

Tiny Magic

by

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INT. LOUNGE STAGE - NIGHT

A short BROWN-HAIRED GIRL with stylish squinted glasses timidly speaks into a microphone.

BROWN-HAIRED GIRL  
Never closing again.  
A tingle on my arm, but the angel's  
tear crashes in vain.  
How can a soul stir in this barren  
world.  
My beating heart feels itself  
still.

INT. LOUNGE STAGE SIDE - NIGHT

A set of piercing blue eyes look on attentively from the shadows. They belong to NICK, dressed in casual clothes he is a strikingly handsome figure despite the scruff and such he uses to hide it.

INT. LOUNGE STAGE - NIGHT

The poem continues.

BROWN-HAIRED GIRL  
It's a rainbow without red or blue.  
And I cry that my hand can not  
touch it, and that my being can not  
be it.  
I felt one night, and that was many  
moons ago.

INT. LOUNGE - NIGHT

It is OPEN MIC NIGHT and the CROWD of about fifty politely give their applause. The patrons are spread throughout the room; some watching the acts from nearby tables while others are chatting around the bar. The Brown-Haired girl smiles shyly and walks off stage. Nick emerges from the shadows and slowly approaches the mic.

INT. LOUNGE STAGE - NIGHT

Nick takes off his jacket and hangs it on the stand, moving the mic off to the side. As he steps back, he pulls a magic wand from the jacket pocket. Nick looks over the crowd and gives a coy little smile. He slowly holds up the wand, pauses, and then tosses it..

The wand flies through the air...

It begins its fall to the ground..

Nick thrusts his arms forward and stops the wand mid-flight. It seems as if Nick has caught the wand except... the wand HOVERS 10 feet from his hand!

INT. LOUNGE - NIGHT

The crowd is astonished. Quick murmurs circle the bar for a moment, after which point every eye is focused on the stage.

INT. LOUNGE STAGE - NIGHT

Nick holds his stance a moment for dramatic effect... he knows he has the audience in the palm of his hand. Nick bends his fingers slightly, summoning the wand towards him. It floats a few inches. Nick then glides his arms across his body, making the wand fly across the stage, as if attached by invisible strings.

INT. LOUNGE - NIGHT

The onlookers are captivated.

INT. LOUNGE STAGE - NIGHT

Nick continues his routine. The instrument moves so smoothly through the air, that the display no longer seems like a trick but a mesmerizing dance.

The wand glides into Nick's hand as he finishes his routine. He bows and leaves the stage.

INT. LOUNGE - NIGHT

There is a brief moment of silence as the crowd attempts to digest what they have just seen. Then, just as Nick returns to the shadows, the audience erupts with applause.

INT. LOUNGE - NIGHT (LATER)

The crowd has thinned and the stage has since gone dark. People are talking around the bar, joking at tables and shooting darts.

INT. LOUNGE BAR - NIGHT

Nick stands at the far corner of the bar attempting to get the MALE BARTENDER's attention. The bartender looks right past Nick and takes ANOTHER GUY's order. Nick smirks off the rebuke and catches the attention of the FEMALE BARTENDER.

NICK  
Excuse me. Hi there.

FEMALE BARTENDER  
What can I get you sweetie?

NICK  
Jack and Coke would be great.

FEMALE BARTENDER  
(teasing)  
What? You can't make it fly over here.

NICK  
Nah, that's just a stage thing.

FEMALE BARTENDER  
I see...

She heads down the bar to fix his drink. While waiting, Nick eyes the male bartender pouring Vodka.

CU Nick's eyes. Nick's stare is directly at the Vodka.

Suddenly, the cap pops off the bottle and Vodka spills all over the bar.

MALE BARTENDER  
Oh shi...Son of a bi...

A PATRON yells at the bartender and storms away. The bartender grabs a towel and begins to wipe up the mess.

Nick chuckles to himself, enjoying his prank when MICHELLE, a very cute blonde comes up next to him. She waits to order a drink. Nick composes himself.

NICK  
Hi there.

MICHELLE  
Hi.

