

Florida Man Claims Magic is Real and Commits Uxoricide

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DOWNTOWN MIAMI, FLORIDA

A redheaded wizard sits at her booth, located far inside an alleyway behind a popular bar. The booth itself is presentable, at least compared to a 9-year old's lemonade stand. The WIZARD sits, slumped over in her chair, and is peeling and deseeding a pomegranate, the red juices staining her fingers. Above the booth hangs wine-colored lights, adding a whimsical feel to her shop. SEAN, adorned in an unbuttoned and lightly wrinkled grey suit with a loose tie, stumbles into the alley and walks to the stand. He smells lightly of alcohol and appears visibly upset.

SEAN

(slurred)

Is this a palm reading booth?

The Wizard looks up and points at the sign on booth, annoyed. The sign reads, "Palm Reading."

WIZARD

Is it?

SEAN

Well, can you read my fortune?

WIZARD

Well, it's five minutes from closing, so it'll cost you extra.

The Wizard shows her pomegranate-stained hands to Sean.

Sean gently places his hands in the Wizard's. They're cold and kind of gross, but the Wizard doesn't mind. Sean interlaces his fingers with the wizard's. He smirks.

SEAN

You can hold a lot more than these hands 😊.

The Wizard is visibly repulsed, especially seeing the ring on his left ring finger.

WIZARD

(disgusted)

That comment right there will cost ya another 20. Alright, let's take a look.

The Wizard closely inspects the man's hands.

WIZARD

Alright. Your whole family is gonna die. Soon.

SEAN

(shocked and confused)

What?

WIZARD

That'll be 50.

SEAN

(shocked and confused)

What?!

WIZARD

I normally charge 25 but it's 5 extra for coming so close to closing, and 20 extra for the shitty flirting—aren't you married?

The Wizard nods towards the ring.

SEAN

What do you mean my whole family is going to die?!

WIZARD

You heard me. The lines say it. Take it up with your hands if it bothers you that much. Now pay. This is a respectable business.

Sean pays the Wizard. Distraught, he wobbles back down the alleyway to the front of the bar. He notices pomegranate juice staining his palms. Drunk, he ignores it.

SUBURBS OF MIAMI, FLORIDA

Sean stumbles into his home around 11 P.M. to find AMAIA doing work on the dining table. He carries his jacket in one hand, and briefcase in the other. His kids are upstairs. Amaia quickly glances up at Sean, taking her eyes off her computer for a mere 2 seconds.

AMAIA

I didn't realize you were working late today. But then again, I didn't realize I'd pay for your drinking habits either.

Sean puts down his jacket and briefcase with a THUD.

SEAN

Is Carmen asleep?

CARMEN enters from the shadows.

CARMEN

What do you think? Asleep
before the useless man who
married my wonderful daughter
comes home? Sounds like a
missed opportunity.

Sean takes a seat at the dining table.

SEAN

Well, I'd prefer you berate me
when I'm not sober, so have at
it.

Amaia continues to work, never looking away from
her computer.

AMAIA

Have you eaten yet? There's
dinner in the fridge.

SEAN

I'm good.

CARMEN

Good at what? You're still a
breathing nuisance aren't you.

Sean dismisses the comment and turns his
attention to Amaia.

SEAN

The other guy had connections.
I would too...

AMAIA

I'm not gonna get you a
promotion. Is your job not
enough of a handout?

CARMEN

Are you not ashamed of taking
everything from my daughter?
You need her to get you a
decent job too?

SEAN

That's not what I meant.
Everyone has connections, it's
just business.

AMAIA

I thought you said you were
tired. Say goodnight to the
kids before you sleep,
please.

Amaia waves a hand at him, eyes still glued to
her computer screen. She dismisses Sean.

SEAN

I know.

Head down, Sean leaves.

MIAMI SUBERBS, SEAN'S HOUSE

Sean wakes up the next morning on a large couch
in the living room. No one else is awake. He
heads upstairs to his bedroom, where Amaia is
sleeping. He brushes his teeth, showers, and puts
on the same suit he had on last night.

SEAN

(quietly)

It's not that wrinkled, I can
wear it another day.

Sean notices a small red stain on the arm of his
suit jacket. It smells strongly of alcohol and a
bit like pomegranate.

SEAN

OH crap. The palm reader! My
whole family is gonna die!

Sean pauses.

SEAN

Man, I should really stop
drinking, I can't just believe
anyone who works behind a bar.

Sean pauses again.

SEAN

Man, I can sure go for a pina
collada.

Sean runs out the front door and gets into his
car. He drives to the Hidden Palm Bar. Upon
exiting the car, he sees the Wizard passed out on
the curb, with a bottle of alcohol in her hand.
Sean parks his car (halfway on the curb), runs
over to the curb, and shakes the Wizard awake.
She smells of alcohol.

WIZARD

(slurred and loud)

I'm sorry I made your ears grow
instead of your brain!!!

