

55. QUADRUPLE COINCIDENCE

This card trick may sound long and complicated, but actually it is a very easy trick to perform. It is a favorite of George Starke's, the magician lawyer.

PRESENTATION AND EFFECT

The performer produces two packs of cards, retains one and hands the other to the spectator. The performer now instructs the spectator that success or failure of this experiment depends upon being able to follow out orders, and should the spectator fail to follow orders, the trick cannot possibly work.

The performer states that he is going to shuffle his deck, and instructs the spectator to shuffle the deck he holds.

The performer instructs the spectator merely to think of a card, and the performer does likewise.

The performer and spectator now exchange packs.

The performer requests the spectator to remove the card he thought of from the pack, and the performer does the same. The spectator is now instructed to place the selected card on top of the pack he holds; the performer does the same. The performer instructs the spectator to cut the cards under the table so that there will be no possibility of knowing the whereabouts of the selected card; the performer does likewise.

Packs are now brought into full view again, and the performer and spectator exchange packs.

The performer instructs the spectator to look through the pack he is now holding and remove his mentally selected card. The performer does the same with the pack he holds.

The performer instructs the spectator to turn over the selected card, and he does the same. Both cards are found to be identical.

The performer now instructs the spectator to place his deck of cards on the table, to cut off about three-quarters of his deck, and to place the cut portion to one side. The performer does likewise with the pack he is holding.

The performer instructs the spectator to pick up the smaller packet and to count the cards one at a time face down onto the table. The performer does the same with his own smaller packet. At the end of the count the performer calls out the number of cards he counted, and asks the spectator for his total. To the spectator's surprise, both counts are identical.

The performer instructs the spectator to pick up his smaller packet of cards and place them criss-cross on top of the larger packet of cards. The performer does the same with his cards.

The performer now requests the spectator to turn over the top card of the smaller packet, and he does likewise with his own deck. Another surprise, both cards are identical.

The performer now requests the spectator to lift off the smaller packet of cards from the remainder of the deck and put it to one side. The performer does likewise. The spectator is instructed to remove the top card of the remaining cards (larger packet), and the performer does the same. Again the cards prove to be identical.

THE SECRET

The performer hands the spectator a pack and retains one pack himself, with the instructions that each is to shuffle his own deck. However, the performer, while the spectator is busy shuffling his cards, has stopped shuffling and is secretly noting and memorizing the top and bottom cards of the pack he holds. Often the performer has difficulty remembering the two cards, therefore it is suggested that he previously place certain cards on the top and bottom of the deck he is to retain. For example, he may place the ace of spades on top and the 2 of diamonds on the bottom. Then he should use a riffle shuffle and not disturb the position of the top and bottom cards. For better understanding of this trick, let's use the example above and assume that the performer has the ace of spades as top card and the 2 of diamonds as bottom card of his deck. Now the spectator and the performer each thinks of a card.

The performer and spectator now exchange packs.

The performer now instructs the spectator to do exactly as he does. The spectator is told to remove the card he thought of from the deck he now holds. While this is taking place the performer secretly places the 2 of diamonds on the bottom of his pack. The performer then re-

moves the ace of spades, the same card that is the top card of the deck the spectator now holds.

The performer now requests the spectator to place his chosen card on top of the deck he is holding, and the performer does the same (performer puts ace of spades on top of his pack).

The performer requests—so that there be no possibility of either the spectator or himself knowing the whereabouts of the chosen cards in the deck—that each put his deck under the table, cut the deck, complete the cut, and square the pack. Actually, the performer goes through the gesture of cutting the cards under the table but leaves the pack exactly as it was before, with the ace of spades on top and the 2 of diamonds on the bottom.

Bringing the cards into full view again, the spectator and performer exchange decks.

The performer instructs the spectator to fan the cards out and remove his mentally selected card and put it face down on the table, and announces he will do the same. However, the performer removes the card that lies between the ace of spades and the 2 of diamonds, which is the spectator's card.* At the same time, the performer cuts the pack he is holding so that the ace of spades will be on top and the 2 of diamonds on the bottom of the deck.

The performer instructs the spectator to place his pack face down on the table, and he does likewise with the pack he holds. He now instructs the spectator to turn over both cards on the table. They are found to be identical.

The performer instructs the spectator to cut off about three-quarters of his deck and place the cut portion aside. He does the same. The performer tells the spectator to count the number of cards in the smaller packet onto the table one at a time, placing each dealt card on top of the previously dealt card. The performer does the same. Actually, while pretending to count his cards, the performer is counting the spectator's cards as they are being dealt. So when the performer states how many cards are in his smaller packet, he calls out the spectator's total instead. The spectator calls the same number. Quite a surprise!

The performer now requests the spectator to place his smaller packet criss-cross on top of the remainder of the deck, and he does likewise. Each turns over the top card of the smaller packet, and both have the same card. It will be the 2 of diamonds, originally on the bottom of each deck.

The performer requests the spectator to cut off his smaller packet from the rest of the deck and place it to one side. Then he is told to turn over the top card of the larger packet, and the performer does the same. Both cards again prove to be the same.