

The Disappearing Act

Revision 1

By

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INT. HOTEL BALLROOM. NIGHT

ALAN, a middle aged magician with graying hair, tired eyes, and a face that says hes been failing at his job for too long, stands on stage in a 1920's style hotel ballroom, somewhat resembling the Rex Hotel in Union Square. Goofy "magic show" music plays in the background.

Alan performs/fumbles a card trick. Cards fly everywhere and the audience snickers at the sight. *

Playing it off like it never happened, Alan looks out into the audience getting ready to perform his next trick. *

ALAN

Who will be my next volunteer?

A GROUP OF GIRLS sits in the audience giggling and whispering. They are all around the age of 21, with brown straight hair and perfect makeup, dressed as if they could all be Urban Outfitter/LF models. *

Alan points to the group of girls. *

ALAN

How about you in the green sweater?

We see more closely, the face of a 21 year old girl, OLIVIA, with brown hair curled to perfection looking like she just stepped out of a salon. Her makeup is done to perfection, but still natural looking. She's flawless. She is a trend-conscious, kind of quiet woman, still young and new to adulthood. *
*
*

OLIVIA

No, thats ok.

ALAN

Please. It will be easy, all you have to do is step into the box. I'll do the rest.

OLIVIA

Look. I just came for the free drinks.

Olivia holds up the FLYER for the show. It has a picture of Alan's face on it and underneath reads "The AMAZING ALAN", the date, Saturday September 18th 2014, and "Come for an amazing night of fascinating magic tricks and free drinks." *

(CONTINUED)

ALAN

Come on. It's easy! Just help me
out with this one trick.

Olivia's friends jokingly nudge and poke her to go up.

FRIEND 1

Liv, he's so cute HAHA

FRIEND 2

I can see it now, Liv traveling the
world as her new BOYFRIENDS
assistant.

FRIEND 3

Get up there! Go kill em tiger.

Without answering, Olivia rolls her eyes, folds the flyer up
and puts it in her pocket. She rises from her seat and
begins to slowly walk to the stage.

Olivia advances on stage and all sounds from the audience
fade out behind her. The music changes to techno "magic
show" music and that's all we hear as she walks forward.

OLIVIA walks to the center to meet Alan.

ALAN

With this box I will make this
volunteer disappear.
What is your name?

OLIVIA

Olivia

ALAN

Now Olivia, I'm going to ask you to
step in this box and when I count
to three you will disappear

Olivia steps inside the box, the cover closes

INT. BOX. NIGHT

The magician taps the BOX three times with his WAND

ALAN

One, Two, THREE

Olivia is in the box surrounded by darkness and silence

(CONTINUED)

OLIVIA

Hello? Hello? Can I come out yet?
Hello?

There is no response, just silence and darkness.

Olivia steps out of the box.

INT. VINTAGE MAGIC SHOP. DAY

She is surrounded by wands, cards, capes, and other magic trick "toys", but the box is the only vanishing box in the shop.

Olivia walks through the store getting strange looks from CUSTOMERS surrounding her dressed in clothes resembling 80's nerd meets magician.

CUSTOMER 1

What are you doing in there? That's not a toy

OLIVIA

Excuse me where am I?

CUSTOMER 2

Woah dude, there's a girl in here

No one responds to Olivia. She walks up to the cash register. The cash register is a grown man, in his late 30s, wearing a Star Wars t-shirt, blue jeans, and big glasses.

OLIVIA

Excuse me, where am I?

CASHIER

Your in the "It's All An Illusion" shop. It says it on the sign right outside...Speaking of signs.. did you not see the sign on the box that says "DO NOT TOUCH"

OLIVIA

What? I don't know how I got here. One minute I was helping a magici-

CASHIER

Ha Ha very funny its a magic shop.

OLIVIA

I'm serious! I don't know whats going on.

(CONTINUED)

CASHIER

Ok this joke is old. If you can't
follow the rules then leave.

Olivia is kicked out of the store.

EXT. SIDEWALK OUTSIDE MAGIC SHOP. DAY.

