

MIND

CANDY

Quietus Of Creativity

Volume 2

By

Dean

Montalbano

Introduction

A little over a year ago, I began my Quietus Of Creativity series– but it really started 20 years ago in 1982 when I, as a young magician, started to create and write my own material. I had, at that point, been interested in magic for about seven years, as was getting to the point where I realized that to survive and thrive in magic.

As my interest in magic evolved, I went from the traditional to the peculiar– and started to find more and more of my work published in Genii, Linking Ring and elsewhere. I found myself being interested in psychic entertainment and bizarrism more and more.

As with the first volume of this series, the methods I use tend to be simple, with the power and entertainment value coming from the presentations. I do not present this material for the beginner and make no apologies for that. It assumes that you have a background in performing and a basic understanding of the principles of psychic entertainment.

This material was meant to be presented, for the most part, as part of a serious mentalist's show, not jumbled in with a magic act; but I leave it to your judgment and good taste to decide.

The final volume of this text should appear in the winter of 2007 and feature stage magic, stand up and illusions.

During my ten year hiatus from the magic world starting in 1992, one thing has remained true... I want my work to be a BEGINNING not an end. Take what you like, discard the rest and RUN WITH IT ALL! This material truly is intended to be *MIND CANDY!*

As always, thank you for your interest and.... ENJOY!

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Cupid's Scroll



The performer steers the conversation to the legends of Cupid.

"It is interesting to note that not all of the legends about Cupid are un-true." The guests seem to be intrigued. "Of course, Cupid was the God of Love, but seldom were his exploits of a happy nature. There are many cases of people who have been struck by his arrow and gone totally mad for lack of their true love."

One of the guests will query further, demanding a demonstration. Selecting a male member of the audience to play Cupid, the performer displays a roll of aged pink parchment tied with a ribbon. From within the rolled scroll, the performer removes a small golden arrow with a heart shaped tip.

"This is one of Cupid's arrows and is very rare indeed. Once fired from Cupid's magic bow it would become invisible. This one has never been fired."

The arrow is handed to the spectator playing the role of Cupid, with instructions for him to select a lady present and to strike her (symbolically) with the arrow. He does as told, and the arrow is handed to the fortunate (or un-fortunate) young lady.

"Now it has become necessary for this lady to find her true love or she will be driven insane by the maddening and ever building passion within." The performer asks to borrow several envelopes, a pencil and several pieces of paper. The lady is instructed to draw a heart on one of the slips of paper. The heart and four blank slips of paper are used. Each is sealed in a respective envelope and then the envelopes mixed. NO ONE knows the location of the lady's heart.

The five envelopes are dealt in a row by the stricken lady. The scroll of Cupid is now opened and the legend of Cupid is intoned.

"Woe is he who hath been stricken by my arrow of love.

Unless the true love for who the arrow seeks is found,

an eternity of torment lies ahead.

EMOTION is the center of love and should guide my child

in the search of her love. "

One of the guests asks what exactly it means.

"Simple." retorts the performer, "As the scroll suggests, let emotion guide this poor creature." The performer goes on to explain that under normal circumstances the lady would use emotion to guide her to her true love. Since this demonstration was staged as an illustration of the almighty Cupid's powers over the human heart, an alternative is in order.

As Cupid himself had written, "emotion" is the key. The afflicted girl is told to spell the word "emotion" from left to right, tapping each envelope in order. Each time she reaches the last letter, the envelope on which she rests is removed. Should that be her heart, she may look forward to a life of misery.

The envelopes are removed in this way until only one remains. This envelope is pierced by the arrow, and when the envelope is torn away, a heart is contained within. The lady's sanity is safe

Arcanum: I claim little originality to method here. It is based on an effect by Larry Becker called '*Dracula's Heart*'. I felt this made it perfect for the Valentine season.

The envelope containing the heart is marked by a nail nick. The performer notes the number the envelope winds up at. Please note this is from the left as the spectator looks.

You have FIVE scrolls, each with identical inscriptions except for the KEY word, which is different on each.

In spelling the word, the girl is instructed to start at her left. When she has reached the last letter of the word, that envelope is discarded and she must then start with the FIRST envelope. This is purely mathematical and the only one left will be her true love.

