

## **Appendix: *Unfathomable*, Script**

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**Welcome Speech and Judges Bios**

**Video: Stratocruiser**

### **Act 1 (ESP)**

***Early Telepathy/ESP Research***

***Cards***

***Cymbals***

***Zener Cards***

### **Act 2 (Murder!)**

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***Unfathomable***

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### ***Prologue***

*Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen, and welcome. Thank you very much for spending your afternoon with us.*

*Opening thoughts....*

*We also have invited 4 distinguished people to act as judges. It will be their duty to watch closely from the front row and to ensure that today's demonstrations are conducted smoothly and fairly....*

*Judges bios...*

*And now, please enjoy, Unfathomable – starring, The Deans!*

**Act 1**

**Eddie**

***How did the Piddingtons do it?***

**Maggie**

The world may never know.

**Eddie**

**Radio devices concealed in hollow teeth?**

**Maggie**

A little green man that flew between them whispering secrets?

**Eddie**

**Those were two popular theories of the day.**

**But that's not what we think. Good evening.**

**Good evening to our distinguished judges – here to make sure we behave ourselves.**

**Maggie**

And good evening to all of you.

**Eddie**

**We are the Deans. We frequently lecture at Universities on the subject of the telepathy. And if you'll indulge us, we'd like to share the first five minutes of our lecture with *you*.**

**Maggie**

I'm Margot Fox-Dean. I'm conducting double masters degrees at the University College Cork and at the *Accademia dell'Arte* in Tuscany, researching post-modern witchcraft. In my spare time, such as it is... I like to paint, play the ukulele, and write Murder-by-telepathy novels.

**Eddie**

**My name is Edward James Dean. I'm a doctoral researcher at the University College Cork in Ireland, investigating issues of psycho-physical telepathy.**

**Maggie**

Together Eddie and I have led a fascinating life. I'll tell you all about it --

**Eddie**

**Later, darling... Later...**

**Maggie**

...Do *you* believe in telepathy?

**Eddie**

Telepathy, as it was once imagined, rested on the ideas of the 17<sup>th</sup> century French philosopher, Rene Descartes who famously asserted, I think, therefore I am.

Descartes believed that the mind and the body occupied separate planes of existence.

Therefore, it might be possible for one mind to communicate directly with another, at any distance, and without the intervention of the usual 5 senses.

But modern neuroscience has proven that Descartes was wrong. There is no mind without the body.

So... *how* did the Piddingtons do it?

... Ooh. I like what you've done with it tonight. It's just missing a little... (snap) Eyepatch!

**Maggie**

Eyepatch!

**Eddie**

Ah Descartes, you little devil...

**Maggie**

Et voila!

**Eddie**

Masterpiece!

**Maggie**

Thanks! This is my pop-art Descartes. I could play with it for hours, but according to the script I have a line coming up!

**Eddie**

**After you.**

**[cross]**

**Maggie**

Although *our* journey begins with the Piddingtons, the history of so-called scientific telepathy begins much earlier...

**Eddie**

**On Easter, in 1881, noted physicist Sir William Barrett sat with four of the five Creery sisters.**

**Maggie**

The fifth sister, Maude, was secluded in another room.

**Eddie**

**Barrett wrote down the word hairbrush.**

**Then, he and the four sisters concentrated on that word.**

**Maggie**

A moment later, Maude Creery entered the room holding a hairbrush!

**Eddie**

**Lucky guess?!**

**Maggie**

(silently) ha... *no!*

**Eddie**

**We'd be tempted to say yes, were it not for the fact that she also correctly retrieved a wine glass, an orange, a fork, an apple, a knife, a tumbler, an iron, a cup, and correctly identified 9 out of 14 playing cards randomly drawn from a pack.**

**Maggie**

Yes, well – it did take her two tries to bring the fork.

**Eddie**

**Yes, well – nevertheless -- on the basis of these experiments, the Society for Psychical Research was established.**

**Barrett describes his experiments with the Creery sisters in his book *Psychical Research*.**

**His conclusion? The Creery sisters constituted “clear evidence of thought transference.”**

**Maggie**

Your move Mr. Dean

**Eddie**

**Thank you.**

**[cross]**

**On July 13, 1928, at 11:30 am, a man in Pasadena California randomly drew a picture of a fork...**

**That’s not the impressive part. That’s just basic arts and crafts. The impressive part was this!**

**Maggie**

At the same time, 40 miles away, in Long Beach, a woman was reclined on a sofa, deeply concentrating, trying to receive a mental impression. She wrote on a small notepad: “See a table fork. Nothing else.”