Olivia is startled when she is forced outside and sees her
surroundings. She pauses to look around her.

She stands on the sidewalk outside of the magic shop in a
small, close-knit town with small family owned shops and
Chevys, Buicks, and Ford pick-up trucks in every driveway.

Everything around Olivia starts spinning.

OLIVIA

(Voice Over)

Where am I? I must be dreaming.
What is going on?!

Outside of the store Olivia spots a NEWSPAPER RACK. The
headline on the NEWSPAPER says something about President
Reagan and the date is SEPTEMBER 18TH, 1984.

Olivia picks up the newspaper and studies it hard. Unable to
fathom what is really going on, she just stands there.
Everything around her is spinning.

She hears a loud clatter coming from the dumpster a few feet
behind her.

She turns around to find a BOY, 17, dressed in clothes
similar to what the customers in the magic shop were
wearing. He is still a little awkward looking for his age,
a late bloomer, with a face that looks like its 3/4 of the
way done clearing up from his acne.

This face is very familiar to Olivia, but she can't figure
it out. She just stares at him.

He is throwing things out. In another box by his feet,
Olivia notices a cape that says "The Amazing Alan". He
furiously heaves this box into the garbage too. It is full
of magic props.

As Olivia watches this boy she realizes its Alan, the
magician, 30 years younger.

She chases after him.

(CONTINUED)

OLIVIA
WAIT! STOP! I NEED TO TALK TO YOU!

Alan stops and looks at her, confused as to why this beautiful girl that he has never met is chasing after him.

Olivia approaches Alan.

OLIVIA
Hi. Is your name Alan?

ALAN
Yes?

OLIVIA
You're "The Amazing Alan"!!

ALAN
Is that supposed to be a joke?

OLIVIA
No! You're going to think I'm
crazy, but 30 years from now you're
going to perform a magic trick that
will send me back 30 years into the
past.

Alan starts to understand why this girl is talking to him.
Shes crazy.

ALAN
Is this some kind of prank? Just
leave me alone. This isn't funny.

OLIVIA
No! I'm being serious!

ALAN
Look. I'm not sure what you're
trying to pull here but-

OLIVIA
No wait I can prove it!

Olivia reaches into her back pocket and pulls out the flyer
from the magic show. She hands it to Alan.

Alan examines the flyer in shock. He sees his future self on
the front and just stares at it in disbelief.

ALAN
I don't know what this is but if
you haven't noticed I don't do
magic anymore.

(CONTINUED)

OLIVIA
But you're my only hope.

ALAN
I'm sorry I can't help you.

Alan hands Olivia back the flyer, and walks away.

OLIVIA
Wait! Please!

Alan ignores Olivia and continues walking.

Alan leaves Olivia behind. She feels hopeless and lost. *

Time passes. Olivia is still standing there. *

Finally, Olivia leaves the spot and wanders around town. She sees a dress store and goes inside. She needs retail therapy. *

INT. SMALL DRESS BOUTIQUE. DAY. *

Olivia looks through the racks of a small dress boutique that carries typical bat mitzvah and sweet 16 dresses. Nothing too trendy or fancy. *

She eyes a dress hanging by the window. Through the window she notices Alan walking outside. *

Olivia sprints out of the store towards Alan. *

EXT. SIDEWALK OUTSIDE DRESS SHOP. DAY. *

OLIVIA
ALAN! ALAN! Please wait!! *

Alan stops dead in his tracks. Annoyed. *

ALAN
Look this is getting old. I thought I told you to leave me alone. I can't help you. *

Olivia starts to beg, rambling. *

OLIVIA
Please! I'll do anything! You don't understand. One minute I was with my friends watching your show and the next I was in a magic shop IN THIS TOWN! I- *

(CONTINUED)

Alan sees the dress shop behind them. It reminds him of something. He starts to think. *

ALAN

Fine! I'll help you under one condition. *

OLIVIA

Yes! Anything!

ALAN

You have to be my date to the homecoming dance. *

OLIVIA

Excuse me.

