

## Prologue

On the first anniversary of the seventh pandemic's final vaccination day, the world-renowned historian and curator FA-King is preparing to deliver a lecture based on one of his favorite Leonardo da Vinci paintings, 'Lisa del Giocondo.' Lisa was the wife of a wealthy Florentine silk merchant, Francesco del Giocondo. The masterpiece is globally known as the 'Mona Lisa.'

Present and waiting for the lecture to begin in the Louvre's Denon Wing are the renowned and affluent philanthropist Professor Steele, along with 104 museum curators, art critics, historians, and some members of the press.

The Denon Wing is the most popular section of the Louvre. Visitors can admire the 'Winged Victory,' the 'Venus de Milo,' and the 'Consecration of Emperor Napoleon,' along with the large-format 19th-century French paintings on the first level.

In front of the Professor stands FA-King, the world's most renowned art expert. Some people believe the acronym 'FA' means 'Fine Arts,' but his birth certificate suggests otherwise. As a teenager, FA-King could authenticate a piece of artwork just by looking at it. Later, his accuracy would be confirmed using advanced technology and scientific analysis.

FA-King discreetly nods in approval, confident that the Professor is ready for what lies ahead. As the atmosphere in the Louvre's Denon Wing becomes increasingly tense, the stage is set for an unprecedented event on the verge of an extraordinary mind. In response, FA-King discreetly nods in approval, aware he has an eclectic, educated audience.

As the lecture was about to begin, the Professor took a moment to reflect on his childhood, recalling times when he would eat lunch in his grandmother's kitchen. It was the same place where his great-grandfather proudly displayed a reproduction of da Vinci's most famous masterpiece.

Professor Steele was a child prodigy. He holds numerous international patents, including the world-renowned 'Babble Tongue' computer chip. This device has been integrated into every communication gadget worldwide. In real-time, the chipset can translate any language into the listener's primary language.

The Professor, the oldest child in his family, is proud of his academic accomplishments. He has earned several doctorates in engineering, chemistry, computer science, and mathematics.

According to the most recent 'Book of World Records,' Professor Steele is the world's highest-earning person, with his last three consecutive tax returns indicating an income of over 1.5

trillion dollars a year. However, this information is accompanied by an asterisk stating, “Assuming that he is still alive.” Like his favorite writer, Arthur Rimbaud, author of ‘A Season in Hell,’ the Professor has seemingly vanished from the face of the Earth. Still, according to his CPA (Certified Public Accountant), “there are many strange and expensive purchases that keep appearing on his balance sheet.”

Secretly, FA-King has been teaching the Professor about the most highly valued masterpieces displayed in museums around the globe.

The Professor looks down at his digital communication device, realizing that his plan will finally be executed in just twenty-four hours. The years of research, strategizing, organizing, and negotiating will culminate in a peak. Like a chess grandmaster preparing for the World Chess Championship, the Professor replays all the possible scenarios, moving and countering invisible pieces in his mind.

Extracting himself from the grid after FA-King's demise was a significant endeavor. As FA-King's benefactor, the Professor publicly noted his passing. This occurred after FA-King validated the authenticity of precious art pieces. Later that day, he caused King's limousine to explode, enabling the curator and the Professor to vanish—all part of his master plan.

The Professor refers to his demise with a Mark Twain-Samuel Clemens accent: “The reports of my death have been greatly exaggerated,” followed by a sinister laugh.

FA-King started coaching him through video calls. As a result, the Professor learned about art history, art styles, famous artists, and art museums. He realized that the world's most valuable items are not money, as many believe, but instead gold, silver, diamonds, and artworks. FA-King also taught him how to verify a masterpiece by examining the paint composition, the canvas material, the underpainting, the artist's signature, and the frame.

The Professor spent months selling art pieces to disreputable individuals and groups. Simultaneously, he began reviewing the dossiers of his acquisition teams in New York City, London, and Paris—individuals who would soon carry out his plans.

As the Professor looks down at the dossiers of his worldwide acquisition team, he chuckles while reading a reprint of an article that poses the most famous question ever asked: “If you had one SuperPower, would you prefer the ability to fly or to become invisible?”

In his weekly reports, Professor Steele discovered that his reprinted article could contain real-life information, thanks to the research conducted by his elite scientists. Recently, rumors have

surfaced about individuals who have acquired the SuperPower to become invisible or fly. Several of these claims have already been confirmed worldwide.

Similar to Roald Dahl's children's book, 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory,' Professor Steele has enlisted his potential 'chocolatiers' through a third party. The Professor offered a significant monetary reward to those who could identify individuals with SuperPower abilities. He intends to acquire the world's most valuable artwork with the assistance of these remarkable individuals. The art pieces had been pre-sold and were yet to be delivered to affluent, unscrupulous businessmen and organizations, including drug cartels, organized crime leaders, and high-stakes gamblers.

The Professor, once again, carefully examines each dossier of his newly formed acquisition teams.