**Eddie**

**This is only one of the hundreds of successful experiments in telepathy conducted by the renowned investigative journalist, Upton Sinclair, with his wife, Mary Craig.**

**Sinclair published these experiments under the title, “Mental Radio.”**

**His conclusion? “Telepathy is real; it does happen.”**

**Maggie**

Sound a little crazy?

**Eddie**

**A little lacking, maybe, in scientific rigor?**

**Maggie**

The preface of the book was written by Albert Einstein.

He wrote: “The results of the telepathic experiments carefully and plainly set forth in this book stand surely far beyond those which a nature investigator holds to be thinkable.”

**Eddie**

**These experiments have been neither exposed as fraud, nor satisfactorily explained.**

**The next year, the department for parapsychological research was founded at Duke University under the leadership of Dr. J.B. Rhine.**

**Rhine's associate, Karl Zener, developed five distinct shapes to test for what Rhine called, extra sensory perception, or, ESP.**

**Maggie**

**The shapes were the Circle, the Cross, the Wavy Lines, the Square, and the Star.**

**Eddie**

**In 1934 – After over 90,000 experiments -- Rhine published his findings in a book titled, "Extra Sensory Perception."**

**What were those findings? That ESP is "an actual and demonstrable occurrence."**

**Maggie**

**In fact, we'd like to demonstrate it for you right now.**

**Eddie**

**Tre bien. Allez-y.**

**Maggie**

**Oohlala.**

**Eddie**

**Haha. We also speak French...**

**Maggie**

**(wink)**

**Eddie**

**We make no claims of psychic or paranormal abilities, however. Rather we have developed systems of invisible communication, which we believe to be virtually indistinguishable from classical notions of telepathy.**

**Maggie**

**With any luck! (cheeky)**

Eddie

We would also like to be very clear that we don't use any form of confederates, stooges, secret accomplices, or concealed electronic devices in our demonstrations. In fact, we have a standing offer of 10,000 Pounds to anyone who proves that we receive any form of outside assistance *whatsoever* during any of our performances. And that is serious business for us! All right? Because we don't have 10,000 Pounds...

Are you ready, Maggie?

Maggie

I hope so...

Eddie

I have here, a pack of perfectly ordinary playing cards. (JUDGE) You can see that all of the cards are different. Would you choose a card please? Show it to me and we'll attempt to send the card telepathically to Maggie. Now careful Maggie... it could be a King a Queen a Jack (stamp stamp) or a number card. It could be a spade a heart a club (cough) or a diamond. Did you get that?

Maggie

yes.

Eddie

Say the card.

Maggie

The card is the stomp stomp cough.

Eddie

Amazing! I have no idea how she does it! I see some of you laughing... You think we use a secret code to accomplish these amazing tests. To prove that no code is used we shall accomplish the next test in total silence.

[crash... ohhh!]

...We haven't started yet. In a moment, I will ask you to hold up any number of fingers and Maggie will clash her cymbals the same number of times. And ladies and gentlemen, we assure you, that no word shall be spoken. Hold up any number of fingers now. Amazing!!!!

If you're not yet persuaded, perhaps you'll find this next test somewhat more persuasive. Please look at these. (JUDGES) These are stacks of cotton wool about one inch thick. Would you please examine these and make

certain that they are absolutely opaque and you cannot see through them and that not even light can pass through? This blindfold is made of velvet reinforced with nylon. Would you please verify that the blindfold is completely opaque, as well, and impossible to see through?

These are sort of a prized possession of ours. These cards were used for parapsychological testing at Duke University. I'm going to pass these around. We found them on eBay, and they weren't that expensive, really, but they are vintage so please do be careful with them.

Does the cotton check out? And the blindfold, as well? Judges, please watch carefully from your positions in the front row as the cotton is placed squarely over Maggie's eyes and the blind fold placed squarely over the cotton and everything is secured firmly into place.

(Four demonstrations of Zener shapes)

Before we attempt this for the fifth and final time, I would like to point out that the odds of guessing correctly five times in a row is 1 in 5 to the 5<sup>th</sup> power, or, 1 in 3125. I point this out so that you'll understand that the demonstration does build, statistically, if not dramatically.

Thank you. Before we conclude this portion of our demonstration, we'd like to leave you with one final thought....

Act 2

[Bishops Opening]

Maggie

It is possible to read minds?

Eddie

Have you ever known what someone was --

Maggie

(pouncing) going to say just before they said it?!

Eddie

That's what I was going to say... The mind and the body, of course, are inseparably entangled, through chemicals, and along the central nervous system, which extends to the tips of our bodies.

Maggie

You've heard of "trusting your gut?"



Or “listening your heart?”

Well your gastro intestinal system is much like a second brain. It has 100 million neurons.

Your heart has 40,000 neurons!