There is a pause. Nick notices her earring, a gold Yin (from the Yin-Yang symbol) on her right ear.

NICK  
Nice earring.

MICHELLE  
Thanks.

NICK  
Great Return jewelry, that's pretty deep.

MICHELLE  
(confused)  
Great Return?

NICK  
Isn't that what they call the Yin-Yang symbol.

MICHELLE  
Yeah. Well, actually, I've got Yin and a Pup. See.

Michelle shows Nick the golden puppy earring in her left ear.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)  
So it's really not that much of a deep thing.

NICK  
I see. The puppy doesn't have a deeper meaning?

MICHELLE  
Not really. The yin is for that mystical vibe. My friend Sara, she wears the yang in her left ear. We're, like, total opposites, but we're best friends.

NICK  
And the puppy?

MICHELLE  
I just think it's cute.

Nick smiles at the innocence of the response. There is a pause before...

MICHELLE (CONT'D)  
Say, aren't you the guy that did  
that wand thing?

NICK  
Yeah, that was me.

MICHELLE  
I've got to tell you, that was one  
of the most amazing things I've  
ever seen.

NICK  
Thanks.

MICHELLE  
Like... how, how did you do that?

NICK  
Magic.

MICHELLE  
You mean a trick?

NICK  
No. Magic.

Michelle doesn't know whether or not to believe him.

NICK (CONT'D)  
Do you want see?

MICHELLE  
Sure.

Nick pulls out a deck of cards.

NICK  
Pick a card, any card.

Michelle selects a card, the FIVE OF HEARTS.

MICHELLE  
Okay.

NICK  
Now, I'm going to hand you the deck  
and you put the card back any way  
you want. Shuffle 'em, cut 'em,  
whatever you want.

Michelle takes the deck and slips her card back somewhere in the middle. She takes a few moments to thoroughly mix them up before she hands the deck back to Nick.

MICHELLE  
Okay, I'm done.

Nick takes the cards back.

NICK  
Alright.

Michelle closely watches the cards as well as Nick's hands.

CU of Nick's hands during the card trick.

Nick tells a little story as he flips and shuffles.

NICK (CONT'D)  
See, back in Medieval times they had sorcerers and wizards and all sorts of figures. Like Merlin and stuff. And people believed they had magic powers because they could do things that just couldn't be explained. Well, over time it's been revealed that these people were no different than you or I, they just had command of these little tricks, slight of hand, misdirection, ringers, that sort of thing. But people believed they were magic.

Nick becomes more sincere, deeper with his thoughts.

NICK (CONT'D)  
See, for me, there are things I see and feel that I can't explain. And a lot of the time they're tricks. But sometimes, sometimes, magic is really magic.

As he concludes his anecdote, Nick flips a card, the JACK OF CLUBS, onto the bar. Michelle looks at the card.

NICK (CONT'D)  
Is that your card?

Michelle grimaces a bit, sorry for Nick that his trick did not work.

MICHELLE  
No.

NICK  
Really?!

MICHELLE  
Sorry.

NICK  
No. NO! Oh man this is  
embarrassing. After the whole  
stupid wizard thing.

Nick looks at her and tries to laugh off his embarrassment.  
His expression then changes to one of puzzlement.

MICHELLE  
What? What is it?

Nick continues to just look.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)  
What!

NICK  
You said the yin was on your right  
ear, right?

MICHELLE  
Yeah.

Michelle feels her ears. She is stunned. Her earrings are  
switched!!! Nick smiles coyly.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)  
Did you? I didn't feel... Did you?!

Nick plays it off cool. Michelle persists.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)  
No really! How did you? You  
couldn't have. Tell me how you did  
that.

NICK  
Did what?

MICHELLE  
Oh please. How did you switch my  
earrings?



A FAN walks up behind Nick and TAPS him on the shoulder. Nick DOESN'T REACT. Michelle gestures to Nick that someone is behind him. Nick turns around.

NICK

Hi.

FAN

Hi there. I'm sorry to interrupt. I just wanted to tell you that that thing you did was one of the most amazing things I've ever seen.