## Chapter 1

### **Dossier on Paul Spence – Invisibility**

Paul Spence earned his MBA from New York University's Stern School of Business, one of the country's top-ranked universities and its most prestigious business school.

In high school and community college, Paul was a conservative teen raised in a religious environment, ranking in the top eighty-five percent of his high school class. After transferring to NYU's Stern Undergraduate Business School, he earned a B.S. in Business with a perfect GPA of 4.0.

Greenwich Village was Paul's home during the twenty-two months he lived in the NYU dorms, just a few blocks from Wall Street and Silicon Alley. Between classes at NYU Stern, Paul usually enjoyed morning coffee and a flagel, short for a flat bagel, while watching street chess players move their pieces across the squares at outdoor chess tables in the park's southwest corner.

Paul earned his MBA in Finance from NYU Stern's Department of Banking. He pursued careers in commercial and investment banking, corporate treasury, and financial services, supporting the banking infrastructure, including capital markets, bankruptcy, and corporate reorganization.

Upon graduating summa cum laude with a 4.0 grade point average, Paul Spence was offered a Vice President position at The City Investment Bank. However, the president of MT Bank wanted Paul to work for him; as a result, he became a senior investment manager at MT Bank in Jersey City, New Jersey. After six successful and profitable months, Paul was promoted to branch manager, reporting directly to the investment bank's president.

Six months later, the fastest-rising star in the investment banking world was promoted to senior regional manager at MT Bank.

On one occasion, while Paul Spence provided information to influential venture capitalists at the investment bank's regional office, the FBI and IRS stormed into his office and arrested him for bank fraud and embezzlement.

Paul's sister contacted his high school alumnus, Marcus, an African American who recently graduated from Seton Hall University School of Law in New Jersey. Marcus greeted Paul and said,

'Embezzlement is theft.' The iDictionary defines embezzlement as 'theft or misappropriation of funds that one is trusted with, or that belong to the company or employer.'

Paul's high school classmate, who is now his attorney, read, "An anonymous caller informed the Federal Reserve that MT Bank's Senior Regional Manager, Paul Spence, recently fled with \$69 billion. Additionally, the caller emailed a copy of the transactions, which ultimately ended up in a bank account in the Cayman Islands opened by Paul Spence."

Following Paul's arrest, his lawyer rehearsed every detail of his testimony and prepared him for the tough cross-examinations that would occur in federal court. At that time, the U.S. Attorney said on iBroadcast iNews, "The defendant, Mr. Spence, used his position to prey on people who trusted him. His victims were his company and their vulnerable, unsuspecting bank clients, including both elderly and young investors."

The U.S. Attorney continued, "Mr. Spence's actions have exploited his position and taken advantage of vulnerable individuals. Society will understand that people's conduct is always revealed, and their actions will face serious consequences."

The federal criminal prosecutor stated, "Mr. Paul Spence's sentence will convey a clear message to others who are considering abusing their positions of trust and the power they possess over us."

He continued, "I would like to express my gratitude for the hard work and investigative efforts of the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation Unit and the FBI."

The evidence against Paul Spence was massive and overwhelming, to say the least. Documents bearing his signature and emails were sent to his numerous victims. People were scammed out of their life savings, believing that Paul's investment opportunities would help them lead a better, financially secure life.

Someone at MT Bank exploited the institution's reputation for fraudulent endorsements, amassing billions of dollars from unsuspecting clients. The amount invested in this scheme increased, prompting an FBI Bank Fraud agent to launch an investigation. The FBI, which stands for the Federal Bureau of Investigation, referred to this banking activity as 'The King of all Ponzi schemes.' The MT Bank investment opportunity surpassed Bernie Madoff's Ponzi scheme in 2008 by over four billion dollars. All the evidence received anonymously pointed to one individual: Paul Spence, the former Senior Regional Manager of MT Bank.

In collaboration with the FBI, the IRS joined the investigation against Paul Spence through its Criminal Investigation (CI) Financial Institution Fraud Program, which addresses criminal violations involving fraud against banks, savings and loan associations, credit unions, check cashers, and stockbrokers.

Paul exclaimed, "Someone has stolen my identity. They hacked my email address and forged my signature. I am entirely innocent."

His divorced parents and sister felt embarrassed by the criminal allegations stemming from the federal prosecutions and the civil litigation in New Jersey. Consequently, they refused to recognize Paul as a family member.

The court determined that Paul Spence was not framed and sentenced him to 150 years in federal prison, along with a twenty billion dollar fine, without the possibility of parole.

As a result of this conviction, Paul Spence lost all his possessions. A government warrant compelled them to carry out 'asset seizure and forfeiture,' which included his money, house, two cars, and boat. Paul's family, friends, and co-workers shunned him and pledged never to speak his name again.

In total disbelief, his mind raced. Paul struggled to understand his predicament and started exploring his legal options to overturn his conviction.