In fact, your whole body thinks!

**Eddie**

**It’s true. And we think it’s fair to say that when we read people’s body language or their facial expressions, as we often do unconsciously, that we really are reading their minds.**

**For example, I know when Maggie is angry with me, and she never has to say a word...**

**Maggie**

(blink, blink, blink)

**Eddie**

**it’s like being psychic...**

**But is it possible to go further than this? Let’s try something --**

**Maggie**

Scandalous?

**Serious. An experiment in mass concentrated thought transference.**

**Maggie**

Have you ever walked into a room and immediately sensed the energy in the room?

**Eddie**

**That’s what we’re talking about here.**

**We believe that if you take a whole group of people and have them all think of the same thing, at the same time, then it can create a noticeable change in, what we call, pre-expressive tension.**

[Eddie gets bear]

**Maggie**

To test this, we’d like to introduce the third member of our team. We met him on a train to Casablanca.

**Eddie**

**He plays a very important role, because in a moment...**

**Maggie**

Someone is going to be murdered.

**Eddie**

**Haha. Well, don't give away the ending. Because in a moment he will select an audience member.**

**Do you mind telling the audience how we met?**

**Maggie**

I'd love to! Together Eddie and I have led a fascinating life. I'll tell you all about it.

**Eddie**

**No. Not yet. How we met the bear.**

**Maggie**

Oh, right! We met him on a train to Casablanca.

I love trains. They're very romantic.

We saw him there, alone on a seat.

His little eyes turned hopefully, or desperately, to the window.

We took him to the lost and found.

Where he waited...

And waited...

So, we gave him a job!

He serves as a reminder that even the strongest connections are fragile and need to be looked after.

We call him Piddington Bear!

**Eddie**

**Thank you, Maggie. Well said.**

**Maggie**

Thank you. And now, we'd like to take things one step further. **(take large step forward)**

**Eddie**

**What would you do if you knew that someone was going to commit murder?**

**Maggie**

If you knew who was going to be murdered...

**Eddie**

**And who the murderer would be...**

**Maggie**

and what the weapon would be...

**Eddie**

**Would you squander that ability? Or would you do what we do, and use this knowledge to win at Cluedo?**

**[cross]**

**Before we continue any further with our little game of murder, would you two judges be willing to serve as guards and – in a moment – escort Maggie out of the theatre?**

**Maggie**

Thank you. I'll ask you to watch me carefully to make sure that I can't see or hear anything that takes place inside this room.

**Eddie**

**When you return, you will be asked several questions regarding what transpired after you left the room. Is that agreeable? Very good, now if you would, please escort Maggie to a secluded location. Watch her carefully. And return quickly to your seats when you hear this sound. Ladies and gentlemen, the game is afoot!**

**Judge. The person who catches Piddington Bear will play our murderer today. Would you mind sort of blindly tossing him over your shoulder into the audience? You, madame? (shocking). Ma'am, to select a victim, would you please blindly toss the bear elsewhere in the audience? (You sir?) I'm sorry to be the *bearer* of bad news... [Maggie wrote that joke, and I just can't bring myself to cut it from the script] but you, sir, are the victim. The foul deed done, I'll take the bear, disposing of the evidence, as it were. One benefit of being the victim, however, is that you are allowed to choose the means by which you will be murdered. So to put it bluntly, how would you like to be murdered tonight? (Means are selected)**

That sounds delightful. So, to confirm, this lady is the victim, this gentleman is the murderer, and the means of death will be XXX. Very pleasant indeed. Judge, when everyone has returned, would you please ask the committee the two questions contained inside that envelope? Very good.

I will remain completely silent and motionless until Maggie concludes her demonstration. To preclude the possibility of communicating with Maggie via the square on which I stand, would you please toss Piddington Bear onto the stage? Wherever he lands, is where I'll stand.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you in advance for your sympathy and your support. Usher, would you please open the door?

**Maggie**

Mr. Dean – We're needed.

[Process in audience]

[Returning to stage] Now I will identify the means by which this \_\_\_\_\_ has put away this kind and charming \_\_\_\_\_.

**Eddie**

Thank you! Is that close enough for you Ladies and Gentlemen? We hope this goes to show that it does not pay to commit murder when the Deans are at your dinner party!

**Act 3**

**Eddie**

Can the mind extend beyond the boundaries of the body?

**Maggie**

Some scientists believe that the mind may be a field....

**Eddie**

Just as all of a magnet is contained within the magnet, yet the magnetic field extends beyond...

**Maggie**

Just as all of the Earth is contained within the Earth, yet the gravitational field extends far beyond...

