



Inside Ed's Head

Written by Ed Hass

Edited by Sal Mannuzza

December 2020

Soulmates

(Sometimes, it's True Love.)

Effect

Many years ago, I heard a very interesting tale. I was told it originated in Hebrew folklore. I can't remember who told it to me but it's a story I can't forget.

Several years later, I started working with a memorized deck. I performed a very standard effect—the spectator names a card. He cuts the deck to that card—using the standard memdeck handling of cutting the named card to the top and forcing that card on the spectator with a Cross-Cut force.

This is such a simple idea that one might think it inconsequential. It isn't; a good plot makes it memorable. Nonetheless, some years ago, it occurred to me that doing this trick for a couple would add greatly to the emotional impact of the trick. I also read someplace that if you do a trick for a couple that makes the guy look good, you might get a better tip. It took little time for me to connect the old story I had heard to this effect.

(I should mention that my idea is similar to Michael Close's "The Wishing Trick," from *Workers 5*. This is the only book in the *Workers* series I don't own. Eventually, I borrowed a copy from a friend, and became aware of the similarity. I believe the plot is different enough to justify this presentation.)

This trick should be a closer, so I'll assume you've connected to the couple, John and Marsha, for whom you've been performing. I also assume you know enough about the couple to decide if you should perform this trick at all.

It *should* be done with a memorized deck. Having a spectator think of and *name* any card in the deck is better than handling a physical card. If you are a memdeck sort of person who can inconspicuously get a named card to the top of the deck, you can skip ahead to the section marked **OK, The Card is on Top Now.**

As I know that not all of my readers are memdeck enthusiasts, I'll explain how this can be done with a regular borrowed deck, with little loss in effectiveness. (But with sleight-of-hand that some will consider difficult.) It's the *story* that makes this trick memorable. I'm sure there are dozens of ways you can alter it to make it your own.

Method

Spread the deck, *face up*, in front of Marsha. Ask her to remove her favorite card and place it in front of John. Let's say it's the Seven of Hearts. Pick up the deck and ask Marsha if the card has any emotional significance, etc., etc., patter, patter.

Take the card from in front of John and apparently lose it in the deck, really controlling it to the top or bottom. Palm the card, give the deck to John, and ask him to shuffle it. There should be no heat on the control and palm as you know the card already—they should not suspect that you have any reason to do anything sneaky with it.

The simplest way to do this, in my opinion, is to insert the card about a third of the way from the top of the deck, getting a break under it. Then do a triple cut to the table, cutting all the cards above the break to the table first. Pick up the deck and do Jay Ose's triple false cut (<http://www.edhassmagic.com/edshead/EH-2012-10.pdf> page 3) to the table and then Gambler's Cop the bottom card as you pick up the deck and hand it to John—asking him to shuffle it. If you're not familiar with the Gambler's Cop, let me direct you to Daryl's explanation on page six of the October 2012 issue of *Inside Ed's Head*. (<http://www.edhassmagic.com/edshead/EH-2012-10.pdf>.) I'd also remind you that the Gambler's Cop and the Diagonal Palm Shift are my go-to methods when I need to hold out a card. The cop is easy to do and completely invisible when performed at the table. It also has the easiest palm replacement.

The Diagonal Palm Shift takes a while longer to learn, but when mastered, it's a bulletproof way to steal a card out of a deck into your left hand. If you wish, check out how to do the Diagonal Palm Shift, in the June 2013 issue. (<http://www.edhassmagic.com/edshead/EH-2013-06.pdf>.)

After John shuffles the deck, ask for it back and replace the card you're holding out. If your replacement is to the bottom, you should get the card to the top. You can do this with an overhand shuffle. I find it easier to do this if I get a pinky break over the bottom card and transfer it to my right-hand thumb as I begin the shuffle. This way I avoid having to run single

cards as I approach the bottom of the deck. I merely need to throw off all the cards above the break as I near the bottom of the deck.

OK, The Card is on Top Now.

Place the cards in front of John and ask him to cut off some cards and put them in front of Marsha. Take the remaining cards and place them at an angle, on top of those cards, setting up a Cross-Cut force. You'll now tell a story that will give you ample time-misdirection for the force.

"Many years ago, I heard a very interesting tale. I was told it originated in Hebrew folklore. I can't remember who told it to me but it's a story I can't forget. I hope you find it as interesting as I do.

It seems that when God created mankind, He created a single soul. He then broke it into two pieces—one male and one female. One for Adam and one for Eve. When He told them to be fruitful and multiply, He created many souls, broke each into two pieces so that He'd always have a soul waiting for every child that was born.