ALAN

That or there's no deal.

OLIVIA

I'm way too old for you. *

ALAN

Ok. Then I'm sorry I can't help you. *

Alan is crushed, but not surprised. He walks away

OLIVIA

Fine! I'll do it!

ALAN

Ok. Now what?

OLIVIA

You have to perform the trick again.

ALAN

What trick?

OLIVIA

The trick where you put me in a box and make me disappear.

ALAN

A box? What box? I've never done a trick like that.

OLIVIA

The magic shop!

(CONTINUED)

ALAN
The magic shop?

OLIVIA
Follow me!

INT. VINTAGE MAGIC SHOP. DAY

Olivia runs through the door of the same magic shop as before, "It's All An Illusion". Alan follows behind her, not really sure what to think. *

The same cashier as before is there, this time checking a customer out. *

ALAN
Ok so explain to me again. What are we doing here? *

OLIVIA
This is the magic store I appeared in. *

ALAN
And you think this place is how you'll get home? *

OLIVIA
If we can find the box. *

ALAN
I still don't get it. *

OLIVIA
If you can reperform the trick, maybe that will be my key to getting home. *

ALAN
Have you tried clicking your heals together 3 times. *

OLIVIA
Ha Ha very funny. This isn't the Wizard Of Oz. *

Annoyed by Alan's comment, Olivia runs straight past the cashier and towards the back of the store where the box was, pushing people out of the way. *

(CONTINUED)

Alan is like a little kid in a candy store, slowly following behind Olivia, stopping every 5 seconds to look at a new gadget or gizmo that he has been longing to get his hands on.

Olivia reaches the spot where the box was when she stepped out of it into the magic store just an hour earlier. The spot is empty. All that remains is the gray line of dirt signaling that a box had been there for a very long time, and never moved...until now.

Olivia stands there in confusion, staring down at the spot where the box, her time machine, used to sit.

ALAN

What are you looking at?

Olivia turns to see Alan standing behind her holding a pair of trick handcuffs and a new deck of magic cards. Her face is stricken with horror and disappointment.

OLIVIA

The box..I could have sworn it was just here.

Olivia walks over to the cash register.

CASHIER

You again? I thought I told you you couldn't be here!

*
*

OLIVIA

What happened to the box that was over there before?

CASHIER

Someone just purchased that a little while ago. They knew how to follow rules.

*
*

OLIVIA

Who bought it?

CASHIER

Uh, some short kid in glasses. I didn't catch his name.

*

OLIVIA

You just described almost every kid in here.

(CONTINUED)

CASHIER

He was wearing a piano tie.

We hear Alan scowl at that from behind.

ALAN

Milton.

OLIVIA

What?

ALAN

Milton. My rival. He always wears that stupid piano tie.

OLIVIA

So you know him? Do you know where we can find him?

ALAN

Unfortunately

OLIVIA

Lead the way.

Alan puts down the handcuffs and cards and walks out of the store, Olivia following. Their journey has begun.

EXT. FRONT PORCH OF STEVEN'S HOUSE. *

Alan and Olivia stand on the porch of an average sized house with a porch swing to the left of them.

They ring the doorbell, playing a short version of "It's a Small World After All".

A short woman, Janice in her early 40s, with curly blond hair, wearing a very brightly knitted sweater and "mom" jeans opens the door.

JANICE

Oh Alan, What a nice surprise to see you. *

ALAN

Hi Mrs. Milton, is Steven around?

JANICE

Yes, I'll get him. Come in.

INT. FRONT ENTRANCE OF A HOUSE DAY

Olivia and Alan enter the house. There is a long staircase in front of them and beige floral wallpaper on the walls. There is a tacky chandelier hanging in the entry.

*
*
*

Janice turns to the stairs.

*

JANICE
STEVEN! You have friends here!

STEVEN (O.S.)
Coming mom!

Steven, 18, a stumpy looking kid with curly hair and glasses, wearing a red cape and a piano tie, descends down the stairs.

STEVEN
Alan. What are you doing here? And whose this?