After spending two years in federal prison, Paul was still grasping at straws. He received a visit from a Ph.D. candidate from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). The candidate wrote his Ph.D. thesis on computer forensics and reviewed the 'Paul Spence case.' He discovered that Alan Turing was the bank employee who alerted the FBI and identified Paul as the perpetrator of the Ponzi scheme.

The MIT doctoral candidate found it highly suspicious that the computer employee who reported Paul Spence to the authorities shared the same name as the individual who invented the computer.

Paul's trial lawyer, Marcus, attended their second meeting in prison and discovered that Alan Turing had orchestrated forensic cyber tricks using classified government technology. He deceived the FBI Forensics Lab and testified against computer Ph.Ds.'

Under technology patent law concerning confidential algorithms, the MIT doctoral student explained to the FBI scientists how Alan Turing orchestrated the fraudulent scheme. Several Dark

Web hackers acknowledged his exceptional hacking skills and later testified against Mr. Turing, providing a basis for reopening Paul's case based on newly discovered evidence.

Paul emailed the MIT doctoral student, expressing gratitude for his assistance and insights while vaguely promising to repay him someday.

Soon after being released, Paul Spence walked past several correctional officers who were smoking. As the fumes blew into his eyes, he teared up and blinked three times. When Paul gave the guards a well-known gesture called 'the bird,' he received no reaction, which seemed strange to him. He waved at the Uber driver to stop but got no response either. After a bird collided with his face, he blinked three times, prompting the Uber driver to stop and unlock the back passenger door. Then, he was driven to a complimentary hotel for a few nights.

At that moment, Paul realized he had obtained a SuperPower ability: he could become invisible or visible by blinking three times quickly.

An armored truck speeds up the hill as the driver, a security guard, approaches the First National Bank. Two security guards exit the back of the armored truck, tasked with delivering and collecting cash from the bank's vault. They each grab three empty deposit bags and transfer documents from the rear of the truck. As they enter the bank, they signal to the driver, who is their supervisor.

Paul Spence walks down the street, approaching the armored truck. He blinks rapidly three times and disappears. In this way, he investigates the First National Bank's vault, where he sees the two security guards each filling three bags. A few feet beyond the bank's entrance, an invisible Paul Spence watches as the guards place their cash-filled deposit bags on their backs. The bank branch manager signs the transfer receipt documents, which include details such as the number of items received, the destination, the contents of the packages, and the delivery time.

The security guards carry three heavy bags toward the armored truck, passing Paul, who stands nearby. They place each deposit bag inside the truck's rear compartment, then close and lock the doors. Moving quickly, Paul unlocks the back door of the truck's cargo area. After opening the door, he seizes all six bags filled with cash and exits unnoticed with 120 pounds of money, transporting it down the sidewalk.

He walks down the street, unnoticed and invisible, and spots an abandoned motorcycle. He secures each bag to the motorcycle frame. As he quickly touches the vehicle, the bags and the



motorcycle vanish. Meanwhile, the armored truck, accompanied by three guards, exits the bank's parking lot and proceeds down the street toward its next stop.

The two delivery security guards exit at the next bank stop and open the back of the armored truck. Astonished, the men discover that the entire cargo area is empty. All their cash bags have vanished into thin air. As the driver approaches, he notices the emptiness, which churns his stomach, causing him to vomit on the street.

Five miles away, Paul continues down the road, approaching his recently acquired trailer, which is hidden at the far end of Frank Sinatra Park in Hoboken, New Jersey. His trailer serves as a storage space for his personal belongings. Just outside the trailer, in the woods, Paul Spence blinks rapidly three times, causing both himself and the borrowed motorcycle, along with the six full cash bags, to reappear. He places each of the six bags inside his trailer for safekeeping.



## Chapter 2

### Dossier on Michele Locke – Flight

Michele's mother often told everyone, including her daughter, that her UK—specifically, the British Women's Football (soccer) team —had won the FIFA Women's World Cup Championship and the Olympic Women's Football gold medal.

Her mother's father was a well-known rugby lock who stood about six and a half feet tall. His long limbs helped him excel in lineouts and scrums, the most physically demanding positions on the field.

Since her early years, Michele has been kicking a football across the grassy fields with her athletic, finely tuned 29-year-old mother, who also serves as both her coach and opposing goalie.

At thirty-five years old, her mother dreamed of her daughter following in her footsteps. In her first year playing football, Michele's team won the championship when she was only eleven. Each team member received a large championship trophy, while Michele also won the MVP (Most Valuable Player) trophy.

Michele's team remained undefeated the following year, heading into the championship match, where she scored two goals. While Michele was kicking the ball downfield, attempting to achieve her third goal, a jealous, chubby player from the opposing team slid into her with both feet, tripping her. This caused her to fall forward and land twisted, as everyone in the vicinity heard a cracking sound. Soon after, several paramedics emerged from an ambulance. They placed Michele on a stretcher and drove with flashing lights and a loud siren to the nearest hospital. After examining her, the doctor diagnosed Michele with two broken legs.