**Eddie**

**Is it possible that all of the mind is contained within the body, yet the mental field extends beyond?**

**Maggie**

It would help to explain why so many studies have found that, as humans, we are capable of knowing when we are being stared at --

**Eddie**

**We use this all the time, actually. This was one of the first things we experimented with. It might be easier if we just show it? So, xxx will look away, and... (JUDGE) Do you mind helping? Don't make any noise, but whenever you want me to look at Maggie, just raise your finger like this, and I'll look at her, and she'll know. She's very good at this. (staring test 3 times or so...)**

**Where was I?**

**Maggie**

Studies.

**Eddie**

**Ah. Studies have even shown that as humans, we are capable of knowing when another person enters into a darkened room, even if it is impossible to see or hear the person entering.**

**Maggie**

But is this evidence of extrasensory perception?

**Eddie**

**Not necessarily.**

**According to the Committee for Sceptical Inquiry: these phenomena can be attributed – *Not to any so-called "psychic" or paranormal ability – but to "physical cues in the environment that we do not normally attend to, such as a person's shaving lotion, movement of air currents in the room, body heat, and things that are so subtle that we cannot know exactly what caused them!"***

**Maggie**

Let's not talk the nice people to death. Let's do something scandalous.

**Eddie**

I suppose you're right. Maggie mentioned in her introduction that she enjoys writing Murder By Telepathy novels, and we'd like to take just a moment to promote her latest thriller, "It's the Thought that Kills!" This book is not about us, by the way... it's about the, uh... "the Flynns..." Robbie and Molly Flynn. We're the Deans. Eddie and Maggie Dean, so, it's easy to get confused...

**POISONED! By TWO women at ONCE. Helen poisoned him with her mind. Molly poisoned him with poison...**

***ONE man, TWO women, THREE glasses of water, and one glass of MURDER: A high-stakes game that leaves them all fighting for fame and fortune. . . and THEIR LIVES!***

And I was thinking. Since we have the author with us this afternoon, maybe you'd like to hear her read a little bit of it? I promise you won't regret it. Do you mind, Maggie?

**Maggie**

Who me! Well, I suppose... Oh gosh! Well, I suppose... I just have the page marked...

*Cup number three. Second from the left. Easy as breathing. The tension in the room was intoxicating.*

*Robbie Flynn, blindfolded, lifted the cup, and drank.*

*He experienced a moment of disorientation as the audience responded not with a cheer, but a horrified gasp. And then the poison seared his mouth and throat like fire and he understood. He dropped the cup, but it was too late. It fell to the stage, empty.*

*Had he made a mistake? No. That wasn't possible.*

*Then how...? (virtuosic method acting)*

*Molly!*

**Eddie**

Thank you very much, Maggie. I'm sure that we can all agree that was absolutely, uh, titillating!

**Maggie**

Oh! Thank you.

**Eddie**

Now that the stage has been set for murder. We'd like one of the judges to join us on the stage. JUDGE... Would you mind assisting us this evening? Please give her a nice round of applause...

Thank you. The way we'll do this is pretty straight forward. You don't happen to be allergic to latex do you? Oh good. If you would please put these gloves then, for your protection. Which ever pair best suits your individual sense of fashion and style.

This demonstration uses nothing but these glasses, this cotton bandage, this bottle of pink lemonade, this bottle of drain cleaner, and my ability to know when Maggie is staring at me. We call it: It's the Thought That Kills!

Maggie

Isn't it amazing how far he'll go, just to promote my novel?

Eddie

Indeed. This is pink lemonade -- though I probably don't need to prove that to you. And this is drain cleaner, the active ingredients are caustic soda, also known as sodium hydroxide, or lye, sodium chloride, and propanone. This substance is highly corrosive and the ingestion of as little as 5 grams has brought about death in adult humans. This bottle contains 500 grams.

Would you mind verifying that the seal is completely in tact? I'll use this pocket knife to break the seal... Please verify that the inner foil seal is also completely in tact, and has not been tampered with. Please watch closely as I break this seal as well... Fair enough?

Maggie

Would you please hold this stainless steel basin here, like this.

Eddie

To demonstrate the lethality of this poison I'll pour a small amount into this Styrofoam cup. [demonstration – dun dun duuuunnnn!]

Nasty stuff. Will you please look closely at this cotton gauze? Please make sure I don't have anything in or near my ears. Please hold these in place over my eyes while I blindfold myself with this cotton bandage. Thank you. At this point it is absolutely imperative that you are 100% certain that it is completely impossible for me to physically see under these conditions. Would you agree with that? And in all honesty, it is very dark in here. Maggie. Your move.

Maggie

Thank you. If you would, please pour some of this drain cleaner into any one of these four glasses. About half full should do it. Thank you. Now, if you would please pour an equal amount of the pink lemonade into the remaining three glasses. Thank you. I'll take the gloves, unless you'd prefer to keep them.