NICK

Well, thank you.

FAN

That's all. Uh, have a good night.

NICK

Thanks, you too.

FAN

Just amazing.

Fan walks off.

Nick turns to face Michelle, who is now sitting on the stool next to him. Their eyes meet. They stare for a brief moment.

MICHELLE

(flirtatious)

So you didn't move anything else around on me, did you?

NICK

No.

Michelle TOUCHES Nick, putting her hand on his leg. Nick is OBLIVIOUS to the contact.

MICHELLE

Are you sure?

NICK

I'm sure.

MICHELLE

Well then, I have a trick for you. But it's just a tiny magic trick.

NICK

Okay.

MICHELLE

Close your eyes.

Nick closes his eyes.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)

Now I need you to think of a number  
between one and ten.

NICK

(joking)

Six.

MICHELLE

To yourself.

NICK

Okay, got it.

Michelle slowly leans towards him.

MICHELLE

(softly)

Now hold on to that number. Are  
you still thinking of it?

Nick nods. As he's nodding Michelle leans in and gives him a soft, gentle KISS on the lips. Nick's eyebrows RAISE in excitement. Michelle pulls away while Nick keeps his eyes closed, savoring the moment. When Nick opens his eyes, Michelle is gone. He looks around the bar and sees her sitting down with some friends at a distant table. Nick shakes his head in wonderment.

He turns back to the bar. Nick calls over the female bartender.

NICK

Excuse me, do you have a pen I can  
use.

The bartender hands him a pen.

Nick grabs a napkin and begins to write on it. As he is writing, the couple to his right begins to leave. As the WOMAN next to him stands up, the arm of her coat brushes against her half-filled glass. Nick notices the off balance glass and, with his writing hand steadies the glass. However, while he moved his writing hand, the pen continued to WRITE!

CU on pen writing.

INT. LOUNGE BAR FAR END - NIGHT

At the other end of the bar is a very SLOSHED PATRON, practically swimming in his beer. He is the only person who noticed the pen writing by itself.

INT. LOUNGE BAR - NIGHT

Just as quickly as Nick steadied the glass, he grabs onto the pen and continues to write.

INT. LOUNGE BAR FAR END - NIGHT

The Sloshed patron attempts to comprehend what he just saw. He tries to shake out the cobwebs, but is convinced he has reached his limit for the night. With drunken effort he pushes the beer away.

INT. LOUNGE BAR - NIGHT

Nick puts the finishing touches on his note.

He turns and watches Michelle shoot darts with her friends.

INT. LOUNGE DARTBOARD - NIGHT

It is Michelle's turn to shoot. She walks up to the stripe and tosses the first dart. Miss. She tosses her second dart. Further miss.

INT. LOUNGE BAR - NIGHT

CU Nick's eyes. Nick's stare is directly at the dartboard.

INT. LOUNGE DARTBOARD - NIGHT

Michelle's last dart hits the bulls-eye! She jumps with excitement.

INT. LOUNGE BAR - NIGHT

Nick smiles at Michelle's reaction. Then he looks around the dartboard and spots Michelle's vacant table.

INT. LOUNGE TABLE - NIGHT

Michelle's table has empty pitchers, glasses, and packs of cigarettes. There are jackets hung over the backs of the chairs surrounding the table.

INT. LOUNGE BAR - NIGHT

CU Nick's eyes. Nick's stare is directly at a BLACK JACKET. He smiles.

Nick takes a final swig of his drink and exits the bar.

INT. LOUNGE DARTBOARD - NIGHT

Michelle is focused on the dart game and does not see Nick leave.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Nick is walking down the street. He has a very purposed walk, not towards a destination, but an enjoyment of every moment.

INT. LOUNGE TABLE - NIGHT

Michelle is sitting with her friend NIKI.

NIKI

So what was the magic man like?

MICHELLE

He was sweet.

NIKI

Well... what did you talk about? Did you find out how he made his stick thingy float around?

MICHELLE

Nik, you wouldn't believe it. He did this trick, this card trick. One of those one's where you pick a card and then he finds it.