In performing this effect: After you remove the arrow from one of the scrolls you re-pocket the scroll. After you have ascertained the location of the lady's "true love", you remove the proper scroll from your pocket.

The scroll(s) should be light pink, tied with a gold ribbon around the center. It should be aged and weathered, (after all, Cupid himself is supposed to have written it) and it might be a good idea to get someone to write it in calligraphy.

The arrow is no longer than the width of the scroll, wood, with a metal or wood tip. The whole thing can be gilded for effect but this is strictly cosmetic. The key words, in order are:

emotion
devotion
desire
affection
amour
feeling

For those who like their effects a little less involved, there is an alternate presentation.

The performer would hand the scroll to someone to hold, explaining that the identity of the lady's true love is written upon it. The lady with the arrow is shown six different colored paper hearts. Using equivoque, (The magicians choice force.) the heart that matches the one on the scroll is forced. This is a neater presentation and looks a bit less like a puzzle.

Be sure you don't accidentally impale yourself on the arrow. The powers of Cupid are little understood. Perhaps he will reach out over the eons and overpower your arrow with his powers.....You NEVER know

ENJOY!

A Valentine Memory



The performer begins a rather unique demonstration by handing a lovely lady a HUGE, heart-shaped box of chocolates.

With the explanation that this is an excursion into the world of Cupid, the lady is asked to come on stage.

Mr. Cupid is said to have MANY powers, not the least of which is making people fall in love. But Cupid does not do it all alone. He has the help of many other imps, fairies and pucks, all of whom assist in his noble cause.

The performer shows several heavy parchment cards which give the appearance of being quite old. On each page is the name of a specific fairy. The lady is asked to choose one of the imps and it turns out she picks "ZOE".

"Ah, ZOE, fairy of romance, an excellent choice," says the performer with instructions for the lady to open the box of chocolates. The performer goes on to say that, although it may seem as if the choice was made at random, it was in fact a predestined choice.

When the box is opened it is seen that the name "ZOE" Is written in pink chocolates. Truly the wonder of the season has touched all present!

METHOD:

The method for this should be pretty obvious and it is a pretty straight forward card force. The box of chocolates needs to be the biggest box you can find, and you will probably need to buy a separate box to get the pink chocolates to write the name. (a short one by the way) You may re-seal the box by re-shrink wrapping it, (your local packaging company may be of help here) but simply tying it with a ribbon should suffice.

The parchment cards are very important. To make this seem less like a card trick, it is best to try and get an artistic friend to paint some lovely fantasy drawings of imps and fairies. Your other options are to get some books of fantasy and either cut and paste or sketch drawings from the book. The *Book of Fairies* is one possibility.

It is probably a good idea to age them with a bit of coffee and burn the edges. Make them look old.

When selecting a force for this, make it the least "card tricky" one you have. A fan force might be good, but stay away from any counting or riffle forces. Also remember it isn't necessary to have 100 different fairies, 10-15 should be fine.

It has been suggested, by myself and by several others, that a version of the *magic coloring book* OR a book force might be better for this illusion. Although it would mean binding the parchment pictures in some way, it would make this seem less 'card tricky'. Think about it !

ENJOY!

Cerebral Card Rise

The performer offers a demonstration of psychokinesis, the ability to move things with the mind.

A card is selected from a deck of Tarot cards. This is returned to the deck. The spectator holds the cards and the performer concentrates, but **NOTHING** happens.



The spectator's mental field must be grounding out the performers.....
An insulator is needed!

The deck is placed in a glass.

As an afterthought, the performer covers the entire thing with a larger clear dome or another glass. He explains that his powers are often un-focused, and frequently the deck has been sent flying into the audience. If this should happen with a glass someone might get hurt.

A look of concentration comes over the performer's face as the audience sees a card rise from the deck. There seems, however, to be a problem. The performer can't stop concentrating. Suddenly, the glass visible **SHATTERS** into a million fragments.

With a look of chagrin, the performer raises the dome and asks the identity of the spectators card. "3 of swords." is the reply.

The performer pushes through the mess of glass and cards and finds a card which has been impaled by one of the crystal shards. The card seems to be bleeding. When this card is examined it is found to be the selected card!