Now, I will sing Eddie's favorite song. He has requested that I sing this song at this point in the evening, so that if he should accidentally ingest drain cleaner, this song will be among his final memories. The song lasts for 76 seconds.

During those 76 seconds, you, ma'am, -- along with the other 3 judges -- are invited to come onto the stage and switch the positions of the glasses as many times as you wish.

When the song is finished, please be seated. The glasses will remain where you have placed them.

However! Each of the four glasses must -- at all times! -- occupy one of the four designated positions on the table. Please exercise extreme caution while handling the glasses. Judges, do you accept?

Thank you. This is my Barbie Dream Ukelele. I'm saving up for the car.

**(Moon River)**

**Eddie**

**I will now select a glass at random and Maggie will look at me to indicate "SAFE" or she will look away to indicate "DANGER."**

**When I declare a glass is safe, I will swallow the contents of the glass quickly and decisively. I will have no opportunity to smell or to spit out the liquid. You will have no opportunity to stop me.**

**Please do not make any sounds which might betray the location of the poison.**

**At this point ladies and gentlemen, I would like to declare PUBLICALLY that WE PERSONALLY, accept full RESPONSIBILITY and LIABILITY for tonight's performance of the Poison Game!**

**Obviously, we insist that you do not attempt to recreate this under any circumstances. If you try it, you will probably die.**

**[process] Safe. Safe..... Safe.**

**Maggie**

Thank you very much.

**Eddie**

**Cocktail anyone?**

**Maggie**

Would you like an olive with that?

**[dipping olive] [danger music... dun dun duuuunnnn!!!]**



**Maggie**

And be sure to keep an eye out for my upcoming murder-by-telepathy thriller, hitting the shelves in March 2017 at a bookstore near you. It's called: "It's the Thought

**[shooting gun]**

**Both:**

that Kills!"

[barrel smoke and karate chop]

**Act 4**

**[Knights Opening]**

**Maggie**

How much do we know without realizing that we know it?

**Eddie**

**In the early 1900s, an apparent psychic by the name of Clever Hans astounded the world by demonstrating a proficiency in maths, telling time, and reading calendars, as well as reading and understanding German.**

**Maggie**

This would not have been particularly impressive were it not for the fact that Clever Hans was a horse.

He answered complex questions, both spoken and written, by tapping his hoof.

**Eddie**

**For example, the question might be on what day falls the first Tuesday of October?**

**Maggie**

Hans would do this.

(Stamp thrice).

**Eddie**

**The third is correct!**

**Not so impressive when we do it,**

**Maggie**

It would be impressive if we were a horse...

**Eddie**

**An investigation found that Hans was actually reading signals given off unconsciously by his trainer.**

**As Hans approached the right answer, his trainer's posture and facial expression increased in tension.**

**(demo)**

**The tension was released when the horse made the final, correct tap – signaling Hans to stop.**

**Maggie**

Horses often communicate through small postural changes.

This allowed Hans to easily pick up on the unconscious cues given off by his trainer.

**Eddie**

**Animals have senses that humans simply don't.**

**When we look at bees...**

**Maggie**

Or ants...

**Eddie**

**Thank you. And what they manage to accomplish without the use of language...**

**There is no denying that communication is taking place on some level which we do not fully understand.**

**Maggie**

Cows and bees and birds, for instance, have Magnetoception.

This allows them to sense the Earth's magnetic field.

**Eddie**

**This is why cows often stand in fields facing North and South and how birds migrate.**

**Maggie**

Some birds are even able to SEE the Earth's magnetic field.

Bats, of course, have Echolocation

**Eddie**

**It was once thought that extrasensory perception suggested a sixth sense.**

**Maggie**

But today, we know that humans have at least nine senses, and probably closer to 21.

**Eddie**

**There are the five classical senses**

**Maggie**

sight, smell, sound, touch, and taste.

**Eddie**

**And then there are our *extra* senses, which extend beyond the classical five.**

**These include proprioception.**

**Maggie**

This is the sense that enables us to feel where our bodies are in space. This is the sense that is being tested when intoxicated drivers are asked to touch a finger to their nose.

We can sense the passing of time.