Michele's entire life, including her relationships with her mother and friends, revolved around sports, especially football. When she became injured and was unable to play, she felt like a worthless outcast, akin to someone who should be yelling, as stated in the Bible's Leviticus, “Lepers shall cry 'Unclean, unclean.’”

After an hour, they left the hospital with X-rays taken and two leg casts applied. Michele was placed in a wheelchair, which she would use for the next eight long weeks.

Her mother continued coaching the team, leaving Michele feeling incredibly sad and sidelined. She knew she would be unable to continue her MVP football journey. Unfortunately, Michele's mother recognized that there was absolutely nothing she could do to help her daughter.

The other members of her team visited her house to sign one of her casts. The boy who injured Michele was later removed from his team. Subsequently, he stopped by to apologize to Michele.

Two weeks later, when Michele returned home, her mother revealed that her football team had won the championship trophy for the second year in a row.

Michele was excited to learn that the doctor would soon remove her casts. She could hardly endure the itchy skin beneath the plaster. Her teammates gave her the \$225 Nike Girls' Running Shoes, which made her incredibly happy and eager to use them.

During her rehabilitation, Michele's legs experienced some anticipated discomfort in her bones and joints from being immobilized for an extended period. Michele started exercising her obliques with weights. She performed deep knee bends, jumping jacks, double-arm dumbbell bench presses, frog jumps, and boxing.

Her doctors encouraged her to cycle and run on the school's track to build her endurance and strengthen her leg muscles.

Watching Michele run around the track was her junior high school girls' track coach, who said, "You have great running skills, Michele. Would you like to join the girls' track team?"

"I am not thrilled about running in competitions, as it is not something I enjoy," Michele replied, thanking her for the thought.

The track coach explained, "There are many other events in track and field that you might enjoy participating in, such as the high jump, pole vault, or shot put. There are also running and jumping events, including the long jump and triple jump. Think about it."

With her mother guiding her, she attempted each of those field events. Her favorites were the long jump and triple jump.

One day, as the girls' track coach took several students to a local competition, Michele's mother told her, "Michele, you are my main reason for waking up every day. You have made me the proudest mother in the entire world. I look forward to the day when you can stand on the Olympic podium to receive your gold medal and when the world hears our country's national anthem, just as I experienced before you were born. Every time you enter the stadium, I hope you do your absolute best, for in doing so, you make me the most honored mother in the country."

As Coach Ashley Curry runs around the track, she notices her long-time associate, Coach Locke. She asks, "Coach Locke, who is that student, and what is her distance?"

Coach Locke replies, “This is my daughter Michele, and she has just broken the high school’s boys’ long jump record.”

Coach Locke introduces them, saying, “Michele, I’d like you to meet the legendary athletic director of Loughborough University, who specializes in women’s track and field.”

Coach Locke shakes hands with Coach Ashley Curry, followed by Michele, who says, “It was a pleasure to meet an icon and one of my mother’s sports associates.”

Coach Ashley Curry asked, “Michele, could I see you attempt the triple jump?”

Michele walks to the end of the runway, takes a deep breath, and sprints toward the takeoff board while the two coaches observe.

Michelle hops, skips, and jumps, landing firmly in the sand pit.

Coach Ashley Curry hands Coach Locke the measuring tape and places it against the takeoff board. Holding the end of the tape, Coach Curry walks around the pit, positioning the end where Michele’s heel landed in the sand pit.

Coach Ashley Curry states, “According to the measuring tape, Michele’s jump is equivalent to the men’s triple jump distance at Lboro.”

As Coach Ashley Curry, Michele, and her mother walk across the track field, she says, “Based on the results I saw today, if you maintain this performance, your track and field jumping events can secure a fully funded athletic scholarship to Loughborough University.”

Michele gave her best in the horizontal jumps every day, aiming to win both the long and triple jump events. She dedicates each sprint down the runway to her devoted mother.

Standing at the edge of the jumping pit, ready to test her legs, Michele sprinted down the long runway.

During the competition, she glanced at the stands in search of her mother but was unsuccessful.

Even when she received a first-place blue ribbon in the long and triple jumps, her mother was nowhere to be found.

After a long bus ride from the track and field events, Michele’s father delivered the heartbreaking news. Her mother had been struck by a semi-truck and was taken to the hospital. She remained in a coma due to head trauma.

Her father drove Michele to the hospital, where she found her mother lying in a bed with a nasogastric tube inserted in her nose.

From that day forward, Michele remembered her mother's last words. Like audio set on repeat, Michele heard her mother saying, "I look forward to the day when you can stand on the Olympic podium as they present you with your gold medal, and the world hears our country's national anthem."

Michele replayed in her head each time, "I promise you that you will wake up and see me receiving an Olympic gold medal."

At the Summer Olympics, Michele Locke, the British long and triple jump champion, stood one hundred feet from the white plastic take-off strip of the long jump, swaying back and forth in anticipation of her third and final jump attempt.