Method:

This illusion started out as one of my famous challenges. (You supply the effect I'll give you a method...or at least try.) A friend wanted to see a card rise from a glass and then shatter.

I loved the effect right from the start, but I wanted a very special method. I didn't want glass flying all over, I didn't want to keep buying new glasses. What I wound up with was this:

Basically this is a modified *gloves to doves table*, Though the dimensions are different. The dimensions depend on the size of the glass. When the flap of the table is opened, the glass rests over the opening into the "well" side of the table. The glass MUST be acrylic since it has a hinge attached to it. The glass can fold back and lay flat against the flap.

The flap has a cloth strip (The width of the flap) attached to the free end. The other end of this 'strip' is attached to the rear of the table. When the flap is opened, it forms a bag in the rear chamber; and when the flap springs closed, it pulls tight and forms a solid top for the table.

The card is made to rise via a small music box motor and thread. This gimmicked deck is switched for the real deck when placing the cards in the glass.

When setting up: The 'bag' is filled with broken LEAD CRYSTAL and a deck of cards. The flap is folded over and latched in place. The glass is folded up so it rests upright, and appears to be resting on the table top.

A plexi glass dome is placed over the whole thing to prevent any of the glass pieces from flying out and injuring someone.

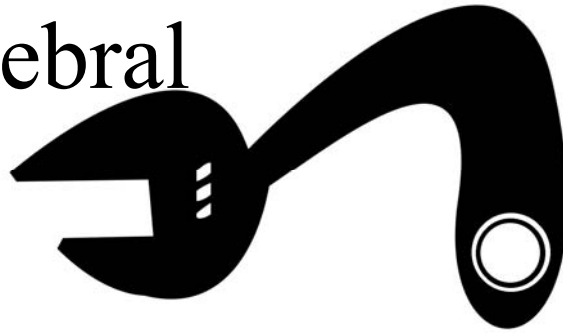
In performance: A card rises out of the glass. When the catch is released, the flap will quickly fold forward as the glass folds flat against it, and goes into the base.

The cloth 'bag' will be pulled taut and the glass fragments and cards will tend to fly up a bit.

If you wish to do the "impaled card bit" which appears in the description; an impaled duplicate of the force card must be in the bag. A bit of red paint completes the job.

Enjoy!

The Cerebral Wrench Bend



“Throughout my introduction several members of the audience have been examining a number of wrenches. Please raise your hands. Would the lady over here please collect the rest of the wrenches and meet me on stage.

“It has long been a popular demonstration of psychics to bend metal. This ability is known as psychokenesis. Apparently the energy of the mind, can be focused by some people in such a way to bring about actual physical alterations. Normally this ability is demonstrated with spoons and things of that nature. I have decided that since I have the resources of an entire audience to call up on, I will use more dramatic objects.....5 drop forged wrenches!”

(As spectator approaches) “Hello and what is your name?” (Mary)

“Mary, you examined all of these wrenches and have you found them to be totally solid? Good. Please step over here.

“Now at least four other spectators have had the opportunity to examine these wrenches and through them, the entire audience knows the validity of these objects!

“I want to take four of the five wrenches and let Mary hold them for the entire experiment. Because a tremendous amount of heat is developed anytime mental energy is focused, I will wrap these wrenches in a sheet of newspaper to protect her lovely hands.

“Mary, please place your hands out in front of you, palms up. Allow the wrenches to rest on your open hands. Please hold onto them as long as possible so long as the heat does not become too intense.

“This wrench, I will hold high in the air so you can see what is happening.

“Ladies and gentlemen I must ask for your help with this. Please , everyone here CONCENTRATE on the wrenches. In your minds-eye, try to see the image of a wrench.

“Forget that these are solid objects. IMAGINE you can see them bend! Keep concentrating, I can feel them getting warmer.....They ARE starting to bend! Here it goes.

“OHWW!!” (Toss wrench down in pain)

"Boy that got hot." (Gingerly pick wrench off table and lick finger, touching bent section of wrench)" The heat of thought fades quickly with time. Mary please hold this so I can unwrap the others."

(Un-wrap wrenches, display them as bent)

"Now then, Mary please take that wrench back to your seat and examine it carefully and I'll pass these out to other members of the audience.