**Eddie**

**We possess senses of balance,**

**Maggie**

acceleration,

**Eddie**

temperature,

**Maggie**

pain,

**Eddie**

**hunger,**

**Maggie**

**thirst,**

**Eddie**

**and the list goes on...**

**Even if scientists were to find proof of mental or “morphic” fields as the work of Dr. Rupert Sheldrake suggests, it still wouldn’t constitute extrasensory perception. It would simply become our 22nd sense.**

**Maggie**

**We’d like you to try some tests with us.**

**Eddie**

**Maggie is writing a word on the pad, and we’re concentrating on that word –**

**Maggie**

**As hard as we can.**

**Eddie**

**Ask yourself -- Could you, at this point in time, and with 100 percent certainty, say the word that’s written on the pad? Yes or no?**

**How many of you said no? Very impressive!**

**All kidding aside. Remember the ESP shapes developed at Duke University? Maggie has just drawn one of those five shapes on the board. Try to form an impression of the shape she’s drawn now.**

**How many of you guessed, the three wavy lines?**

**And now for our third and final test.**

**In this candy dish are three different flavors of chewing gum. peppermint, cinnamon, and strawberry.**

**Maggie**

**I will select a piece and concentrate on the taste sensation.**

**Eddie**

**While Maggie revels in the flavor, let your mouths water and see if you can get an impression of the flavor that she seems to be experiencing... Remember the three choices are peppermint, cinnamon, and strawberry.**

**How many got an impression that she is chewing peppermint? How many got cinnamon? And how many felt that she was chewing strawberry? I got \_\_\_\_\_...**

**Maggie**

That's right! It was \_\_\_\_\_.

**Eddie**

**Congratulations to those of you who voted for strawberry? Did anybody get both the flavor and the shape? Excellent. We'll keep an eye on you.**

**Maggie**

Now, We'd like you to partner up with someone sitting next to you.

(spit out gum)

You can try it with the person you came with, or you can try it with a stranger. Make groups of three if you need to.

**Eddie**

**It might work even better at first, if you have a little physical contact, so one person please put your hand on top of the other person's.**

**Maggie**

At least, it's more fun this way!

**Eddie**

**Choose one person in the group to be the sender. The others are the receivers. Do that now.**

**When Maggie clashes her cymbals, we would like the sender to send an impression and the receiver to try to receive an impression. Please don't say anything out loud. Go with your intuition and stick with the first thing that enters your mind. Think of a number between 1 and 10, now!**

(clash)

**Maggie**

Now compare your answers and see how you did..... How many got it right?

**Eddie**

**Let's try something harder: Form an impression of a verb, an action word. Quickly! Do that now!**

(clash)

**Maggie**

Compare your answers.....Did anybody get it?

**Eddie**

**Now switch roles... The sender becomes a receiver... We'd like the new sender to send an impression of a color, now.**

(clash)

**Maggie**

How did you do?

**Eddie**

**Now something more complicated.**

**Sender... think of a playing card. Any playing card. It could be a spade, a heart, a club, or a diamond, it could be a Jack, a Queen, a King, or an ace, or any of the number cards two through ten.**

**Mentally picture the card.**

**Now start with the color. Red or black. Form an impression of the color of the card, now.**

(clash)

**Maggie**

How many got the color correct?

**Eddie**

**If you got it, now try for the suit. If it was red, it will be a heart or a diamond. If it was black, it will be a spade or a club. Form an impression of the suit now.**

(clash)

**Maggie**

How many got the suit?

**Eddie**

**If you got this far, let's see if you can go one step further. This is the step that we call the tricky step. Try to get the exact identity of the playing card now.**

(clash)

**Maggie**

Did anyone get close? Did anyone get it exactly right?

**Eddie**

**That's amazing! If you got it right, or were only off by one or two, please keep your hands raised high as Maggie comes amongst you and distributes certificates of Amazingness. (Where were the people that got the verbs?) This certificate certifies that you have been tested for telepathic abilities by THE DEANS and have been found to be certifiably amazing!**

**One of the most difficult tests designed by parapsychological researchers requires the transference of abstract drawings or designs.**

**The unpredictable and abstract nature of the drawings makes it very difficult to cheat by using simple systems codes or semaphores.**

**Maggie has drawn a picture on the pad. It is not some random selection of shapes. It is not in any way abstract. This is a picture of something that will be instantly recognizable.**

**Try to form an impression of the drawing now.**

(clash)

**Let's start with the judges.**

**Maggie**

What image did you receive XXX? How about you XXX? And you XXX? And you XXX? Are those your final answers? Would you like to phone a friend?

**Eddie**

**To be honest with you, some of you would have been better off phoning a friend....**

**How many of you in the audience received an impression of something like a house? Did anyone match it specifically with the chimney and with the smoke in a similar pattern?**

Please keep your hands raised high as Maggie distributes the certificates of amazingness. Not only do the certificates certify you as amazing, but bearers of these certificates are also officially declared to be lifetime members of the official THE DEANS fan club™ and are entitled to all of the rights and privileges afforded to such people, which are numerous, I assure you.