As the world's population grew larger and larger, it became less likely that a person would become acquainted with another person with the other half of their soul. But, every once in a while, there would be an occasion when two of these people would meet. Of course, they are called ... "

Pause for a beat or two. One of them might supply the answer. "... 'Soulmates!' These people are destined to live together in a happy marriage 'til the end of their days."

Pick up the top half of the deck and place it off to the side. Point to the top card of those remaining and address John.

*"John, Marsha said her favorite card is the Seven of Hearts. Now, if this card is **not** the Seven of Hearts, don't be concerned. Most healthy relationships are between people who love each other and work hard to keep their love alive.*

*"It's also possible that just by the small chance of one in fifty-two that you cut to Marsha's card and you are **not** soulmates. Again, you must be aware that most happy couples **aren't** soulmates.*

*"But there is one thing I know for certain. If you **are** soulmates, this card ..."* Tap the top card of the deck as you say this. *"... **will be** the Seven of Hearts!"*

Indicate to Marsha that it's time to turn over the card.

Congratulations! You've just given much joy to a happily married couple. Or, you've given hope to one that is troubled. Or, maybe some guy is just gonna get lucky tonight. You never know.

Afterword

There are two things about this effect that are "musts." First, if you're not using a memdeck, Marsha must have a perfectly free selection from a face-up deck. Second, John *must* shuffle the deck.

For those of you who absolutely will not consider holding out, there is a way to let a freely-selected card be shuffled into the deck and still find it—a crimp. I've never done this in performance but one that's worked for me (most of the time), in practice, is done in the following way. Pick up

Marsha's card and display it, holding it on the right long side with your right thumb on the back and your fingers on the face. Your thumb is halfway down from the top. The first phalange of the thumb is on the card about the width of the thumbnail. Your index finger and middle finger are separated somewhat, so they would straddle the thumb if the card wasn't in the way. (Photo 1.) Display the face of the card to Marsha, confirming that it's still her favorite card. Once stipulated, lower the card to a horizontal position near the edge of the table. At the same time, use your left hand to point to John and ask him if he's willing to do you a favor. As your right hand is lowering, use the *tip* of your left thumb to crimp the card downward between your index and middle fingers. (Photo 2. The card is shown face up in the photo to clarify the position of the fingers. The card will be *face down* during the performance.) Don't be afraid to push hard. This should create a crimped card that cuts to the bottom.



As John replies to your question, insert the now crimped card into the rear of the deck. Put it in front of John and ask him to shuffle it. Pay attention to the side of the deck that's been crimped. You'll want to know that when it's time to retrieve the deck.

After John is done, take the deck back and place it in front of yourself, in position for a riffle shuffle. Lightly cut the top of the deck to the right, hoping to hit the crimp. Riffle shuffle, *starting with the right-side cards first*. Push the cards together, a bridge might take out some of the work. Lift the near side of the cards ninety degrees, to square the far side against the table—really looking to see if you’ve found the Seven of Hearts. If not, try again. When the card comes to the bottom get it to the top with a reverse double undercut.

If you can’t reliably get the card to the bottom in three shuffles every time you practice this, make sure you have a good out. The trick hasn’t gone very far yet, so you have plenty of options. I’d probably just say, “OK, Marsha’s card is in the deck, John, why don’t you pick one now?” I’d keep on doing stuff until Marsha’s card came into sight. I’d then do “Card to Spectator’s Wallet,” producing Marsha’s card from John’s wallet. This one can be found in the April 2013 issue.

(<http://www.edhassmagic.com/edshead/EH-2013-04.pdf>.)

A Final Thought

As I said earlier, this trick should be done with a memorized deck. I believe almost anyone can memorize a deck in less than a week. If you want to learn how, go to my first issue and read how to memorize the Aaronson/Stebbins stacked deck.

(<http://www.edhassmagic.com/edshead/2012-04.pdf>.) You’ll thank me for it. I’ll even give away a copy of my StakPrak software to help you practice if you email me at info@edhassmagic.com.

If you decide you want to use a top palm with the hold-out version, make damn sure that your palm replacement is done perfectly. I’ve seen far too many magicians give away the fact that they’ve palmed a card with the replacement, not the original palm.

Another Final Thought

I’ve recently come up with an easy side-steal. It can steal a card inserted into the deck into a right-hand Gambler’s Flat Palm or a right-hand Classic Palm. Look for it in one of the next few issues.

A Third Final Thought

“The Dirty Dog Transpo” from the October 2020 will make it to Mike Powers’ Card Corner in *The Linking Ring* sometime this year. Watch for it if you’re in the I.B.M.

A Final Final Thought

I hope that all my readers had a merry Christmas and will have a happy, magical new year.

Inside Ed's Head
December 2020
Copyright 2020 by Edward Hass
Feel free to link to this article at:
www.edhassmagic.com/eds-head