After receiving the judge's signal, Michele raced down the runway with less than an inch in front of the strip. She jumped high into the air at an 18-degree angle, landing in the sandpit. Following the jump, the judge marked her landing spot with a spike. The two judges used a laser measuring device to verify the distance from the take-off board to the marked spot. They determined that Michele's jump measured 34.75 feet, setting a new World and Olympic record. The entire Track and Field stadium erupted in cheers.

Hannah, from Germany, awaited the judge's signal to begin. When she received the signal to start her final jump, she surged down the runway, hitting the white take-off strip perfectly. She soared through the air until gravity pulled her feet to the ground, marking her last position in the sandpit. The judges measured Hannah's jump distance from the takeoff board to the landing mark using a laser measuring device. The electronic monitors inside the Olympic Stadium alerted the audience that Hannah had jumped 35.50 feet. She was now the new Olympic long jump champion, setting a new World and Olympic record.

Michele Locke attended a British private high school, where she excelled as the top track athlete. She won first place in both the winter and summer World High School Track Championships each year. Michele continues to hold the British high school female long jump record and has also set the female triple jump record.

Her achievements and championships earned her a full scholarship to Loughborough University in the UK, which offers some of the world's top undergraduate programs in sports research, education, and development. Each year, the university awards more than 200 scholarships to UK athletes.

Inside the Paula Radcliffe Athletics Track, Michele Locke won the UK College Indoor and Outdoor Track Championships for four consecutive years, excelling in both the long jump and triple jump at various competitions, including the British University Sports Association Championships (BUSA), the University College Sports Championships (UCS), the British University and College Sports (BUCS) Outdoor Track Championship, the Commonwealth Games, the World University Track Championships, and also earned the title of College Sports Woman of the Year four times.

Her College World Track record in the long jump is 33.85 feet, and her record in the triple jump measures 64.25 feet.

In both events, Michele won the SPAR British Athletics Indoor Championship, which acts as a qualifier for the IAAF World Championships and the European Athletics U20 Championship. Her remarkable accomplishments earned her the chance to represent Great Britain at the Olympic Games.

After strategizing with her field coach, Michele took a phone call in the Olympic Village.

She heard her father's voice: "Michele, I have some great news. This afternoon, your mother awoke from her coma just in time to see you receive a silver medal on the Olympic podium. She is so proud of you that she asked me to call and give you her best wishes, as she knows you have truly done your best. Good luck tomorrow! Both your mother and I are the proudest parents in the world. We love you, and good night!"

Wearing her silver long jump medal from the day before, Michele Locke got ready to leave for her triple jump event.

Three hours later, she awaited her second jump attempt in the triple jump. Michele Locke stood at the end of the runway, poised for action. Signaled by the judge, she raced down the runway towards the take-off board. Her foot landed firmly in the middle of the strip. Michele hopped, skipped, and jumped high into the air. She landed cleanly and exited the sandpit. A judge placed a spike at her landing spot, measuring her second attempt at 66 feet, setting a new World and Olympic record.

The German jumper, Hannah, who won the gold medal in the long jump event just yesterday, awaited her final attempt at the end of the triple jump runway. The judge cleaned the sandpit and signaled Hannah to make her final effort. She sprinted down the runway, hitting the take-off board perfectly. She soared for a long-distance jump, leaping high into the air, and finally

landed far in the sandpit, where a judge had marked her final landing spot. A laser measuring device recorded her triple jump distance. The electronic monitor displayed to the packed Olympic Stadium that Hannah had jumped 66.50 feet, setting a new World and Olympic record.

Hannah raised her arms high into the air, claiming victory as the stadium erupted in cheers. Michele waited at the end of the triple jump runway while the judges raked the sandpit. Michele's tall, lean, athletic body tingled with extra energy that enveloped her entire being. She took several deep breaths, focusing on the white take-off board. After staring at it intently, she blinked several times.

With confidence and a light heart, Michele received the judge's signal to make her final attempt. Michele felt her legs tingle and feel weightless.

She swiftly races down the runway, stepping firmly on the takeoff board, and hops high into the air, traveling 30 feet. She skips into the air for another 40 feet further down the triple jump path. Lastly, she jumps higher, soaring upward beyond the sandpit. The judges are stunned. One judge places a spike in the grass beyond the end of the sandpit. The two judges measure the distance from the takeoff board to the spike using a laser measuring device. Michele Locke's final triple jump is revealed on the Olympic Stadium's large monitors as 125.5 feet. With over three hundred thousand fans in attendance, the stadium erupts in cheers, giving Michele Locke a standing ovation. She wins an Olympic Gold Medal in the triple jump, shattering both the World and Olympic records.

She even broke the men's world and Olympic triple jump records.

That day, the Olympic Stadium resounded with 'God Save the King' as the triple jump medal winners stood on the three-level podium. On the second tier, Hannah wore her silver medal. On the top tier, Michele wore her gold medal. She raised her arms in victory as the entire Olympic Track Stadium heard the British national anthem, 'God Save the King.'