Maggie

And now it's our turn....

Eddie

Judge, would you mind sending blindly sending Piddington Bear on his usual stratocrusier adventure? Would you mind joining us on the stage, sir? My name is Eddie, this is Maggie, do you mind us asking your name? Maggie is going to be blindfolded again, but first, would you please make sure these stacks of cotton gauze are entirely opaque? Please check her ears for hidden earpieces. And this blindfold, as well? Please verify from your position here on the stage that it is quite impossible for Maggie to see under these conditions?

Now, Maggie, I'm just going to follow the stage directions and move you to your happy place, down stage right.

In a moment, I'm going to ask you to make a simple drawing on the board, nice and large so that everybody can see it. Nothing so simple as a shape, like a heart or a star. Something random and unique that pops into your head. Something that you could draw in about 10 or 15 seconds. And something that we will all recognize when we see it. It's a lot to ask, but I assure you that we are not here to judge you, in any way. Do you accept?

When you are finished drawing the picture, please return the marker to me and then you may return yourself to your seat. Please take ten or fifteen seconds to draw the picture on the board, now.

I, of course, will not speak again until the conclusion of the demonstration.

As ever, we thank you in advance for your sympathy and your support.

Maggie

[process]

Eddie

Absolutely correct!

Let's recap. (pen is recapped). A random drawing was created by a randomly selected audience member! An accurate impression of that image was conveyed to Maggie under conditions of strict silence. And beyond that, well....

Maggie. Do you have anything you'd like to add?

Maggie



Only to say thank you very much and to remind you that you are the judge.

**Eddie**

**I don't have anything further to add – I ALWAYS... agree with Maggie.**

**Act 5**

**[Rooks Opening]**

**In the 1950's the Piddingtons ignited fierce controversy across Britain, as they demonstrated what appeared to be genuine telepathy for the BBC.**

**Maggie**

And as quickly as they came, they were gone again. Cancelling their contract with the BBC, they returned to Australia to start a family...

**Eddie**

**They took their secrets with them.**

**Maggie**

For over half a century, those secrets remained a mystery.

Until... Well... let's start at the beginning.

[cross – Castling]

**Eddie**

**Sydney Piddington and Leslie Pope were born in Australia.**

**Maggie**

Their childhoods consisted of the sorts of things that Australian childhoods consist of. Swimming. Climbing trees. Fantastic beasts...

Until the coming of WWII.

**Eddie**

**Sydney Piddington spent three and a half years as a Prisoner of War in the notorious Changi prison camp.**

**There, of all places, he chanced upon an old copy of a Reader's Digest Magazine containing an article about Extra Sensory Perception, written by Dr. J.B. Rhine.**

**Maggie**

He began conducting experiments in telepathy with his fellow prisoners -- secretly developing systems of invisible communication.

**Eddie**

**After the war, recuperating on a beach, he shared this system with his future wife Leslie — teaching her, by drawing out diagrams in the sand.**

**Maggie**

Together they watched as the tide destroyed the only evidence of their secrets.

**Eddie**

**Sydney Piddington had a rule: nothing gets written down on paper.**

**But that rule was broken by one of Piddington's collaborators — a London City cab driver named George Hart.**

**Maggie**

For over half a century the cab driver's notebook lay untouched -- until recently, when it was discovered by the grandson of the cab driver, an investigative journalist named Martin T. Hart.

**Eddie**

**Mr. Hart wrote a book about Sydney and Leslie and the history of their secrets.**

**And that's where our lives become inseparably entangled with the lives of the Piddingtons.**

**Maggie. Your move.**

**Maggie**

Together Eddie and I have led a fascinating life. I'll tell you all about it.

Eddie was born first. That won't surprise you. But I caught up very quickly.

I was born in a hospital located at the geographical center of the United States.

I did the usual things growing up. Hopscotch. Romance novels. Pretending I was a horse.

Eddie has always lived near water - except for when he worked with the circus in Cairo. He grew up in Seattle.

By day an acrobatics instructor; by night a trapeze artist. Isn't it romantic?

When we met, we knew we had a special connection because of the way we always finished each other's –

**Eddie**

**Sandwiches?**

**Maggie**

Exactly. Eddie's a coffee connoisseur. That's why we moved to Tuscany. Well... and also to study physical theatre at a conservatory.

That's where we began our experiments in telepathy, or as we call it, invisible communication.

The red wine flowed freely, as did our sweat and tears, as we bashed into, repeatedly, the bleeding edge of the possible.

We were the first to assert telepathy as an act of contemporary circus. A two-person display of physical skill – sometimes dangerous.

Our circus act took us around Europe, and eventually to Ireland in an attempt to slake our thirst for knowledge. "a little learning is a dangerous thing" as they say. And we've never done anything by halves.

