

BROOKLYN NINE-NINE

Dark Magician

by

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COLD OPEN

INT. JEWELRY STORE - DAY

JAKE and CHARLES enter. Glass is scattered, and all the jewelry is missing. They search around.

JAKE
Finally, something to do.

CHARLES
Finally?

INT. BULLPEN - FLASHBACK - DAY

Jake spins around in an office chair. Amy stands next to him.

JAKE
I'm so bored someone needs to
commit a crime.

AMY
What kind of crime are you thinking
of? As a detective, you should be
glad there are no cases.

JAKE
A crime where no one gets hurt,
obviously. What do you take me for?
What if someone got robbed?

The phone RINGS. Jake's head perks up, looking around.

Terry answers his cell phone, and Jake stares at him.

AMY
Why do you want to work so badly?

HITCHCOCK and SCULLY sit at their desks writing.

JAKE
I feel like I'm not doing enough.
Hitchcock and Scully have done more
work than I have.

Scully looks up and holds a picture of a chip bag.

SCULLY
We aren't actually working. We are
drawing different types of food.

INT. JEWELRY STORE - BACK TO SCENE

JAKE
Never mind.

We see Jake walk into the back room while Charles examines the broken glass.

JAKE (CONT'D)
Look what I found!

Jake runs back with a magic 8-ball and brings it to Charles.

CHARLES
I love these. Let's question it.

JAKE
Am I the best detective?

Jake shakes it and reads the answer.

JAKE (CONT'D)
I have tricked you again...

Charles takes the 8-ball and shakes it.

CHARLES
You did something wrong. Let me show you. Am I the best father to Nikolaj?

He reads.

CHARLES (CONT'D)
You can't stop me...

Charles gives the 8-ball back.

CHARLES (CONT'D)
Is this Nikolaj's father? Is this his revenge? Jake, I have to go.

Charles sprints out.

CHARLES (CONT'D)
Don't worry Nikolaj. Dad's coming.
Not that Dad, me Dad.

Jake stares in disbelief, then shakes the ball again.

JAKE
What am I missing?

Charles enters, panting.

CHARLES

I can't abandon the case. I
overreacted. Let's finish.

Jake tosses the ball at Charles.

JAKE

Let's see if we can find any other
clues like this.

Charles eyes the ball.

END COLD OPEN

ACT ONE

INT. BULLPEN - JAKE'S DESK - DAY

Jake shakes the 8-ball, eyeing it closely, and writes down what he finds.

HOLT enters and stands next to Jake.

HOLT
Peralta, I didn't realize you were
into children's toys.

JAKE
Found it at the robbery today. This
guy must be a seasoned veteran to
be this cocky.

HOLT
Well, what does it say?

JAKE
Right now, I have...

Jake picks up the sheet he was writing on.

JAKE (CONT'D)
I have tricked you again. You can't
stop me. Prepare for more. I'll
strike again. This will be my best
heist. It's impressive how he got
that on a ball that usually has yes
and no answers.

HOLT
That is cocky. Come with me.

Holt walks off, and Jake follows but forgets the ball.

HOLT (CONT'D)
Bring the ball.

JAKE
Yes, sir.

INT. HOLT'S OFFICE - DAY

Holt sits down and gestures for Jake to, so Jake sits.

HOLT
Have I ever told you of...

Holt looks out his window and back at Jake.

HOLT (CONT'D)
(Whispers)
The Dark Magician.

JAKE
(Loud)
The Dark Magician!

Holt gives him a stern look.

JAKE (CONT'D)
Is this another cold case?

HOLT
Yes, back when I was a young
detective, there was one criminal
we could never catch. He would
always leave these dumb devices
behind to rub it in our faces. How
I wish I could've put him in jail.

JAKE
You think he's back and you want me
to finish a job you never could.
I'm in.

Holt looks at him again.

JAKE (CONT'D)
Sorry, I didn't mean it.

INT. ANTIQUE STORE - FLASHBACK - DAY

YOUNG HOLT arrives with everything missing in the store.

HOLT (V.O.)
This criminal was always two steps
ahead. When we found where he would
strike next, he would've already
stolen everything.

Young Holt finds an origami fortune teller and lifts one of
the flaps. It read *GOTCHA*.

INT. HOLT'S OFFICE - BACK TO SCENE

HOLT
I kept some of the devices at my
house. It was one of those cases I
needed to solve. I'm sure Kevin
will be glad you are taking them.
(MORE)

HOLT (CONT'D)

Take Charles and grab them. See if you can find any similarities.

JAKE

Will do. I won't let you down.

INT. BREAK ROOM - DAY

SCULLY and HITCHCOCK eat subs, and TERRY enters with a box of papers. AMY follows. He drops the box on the table next to the duo.

TERRY

Come on guys. We are on a tight deadline, and all of your paperwork is out of order.

Terry starts taking out files and opening them, putting them in a stack on the table.

HITCHCOCK

That's a lot of paperwork. It starts to run into snack time so we just threw it together.

SCULLY

You should be lucky it's done at all. We tried very hard.

TERRY

I need you to finish this paperwork by the end of the day. To make sure that happens, I've asked Amy to look after you guys.

Amy straightens up and smiles.

HITCHCOCK

If she's already here, maybe she could do it for us.

TERRY

She is strictly here supervising. If you guys can't get this done. We may have to fire you.

