



Inside Ed's Head

Written by Ed Hass

Edited by Sal Mannuzza

September 2020

Strike Three, Part 2

(and More on *The Paradigm Shift, Volume One*)

Recap

Last month, we had a spectator cut the deck in half and look at the card he cut to. We placed it in the middle of the other half. We asked him to guard this half by putting his finger on it.

This month, he will help you choose three “random” cards you will use to reveal the identity of the card he is so diligently guarding. Let’s say the selection is the Five of Diamonds.

The three cards on top of the packet you are holding are the selection, a card of the same suit as the selection, and a card of the same color.

Method

Tell the spectator that even though the cards are in a random order, shuffling them some more will let the deck tell you what his card is. Explain that, with his help, you’ll create three piles that will help with the revelation.

Begin an overhand shuffle by shuffling the top card into your left hand. Now, as your right hand approaches the left to take the next card, the first card is replaced on the bottom of the deck. Think of this as sort of a Biddle Move from an overhand shuffle. Now shuffle the third card off and then start shuffling normally.

If you find this hard to do, the second-best way to get into this position is to shuffle the top card into the left hand and throw the entire deck on top of it. Immediately upon releasing the deck from the right hand, retake it in the overhand shuffle grip and shuffle the next two cards into the left hand.

As you start the shuffling, ask the spectator to call “Stop,” anytime during the shuffle. You should have almost half the packet shuffled off as you finish the sentence. If he tarries, start shuffling off cards one at a time,

slowly. He should get the point. When he stops you, place the cards in your *right hand* onto the table, to your right.

Position Check: The bottom card of the packet you are holding is the second card of your setup. The third card is directly above it. The selection is on the bottom of the tabled packet. Start the next shuffle sequence with a Milk Shuffle. This means simultaneously taking the top and bottom cards of the packet into your left hand as the opening “chop” of the shuffle. You accomplish this by applying light pressure with your left-hand thumb and fingers as your right hand lifts the rest of the cards as the first “chop.” Surprisingly, this move is harder to do with a small packet than with a full deck. The left-hand thumb and fingers need to have sufficient friction to retain the top and bottom cards. The right hand needs enough friction to be able to withdraw the rest of the cards.

Remind the spectator that he should stop you as you shuffle. When he does, place your right hand’s cards to the left of the first packet and the left hand’s cards to the left of all. You are now ready for the revelation.

Michael changes Simon’s presentation here—for the better, I believe—he turns one effect into two.

Tilt the packet to your left so only you can see it. Say, “This card tells me your card is red. Is that correct?” The spectator will agree. Lift the center packet similar to the first and say, “This card tells me your card was a diamond. Is that correct?” Again, he must agree.” Lift up the right packet and say, “This packet tells me your card is a Five. Your card must be the Five of Diamonds. Is that right?” Your spectator should be amazed that you got the card right. This effect is astonishing. Effect #2 is coming next—it’s a killer.

Say, “It’s amazing what just happened.” Turn the packet on the left face-up, as you continue. “This card told us your card is red. *It is a red card!*” Turn over the center packet and say, “This told us your card is a diamond. *It is a diamond.*”

And now, the coup de grace. “What’s remarkable is that not only did this card tell us your card is the Five of Diamonds . . .” Turn over the last packet. “. . . *it is the Five of Diamonds.* How the deck managed to do that is beyond me.”

Besides making the trick easier to perform, Michael has turned it into a closer. The spectators no longer have to do the mental gymnastics to realize what has happened. First, the spectator has heard (but not seen) that the deck has somehow revealed the name of his card to the performer. He might doubt that the cards they helped shuffle to are actually the cards

that were named. Then, bam! You show the first two cards—they are as claimed. He is now ready to believe he will see one of the other fives—but no, he sees a card that was definitely under his hand a moment ago. This is an amazing surprise.

I hope my description of this trick tempts you to try it. Regardless of your decision, I recommend you read *The Paradigm Shift, Volume One* to learn the patter Michael uses to add to the entertainment as he performs this trick. Actually, regardless of anything I've written, you should buy Michael's book. Wait, that's not correct—you should buy *many* of Michael's books.

My First Book Review

Let's talk about *The Paradigm Shift, Volume One*. When you buy it, you'll be offered two files, one in PDF format and the other in EPUB format. You may download either or both.

The EPUB format can be read via many different eBook readers on diverse platforms. More to my liking, you can convert the EPUB file to a MOBI file, which is readable on a Kindle device or on any other type of device that can run the free Kindle app. I can read it on my desktop computer in my office, on my Samsung Galaxy tablet in the bedroom, or on my Kindle Fire when I'm practicing on my dining room table.

The PDF comes in at 256 pages. The Kindle app doesn't show page numbers—I guess that because you can change the font size, the concept of page number has less relevance.

Both the PDF and the EPUB have a Table of Contents that links directly to the page in question. (Another advantage for the digital format.) I'll just mention a few of my favorite items. I'll stop when I hit 1500 words.

A Tale of Two Systems. This item, and several following it, are required reading. It gives us information about the workings of the human brain that we can use to fool them. Now, even though many of us, over time, have developed our routines in a way that is congruent with this information, actually *knowing it* will be helpful the next time you create a new routine. It will also help you analyze your older routines; you might find ways to improve them.

The Chaotic Cross-Cut Force. I've previously mentioned that I've successfully fooled laymen with the Cross-Cut force for most of my seventy-four years. But it won't fool magicians. This version very well might. We all love fooling other magicians, right? This might help you in that regard.

The Verdase Break, The End Tap Palm. The Verdase Break is a virtually invisible break that is far more versatile than the thumb break. It also allows you to do a quick and easy Palm into right-hand Gambler's Flat Palm. It works with one or several cards. Michael includes a link showing him use it as a color-change. If I hadn't just tipped it, it would fool you.

The Slip Shoddier Shuffle, The Shoddy Rosetta Shuffle. The former can set you up for a Zarrow shuffle or the Rosetta. The false Rosetta shuffle is an incredibly fair looking sleight.

In Praise of the Lift Shuffle. A versatile false overhand shuffle that can control the top stock, the entire deck, and more. This is a must learn.

1002nd Aces in Transit. This is a reworking of Alex Elmsley's 1002nd Aces. Listen to the effect. A spectator chooses the four-of-a-kind you are to use for the effect, for example, the Queens. He then decides *which* card will be the leader. Three X-cards are placed on top of it and all are placed in the spectator's hand. The other three queens are lost in the deck. Yet, they all end up in the spectator's hand. Michael makes this a lesson on "in-transit actions."

The Casino Inspector. The deck is shuffled (you can have the spectator do it). You further mess up the deck by turning cards face up and face down. Yet, the deck is magically righted. Then four poker hands are dealt—all Royal flushes. Then the magician produces the four nines. Finally, the rest of the deck is dealt out—eight to two in suit order. I don't normally do gambling routines but I'll do this if there's ever another magic club meeting.

I should point out that this book leans more to sleights, misdirection, and presentational ideas than tricks. There are about seventy pages devoted to tricks other than the "Not a Chance" variations.

In summary, this is a book by a card man who does *magic*! I recommend it to anyone who aspires to do the same.

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