And so with a single mindedness of a burglar blowing a safe –

**Eddie**

**I love that line. It's from *Gatsby*...**

**Maggie**

It's an homage. With the single mindedness of a burglar blowing a safe we devoured Mr. Hart's book about the Piddingtons, yet, we had reason to believe that Mr. Hart knew things — things about the Piddingtons that were not included in his book...things perhaps contained within the cab-driver's notebook.

With bees in our bonnets and cats in our pajamas we did what any reasonable adults would do: We packed our bags and flew to London. We spoke with Mr. Hart. We begged. We pleaded. We bargained.

**Eddie**

**I can't be sure, but I think at one point she threatened him with a fork.**

**Maggie**

(blink blink blink) I am one who loved not wisely but too well.

**Both**

Shakespeare.

**Maggie**

But anyhow... *that's how we learned the final secrets* of the Piddingtons. (curtsey?)

**Eddie**

Thank you Maggie. I never tire of hearing that.

We'd like to conclude this evening's demonstration with one final test... A test which the Piddingtons once conducted at a Red Cross facility in Australia, and which was captured on a British Pathe news reel. A test which still remains a mystery to the world.

Judge, would you please blindly send Piddington bear on his final journey of the evening? Please remain standing and blindly toss the bear to someone else. And please remain standing and blindly toss the bear to someone else. Excellent. Would all three of you please join us on the stage? Please give these lovely people a nice round of applause.

We've gathered a large assortment of books. Please have a look at these books until you're completely satisfied that they are just normal books, and the contents of all of the books, unique.

When today's demonstration is concluded.... You may start to, uh... What am I trying to say here, Maggie?

**Maggie**

You'll wonder how WE did it.

**Eddie**

You'll wonder if we have radio transmitters concealed in hollow teeth.

You might even wonder if there's a little green man who flies between us whispering secrets.

**Eddie**

Or maybe...

It's just not that easily explained...

How are those books checking out?

Maggie will be blindfolded for the third and final time.

While they continue examining the books would you verify one last time that this cotton guaze is entirely opaque. As is the blindfold. Please check Maggie for earpieces. From your perspective here with us on the stage, are you completely satisfied that she cannot see? Now, Maggie, once again, following the script, I am going to escort you to your other happy place, down stage left.

**Are you all satisfied with the books?**

**In a moment. One of you will choose a book. One of you will choose a page number. And one of you will choose a line of text.**

**Which one of you would like to choose a book? Go ahead. Take your time. Are you happy that that was a free choice? Would you like to select a different book? It makes no difference to us. Are you absolutely certain that all of the lines and pages in that book are different?**

**How many pages are in that book?**

**Who will choose a page number? Please choose a number between xxx and 1.**

**How many lines, more or less, would you say are on that page?**

**Please choose a number between xx and 1.**

**Now, using your finger as a guide, please count aloud down to the xx line. Please read that line silently amongst yourselves.**

**In a moment, I will ask you to hand me the book. I will count down to the xx line on page xxx. I will then ask one question only. I will say: "Is this the line you selected?" Upon your confirmation, I will attempt to transfer an impression of that entire train of thought to Maggie.**

**Maggie. Are you ready?**

**Maggie**

Yes. I hope I'm able to get it.

**Eddie**

**May I see the book?**

**"Is this the line you selected?"**

(line is revealed with blindfold on, then removed)

**Would you please read out the line you selected from the book?!**

**Thank you very much, you may return to your seats.**

**Judges. Submitted for your examination. Would you please read aloud this line of text? The XX line on page XXX of \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Thank you very much, Ladies and gentlemen.**

**We think you'll agree that a book, a page number, and a line number were chosen under the fairest of circumstances and that an accurate impression of that line of text was then transferred to Maggie under strictest of conditions. Well, there it is, and you are the judge. Maggie, final thoughts?**

**Maggie**

I'd just like to point out that unfathomable doesn't mean amazing. It means immeasurable. And it perfectly captures our appreciation for all of you.

**Eddie**

**If there is one thing that we have learned from studying telepathy, it is that nobody succeeds alone.**

**Maggie**

We'd like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to Martin T. Hart for his guidance

**Eddie**

**To our judges of the evening, for their kind attention.**

**Maggie**

To the legendary Mr. David Berglas for his continual support and encouragement

**Eddie**

**We'd also like to express our heartfelt appreciation for the inspirational, and amazing, Piddingtons.**

**Maggie**

And most importantly we'd like to thank all of you, without whom none of this would be possible.

**Eddie**

**Because you... are... the judge.**

**Maggie**

You... are...

**(both)**

Un...fathomable.