Scully is taken aback.

SCULLY

You can't do that. We have tenure.

AMY

That's for teachers. And you would need a valid reason for not doing your paperwork. Snack time wouldn't work.

Scully and Hitchcock lower their subs and look at each other.

EXT. HOLT'S HOUSE - DAY

Jake and Charles exit the house carrying loads of magic items; 8-balls, cards, paper fortune tellers, and Ouija boards.

KEVIN

I want to thank you for taking these. It's one less thing for Holt to obsess over at home.

JAKE

Come on, it could've been a little fun. Don't you remember using these as a kid?

Jake turns around and smiles. Kevin frowns.

JAKE (CONT'D)

Guess not. I do want to say thanks for letting him keep this. It will help out a lot with our investigation.

KEVIN

Just make sure you leave soon. I have some guests coming for brunch and need silence.

Kevin returns home.

Jake and Charles put the boxes in the trunk of Jake's car. They rummage through what they found.

JAKE

I don't see anything that can lead us to our culprit.

CHARLES

But look at how many heists this guy took on. He was never caught once? That doesn't make sense.

JAKE

There must be something we're missing...

Jake takes one deep look at the boxes and closes the trunk.

JAKE (CONT'D)

I know where we need to go.

CHARLES

I don't see it.

JAKE

The magic shop. He must get custom-made devices there. We just need to find the list.

CHARLES

And find his address. You are so good at this.

INT. HOLT'S OFFICE - DAY

Amy enters with Mac in a car seat and bags. She places the car seat down and starts looking through the bags quickly.

AMY

I can't tell you how much Jake and I appreciate you taking Mac for the weekend. It's been so busy, Jake has a new case, and I have the reform program.

She grabs a blanket and places it over Mac.

HOLT

Santiago.

AMY

There isn't enough time to get everything finished.

HOLT

Santiago!

Amy stops, and Holt walks over to her.

HOLT (CONT'D)

I wouldn't have asked if I didn't mean it. Who knows, Kevin and I may like kids.

Amy takes out a list and starts turning the pages.

AMY

Are you sure everything will be okay? I have a four-page to-do list for anything that may go wrong.

Holt grabs the list and puts it on his desk.

HOLT

I don't think we will need that. It's just one kid. What could go wrong?

AMY

You know what, you're right. You got this. I trust you.

Amy exits as she rambles.

Holt kneels to Mac and tickles his face.

HOLT

We are going to have a fun weekend, aren't we? Yes, we are.

Mac spits up on his shirt.

HOLT (CONT'D)

Unsettling.

Holt reaches for the tissues on his desk and knocks the list into the trash.

INT. MAGIC SHOP - DAY

Jake enters the unlit shop, taser unholstered.

JAKE

NYPD, make yourself known.

No answer. Jake walks down an aisle to the register. He walks behind the counter to a door leading to a basement. He opens the door to light and noise. He sneaks down the stairs.

INT. MAGIC SHOP - BASEMENT - DAY

Jake finds a group of six people making origami and writing fortunes. He aims the taser.

JAKE

Let me see your hands.

The six people continue to work.

Jake notices a sheet of paper listed with pickup dates and a bunch of officers' names with badge numbers.

JAKE (CONT'D)

This guy wasn't buying here. He was the owner.

The door slams behind Jake, and he runs up the stairs.

JAKE (CONT'D)

NYPD, open this door.

INT. BREAK ROOM - DAY

Hitchcock stands on a chair and attempts to hide the box of files in the ceiling.

SCULLY

I don't know if we should be doing this. We should just try to do the work.

HITCHCOCK

If we do that, we will lose the right to eat. Isn't that the reason we stopped in the first place?

Amy enters and startles Scully, who drops the box.

AMY

What are you guys doing?

SCULLY

Hey, Amy. How're you doing?

Amy stands with her hands on her hips, aghast.

INT. ANTIQUE STORE - DAY

ROSA walks around the broken-into store.

ROSA

You said this happened before?

STORE CLERK

Yes, yes, a long time ago. Let me grab what I found today.

The store clerk brings out a Finger Fortune Teller.

ROSA

Is this a joke?

STORE CLERK

No, this is what we found early this morning. This guy likes to hide these and make fun of the police and detectives who try to catch him.

ROSA

If you are telling me a joke just to make fun of me, we are going to have serious problems.

STORE CLERK

I promise, I promise.

Rosa takes the Fortune Teller and exits.

INT. HOLT'S CAR - DAY

Mac is crying in the back seat, and Holt is rummaging through the bags.

HOLT

Where is that checklist? In all my years of being a Police Officer, I've never had this much trouble.

Mac stops crying, looks at Holt, and laughs.

HOLT (CONT'D)

I see. You are taking Joy in my suffering. Well, take Joy while you can. I will learn your secrets.

EXT. MAGIC SHOP - DAY

Charles looks at his watch.

CHARLES

Jake was supposed to be here by now. Where is he?

The Store lights come on, so Charles opens the front door and talks from the front door.

CHARLES (CONT'D)

Have you seen my partner anywhere?

STORE CLERK TWO

No, no, would you like to buy from our items?

Charles looks around, tempted.

CHARLES

I could get a gift for Nikolaj. No
must stay focused.

Charles closes the door, pulls out his phone, and calls Jake.
Jake's RINGTONE comes from the car.

END OF ACT ONE