“Please take you time an examine them and hold onto them for a while. During the show I will ask you to assist with other demonstrations and return the wrench at that time."

Method:

This routine depends on a switch accomplished via my 'Cerebral Table.'

The table is a plain looking table with a black criss cross design. This design hides slots in the top through which the first set of five wrenches is dropped.

In addition to five cheap wrenches, (Tiwanian imports are perfect) you need six more matching wrenches.

One wrench is sawn in half with a hacksaw. During performance some silver mylar covers this cut.

The other five wrenches must be bent in half using a vice and torch. BE VERY CAREFUL! The wrenches must be folded right in half so that when you put two of them end to end. Hold the bend in your fist it looks as if you hold two straight wrenches

The method is fairly obvious at this point.

When the five wrenches are collected they are held in one hand. On the table rest several sheet of paper with the bent wrenches behind them. When getting the sheet of news paper the normal wrenches are dumped into the slot and switched for FOUR of the bent wrenches held as previously described. These are wrapped and set across the spectator's hands. (The hands should be apart slightly)

The pre-cut wrench is held in the raised fist. With a little pressure you can break the mylar joint and make the wrench bend. At the same time, rest your hand on the wrapped wrenches and push down at the space between the hands to make the paper packet bend.

The rest is good presentation. To make this convincing you must handle it in a very SERIOUS MANNER!
ENJOY!

(The following tape prediction appeared in an old issue of the "New Invocation", however the method used, though similar, meant that

you purchase a portable tape player with the 'auto-reverse' function. I felt that I did not want to use such a device and wanted to come up with a version which could be done with a borrowed player if need be.

I also wanted to devise a follow-up sort of effect. I think you'll enjoy this mental effect.

If you do this with a pack of Tarot cards, add a bit of eerie music and do a very vague 'cold reading'; you will really give them the creeps!

HOW CAN THIS BE!



The performer begins by borrowing a cassette player. He can provide his own if this is preferred. It matters not.

The performer opens a case which contains about 75 cassette tapes. (Actually only 52 are needed)

A spectator is asked to select a card from a deck. This card is set face down but remains UNKNOWN to the performer.

The same spectator is asked to remove a single tape and place it on her card.

Several other tapes are played. One says something like, "YEAH, WHAT DO YOU WANT! (The performer answers, "We want to know her card") STATE THE GIRLS BIRTH DATE.....THE YEAR AS WELL.....OK, It's the six of spades...."

The performer and spectator confirms that that IS NOT her card.

Several other tapes are played with similar results.

Now, to blow them away!

The selected tape is placed in the player and the play button pressed.

"We all know why we are here, we know how old the lady is, tee hee hee....The card you wish to know the identity of is the Ace of Diamonds!".

Upon flipping the card, everyone sees that the prediction IS CORRECT! The tape is rewound and handed to the spectator as a souvenir!

At this point the spectators will get down on their knees and BEG for more. This gives you a great time to get money from them.

As a follow-up, a small padded envelope is displayed. The spectator is asked to shuffle and repeatedly cut the deck.

Another spectator is asked to give the deck two or three final cuts. The envelope is set on the deck. The performer asks the spectator who last touched the deck to open the envelope, and play the enclosed tape in the recorder.

The voice comes on, "Now then.....What we witnessed earlier was a demonstration of sympathetic vibrations. The lady selected a card and then a tape. Her OWN psychic powers guided her to the correct tape.....This is an example of ESP, predicting the future!....Please recall that the deck was shuffled and cut repeatedly by the same person who placed this tape in the player..... Would that person please flip the randomly arrived at TOP card of the deck, face up, onto the table.....You are looking at the SEVEN OF SPADES!"

And indeed that is what everyone is looking at!

Both spectators have a very special tape to keep as a souvenir!

METHOD:

This is, as I said, a combination. Not a whole lot new except the joining of the two effects and a change of the method used in the first prediction. I would much prefer to see this done with Tarot cards. A story about how you had a medium make a prediction for you, a small cold reading.....BOOM a blockbuster!

The first prediction is a force. The card is forced, not the tape. Let us say that you will force the "Five of Hearts."

On side A of EVERY TAPE, you record the successful prediction, adding whatever humorous touches you like. After you record the prediction wait about 10 seconds and immediately RECORD the identical speech right after it.