The Wizard wakes up, and accidentally smacks
Sean. She looks at him for a second, realizing
where she is.

WIZARD

Oh, it's you. The shitty flirt.

SEAN

About last night, do you
remember the fortune you gave
me?

WIZARD

Dude, I was passed out on the
curb just now. Do you think I
remember anything at all?

SEAN

(exasperated)

You know, last night when you read my palm and told me my entire family was going to DIE?!!!!?

The Wizard pauses to recollect her thoughts.

WIZARD

Oh yea. What do you want me to do about it?

Sean holds his palm out to her, eyebrow raised.

SEAN

I want another reading. Just to be sure.

The Wizard grabs Sean's outreached hand and studies his palm. In the daylight, she notices the dark-red color staining her fingers. A pomegranate peel sits on the ground beside her.

WIZARD

Your palm...

Her eyes widen in realization. She looks back at the pomegranate peel on the ground and red on her fingers.

WIZARD

(under her breath)

Shoot.

SEAN

What was that? Is my family really gonna die?!

WIZARD

(cautiously)

Uh yes. Sorry, I'm just the messenger.

(confidently)

If you have a problem with that, take it up with the universe.

Sean rips his palm back and holds it against his chest. A range of emotions appears on his face. He swiftly walks out of the alley and into his car.

The Wizard watches him walk off before looking down at the half empty jar of tips. She can't remember when it was last full.

WIZARD

YOU FORGOT TO PAY!

(to herself)

Did I just scam someone?

The Wizard pauses.

WIZARD

Well, it's not a scam if it comes true in the end, is it?

MIAMI SUBERBS, SEAN'S HOUSE

Sean drives through the streets of Miami, distraught. He fails to notice the Wizard in a small dingy car that seems to only be held together by duct tape and prayer following him. Sean drives home and parks in the garage. The Wizard continues driving up and down his street conspicuously. The Wizard stops right outside Sean's house. Carmen walks out of the house and walks into the street toward the mailbox. Carmen notices the Wizard, walks up to the car and knocks on the driver's side window, mail in hand.

CARMEN

Hello, are you lost? There are some officers stationed nearby, I can call them for you.

WIZARD

HUH.

The Wizard slams the gas in a frenzy and drives away, breaking the speed limit. The Wizard's side mirror hits Carmen, who falls over and hits her head on a curb. The Wizard notices blood pooling behind her car and continues driving. A few minutes later, Amaia walks out of the house in her business suit upon hearing the racket outside. She sees her mother Carmen laying on the street, runs up to her, takes her pulse, and noticing nothing, screams.

AMAIA

;NO Mamá! SEAN! SEAN GET OUT HERE!

Sean sprints out of the house, eyes landing on Amaia and Carmen's dead body. He stares.

SEAN

(panicked)

What happened!?

AMAIA

I don't know! I came outside and saw her on the street.

She's not breathing! Call 911.

Sean calls 911, and 15 minutes later a police car and an ambulance are parked outside their house. OFFICER 1 and OFFICER 2 converse with Amaia and Sean while Carmen's body is covered and placed into a body bag.

AMAIA

(sobbing)

So, I walked outside to check on my mother because she was taking too long, but she was lying on the ground and there was a lot of blood!

Amaia pauses.

AMAIA

Officers, please find out what happened!

Officer 1 lowers his cup of coffee.

OFFICER 1

Of course, ma'am. But, you know, your mother is really old, and it's entirely possible she just fell over and hit her head.

AMAIA

(shocked and angry)

No. My mother was healthy, but her personality has made her a lot of enemies. Somebody must have hurt her! This has to be foul play!

Sean pauses and reflects on the Wizard's fortune.

SEAN

Yeah, I think you should look into it.

OFFICER 2

(pulling out a notepad)

Sure! I'll take a look at it.

Again, I'm sorry for your loss.

The ambulance with Carmen's body drives away. The police officers leave soon after.

MIAMI SUBERBS, SEAN'S HOUSE

Sean and Amaia sit on opposite sides of a couch in their living room. They both call off work that day. Amaia cries quietly while Sean calls into his kids' school.

SEAN

(on phone)

Hello, I'm Sean Scott Reyes and I'm just calling in about my son and daughter. We have a family emergency and I need them to come home.

SCHOOL OFFICE LADY

Oh hello! We were about to call you about your kids. They never showed up to school today. Is everything okay?

SEAN

Uh, that's weird, they drove to school this morning.

Sean calls both of the kids and receives no response.

SEAN

I can't believe they're playing hooky today.

Sean keeps trying to call his children well into the evening.

Sean hears a knock on the door.

Sean hangs up his calls and walks towards the door. Officer 1 and Officer 2 stand before him, somber.

SEAN

Uh, hi again. What do you need?

OFFICER 1

Hello Mr. Reyes. I'm sorry but we have some bad news for you.

SEAN

What happened? Did something come up with Carmen?

