

## Spryte – from the ‘Topias’ manuscript

*“He never saw the cards (faces)!”* – a quote from a spectator

*“I don’t know how the hell you did that?”* – another quote from a spectator

*“Where did my card go?”* – a quote from a cute, giggling, freaked out spectator

Effect: 8 cards are handed to a spectator for mixing. They are now asked to mentally choose one card. The cards are dealt face down back and forth into 2 piles. The magician drops a joker on top of a pile which he then picks up and spreads, faces towards the spectator. The spectator is asked if their card is among them. That spread is closed and dropped on top of the tabled portion, the joker is taken off the top and the process is repeated, 2 more times. After those 3 attempts at guessing the magician stares at the joker, which is then discarded. Now each card is turned face up, one at a time. Every time a card is dealt the magician looks at it and says, *“No, that’s not it.”* Once all the cards have been turned face up the spectator(s) realize the selection isn’t there at all! The magician looks up and says *“I bet you’re wondering where your \_\_\_ of \_\_\_ went.”*, naming the selection!

**Method:** Remove a joker and drop it face up on the table. Hand the spectator 8 cards for mixing, afterward instructing them to look them over and mentally choose one. If it’s a group of people a nice procedure is to ribbon spread the 8 cards on the table and look away. Nominate a person to remove any card from the spread, remember it and show it around to the others. Once the card is implanted in their brain(s) instruct him/her to put the card back anywhere in the spread then close everything up. The goal is for them to know there’s no way you can know which card they chose or where it is in the packet.

1. Without mixing the packet tell the spectator to pick up the packet of 8 cards, hold them face down and then deal them, one card at a time, back and forth, into 2 piles of (4 cards in each). Pick up the joker and drop it face up on top of either pile. Pick that pile up, revolve it face towards the spectators (the joker will be on the backside looking at you). Spread the packet and ask if the you guessed correctly, that particular group of 4 has their selection in it. Remember their response, “Yes” their card is inside that group or “No”, it isn’t. Close the spread, revolve it back face down and drop those 5 cards on the top of the other 4 cards that’s already on the table. Remove the joker off the top and place it face up on the table as you react to the either hit or miss. Each time if you pick the wrong packet act disappointed at the joker, like passing the blame or something. At least I do and it works, kind of a comedy approach I suppose.
2. Repeat step 1. a second time.
3. Repeat step 1. a third time.

**Remember:** all deals are done with the cards face down and must be of an alternating method for the principle to work. Also, no rearranging / mixing of the packet in between the deals. Make sure the spectator picks up the stack and immediately starts dealing without adjusting anything.

Yes	No	
1	2	1st deal
2	0	2nd deal
0	4	3rd deal

4. Referring to the chart to the left, add the values of the 3 deals (steps. 1, 2, 3) in accordance to the 3 answers the spectator gave. **Note: An easy mnemonic for remembering the key is, think to yourself ‘December, 2004 and visualize ‘12-20-04’. The 1<sup>st</sup> number of each pair represents ‘Yes’ answers, the rightmost ‘No’.** The sum of those 3 deals tells you how far down inside

the packet the selection now is.

- Pick up the whole stack of 8 and keeping them face down, drop them on top of the face up joker then pick all the cards up. Talk to the spectator(s) in a sense of excitement or disgust, depending on your success rate throughout the 3 dealings and guesses. You haven’t once looked at the cards, and if you guessed wrong once or twice can use it to your advantage in creating the impression you have no idea what cards they’ve selected. It’s true, you don’t know **what** card they chose, you do know however **which** card they chose. It’s at the location determined by the chart, from the top of the face down stack. Continue with the following procedure:



6. Grasp the packet in right hand biddle grip and the left thumb goes onto the top card.



7. The left thumb peels the top card off the packet and into its palm as you say *“It could be card # 1,”*



8. Continue peeling cards, counting each one out loud like in step 7. When you reach the card (selection) at the number you got from the calculation, peel it off but catch a pinky break below it (as pictured) before it falls flush.



9. The right-hand returns so the left thumb can lower to peel the next card off. The card above the pinky break (the selection) moves flush below the joker.

Exaggerated for clarity



10. The left hand moves leftward, peeling the top card off the right packet, at the same time the card (selection), is stolen underneath the joker, now gripped by the right fingers. Make sure it's flush before peeling.

Exaggerated for clarity



11. Continue peeling until you reach the joker. The selection is secretly beneath it so make sure the cards are squared as one.



12. Hold the packet slightly away from the joker as you say, “..or card # 8.” Remember, you were supposed to be counting out loud each card as you peeled them? The reason for doing that is to implant into their heads that all 8 cards are in the left hand.



13. Point your right index at the packet as you say, “It’s one of them.” Your right hand rotates naturally in the process and the selection will be looking straight at you. You can look straight at it also since it and the packet are both in the same line of sight.

14. Holding the pair look down towards it and pretend to be attempting some sort of mental communication with it, then snap your fingers. Place the face up joker w/ face down secret card on top of the deck. The selection has been secretly unloaded onto the deck. Turn the joker face down and leave it on the deck. Turn your attention to the packet and, with the right hand turn the top card face up, look at it and say, “The \_\_\_ of \_\_\_ (naming the card showing), I don’t think so.” Revolve that card face down and drop it

onto the deck. Make sure the spectators can tell that it's a single card. When I do this trick I hold the card a little above the deck and clumsily flip it downward onto it. Continue with the next card, then the next, etc., all the way through the last card. In other words when you get to the final card, don't slow down or anything, burn through it as quickly as you did with the other cards.

15. Look at the spectators with your arms crossed as you pretend to be thinking about those cards. The spectators will be reacting because their card was gone! You'll have to play it different ways at this point since it's best to work off the spectator's reactions. Sometimes I'll act surprised at their surprised reactions and let them tell me it wasn't there which I then respond with something along the line of "*Ah, no wonder I couldn't see your \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_!*", naming their selection. This further amazes them.

Enjoy, Jack E. McCoy

