

HAT TRICK

Written by

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TEXT ON BLACK: 'When all else fails, do the hat trick.'

CUT TO:

INT. ELEANOR'S PRIUS, STREET - DAY

ELEANOR, (20's), frazzled, clammy, goth, sits parked outside of a house in her scuffed up sedan with the A/C blasting.

KAZZAM, a white Angora Bunny, red-eyed, fuzzy, in a small cage is strapped in the passenger seat.

She looks over to the bunny. She lights a joint, blowing the smoke directly into the A/C vent. The smoke and A/C is kinda just blowing back at her and making a mess.

ELEANOR
(to herself)
Eleanor is amazing. *I am Eleanor.*
Eleanor is capable. *I am capable.*
Eleanor is a magician. *I am -*

Out of nowhere, DAN (40's), TAPS on the window, startling her. She JUMPS and SHOUTS. He signals for her to roll down her window.

ELEANOR (CONT'D)
(to herself)
Shit.

She tries shoves the joint into her cupholder to stub it out. She quickly sprays the air with Febreze.

DAN
Boo!

DAN (CONT'D)
There you are!

ELEANOR
Here I am!

DAN
Where's your dad?

ELEANOR
He died.

DAN
Oh, shit. I'm sorry.

ELEANOR
Thanks.

DAN
Like recently?

ELEANOR
Um- kinda.

DAN
Well, the apprentice becomes the
magician!

Eleanor nods.

An awkward pause. Eleanor looks over to Kazzam. It SQUEAKS.

DAN (CONT'D)
Can I help with your gear?

ELEANOR
I got it. I'll see you in there.

She rolls her window back up while Dan is still standing there.

She SIGHS deeply. Once Dan leaves we see her unpack her car with her "gear". She struggles with the gear up to the house.

CUT TO:

EXT. SUBURBAN HOME, BACKYARD - DAY

A chaotic tweenage birthday party rages on in full effect.

NADINE, Dan's wife, takes a shot of tequila with her girlfriends at the tiki bar. After being cheered on, she throws her top off, revealing a sparkly bikini underneath.

ELI, (11), Dan's son, sits at the edge of the pool, soaking his feet, sipping a "mocktail", paper umbrella tucked behind his ear.

Eleanor wheels in her gear past all the chaos, dodging drunken partygoers. Kazzam in his cage, rides in on top.

EXT. SUBURBAN HOME, POOL - CONTINUOUS

NESTOR, a big kid, does a belly FLOP into the pool, SPLASHING Eli in the face. Nestor doggy paddles awkwardly over to Eli. They look over to Eleanor.

NESTOR
Who's that chick?

They watch as she struggles to set up her magician's table. Dan attempts to help her set up. The whole thing is clumsy and taking a long time.

ELI
The magician I guess. My dad hired her. He's into this kinda thing.

NESTOR
She doesn't really seem like a magician.

Eli shrugs.

EXT. SUBURBAN HOME, BACKYARD

Eleanor gathers herself.

ELEANOR
(quietly)
Anyone in the mood for some magic?

DAN
(shouting)
Hey! Everyone! Let's get our minds blown. Eli, get over here. Nestor, you too.

Nestor, rolls awkwardly out of the pool. He's dripping with water, goggles are tightly squeezing his face.

ELI
(yelling)
Five star!!

Eli SMACKS him in the back before running to the magic table.

A small crowd gathers around Eleanor. Parents fill in towards the back.

ELEANOR
Hello everyone, I am Eleanor. The Magnificent Magician.

Nestor immediately runs back to the pool and does a giant cannon ball in the back.

NESTOR (O.C.)
CANON BALL!!!

Residual water SPLASHES on Eleanor.

RANDOM PARENT
Woah, splash zone!

She wipes water from her face.

ELEANOR
Let's start with something easy.

Eleanor fans out a deck of cards onto the table.

ELEANOR (CONT'D)
Who wants to pick a card from this
deck?

Dan nudges Eli, raising Eli's hand in the air.

DAN
The birthday boy does! Get up there
Eli!