Steven starts checking out Olivia. He kisses her hand and starts using every cheesy pickup line in the book.

STEVEN
(To Olivia)
Are you a magician too?

OLIVIA
What?

STEVEN
When I look into your eyes everyone else just disappears.

ALAN
Milton.

OLIVIA
Uhm thanks... We actually came here cause we hear you just got a vanishing box.

*

STEVEN
From "It's All An Illusion"? Ya its in studio.

INT. BASEMENT. DAY

Steven leads them downstairs to a room that looks partially like a basement that has been transformed into a magic studio, with an off white carpet and a grungy old couch on one end and a stage on the other.

In the center of the stage, there sits the "box".

OLIVIA

That's it! That's the box! Can we borrow it for a little while?

STEVEN

Sure.

OLIVIA

Ahh thank you-

STEVEN

But what's in it for me?

ALAN

And don't forget about the dance.

OLIVIA

What do you want?

STEVEN

If Alan can outperform me than the box is yours-

*

OLIVIA

Deal! We'll do-

STEVEN

-But! If I win you have to come to the dance with me instead.

*

*

ALAN

Wait! Olivia can I talk to you for a minute...in private.

*

INT. BASEMENT, OTHER SIDE OF THE CURTAIN. DAY

Alan leads Olivia on stage behind the curtain. It's as if they entered a new room. There are handcuffs, swords, boxes, an array of different capes, etc. surrounding them. Olivia slowly realizes that maybe she agreed too soon.

(CONTINUED)

ALAN

I don't think this is a good idea. *

OLIVIA

Why not? You can do it!

ALAN

You weren't at the talent show last year.

OLIVIA

What happened?

ALAN

It was the finals. It was me, Milton, and this girl Alex. She was a dancer, so it was really between me and Milton. He performed the famous levitation trick. I choked and my doves escaped and pooped on everyone in the audience. Needless to say that was my last trick. *

OLIVIA

Oh. *

ALAN

Yeah. *

OLIVIA

But that was last year. You can practice.

ALAN

Ok but don't forget you promised to go to the homecoming dance with me.

OLIVIA

When is it?

ALAN

Wednesday Night

OLIVIA

Well either way it looks like I'm going to this dance. You can do this. I'd much rather go with you over that creep. *

Olivia walks back through the curtain and off the stage, without finishing her discussion with Alan

(CONTINUED)

OLIVIA

Milton you're on! Tuesday night.

*

Alan walks off stage to see Olivia and Milton shaking on their newly made deal.

ALAN

What's going on?

MILTON

You. Me. Tuesday Night. May the best man win

MONTAGE

INT. MAGIC SHOP DAY

Olivia tries on different sparkly assistant costumes. Olivia and Alan play around with the different tricks and magic props. Olivia handcuffs Alan to a dressing room.

INT. ALAN'S LIVING ROOM. DAY

A montage of Olivia and Alan practicing tricks in an average looking living room.

They move the furniture together

They set up the different tricks.

They goof around, Olivia plays some pranks, handcuffing him to a chair, playing with the rabbit that was in his hat, etc.

They constantly practice the magic trick that involves a box and blades where Olivia must lie in the box and Alan uses the blades to cut her in half.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM. TUESDAY NIGHT

*

Looking out from behind the curtain (Olivia and Alan's point of view) we see a an empty auditorium with about 15 people at most scattered through out the first 3 rows of seats.

A judge's table sits at the front of the seats, right between the stage and the first row of chairs. An average looking, randomly chosen freshman sits in the judge's chair with a pen and paper. He is clearly being paid to be there, even though he had nothing better to do with his time.

*

*

*

(CONTINUED)

Olivia and Alan are backstage, as Milton performs his trick on stage behind them. Alan is shaking with distress, causing Olivia to stress.

OLIVIA
Are you ready?

ALAN
Do I have a choice?

OLIVIA
You can do this. You saw the flyer.
You were made to do magic. You can
do it. You sent me back 30 years! I
think you can beat some dinky
little kid named Milton.