Rewind the tape and play it to the end of the first recording of the speech and STOP! Flip the tape over at this point, and record a different INCORRECT prediction on side B of each tape. Be sure it falls a few seconds short of the end of the tape.

You are almost ready. Cue each tape to the end of the correct prediction on side A.

Now then, all you have to do in performance is as follows: When the spectator selects a tape, have her place it ON her card. This is to avoid any confusion. When you place the other tapes in the player, place them with side B face up so it will play the incorrect prediction.

When you place the selected tape in the player, place it so side A plays. Everyone will hear the correct prediction. After you play it, rewind it and give the spectator the tape.

Chances are when she re-plays it later, she will stop it before she reaches the second correct prediction. Even if she does discover the duplicate correct prediction, she will simply figure that it repeats on and on. Since there are only a few seconds of recording on the end of side B, it is unlikely she will ever hear it.

The second prediction: Have a spectator shuffle and cut the deck, placing it face down when done. When you remove the envelope it contains a prediction tape. Let us assume you predict the "3 of

Clubs". All that is needed is to have a 3 of Clubs concealed under the envelope. When you set the envelope on the face down deck, the force card will automatically be loaded on top of the stack. Your dirty work is done. Sit back and relax!

ENJOY!

Phone Impossibility



This mind reading effect is based on one which originally appeared in the *Tarbell Course in Magic*. I have been told REPEATEDLY that this method WON'T work nowadays.

In Tarbell's original method, a secret helper would call the place which the magician was performing, asking for some 'stranger'. When the person who answered the phone hung up, the secret assistant would NOT hang up.

In the olden days, like 1988, the phone would only disconnect when the CALLER hung up. Nowadays you will be disconnected in a matter of minutes, therefore, Mr. Tarbell's method will not work as well (or at all) today. What follows is a current day method for nearly the same effect. (Note for 2006—or not, phones have changed a lot!)

The performer invites a number of people to participate in an experiment. A spectator is given a perfectly free choice of a card which is displayed for all to see.

Another person freely selects a name from the local phone book. The spectator dials the number and hands the phone to a spectator with a small script which reads, "Hello, Mr. (insert name of person called) I am conducting a survey, would you mind answering a simple question.....(No, Go Ahead) Would you please name the first card that



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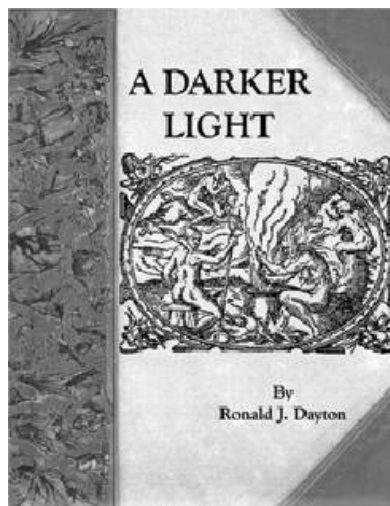
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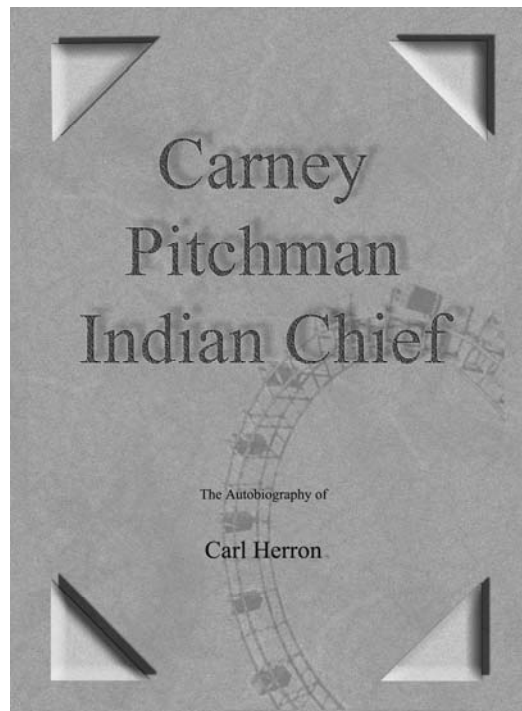
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