

FADE IN:

EXT. BUSY STREET SIDEWALK - NIGHT

JEREMY (46, disheveled hair and beard, patchy clothes, thick glasses) is doing street magic with a run-down deck of cards. A small crowd has gathered around as Jeremy prepares his next trick.

A group of preppy, rich boys emerge from a club nearby and are visibly intoxicated. CHAD (22, sunglasses, popped collar, boating shorts) shoves his way through the crowd to see Jeremy's performance.

CHAD

Yo, check this guy out.
(obnoxious yelling)
Let's see some magic, yo!

Jeremy silently acknowledges the new people as he starts his next trick. Jeremy produces a spoon and proceeds to bend it with his mind. He hands the spoon to a little girl in the crowd.

CHAD

Nice try, Gramps, but I've seen this one before.

Chad slaps the spoon out of the girl's hands as he approaches Jeremy, pulling down the sleeves of his coat to reveal extra spoons in his coat.

CHAD

(Belligerently)
Why would a magician need extra spoons
huh?

Chad's friend begins to laugh and cheer him on as he takes Jeremy's glasses off his face

CHAD

If you're so magical how bout you fix
these?

Chad snaps the glasses in half drops them, then crushes the lenses with his foot.

CHAD

Your tricks stink, and so do you!

The crowd begins the mumble about the group and disperses.

The girl begins to tear up as her Mom ushers her away.

The mom gives the evil eye to Chad.

CHAD

What? I'm just teaching them early.
There's no such thing as magic, kid.
Get a real job.

The group with Chad begins to walk away, but as they do, Jeremy catches their attention.

Jeremy

I can't see without those glasses you
know.

The group turns as Chad begins stalking over to Jeremy.

CHAD

If you spent less time doing stupid
kiddy tricks and went out and got a
real job you could afford new ones.

Chad pushes Jeremy back.

CHAD

My dad might have a job opening in his
factory. You'd need to shower first.

Jeremy hangs his head down as Chad walks away, his sunglasses missing. Chad doesn't notice and gets about a few feet away.

JEREMY

You know, I don't get how you wear
these at night.

Chad looks back to see Jeremy wearing his sunglasses.

JEREMY

You can barely see.

Chad stomps back over the Jeremy

CHAD

Did you just steal my shades, you
hobo? I'm calling the cops!

Chad reaches into his pocket, but finds nothing. He begins to pat himself down looking for his phone. He looks up to see Jeremy holding it in his hand.

JEREMY

Nice phone kid, lemme guess, daddy
bought it for you?

Chad turns and signals for the other guys in the group to help.
Unknown to Chad, Jeremy is swinging his keychain around his
finger.

CHAD

Lets teach this Bum some manners.

The group does not move, seemingly memorized by the swinging
keychain.

CHAD

Come on, lets go!

JEREMY

They're not going to help you.

Chad turns around and notices his group is all in a trance
staring at his swinging keychain.

Jeremy raises his hand preparing to snap.

JEREMY

Now sleep!

Jeremy snaps his fingers as everyone but Chad falls to the ground
asleep.

CHAD

(frantic)

What the- how'd you do that?

JEREMY

Just another "stupid kiddy trick",
Chad. Of course it only works on the
weak minded.

Chad tries to run away, but trips. He gets up to see his feet
tied together with a handkerchief rope.

Chad

(screaming)

Help! Help! Someone help me!

JEREMY

Chad..Chad..Chad, there will be no
volunteers from the audience in this
trick. Only me, and my beautiful
assistant, you.

Chad
 (Frantic)
 You're psycho man! How the hell do you know my name?!

Jeremy produces Chad's wallet and shows him the driver's license inside.

JEREMY
 Chad Crawfield, huh? Like Crawfield Industries? I think I bought springs from you guys one time for a trick. Shitty little things, broke in my first rehearsal.

Chad
 (screaming)
 Help! Please Help! Help-

Jeremy magically zips Chad's lips shut as Chad tries to yell.

JEREMY
 (mimicking an announcer)
 And a hush fell over the crowd as the magician prepared his next dazzling trick!

Chad is unable to talk as Jeremy walks in front of him. Jeremy pulls a deck of cards from his jacket.

JEREMY
 Pick a card any card!

CHAD
 (Unintelligible)
 Mmmm, mmmmmmm, mmmmmmm

Chad's mouth unzips as he coughs up a rolled up card. Jeremy picks up the card with his gloved hand and unrolls it

JEREMY
 Was this your card?

CHAD
 (Panicked)
 What do you want from me, man? Money?

JEREMY
 I don't need any more money, I can make my own.

Jeremy folds up a one dollar bill, when he unfolds it, it is a 100 dollar bill.

JEREMY

See? I don't work in money. I work in spectacle, amazement, child like wonder! And you my friend took that away today.

CHAD

(Panicked)

I'll get my dad to hire a hundred people to watch your stupid tricks, man. Just let me go!

Jeremy kneels down to look Chad in the eye. As he takes off the sunglasses, his eyes change color and begin to hypnotize Chad.

JEREMY

You will listen to my every word and when I snap my fingers you will do everything and anything I say.

Chad, now in a trance, nods his head. Jeremy snaps his finger.

JEREMY

You will run as fast as you can to catch up with the little girl and apologize for ruining her night.

Still in a trance, Chad jolts up to run, but it stopped by Jeremy's hand on his shoulder

JEREMY

Wait.. Next, you will take your friends home and go to sleep.

Jeremy hands Chad back his phone, wallet, keys, and sunglasses.

JEREMY

Take these. Now...Go!

Chad runs off through the street yelling out apologies.

Jeremy walks back to pick where his glasses were crushed. He picks up a piece as all the rest of it levitates up and puts itself back together.

Jeremy cleans the lens with his shirt and puts them back on.

A small CHILD, followed by a PARENT, begins to tug at Jeremy's coat.

Jeremy looks down as the child hands him a small wad of folded money.

CHILD
For the show.

Jeremy laughs as he nods no and pushes the money back.

JEREMY
It's quite all right, kiddo. I don't
do this for the money.

PARENT
Please..We insist.

Jeremy smiles as he takes the money and stuffs it into his
pocket.

Jeremy magically makes a flower appear out of his coat and hands
it to the kid

JEREMY
Here, you get what you paid for.

The kid excitedly takes the flower before cautiously looking back
to his parent. The parent shrugs and nods and the child happily
runs back to the parent as both walk away.

FADE TO BLACK: