

FUNERAL MAGICIAN

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Character List: Mrs. Chauncey, Mr. Chauncey, Funeral Director, Lloyd Riggles

INT - FUNERAL HOME - DAY

A FUNERAL DIRECTOR sits at a desk, across from a grieving couple, MR. and MRS. CHAUNCEY. They are somberly going through a catalogue of services.

FUNERAL DIRECTOR

An excellent choice, Mrs. Chauncey. The mahogany and satin coffin is our most refined model, and based on what you've told me about your dear late mother, I believe she would have approved.

MRS. CHAUNCEY

(Dabbing her eyes but smiling)
Thank you. She did have high standards.

The funeral director closes the catalogue and steeples his fingers.

FUNERAL DIRECTOR

Now before we move onto the flowers, I should mention one thing that sets Riggles Funeral Parlor apart from the rest is our Magician's package.

The Chaunceys freeze in confusion.

MR. CHAUNCEY

Your what?

FUNERAL DIRECTOR

Perhaps this is a good time to introduce you to Lloyd Riggles, the owner's son.

(calling offstage)
Lloyd! Could you come out please?

LLOYD comes onstage and stands beside the funeral director. He wears a long cape and a top hat and white gloves. His voice is uncomfortably loud for a funeral home.

LLOYD
 Good evening, ladies and gentlegerms!
 I'm The Amazing Lloyd! Are you ready
 for an evening of world-class magic
 and mystery?

MRS. CHAUNCEY
 I'm confused, are you a magician?

FUNERAL DIRECTOR
 (wincing)
 And the owner's son.

LLOYD
 You don't get a lot of magicians at
 funerals, but I got the idea while I
 was at a birthday party!

Lloyd does one of those card-spring flourishes from hand to hand once. He does it a second time, but then all the cards fall to the floor. Undeterred, he scoots them under the table with his feet.

MR. CHAUNCEY
 (impressed, despite himself)
 Nice!

MRS. CHAUNCEY
 ...But why?

Lloyd pulls out another deck of cards and fans them out, face up.

LLOYD
 (To Mr. Chauncey)
 Pick a card, any card!

MRS. CHAUNCEY
 The cards all face up.

LLOYD
 Well, well--it looks like we've got a
 skeptic in the audience!

MRS. CHAUNCEY
 I'm not a skeptic, I just don't think
 guessing a card you saw counts as
 magic.

LLOYD
 I'm sorry, I couldn't hear you, I must

have something in my ear!

Lloyd leans to the side and pulls out a quarter magically from his ear.

MR. CHAUNCEY

Wow, so cool!

MRS. CHAUNCEY

(to the funeral director)

You're telling me that at some point during the service, a bad magician is going to come out and perform parlor tricks?

FUNERAL DIRECTOR

Lloyd usually performs his routine during the reception, but he can read and is available to host the service as well.

LLOYD

The real magic is the written word!

MR. CHAUNCEY

That's deep.

MRS. CHAUNCEY

I hate this.

LLOYD

I know what'll cheer you up, Susie Skeptic! How about a beautiful bouquet of flowers?

Lloyd demonstrates that there's nothing up his sleeves, and then whoosh: a bouquet of roses appears in his hand. He hands it to Mrs. Chauncey, who just stares angrily at it. He wiggles it suggestively.

MRS. CHAUNCEY

(To the funeral director)

I don't want a magician anywhere near my mother's funeral.

FUNERAL DIRECTOR

Might you reconsider, Mrs. Chauncey? We can offer a discount since you've decided to go with the mahogany and satin casket.

LLOYD
That's the one I do tricks in!

FUNERAL DIRECTOR
Lloyd can actually saw your mother in
half and then put her back together.

LLOYD
Presto!

MR. CHAUNCEY
I want to see!

MRS. CHAUNCEY
Absolutely not! This is going to be a
traditional funeral, with flowers and
pall bearers and no magic!

FUNERAL DIRECTOR
Understood, Mrs. Chauncey.

LLOYD
Looks like someone wants to take the
"fun" out of funeral!

FUNERAL DIRECTOR
Before I send Lloyd back to his room,
might I discuss one other package that
sets us apart from other funeral homes
in the area: our live petting zoo.

LLOYD
It's got a rabbit that lives in my
hat!

MRS. CHAUNCEY
(Staring hard at the funeral
director. it's unclear what she's
thinking)
I guess mother did love animals.