

#1

INT. LAS VEGAS MAGIC SHOW - NIGHT

MERLIN

Welcome, one and all, to the only city in the world capable of locking me down. It's partially about the magic, partially about the sin, and all about the money.

The crowd laughs.

MERLIN (CONT'D)

Welcome to fabulous, debaucherous, *glorious* Las Vegas.

The charm the drips from Merlin's words is palpable -- this man could sell you your own underwear and make you feel like you got a deal. There's nothing cheap about it. Merlin's the real deal.

MERLIN (CONT'D)

Now, this is the part of the show where I ask you to make a decision. Do you or do you not want to believe in magic?

The once rowdy crowd is, somehow, locked in, almost as though they've been charmed.

MERLIN (CONT'D)

I'm not talking about tricks, or illusions. I mean real, gut wrenching, laws of physics and God defying *magic*. If you'd gone to see any other show tonight, you'd be schooled in the art of misdirection. Asked to look over here while I perform a trick just out of sight. If you don't want to believe in magic, and I mean real, life-altering, earth-shattering magic, then I invite you to do what my counterparts beg of you: focus on the beautiful, scantily clad men and women who serve as my assistants. Be dazzled by smoke machines and camera tricks. Follow spotlights. Close your eyes, blink as much as you can. If you're afraid, behave how you would at any other magic show.

Merlin pauses, allowing the audience a moment to decide.

MERLIN (CONT'D)

But if you want to believe in magic
-- in *real* magic -- I beg of you:
open your eyes. Keep them right on
me. And prepare yourself to
believe, for once in your tiny,
miserable lives. Believe in me.

#2

Backstage, Merlin has just finished his show to a standing ovation. He's cornered by his producer, Tris.

MERLIN (CONT'D)
Not now, Tris.

TRIS
This is the fifth night in a row
you haven't met with fans after the
show.

MERLIN
So they're learning to lower their
expectations. It's a good life
lesson.

TRIS
They paid for a ticket, it's
expected --

MERLIN
They didn't pay for me.

TRIS
Merlin...

They come up against a door, which Merlin pushes through,
bringing in the rush of casino sounds.

INT. CASINO - CONTINUOUS

TRIS
You've got to start holding up your
end of the bargain here. I can't
keep holding off drunk
bachelorettes and rabid tourists
who come to Vegas explicitly for
the chance to meet you.

They approach an elevator. Merlin presses the call button.
The elevator pops open and the two step inside.

INT. ELEVATOR - CONTINUOUS

MERLIN
Tell them I have a headache.

TRIS

They just watched you make an
elephant disappear. They don't care
if you have a headache.

MERLIN

Then tell them I have a hangover.
The ebola virus. Tell them I took a
viagra before the show and I've got
a raging hard-on the size of Big
Ben himself. I don't care.