OFFICER 1

We found a vehicle registered under your name in Lake Harris. Witness reports say their car was run off the highway by a tiny, beat-up car, which swerved to avoid a deer. Unfortunately, both of your kids were in the car and despite our efforts, they couldn't be saved.

Sean goes rigid.

SEAN

(forced)

Thanks for letting me know.

Sean closes the door and heads back inside. Amaia seems to have overheard the conversation, and her sobs turn into wails. Sean (quite understandably) takes some time to grieve.

MIAMI SUBERBS, SEAN'S HOUSE, KITCHEN

Sean and Amaia sit in silence for a while on their kitchen floor.

SEAN

(distracted)

I'm sorry, this is my fault.

AMAIA

(also distracted)

What do you mean? How is this about you? My mother and both our children just died!

SEAN
Well... I knew they were gonna die. I just didn't believe it myself.

AMAIA
(angrily)
How did you know they were going to die?!

SEAN
Sigh I went to this palm reader last night, and she told me our whole family was gonna die. It was in the lines.

Sean holds up his palm.

AMAIA
A palm reader?

Amaia pauses.

AMAIA
Seriously? Why the fuck didn't you tell me this?

SEAN
I thought it was a scam, I mean, who believes that stuff?

AMAIA
(furious)
Well, it clearly wasn't!

Amaia storms off, while Sean stays on the kitchen floor.

HIDDEN PALM BAR

Amaia sits at the bar with a drink in hand. Sean is nowhere to be seen. The Wizard approaches her, sits down next to her, and orders a drink.

WIZARD
Rough day, huh?

AMAIA
My mother and children just died.

The Wizard pauses.

WIZARD
I'm sorry, that's unfortunate.

AMAIA
What for? It's not like you killed them.

Amaia laughs.

The Wizard feigns a chuckle.

WIZARD
I'm sure it can't get worse than this.

The Wizard pauses.

WIZARD
I happen to be a palm reader,

so I can check. Free of charge, friend discount. Just follow me.
Amaia and the Wizard go to the palm reading booth. Amaia sits down. The Wizard takes Amaia's hands into hers and starts scanning her palms.

AMAIA
Y'know what's funny? My husband had his palm read and he was told his whole family was gonna die. He didn't believe it himself, and I wouldn't have believed him, given that he's such a drunk. But alas, I guess the lines didn't lie.

Amaia chuckles.

AMAIA
This is actually his favorite bar -
Both the Wizard and Amaia have a moment of realization.

AMAIA
Oh my god, it's you!

WIZARD
This'll sound really bad, but I have to kill you now for my professional integrity. I'll make it quick.

The Wizard rushes for a brick in the corner and swings in Amaia's general direction. It takes a few hits before she lands a killing blow.

ALLEY BEHIND HIDDEN PALM BAR

The Wizard tries to dump Amaia's body in a nearby dumpster but lacks the upper body strength to do so quickly. Sean passes by, intending to get himself a drink, but sees the crime in action.

SEAN
Amaia? What the hell have you done to my wife?!

WIZARD
Evanescet reseto!
A puff of smoke appears, but nothing else occurs.

WIZARD
Shit, guess I'll have to kill you now too! Interitus morietur!
A dandelion growing out of the pavement breathes its last and decays.

WIZARD
Ignis Ingurgito! This is for the shitty flirting!

A light in the booth explodes, causing the booth to collapse. This causes some bystanders to flee and call the police. A nearby streetlamp bursts into flames.

WIZARD

Lacunae stiriaque impexis!
This is for not paying me the
second time!

A barrage of icicles fly at Sean. Some graze him, but most melt due to the hot Florida weather. Sean is sufficiently spooked at this point.

SEAN

I-I'm sorry for flirting with
you!

Sean throws his fancy watch at the Wizard.

SEAN

This should cover it!

Distant police cars are audibly closing in on Sean and the Wizard.

WIZARD

Evanescet reseto!

A puff of smoke appears, but unlike last time, the Wizard is nowhere to be seen. The police arrive to a destroyed palm reading booth, a streetlamp engulfed in flames, Amaia's dead body only half hidden in a dumpster, and Sean.

OFFICER 1

M-Mr. Reyes? Put your hands
where I can see them and step
away from the body!

(through radio)

We appear to have a uxoricide
at the hidden palm bar.

Sean complies.

SEAN

I swear I didn't do it; the
palm reader is the one you're
looking for! She disappeared
in a puff of smoke!

OFFICER 1

(through radio)

Suspect appears incoherent
and delusional.

(to Sean)

Yeah, I'm real sure it was
her.

Officer 1 puts handcuffs on Sean.

PALM READING BOOTH

A week later, the Wizard sits in her (now patched up) booth behind a bar the next block over. She's

peeling and deseeding a pomegranate. Drops of pomegranate juice fall and stain the lines of her palm. She notices and realizes the juice only ever bleeds into the already-present cracks in her hand. She realizes that she fulfilled a prophecy that already existed under the impression that she believed she made a mistake.

WIZARD

Shit.