Eli trudges to the front of her table. Nestor, soaking wet with a towel around his shorts, makes a face from the audience mocking Eli.

ELEANOR
Okay, pick a card, any card.

Eli picks a card at random.

In the audience, parents are chatting. Eleanor does a clunky card trick.

DAN
(hushed)
Her dad *just* died.

RANDOM PARENT
That's *so* sad.

DAN
Yeah. Fucked up. He was *such* a good
magician.

After some intense shuffling, Eleanor pulls a card.

ELEANOR
Is *this* your card?

ELI
No.

She grabs another card and tries again. With more of a "magic" flare.

ELEANOR
Is *this*?

ELI
No... sorry.

ELEANOR
Come on, yes it is.

ELI
No, it's not.

ELEANOR
I think you forgot which card you
had.

ELI
I think you don't know what you're
doing.

She gets close to him, almost threateningly.

ELEANOR
(quietly)
Say it was your card.

Eli looks freaked.

ELEANOR (CONT'D)
Just say it.

Eli watches her as she shuffles through the cards and hands
him another.

ELI
That's my card!

Eleanor gives a half smile and pushes him back into the
crowd.

DAN
That was insane! Mind reader!

Eli sits back down on the grass.

Nestor is sunbathing, a towel covering his eyes, his pale
body being burnt to a crisp.

ELI
Dude, she's crazy.

NESTOR
(from under the towel)
All magicians are.

Eleanor wipes sweat from her hairline where her top hat was sitting. Dan gives an encouraging nod.

ELEANOR
For my next trick, I'll need a
volunteer. Does anyone want to be
my assistant?

Nestor throws his hand up in the air from under the towel.

NESTOR
Me. I volunteer.

Eli gives a "wtf" face. Nestor ignores him.

ELI
Seriously?

ELEANOR
And we have our brave assistant!

Eleanor connects the two halves of a coffin on wheels and rolls it to the front. Nestor and Eleanor stand side by side.

Eli pulls out a cell phone to record.

ELEANOR (CONT'D)
Hi, what's your name?

NESTOR
Nestor.

ELEANOR
Nestor the brave is going to climb
into this box for us and we are
going to saw him in half!

The parents and kids CHEER.

Eleanor opens the up the coffin lid. Without asking any questions, Nestor climbs up the step-stool and squeezes into the coffin.

Eleanor pulls out a giant saw from her bag.

ELEANOR (CONT'D)
And *this* is a very sharp blade.

She runs her hands on the blade for dramatic effect. It cuts her.

ELEANOR (CONT'D)
(to herself)
Shit.

She hides her hand behind her back.

ELEANOR (CONT'D)
But don't worry, we will make this
quick and painless.

Eleanor winks at Nestor. He winks back.

DAN
SAW HIM!

More cheers.

She takes a deep breath before taking the blade to the box.

ELEANOR
On the count of three. Stay very
still.

She stares into the audience for dramatic effect.

ELEANOR (CONT'D)
One... two...

NESTOR & ELEANOR
Three.

Eleanor begins sawing back and forth vigorously.

NESTOR
Ahhhhhhhhh! It hurts soooo bad.

He's smiling ear to ear. From the audience, Eli gives a thumbs up.

The blade does not glide easily. She uses some force. After one forceful SLASH...

Nestor's SCREAMS turn from loud to gut wrenchingly terrifying. He is seething with pain. Parents are amazed by his performance.

DAN
He's so good. Wow.

NESTOR
Oh my fucking god!

UNCLE MICK
Heyoo!

ELI
Is he okay??

Eleanor pulls out the blade and it's covered in blood. She looks at it in shock. Nestor sees the blood and faints.

ELEANOR
Yes! He's fine!

Eleanor quickly stands in front of Nestor to hide him from view. The parents applaud.

ELEANOR (CONT'D)
We will come back to my assistant
Nestor in a moment to repair him!

NADINE
Another trick!

Nadine throws back another shot.

Eleanor crouches behind the table and pulls Kazzam out of it's cage. She kisses it on the head.

ELEANOR
(to Kazzam)
Please don't fuck this up.

