

Little Beauty — Jack E. McCoy, from ‘A Book ‘O’ Tricks’

This very old idea of mine came from a very old idea of Stewart James, and I’m sure way back prior to him. It’s one of my favorite impromptu tricks, simple and clean and with good reactions.

Method: Take the deck, turn its face towards you and spread, looking for the two jokers (if jokers aren’t available use any other matching pair you deem fit). Remove them and set them onto the table **face up** and in front of the spectator. During this time gain knowledge of the card on the face and the card on the back of the deck. If they’re identical in suit or value casually cut the deck between any two contrasting cards which will bring those to the back and front once the cut is complete. Let’s say for example the back card is the jack of clubs and the face card is the 4 of diamonds. Look through the deck and up jog the two cards that match one of those card’s value and the other’s suit, and vice versa. In this case, they would be the jack of diamonds and the 4 of clubs.



Each of the 2 out jogged cards (predictions) match one card’s value and the other card’s suit (referring to the top and bottom cards of the deck).

Close the spread, remove the two up jogged cards and place them face down together onto the table. Make sure the spectator(s) don’t see their faces.

Holding the deck face down start dealing cards rapidly into a pile on the table. Tell the spectator to say “Stop”. When he does, stop dealing and tell him to place a joker **face up** on top of the tabled portion. Once he does drop the remaining cards you’re holding on top of all. Pick everything up. Start dealing again rapidly into a pile and tell the spectator to say “Stop”. Once he does tell him to place the

remaining joker **face up** at that spot. Drop your remaining cards on top of all. Either ribbon spread or pick up the cards and fairly spread, looking for the jokers. Each time you come to one remove it and the card that's directly in front of it (the card it's looking at). Place each pair (face up joker – face down card) onto the table, side by side. Remind the spectator that he had very freely chosen those two positions in the deck where the jokers were placed. Now tell him to place his finger on either face down card. Ask him if he wants to keep that card or discard it, entirely his choice. Place the card he doesn't settle on onto the deck, pick up the jokers and place them face down onto the deck and put all away or to the side. All that remains is the card the spectator has finally chosen and your two prediction cards. Say "*You had an absolute free choice of that card from the entire deck and I couldn't have had any control of it. Right? Right, it's true.*" Ask him to turn over the card. It will be one of the cards that was at the front and back of the deck in the beginning. Continue by saying "*Well I knew you'd freely choose that card. It's true, I really did! But, since there's only 1 ' _____ ' (naming his card) I had to dig for another _____ (naming the value of the spectator's selection)*" and turn over the prediction card that matches the value of his card, "*...and a _____ (naming the suit of his selection)*" as you turn over the other prediction card!

Love the moment!

Jack E. McCoy