*God save our gracious King!*

*Long live our noble King!*

*God save the King!*

*Send him victorious.*

*Happy and glorious*

*Long to reign over us*



*God save the King!*

Unknowingly, Michele Locke had acquired the SuperPower ability of flight.

On iBBC's 'The Daily Times,' Princess Royal Elsa represented the royal family that night. She awarded Michele Locke the UK's Olympic prize money for her gold and silver medals. Then, directly from London, her track coach and the university's president attended via video conference. They announced that the university's track would be renamed the 'Michele Locke Track and Field.' This will be officially unveiled at a dedication ceremony before their first track competition.

Once Michele returned to her dorm room in the Olympic Village, she heard her phone ringing. When she answered, she listened to her mom crying and saying, "You did it, baby! Your mom is so incredibly proud. I cried as you stood there with an Olympic gold medal around your neck. You jumped like a bird, and no one in the world can take that away from you!"

Listening to her mother, Michele began to tear up. "We will celebrate as a family when you get home. Goodbye, my baby girl, and have a safe trip back to us. Your father and I love you."

As her mom hung up, Michele grabbed a box of tissues to dry her wet cheeks from tears.



## Chapter 3

### **Dossier on Roger Edwards and Wife, Elizabeth – Invisibility**

One of the top TV shows is Pencil and Sayer's 'You're in Club Magic.' In this show, several magicians try to outsmart 'the kings of magic' in each episode. Pencil and Sayer are two renowned magicians who know and perform every magic trick created from the 1800s to today. Every magician who appears on their iBroadcast show attempts to deceive them. If any participants succeed in tricking them, they are awarded a trophy and the chance to perform in Las Vegas as Pencil and Sayer's co-headliner for a month. Magicians caught by the wizards must announce to the world, "I failed to trick you. I guess you won't hear me say, 'You're in Club Magic.'"

Pencil, a fifty-five-year-old magician, and Sayer, around sixty-five years old, took the stage as the entire audience applauded these legends of magic.

The first magician steps onto the stage, wearing a 'Surfer in LA Magic Shop' T-shirt and True Republic ripped jeans. He greets the audience, saying, "Hello, Pencil and Sayer, legendary magic dudes. I am Vance Nish from Los Angeles, California."

"Tell me, Vance, the surname 'Nish' is Scottish and originates from the West Coast of Scotland, specifically the Hebrides Islands. It means 'son of Angus,' doesn't it?" Pencil asks.

"I guess, dude? Anyway, my friends call me Van, so you can call me that as well."

Silently, Sayer brings his hands together, forming them into a ball. He thrusts his hands upward in an explosive movement, moving them in opposite directions until they vanish behind his back.

Pencil, observing his partner's physical display, exclaims, "That's an explosion... No, the object is disappearing, evaporating, fading, melting... I've got it! Vanishing!" Sayer nods vigorously as he smiles.

"Van Nish," Pencil adds as the audience applauds and laughs, prompting Sayer to repeat his explosive hand movements.

"Vanish... To disappear; that is the name of our first magician!" Pencil exclaims.

Van Nish performs an elaborate trick with boxes that disappear and reappear on stage. Then, his finale begins, featuring his female assistant standing behind a wall of boxes. Initially, the

audience can see her until a large black cloth floats down and lands on the floor. After a few seconds, she disappears.

A lime-green-haired hostess interviews Vance Nish while Sayer whispers to Pencil, discussing how the trick was executed.

After the magicians deduce how the trick was performed, Pencil confesses their belief about how the trick was executed, preserving the illusion's secrets. The performing magician nods and says, "Yes," then spreads his arms and adds, "I am angry, even pissed off that I must admit I failed to trick you; now you won't hear me declare 'You're in Club Magic.'"

The show's hostess, a stunning and voluptuous model with lime-green hair, emerges to present the 'You're in Club Magic' trophy to everyone in the audience.

Everyone laughs because the award has large letters on the front of the cup that say 'U R in Club Magic,' which sounds like 'Urine Club Magic' when read aloud.

The next magician steps onto the stage dressed in a silver silk shirt and black trousers. He introduces himself, saying, "Good evening, gentlemen. My name is Roger Edwards."

Then, Pencil says, "Hello."

Roger responds to Sayer, "Don't say anything; I can read your mind. Thanks for the compliment."

Receiving a smile reminiscent of the Cheshire Cat from him.

"I will perform an impossible trick that took me years to develop, and I hope it works tonight."

Roger laughs. "Just kidding." Roger turns to Pencil and asks, "Do you have a driver's license?" Pencil retrieves his wallet from his pants pocket.

Roger tells Pencil, "Could you display your driver's license to the entire audience while concealing the important information?"

Standing more than two hundred feet away, Roger points to the wallet while uttering some magic words. Pencil puts his wallet back in his left pocket and rolls his eyes, bewildered by the need to display his driver's license to the audience.