Eleanor stands in front of the crowd holding Kazzam in her arms. OOOHS and AWES from the audience.

ELEANOR (CONT'D)
Time for my favorite trick, our
grand finale... Kazzam!

She holds the bunny up in the air before quickly shoving him into her top hat.

ELEANOR (CONT'D)
Today, I will make Kazzam disappear
and reappear.

She taps the hat with her wand.

ELEANOR (CONT'D)
Ala-kazzoom... Ala-kazzam!

Eleanor quickly spins around as part of the trick. She flips the hat upside down to prove it's empty and waves it around. She smiles.

ELEANOR (CONT'D)
See? He's gone! And now we can
bring him back!

She waves her wand around.

ELEANOR (CONT'D)
Ala-kazzoom... Ala-kazzam!

She reaches her hand into the hat, and pulls the bunny. She struggles. It's stuck.

ELEANOR (CONT'D)
(to the crowd)
One moment.

She gives one last YANK at the bunny in the hat. She raises Kazzam in the air.

Kids SCREAM. Parents are silent.

ELEANOR (CONT'D)
Ta-dah!

Blood drips onto her face from the bunny above. She looks up to see she's holding Kazzam's severed head.

ELEANOR (CONT'D)
Holy shit what the fuck.

She drops the head.

Blood starts to leak out of the coffin. Nestor wakes up and SCREAMS loudly. Eleanor throws up into her top hat.

DAN
Jesus christ. Nestor?

Dan runs over to Nestor to pull him out of the box.

Nadine walks out holding a birthday cake singing.

NADINE
Happy birthday to Eli, Happy
birthday to-

A screaming kid bumps into Nadine, knocking the cake on the floor.

NADINE (CONT'D)
What the fuck!

A kid at the party chugs a cocktail left on one of the tables.

Eli still recording on his phone.

ELEANOR
Kazzam?!

She throws up again, onto some of the kids. They SCREAM.

ELI
This is **so** insane.

Eleanor drops to the ground, crawling under the table searching for Kazzam's body. NADINE gets on the floor to help.

NADINE
(drunk)
What are we looking for?

Eleanor ignores her and keeps looking. She HITS her head on the table above her. HARD.

ELEANOR
Fuck!

DAN
(screaming)
Someone call an ambulance!

Chaos ensues.

NADINE
Is this it?

She holds up a bloody bunny body.

CUT TO BLACK.

INT. ELEANOR'S PRIUS, STREET - EVENING

Eleanor sits in her car lifelessly staring off into the distance. She's covered in blood and some vomit. Makeup smeared, she's been crying.

The body of her bunny sits inside a trash bag in the cage.

DAN (O.S.)
Yo!

Dan TAPS on her window. Again. He is also covered in blood and vomit.

Nestor is seen being pushed out in a wheel chair with gauze around his stomach. He waves at her with a smile.

ELEANOR
Is he going to be okay?

DAN

Nestor? Oh yeah. He's fine. Just a few stitches.

ELEANOR

I'm so sorry I literally have no idea what happened- I always fuck everything up. I knew I wasn't ready I just- my dad died and I wanted to do his show and I wish I hadn't but I did and-

DAN

Hey. Stop. That was the best show I've ever seen. Seriously.

Eleanor is speechless.

DAN (CONT'D)

The trick at the end. Rabbit in the hat... Epic. That's some new age magic shit.

He's counting bills. Eleanor is silent. Confused.

DAN (CONT'D)

Here ya go. And a little extra because I feel bad about your dad.

Dan hands her \$500.

DAN (CONT'D)

You have a real talent for this. It's in your blood.

ELEANOR

I do?

DAN

A hundred percent.

ELEANOR

I guess I do.

DAN

My buddy's kid is turning 12 next week I'm totally sending him your number. Oh and-

He hands her Kazzam's head.

DAN (CONT'D)

You forgot this.

She takes it. He leaves.

She sits in her car, in total shock. She sets Kazzam's head on the passenger seat.

ELEANOR
(to herself)
It's in my blood.

She smiles.

CUT TO BLACK.