

Performance Tips for *The Letter*

By Dead Rebel Magic

◆ 1. Treat It Like a Shared Moment, Not a Trick

This isn't about amazement or applause—this is about **intimacy and connection**. Perform it slowly, with pauses. Let silence do some of the work.

◆ 2. Use Objects That Feel Authentically Aged

The effect's power lies in believability. Use items that look like they've lived a life: a scuffed penny, a cloudy bottle, a pocket watch that doesn't tick. These are not props—they're **fragments of memory**.

◆ 3. Handle the Letter with Reverence

When introducing the letter, **treat it like a sacred object**. Hold it gently. Unfold it carefully. This small bit of theatre tells the audience it's important—even before a word is read.

◆ 4. Let the Participant Lead Emotionally

Don't oversell the story. Present it sincerely and let the participant **experience their own emotional response**. What matters is *how they feel*, not how you think they should feel.

◆ 5. Use Quiet, Personal Environments

This piece works best in close-up, intimate settings—small gatherings, quiet corners, low-lit spaces. Avoid loud or chaotic environments where the emotional impact would be drowned out.

◆ 6. Frame the Selection as Meaningful

Even though the method is equivocal, make the selection feel **guided by intuition**. Use soft, open language:

"People often choose what already belongs to them."

"Take the one that feels like it's always been waiting."

◆ 7. Memorise the Letter, Then Read It Anyway

Knowing the letter allows for better pacing and subtle glances toward the participant. But **reading it aloud gives it authenticity**, as if you're discovering the words together for the first time.

◆ 8. Leave Them with Space After

Once the letter is read and the item gifted, don't rush into conversation. Give them a moment. Let the silence linger. Sometimes, that's when the real magic happens.

◆ 9. Keep It Personal, Not Theatrical

Avoid dramatic voices or overacting. Speak in your natural tone—soft, reflective, and honest. It should feel like you're **passing on something meaningful**, not performing a scene.

◆ 10. Make the Gift Feel Earned

When you give them the chosen object and the letter, make it clear it now belongs to them:

"This was never meant to stay with me. It's yours now."

This reinforces the effect as a **personal experience**, not a recycled trick.