Following this, Roger Edwards performs a magic trick in which he makes a 100-dollar bill disappear and reappear in mid-air. He asks Sayer to choose an audience member. "Have you selected someone?" Sayer nods.

Roger humorously inquires, "What is that young lady's name?"

Sayer lifts his shoulders with his palms facing upward, indicating, "I don't know."

Roger signals to Sayer, requesting him to bring the college-aged brunette onto the stage. Her name is Allison. The entire audience applauds as Roger makes his way back to the stage.

Roger hands her the hundred-dollar bill and asks, "Can you verify if the bill is real?"

Excited, she exclaims, "Absolutely! It's real!"

Roger, looking directly at the camera, says, "Please do not leave now to gamble the newly acquired one-hundred-dollar bill inside the casino."

The audience is laughing.

He inquires, "Can you read the serial number on that one-hundred-dollar bill out loud?"

Allison reads the serial number on the dollar bill, which Roger writes on a whiteboard for the entire audience to see.

Roger Edwards takes the 100-dollar bill and throws it into the air, making it disappear. He asks Pencil to select an audience member in the back of the room. Pencil looks around the theater, pointing to a lady wearing a fur coat far back in the room, saying, "I want to choose the PETA member back there."

The audience bursts into laughter once more.

Roger Edwards asks the young lady, "Could you please take out your wallet and open it for the audience and cameras?"

The TV show's cameras capture an audience member as she opens her purse and takes out her wallet.

Surprised, she exclaims, "Oh my God! Look what I found!" as she discovers and shows the audience a 100-dollar bill. She holds the bill up to the camera, revealing its serial number, which matches the numbers Roger Edwards wrote on the whiteboard.

The audience cheers.

"What happens in Vegas stays where?"

He is encouraging the audience to shout, "In Vegas!"

Before concluding his show, Roger asks Pencil to take out his driver's license and display it to the audience once more. Pencil retrieves his wallet.

Stunned, he exclaims, "It's gone. Where did it go? I need it to stay in Vegas! I must prove that I am over twenty-one to get my free drinks."

The audience applauds and chuckles.

Roger Edwards inquires of Sayer, "Could you please take out your wallet?"

Without saying a word, Sayer quietly opens his wallet, revealing Pencil's driver's license tucked in the bill section for the cameras. He then returns it to his co-host.

Pencil examines the ID and shakes his head in disbelief before placing the license back into the transparent plastic insert of his wallet.

The two legendary magicians, Pencil and Sayer, converse. After a brief chat with Sayer, Pencil admits to the entire iBroadcast audience and the in-house viewers, "We have no idea how this trick was executed. Congratulations, Roger! You're in Club Magic. The trophy is all yours!"

The lime-green-haired hostess hands Roger Edwards the trophy with red lettering that reads, 'U R in Club Magic,' as he bows and exits the stage.

In the dressing room, trophy in hand, Roger Edwards and his wife, Elizabeth, laugh and embrace each other. Roger, smiling, says, "We did it. We fooled Pencil and Sayer as planned."

To perform the televised magic tricks to fool Pencil and Sayer, Roger enlisted Elizabeth's help by making her invisible. After Pencil shows everyone his license, returns it to his wallet, and tucks it into his left trouser pocket, Elizabeth picks his pocket. She takes his license from his wallet and puts the wallet back into his left pocket. Then she takes Sayer's wallet, puts Pencil's driver's license inside, and puts it back into his pants.

Later, the unseen Elizabeth caught the 100-dollar bill and quietly ran to the back of the audience, where she placed it into the selected volunteer's wallet. After quickly taking her wallet out, she returned it to her bag, and Roger told her to stand up and open her purse, where she found the 100-dollar bill.

By deceiving the magic legends, Roger Edwards earns a month's contract to perform in their Las Vegas magic show. Roger performs nightly alongside his invisible wife, Elizabeth.

A year ago, Roger worked for a company that called you at dinner time to collect credit card debt on behalf of the bank that hired him. On weekends, he performed at children's parties as a magician, doing simple sleight-of-hand tricks with coins and handkerchiefs. He tells many silly children's jokes during his performances, such as "Why was Six afraid of Seven?" After a short pause, he answers, "Because Seven ate Nine!" This elicits chuckles from the youngsters. His magic tricks at parties and restaurants helped him financially, but it was always hard to make ends meet.

One day, after working part-time as a magician for six months, Roger met a beautiful woman at his bank while depositing his meager funds. He chatted with the woman, named

Elizabeth. After a friendly, flirtatious conversation, Roger asked for her cell number, which she provided with a smile.

After a captivating magic show, Elizabeth meets him for dinner, and they watch an Oscar-nominated movie together. That night, their relationship blossoms as a couple.

Roger Edwards began training his fiancée, Elizabeth, to be his magic assistant. Together, they practiced various magic tricks to perform in different venues, such as making her disappear and reappear in front of an audience.

