

# Two Predictions, One Deck, No Kidding

## What?

The participant and the performer each write (unseen by anyone else) the name of a playing card on separate sheets of paper, which are folded up and left in view on the table. They then both freely select a card from the deck. The performer has successfully predicted the participant's card, but more incredibly the participant has predicted the performer's!

## How?

You will need an impression pad as well as the marked deck. My preferred version is my *SpyPad*, but there are plenty other good ones on the market including Nikola Pelletier's *Nomad Pad* and Richard Osterlind's *Imp Pad*.

Leave the jokers in the deck.

Have the participant write the name of a card on a sheet of paper, which he folds up and places on the table. After you get your peek, tear out another sheet of paper and leave it on top of the closed pad, which you also put on the table. At this point do not refer to this writing as 'a prediction'.

Pick up the deck and explain that you'll remove the jokers before you begin. Remove the jokers, cutting the card whose name you peeked to the top of the deck in the process. Put the jokers in the box and widely ribbon spread the deck.

Have the participant remove a card from the spread. (If he takes the top card, end right there!) Don't let him look at it, but slide it off to one side. Because it is marked, you will know what this card is.

Say that you will also pick a card. Write the name of the card that the participant just picked on the second sheet of paper, fold it up and place it on the table but far enough away so that it won't get confused with the participant's paper. Cut the bottom twenty or so cards to the top and ribbon spread the deck on the table wide enough so that you can see the markings on the backs of the cards near the middle. Pick out the card whose name you peeked earlier and slide it over on top of the participant's selection. Case the deck.

Explain that you and the participant have both predicted a card and selected one. *Note: this is the first time that you have mentioned the word 'prediction' in the whole routine.*

As you mention the selections, pick them up and take one in each hand. Gesture with them a little as you speak and then place the one matching the card you peeked on the table in front of yourself and the other one in front of the participant, both face-down.

Have the participant unfold your paper and show what you wrote. Flip the card in front of him face up to show that they match.

Say, "Now you might have expected that I would be capable of predicting which card you would choose, but if you've managed it as well..." Flip the card in front of you face up and then unfold his paper. Turn it around slowly, so that the audience can see that the participant did predict exactly which card you would choose.