A very weak crowd claps. That's Alan's cue. He takes a deep *
breath and walks on stage.

ALAN
Today I will be cutting my
assistant in half. I would like to
welcome my lovely assistant, Olivia
to the stage.

Olivia walks on stage wearing a sparkly tight red dress.
Something she would only wear because shes so desperate to
get home. She wheels out a BIG WOODEN BOX, with BLADES on *
top.

ALAN
Now I will ask Olivia to step into
the box as I continue to cut her in
half using these 3 blades.

Olivia looks at Alan for reassurance. She WINKS at him. *

Olivia steps into the box as Alan continues to put the
blades through her. This is an illusion that they were
working on all week. It runs smoothly without a hitch. *

Olivia and Alan take a bow and walk off stage while the
judge deliberates.

Backstage Olivia runs into Alan's arms to hug him.

OLIVIA
You did it!

Olivia looks at Alan and finally "sees" him. It's as if Alan *
is a new person to her. Everything else around them *
disappears and the only thing either one of them is aware of *
is each other. It's "magic". *

(CONTINUED)

The moment is interrupted when they hear the judge say he ready to announce the winner. Reality hits and Alan puts Olivia down. *

They are still holding hands, anxiously waiting. *

JUDGE

The winner is Alan. Congrats. Now wheres the \$10 I was promised for doing this stupid thing.

Steven scowls in the corner. *

STEVEN

The box is backstage. I guess it's yours now.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL GYM. WEDNESDAY NIGHT *

Olivia and Alan dance in a high school gym, decorated with red, white and black balloons to represent the school colors.

Tables are set up all around with black red and white table cloths and there is a long buffet table set up with homemade baked goods and a big punch bowl at the end.

Olivia looks flawless in the short blue dress that was hanging in the window of the dress shop. *

OLIVIA

Well I never saw this happening.

ALAN

What do you mean?

OLIVIA

When I walked into your show that night I just wanted free drinks and a good laugh. I never thought I'd be going back to high school.

ALAN

Well you're going back tomorrow.

OLIVIA

Ya, but this was definitely an interesting couple of days.

Olivia and Alan dance the night away . They look so happy that you would never know Olivia was there as part of a deal.

(CONTINUED)

CUT TO *

Olivia and Alan stand in a CROWD OF PEOPLE. They watch the
HOMECOMING KING AND QUEEN get crowned. *

ALAN

You held up your side of the deal.

Now its my turn.

The two of them walk out of the gym holding hands, looking
as if they had been going to dances like this together their
whole lives. *

INT. ALAN'S LIVING ROOM. NIGHT

Alan's living room still looks the same, but weirdly
different. The furniture is still moved from when they were
practicing.

The only difference is now, in the center of the room, sits
this big magical box. The box seemed so much more important
now. Nothing in the room mattered as much as this box. *

ALAN

Well I guess this is it.

OLIVIA

Yup. Now do you know what you're
doing.

ALAN

Well I hope so.

OLIVIA

You can do this. Just remember what
I told you before you went on
stage. Just have confidence.

Olivia quickly pecks Alan on the cheek and steps back into
the box and closes the door.

OLIVIA

(muffled from being in the
box)

Don't forget to tap the box 3
times!

Alan takes a big breath and taps the box 3 times.

INT. BOX NIGHT

All we see is Olivia surrounded by the darkness of the box again. This time the darkness holds a feeling of anticipation.

Olivia steps out of the box after what feels like forever.

INT. THE BELLAGIO HOTEL IN LAS VEGAS. NIGHT

Olivia steps out of the box onto a stage in the Bellagio Hotel, in what appears to be the Cirque Du Soleil room. Her friends are still sitting in the audience, which is giving Alan a standing ovation.

The crowd is full and Alan is taking a bow on stage.

ALAN

I would like to thank my lovely
assistant, Olivia for helping me
with this trick.

*

Alan reaches out for Olivias hand to help her out of the box and down the stairs. When their hands meet Alan turns and whispers something to her.

ALAN

Its all an illusion.

He winks.