Over the weekend, after seeing a matinee movie, the couple walked past a party in a rental room where young children were enjoying ice cream and cake. Roger stopped and waved to a parent supervising the party, asking, “I see you are having a children's birthday party. My fiancé and I are amateur magicians who would love to practice one of our magic tricks for all your young partygoers, free of charge.”

Running back from his car, Roger carries a wooden podium with its mirror attached and a colorful blanket. Once Roger is ready to perform, he announces that he will have his assistant disappear and reappear before the audience. Roger swings the cloak around Elizabeth's body, expecting her to drop below and behind the mirror, out of view of all the spectators. However, the blanket trips Elizabeth, causing her to fall and hit her head on the floor, and she blinks rapidly three times.

Unaware of what had happened, Roger said, “Abracadabra, where has Elizabeth gone?”

Dropping the blanket to the ground, he reveals to the children and their supervising parents that Elizabeth has disappeared. Roger then lifts the veil, covering his body from the neck down, expecting Elizabeth to jump up and show the crowd that she has reappeared.

However, Elizabeth disappeared after being knocked out, unaware that she had just acquired the SuperPower ability to become invisible.

Roger, feeling confused, begins joking around with the children, saying, “Elizabeth, where oh, where has my Elizabeth gone?” while he starts sweeping the party room floor with his blanket.

As the blanket sweeps back and forth over the podium, Elizabeth finally wakes up, rapidly blinking three times. She rises from beneath the blanket, revealing to the cheering children that she has successfully reappeared.

Roger begins to bow as Elizabeth joins him. After the birthday girl's father thanks her, Elizabeth assures him that she is okay. Then, Roger gathers his magic props and puts them back in the trunk of his car.

Once Elizabeth returns home, she locks the door to her bedroom's bathroom. Standing in front of the vanity mirror, Elizabeth blinks twice, but nothing happens. Then she tries blinking slowly three times, but nothing happens. Finally, she blinks three times rapidly, and suddenly, her body and clothing vanish into 'thin air.' After a brief pause, she consciously blinks three times quickly, reappearing in front of the mirror.

Smiling, Elizabeth realizes that she doesn't need to hide beneath a podium covered in mirrors, as she can disappear by batting her eyes three times quickly.

Two months later, Roger and Elizabeth get married and embark on their honeymoon. Roger is in the bathroom of their suite, grooming himself. As Roger exits, he expects to see Elizabeth waiting for him on their matrimonial bed. However, his bride is nowhere to be found.

Confused, Roger Edwards couldn't find Elizabeth anywhere. He opened the hotel room door and looked down the hallway, but he still couldn't find his bride. He returned to their honeymoon suite, where Elizabeth was lying on the bed, waiting for him. She said, "I was on the bed the entire time; I don't know why you missed me."

Roger laughs and says, "I didn't see you. Then, I joked to myself that you must possess the SuperPower of invisibility."

Elizabeth confesses to her groom, "I truly possess the SuperPower of invisibility, and I have occasionally used it to help others. I was hesitant to reveal this to anyone, even you. I'm sorry; can you forgive me, my love?"

This news excites Roger, the magician, who immediately begins to think about all the tricks the two could perform together.

Roger begins performing several seemingly impossible magic tricks. His wife, Elizabeth, disappears, picking things out of people's pockets or looking over their shoulders to see what they've written on paper. She returns to the stage, reappearing out of sight, to signal Roger that she has found the information. She views an audience member's dollar bill and its serial number. Elizabeth memorizes it and then, while invisible, quietly walks onto the stage and lies on the floor, becoming visible but hidden from view so that no one can see her. She taps on Roger's foot; if the number is 217, she taps on the left foot twice, and Roger states, "Two." Then, she taps Roger's



right foot once and stops, and he says, “One.” Next, she taps his left foot again seven times and stops. Roger Edwards pretends to be flustered, touches his forehead a few times, and finally states, “Seven,” to amaze the audience. The entire audience thinks, “How did he know the number?”

Roger resigns from his day job to pursue a career as a professional magician, keeping his invisible wife a secret. He decides to apply to the TV show ‘You're in Club Magic,’ hosted by his idols, the magicians Pencil and Sayer.

After winning on their TV show, he earns a month's engagement working with magic legends in Las Vegas. Roger tells the pair in their dressing room, “I used to work in a bank, and can you guess what reminds me of Sayer?”

Pencil asks, “Were you a bank teller?” Sayer smiles and points to himself.

Roger remarks, “No, it wasn't the teller. I worked for the Alan Arm Security Company, installing alarms, or what we used to call 'silent Al Arms' devices.”

“Very funny 'silent al-arm' just like Sayer, who is always silent.”

Sayer points to himself like a mute and fakes a full belly laugh.

Sayer is considered the encyclopedia of magic. Everyone in the magic community knows that Sayer has seen and performed every magic trick. In contrast, Pencil is never quiet and seldom loses his words, as he is the continuous voice of the legendary magic duo.

Roger and Elizabeth learn American Sign Language to improve their communication skills. They earn a certificate in American Sign Language at the College of Southern Nevada's Las Vegas campus.