NIKI

Yeah.

MICHELLE  
Well, while he's doing the trick he  
talks about magic. Wizards and  
stuff.

NIKI  
Oh spare me.

EXT. STREET SIDEWALK - NIGHT

CU on Nick's feet as he walks down the sidewalk. Slowly TILT  
UP to his face.

MICHELLE (V.O.)  
And he explains how they used  
tricks, right, but how some magic  
is really magic.

INT. LOUNGE TABLE - NIGHT

Michelle and Niki continue their conversation.

NIKI  
(sarcastic)  
Ooohhh.

MICHELLE  
Then he tries to pick my card..

Niki looks at her as if to say "and"...

MICHELLE (CONT'D)  
He pulls the wrong one.

NIKI  
(laughing)  
How pathetic!

EXT. LAKESIDE - NIGHT

Nick walks up to a fence overlooking an expanse of moonlit  
water.

MICHELLE (V.O.)  
Yeah, yeah, but Niki, when he was  
done, my earrings were switched!

INT. LOUNGE TABLE - NIGHT

Niki looks impressed.

MICHELLE

I was watching his hands the whole time!

Niki is speechless.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)

So I did a little magic trick of my own.

NICKI

Yeah, what was that?

EXT. LAKESIDE - NIGHT

CU Nick slowly smiling, as if enjoying the view.

MICHELLE (V.O.)

I had him closes his eyes... gave him a quick kiss... and then I disappeared.

INT. LOUNGE TABLE - NIGHT

Michelle and Niki talking..

NIKI

Sounds like a date I had in sixth grade.

They laugh. Niki gets up and leaves. Michelle, still tickled by Niki's quip, is putting on her black jacket. She slips her hand in the pocket. She pauses.

Michelle slowly pulls a folded napkin from her pocket. She unfolds it.

CU napkin which reads "sometimes tiny magic is the greatest magic." At the bottom of the note is a 5 and a HEART. Michelle's card! She is stunned!

EXT. LAKESIDE - NIGHT

A glorious moment. Nick is spinning, arms extended into the air, almost dancing with the breeze.

EXT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

The typical city shack, an old rundown apartment. Nick heads up the walkway and into the front entrance.

INT. ROOM - NIGHT

Creaking steps draw close. The lock is turned. The blackness of the room is pierced by light as the door opens. Nick turns the room light on and closes the door. The one room apartment is small and cramped, but fairly well kept. Nick hangs his jacket up on the back of the door. He walks over to the bed and sits. Nick unties his shoes with great care and neatly places them by the foot of his bed. Then he gets up, walks around the bed and opens the window, letting in a comfortable breeze. He turns, and sits. The bed OBSTRUCTS the view of the chair.

Nick CLICKS on the television.

MED of light from the television flickering on Nick's face. SLOW PUSH IN to see that his eyes are becoming heavy, sleepy.

INT. ROOM DRESSER - NIGHT

Next to the television is a dresser with a statue of a FLYING SUPERMAN on it. Light flickers on the figure as well.

INT. ROOM - NIGHT

Nick is now bobbing his head as he draws closer and closer to a peaceful sleep.

INT. DRESSER - NIGHT

Upon closer examination, there is something odd about the Superman statue. The paint around the shoulder of each arm is chipped away.

Suddenly, the hands begin to move downwards! They shift upward briefly, and then back down.

INT. ROOM - NIGHT

Nick's head is mimicking that same motion, raising up before it begins drooping again.

INT. DRESSER - NIGHT

Superman's arms begin to droop again. It's as if the closer Nick comes to falling asleep, the more the arms droop. Then... PLOP.

The arms disconnect and fall onto the dresser.

INT. ROOM - NIGHT

Nick is fast asleep.

PULL OUT from Nick to reveal his chair. It is not a comfortable Lazyboy or loveseat, Nick is sleeping in a WHEELCHAIR!

A PAN reveals more of the room - pictures... posters... a desk... The PAN continues out the open window, and into the night sky. A shooting star. Tiny celestial magic.