN PRESTIDIGITATOR, A YOUNG, IMPRESSIONABLE SZYMON NOWAK."**



FROM THAT DAY FORWARD, MY LIFE WAS FILLED WITH AN ALL-CONSUMING PASSION--A DESPERATE DESIRE TO KNOW THE SECRET.

HOW DID YOU GET THE RINGS APART?

HOW DID YOU GET THE CARD INTO THE GRAPE-FRUIT?

HOW DID YOU--

PISS OFF, KID.

MAGIC.

MAGIC.

# TALENT SHOW

**"I STUDIED AND PRACTICED EVERY DAY. I WORKED ON CLOSE-UP MAGIC, ILLUSIONS, STAGE PATTER.**

**"AND WHILE MY FIRST ATTEMPTS AT LIVE LEGERDEMAIN WERE MIXED SUCCESSES AT BEST, THERE WAS ONE THING THE JEERS COULDN'T CHANGE..."**

YOU SUCK!

**"...I WAS PARTY TO SECRETS THEY WOULD NEVER KNOW."**

HOW DID YOU DO THAT?

MAGIC.

WHATEVER, EAT A DICK.

"FOR A LITTLE WHILE, IT WAS *HEAVEN*. I WAS THE MOST SUCCESSFUL MAGICIAN IN WISCONSIN. I HAD GIGS SIX NIGHTS A WEEK.

"FOR THE FIRST TIME, I COULD AFFORD ALL THE *EQUIPMENT* I NEEDED, MY OWN TUX, AND THE SERVICES OF A *LOVELY ASSISTANT*.

"BUT IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE THE *DISSATISFACTION* KICKED IN.



"AS THE VENUES I PERFORMED IN GREW EVER LARGER, MY INTEREST IN PLAYING THEM BEGAN TO *DWINDLE*...AND AT FIRST I COULDN'T UNDERSTAND *WHY*.

"I'D LEARNED THE TRICK TO EVERY TRICK, THE INS AND OUTS OF EVERY ILLUSION. THERE WASN'T A *THIMBLE-FUL* OF THAUMATURGIC THEORY OR A SLIP OF SLEIGHT-OF-HAND THAT I WASN'T SCHOOLED IN.

"AND YET EVERY DAY I CARED *LESS* AND *LESS*.



"FINALLY I REALIZED *WHY*.

"KNOWING HOW THE TRICK WORKS TAKES AWAY ALL THE *MAGIC*.

"I'D EXPECTED THAT THE OPPOSITE OF THAT DESPERATE *THIRST* FOR KNOWLEDGE WOULD BE AN EQUALLY POWERFUL SENSE OF *FULLFILLMENT*.

"BUT THE TRUTH IS THAT EVERY TRICK IS JUST THAT--A *TRICK*. THE OPPOSITE OF IGNORANCE ISN'T *SATISFACTION*, IT'S *DISILLUSIONMENT*."

