

## **Meet Ruby Lu!**

Ruby Lu is a pretty accomplished magician for an eight-year-old. She can hypnotize a handkerchief and make it obey, she can almost make a coin stand up just by blowing on it, she can make knots disappear . . . usually, and she can make flowers appear . . . sometimes. But magic is easy compared to dealing with a baby brother who gives away your secrets. And magic is easy compared to learning Chinese, especially when your baby brother learns faster than you. And magic is definitely easier than dealing with Christina, the new bully who frightens all the kids on 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue South.

In this funny and charming chapter book that's the first in a series, enjoy the adventures of a truly amazing girl, her pretty amazing brother, and all the members of their diverse community. And as an added bonus, there's a flip book included of Ruby doing a magic trick!

*Ruby Lu, Brave and True*

By Lenore Look

Illustrated by Anne Wilsdorf

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Learn to do magic tricks like Ruby Lu!

## **Ruby ilLUsions!**

For Ruby Lu, Mr. Tupahotu's magic class starts at 3:12 sharp. But for you, it starts right now . . . .

**[The following two magic tricks, as well as the tips to become a better magician, could either all be on one page or as links to three separate pages, whichever works best from a design standpoint]**

### **Rope Trick**

Effect:

Holding a piece of rope, the magician places the ends of the rope into his hands and closes his fingers around the ends. The magician shakes the rope slightly, says a magic word, blows on his hands, and drops one end of the rope. Magic! The end has a knot in it!

Supplies:

One long piece of rope

Secret:

The rope already has a knot in one end. Tie a knot in one end of the rope. Hide this end with the knot in your hand and bring the other end of the rope up next to it. Shake your hand as if you're trying to knot it. Drop the end with the knot and it looks like you have tied a knot in the rope using one hand.

**Coin Trick**

Effect:

The magician shows a glass, upside down, and a coin on a sheet of colored paper. He puts a handkerchief over the glass and moves it over. He pulls the handkerchief off, and Abracadabra! The coin has disappeared.

Supplies:

Two sheets of construction paper, a clear glass, a handkerchief, and a coin.

Preparation:

Trace the glass onto the sheet of paper and cut the circle out. Then tape it to the glass so when you put it onto a piece of paper the same color it blends in.

Secret:

When you do the above, put the glass onto a piece of paper and move the paper-covered glass over the coin while the whole thing is under the handkerchief so the glass covers the coin. Pull off the handkerchief. The coin will have disappeared.

Tips and hints to help you become a successful magician:

1. Practice in front of a mirror so you can see the trick as your audience will. Practice a lot!
2. Practice the "patter" as well as the trick. Figure out beforehand what you want to say during the show. Good patter will help distract the audience just enough to keep them from guessing how you've pulled off your magical feats! Here's a start for you:

I have a magic trick for you.  
It should be lots of fun.

Pay very close attention,  
And guess how it is done!

3. Resist the temptation to tell how the trick worked. Keep them guessing and they'll be even more impressed with your show.
4. Never do the same trick more than once for the same audience. It makes it too easy for the audience to guess how it was done.
5. Control the seating arrangements. Some of the tricks require that the audience look straight at you. Have them remain seated throughout the show.
6. Whenever you can, borrow the objects from the audience: coins, pencils, napkins, etc. Borrowing from the audience makes it seem like the magician hasn't had time to do anything sneaky to the item. This makes everything seem more magical!
7. Lovely Assistant: A lot of the card tricks (or any other mind reading-type tricks) work well using a magical puppet or stuffed animal as your assistant. Try putting on an entire show where you aren't a magician at all. Instead, claim that you bought a puppet from an old gypsy woman and it turned out to be magic (you can make up a cool story to use as your patter). Have the puppet or stuffed animal "whisper" the answers into your ear. Having a puppet do all the work may keep you from getting stage fright!

Now on with the show!