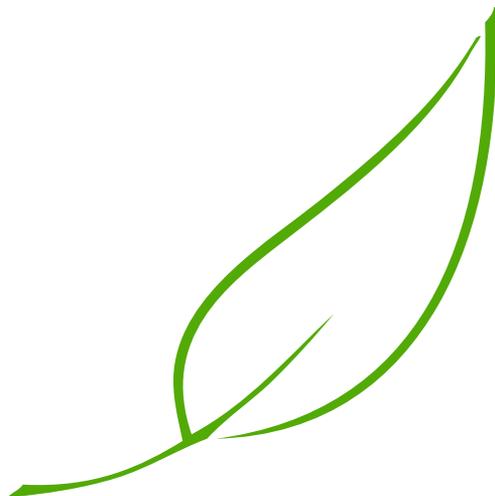


DO YOU BELIEVE IN MAGIC?

by Ken Bradbury



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Two Characters: Erin, Professor Presto (2 m or f)

ERIN: *(enters, tentatively. looks around, then ...)* Hello?
(nothing) Anybody here? *(consults a note)* “123 Skiddoo
Street. Presto Magic Theatre.” Hello?

PRESTO: *(entering)* Presto!

ERIN: Huh?

PRESTO: I am the Great Professor Presto! Presto!

ERIN: Okay. Uh ... are you the one who advertised for ...

PRESTO: Presto!

ERIN: What?

PRESTO: I am the Great Professor Presto! Presto!

ERIN: Maybe I should go.

PRESTO: *(grabbing him and moving him into the area)* No!
No! You have the right place! Yes! Yes! Presto! Presto!

ERIN: Are you the one who wants an assistant?

PRESTO: Indeed! Presto! I need an assistant! Have you ever
done magic?

ERIN: You're a magician?

PRESTO: Magician? Not just a magician! A prestidigitator! A
conjurer! A wizard of the magic arts!

ERIN: Wow.

PRESTO: Wow indeed! I am the King of Wow! The Duke of
Illusion! The Lord of Sorcery!

ERIN: No kidding. You any good?

PRESTO: *(grabbing his heart)* Ahhh! You have cut me to the
quick, young man! “Any good?” Any good indeed! I have
studied with the world's greatest magicians! Perhaps you've

heard of the Great Ting-Tang-Walla-Walla-Bing-Banga of Trotsylvania?

ERIN: Did he play for the Cardinals?

PRESTO: What are Cardinals?

ERIN: Never mind. So can I get a job?

PRESTO: Ah! Only the most skilled hands can work with the Great Professor Presto! Do you have skilled hands?

ERIN: (*looking at his hands*) Well, this one's pretty good. This other one's willing to learn.

PRESTO: Excellent! Excellent! We have a show in five minutes! Get ready!

ERIN: What?

PRESTO: The audience is out there! We must prepare for the Magic Show!

ERIN: But I don't know what to do!

PRESTO: Never fear! I will teach you as we go! Remember! I am a magician! Presto!

ERIN: Yeah ... presto.

PRESTO: The first trick will be the Magic Hat.

ERIN: Magic hat?

PRESTO: Yes! You get down into this box and hand me the things I pretend to take out of my magic hat.

ERIN: That's magic?

PRESTO: Get in the box.

ERIN: But ...

PRESTO: You want this job?

ERIN: I'm in the box. (*hops into imaginary box, on his knees*)

PRESTO: Open the curtains! Voilà! Good evening ladies and gentlemen! Sit back and prepare to be amazed ... stupefied ... mesmerized! Courtesy of Professor Presto!

ERIN: Now?

PRESTO: (*stage whisper*) Quiet, box. (*moving upstage of Eric and removing an imaginary hat*) I will now remove from my magic hat the most amazing assortment of objects! A rabbit! (*reaches in ... feels around*) A rabbit! (*feels some more ... stage whisper*) Give me the rabbit!

ERIN: It's dark! I can't see anything in here!

PRESTO: The soft, fuzzy thing, you idiot! (*to the audience*) I will now pull a rabbit from my hat! (*he pulls out something ... looks at it*) A Kleenex!

ERIN: That's all I had in my pocket!

PRESTO: Aha! The bunny has a cold! What a funny bunny! (*reaches in again*) I will now produce a rabbit! (*looks at the object*) Who wears size 9 shoes?

ERIN: Hey! That's mine!

PRESTO: The bunny is in here somewhere! I know it is! Here, bunny-bunny-bunny. (*pulls Erin's head up through "the hat"*) A ... (*looks at him*) A ... dumb bunny! (*bowing*) Thank you very much! Thank you very much!

ERIN: (*standing*) I couldn't find the rabbit.

PRESTO: I forgot. Work's been slow. I think I ate him last night. (*to the audience*) For Professor Presto's next trick! The Saw of Death!

ERIN: Saw of What?

PRESTO: Before your very eyes, I will take this handsome young man, cut his body in half with the Saw of Death, then put him back together, safe and sound.

ERIN: Oh, no.

PRESTO: (*aside*) Remember, it's a trick.

ERIN: So was the rabbit.

PRESTO: He will recline here on this table ... (*moving two chairs to form a table*)... awaiting the Saw of Death! (*practically has to push Erin down onto the table, lying on*



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