

CLOSE UP MAGIC

Written by

Liz Zhang

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

MELISSA is sitting at a table under a banner that reads "Happy Birthday Melis" while CARRIE is clearing off the wrapping paper for the birthday presents that Melissa just finished unwrapping. A group of 30 people are crowded into the tiny apartment, also celebrating the event.

MELISSA  
Aww man, this was the perfect  
birthday! Thank you so much  
everyone!

CARRIE  
We have one last surprise Melis! We  
know how much you like CLOSE UP  
MAGIC...

On cue, Prescott the Magnificent meanders through the door. The bag he is carrying momentarily gets caught on the door knob jerking him back.

MELISSA  
(excitedly)  
An magician! You guys!

PRESCOT  
Greetings!

Prescot finally frees himself from the door.

PRESCOT (CONT'D)  
(awkwardly)  
I am Prescott the Magnificent and  
you have just witnessed my first  
trick, my great escape from this  
dastardly door haha...

Prescot looks around, worry showing on his face.

PRESCOT (CONT'D)  
(to Carrie)  
This place is a little smaller than  
you described over the phone.

CARRIE  
I just kinda guessed the  
dimensions. Is it a problem? You  
shouldn't need a lot of space for  
close up magic right?

PRESCOT  
Ummmmmm... of course not. I'm just a  
little...

(MORE)

PRESCOT (CONT'D)  
uncomfortable around small spaces.  
But its okay! I can do this.

CARRIE  
Great! So we got your table set up  
right over there.

Carrie points to a table on the other side of the crowd of party guests.

PRESCOT  
Oh... right through that crowd...  
yep.

CARRIE  
Sorry, was the biggest table we  
had.

Prescot stands paralyzed for a moment. Melissa looks at him excitedly. Prescot see her excitement.

PRESCOT  
(to himself)  
OKAY! HERE I GO!

Carrie leads Prescot slowly through the crowd.

Prescot starts to get dizzy. He bumps into a party guest, spilling their drink all over the guest.

PRESCOT (CONT'D)  
Sorry!  
(awkwardly)  
But I guess I made your drink  
disappear right? Haha...

The party guest glares at him.

Prescot and Carrie finally get to the table. Prescot sets his bag down nearby and takes his place behind the table. Melissa is standing in the front center of the crowd, grinning excitedly.

PRESCOT (CONT'D)  
(panting)  
Hello! And welcome to the show! Can  
I first ask everyone to step back a  
little?

The crowd takes a step back.

PRESCOT (CONT'D)  
A bit more.

The crowd steps back a bit more

PRESCOT (CONT'D)  
Just a little bit more.

The crowd steps back as far as they can in Melissa's tiny apartment. Several people are pushed uncomfortably against the brick walls of the apartment.

Prescot produces four dimes from his pocket. He puts one coin on each corner of the table.

PRESCOT (CONT'D)  
Now, you all see the coins on the table.

The crowd is silent.

CARRIE  
Not really.

PRESCOT  
(nervously)  
Boom! Disappeared! Like magic  
haha...

Melissa giggles at the joke.

Everyone else stares back at him.

CARRIE  
Maybe if we were a little closer  
it'd be easier --

PRESCOT  
No! I mean - distance is part of  
the trick.

CARRIE  
Part of the trick is that we can't  
see the trick?

PRESCOT  
Makes MY job easier haha..

Carrie stares back at him.

Prescot picks up the coins.

PRESCOT (CONT'D)  
So for my next trick I need a  
volunteer.

Melissa nudges Carrie to volunteer. Carrie begrudgingly goes raises her hand.

PRESCOT (CONT'D)  
Great! We got one! Lets give a hand  
to the woman used a groupon for  
this gig! Haha! I'm just kidding!

The crowd is silent except for the sound of Melissa's cackling.

Carrie starts walking towards the table.

PRESCOT (CONT'D)  
That's good! Right there! Not too  
close! I'm married after all  
haha...

The crowd is silent.

Carrie stops halfway to the table Prescott is at. They are awkwardly far apart.

PRESCOT (CONT'D)  
Now, Carrie, will you hold this  
rope for me?

Prescot tosses a thin piece of rope to Carrie. The rope hits her in the face.

CARRIE  
Ah!

PRESCOT  
Sorry! Ok, now hold that rope  
taught in front of you. I am going  
to cut that rope into two pieces  
and rejoin them all while your  
holding the rope!

Prescot produces a pair of oversized scissors that require two hands from his bag. He slowly approaches Carrie with scissors in hand, his arms fully outstretched.

MELISSA  
What are you doing?

PRESCOT  
I'm going to cut the rope!

MELISSA  
Like that?

PRESCOT  
Don't worry! I've done this a  
million times.

Prescot tries to make a cut and misses a rope.

PRESCOT (CONT'D)  
Oops!

Carrie fidgets nervously.

Prescot

PRESCOT (CONT'D)  
Sorry!

Prescot makes one more attempt. He cuts off part of Carrie's  
sleeve.

PRESCOT (CONT'D)  
Oh my god! I'm so sorry!  
...but It is a bit warm in here  
haha...

Carrie glares at him.

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT - LATER

The party guests have largely left, with just a few  
stragglers behind. Carrie and Melissa approach Prescot while  
he is packing up his bag.

PRESCOT  
Sorry about the show. I thought --

MELISSA  
It was great!

PRESCOT  
Really? You must have quality-  
phobia haha...

Carrie is stonefaced. Melissa giggles.

MELISSA  
You should perform at my winter  
solstice party next week.

PRESCOT  
Oh! I'd love to! I just have a few  
questions on the number of guests  
attending...

THE END