

HARRY HOODINI

Treatment 8/11/19

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Ms. Motors has a very special announcement. One of her dearest friends - *The Great Harry Hoodini* is coming in to perform a magic show for the class today! Cory excitedly exclaims, "Magic!" Freddie echoes his enthusiasm, "Magic!" But Frannie's tone is far more skeptical, "Magic??" She confides in Cory that there's actually no such thing as magic and that it's all make-believe. As if his world has just crumbled around him, Cory pointedly rolls over and asks Ms. Motors, "Is magic real?" Ms. Motors plays it cool. She simply tells Cory that he should watch Harry's show and decide for himself.

On cue, the kids hear, "Abra-car-dabra!" then strange coughing from outside the door. There's a sound of a rattling door handle, then a pathetic knock. Ms. Motors knows exactly who it is and excitedly invites Harry, "Come in!" But from behind the door Harry explains, "Uh...the door is locked." Whoops! Ms. Motors opens the door for Harry who stands in the doorway and creates a fresh puff of smoke. Again, he shouts "Abra-car-dabra!" as the white smoke sends him into another fit of coughing.

Harry tunes his radio to some over-the-top music (*ala The Final Countdown*.) and launches immediately into his magic routine. He takes off his top hat and says, "It sure is sunny out here." Then, realizing he's actually inside, he corrects himself as he points out the window, "Out *there*." And "magically" produces a bottle of sunscreen. "Sunscreen, anyone?"

There's a small smattering of confused applause when Frannie suddenly approaches and asks if she can see inside his magic hat. Harry tells Frannie a magician never reveals what's in his hat – but Frannie is somewhat insistent. "Maybe just a peek?" Soon, the magician and the skeptic are engaged in a gentle tug-of-war over the hat. It suddenly tips over and dumps several mundane objects out. It's just as Frannie suspected. "Not real." But Harry simply shouts, "How did all this stuff appear in my hat? Magic!"

Freddie totally buys into the trick and launches into wild applause – but Cory takes note and seems slightly disappointed. Hoodini encourages Frannie to act as his "assistant." He's going to impress her with some card tricks that will prove to her (and the class) that magic is *very real*. Cory sits up in his seat. This should solve his burning question!

Harry encourages Frannie to "Pick a card any card" from his deck of oversized cards. He turns his back and asks her to show it to the audience. Frannie suddenly notices Hoodini positioning a mirror that's set up to catch a glimpse of her card. Before he can see the reflection of the card, Frannie announces, "Hang on, Mr. Great Hoodini. I just need to cover up this mirror. Wouldn't want anyone to think you're sneaking a peek at the card." Hoodini is somewhat shocked as Frannie throws a scarf over the mirror and puts the card back into the deck. Awkwardly, Hoodini chuckles. "Good thinking."

He over-dramatically shuffles the deck and pretends to pull out from behind Frannie's side mirror a card that is TOTALLY NOT her card. Frannie is sure she's got the best of the Great Hoodini as he goes through the entire deck before finally picking the right card. When he does, Freddie gives a standing ovation. "Bravo!!" But Cory's faith is rattled. Maybe Frannie's right. Maybe magic is just make believe.

Hoodini compliments Ms. Motors on her lovely bouquet of flowers on her desk. But Ms. Motors is confused as there are no flowers there....until POOF! A bouquet suddenly appears. Freddie gasps and Ms. Motors swoons. Even Cory is excited. Maybe magic IS real after all!

But while Hoodini is busy bowing, Frannie inspects the bouquet. She turns to Cory and tells him she's sorry to burst his bubble, but... She then shows him that the fake flowers are a part of a pop-up mechanism that can easily flatten. She performs the trick as easily as Hoodini had and asks Cory if he'd like some flowers? Freddie is oblivious and amazed by Frannie's trick too.

Now Hoodini has even more to prove. Through a short montage, he performs old school tricks (endless handkerchiefs, silver interlocking rings, escaping chains, pouring milk into his hat, etc.) But each trick is revealed to Cory to be a fraud thanks to Frannie's casual deduction. By now, Cory has become completely disillusioned and even gets slightly annoyed at Freddie for buying into the phony baloney magic. Cory tells Freddie that Frannie has been right all along. There is no such thing as magic. Freddie is incredulous.

By now, Hoodini has run out of time (and tricks) and he thanks the class for being a *mostly* great audience. As he packs up his case, he pretends to remember one last trick up his fender that "Will knock everyone's hubcaps off." Frannie can't help but to "pshaw."

Hoodini gesticulates broadly with dimmed lights, dramatic music, and even fog. Frannie doesn't seem fazed, but Cory finds himself admittedly a little caught up in all the pomp and circumstance. As Hoodini recites a dramatic preamble, there's a sudden POOF and instantly a giant plume of colored smoke where Frannie once was. As the smoke clears, the class gasps. Cory isn't sure what's just happened. Frannie's gone! Did Hoodini really make her disappear??

Cory searches around as Hoodini casually packs up and heads to the door. Almost unable to control himself, Cory enthusiastically tells Ms. Motors she was right. The magic show will let him know if magic is real....And he really believes it is!

As Hoodini heads to the locked door, there's a rattling sound - just as before. He opens the door to discover Frannie. She conspiratorially asks Hoodini if he does birthday parties. She's throwing one next week and would love to have him perform there.

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