

"V" FILES: LEVITATION

BY DAVID ACER

INT. MYSTERY LAB - DAY

CLOSE-UP of Doubting Dave lying down on the job.

DOUBTING DAVE

(sleepy)

Hey. I'm just taking a little nap...

CUT BACK to reveal Dave floating 4 feet off the ground!

DOUBTING DAVE

(excited)

... IN MID-AIR!

Dave laughs gleefully as magician TED OUTERBRIDGE enters.

DOUBTING DAVE

This is magician Ted Outerbridge.

He's a blast at parties!

CLOSE-UP of Ted, looking utterly deadpan.

ANGLE ON Dave.

DOUBTING DAVE

He's here to help me answer a
seriously cool e-mail I got from 8
year-old Brian Lasseter of Toronto,
Canada.

Ted's hands enter from O.S., holding the MYSTERY ILLUSTRATOR.

DOUBTING DAVE

Take a look on the Mystery
Illustrator!

ZOOM IN on the Illustrator screen.

CUT TO:

ANIMATED SEQUENCE.

DOUBTING DAVE (V.O.)

Dear Doubting Dave, I saw a magician on TV last night. He hypnotised a lady, laid her down on a table, then made her rise up above the stage! Somebody passed a hoop over her to show there were no wires, and it didn't look like there was anything holding her up. So how do magicians make people levitate?

CUT TO:

Dave, still floating, as Ted closes the Mystery Illustrator.

DOUBTING DAVE
Great question, Brian. That's why Ted is here.

WIDE SHOT of Ted and Doubting Dave.

DOUBTING DAVE
Ted, how do magicians make people levitate?

CLOSE-UP of Ted.

TED
I'm not telling.

ANGLE ON Doubting Dave, nodding as he turns to the camera.

DOUBTING DAVE
I thought this might happen. Magicians never reveal their secrets. If they did, they'd be out of a job! So I'll tell you myself.

CLOSE-UP of Ted, suddenly concerned, as he raises his hand.

ANGLE ON Doubting Dave.

DOUBTING DAVE
Magicians lo...
<SFX: FINGER SNAP>
...AHHH!

Dave plummets down and O.S. <SFX: WHUMP!>

WIDE SHOT of Dave on the floor at Ted's feet. He looks up angrily.

DOUBTING DAVE
Alright...

He gets up and brushes himself off.

DOUBTING DAVE
Let's try a *different* approach.

He scowls at Ted.

DOUBTING DAVE
Airplanes and helicopters can lift
people off the ground, but obviously
magicians can't use the huge engines
required for those, or the trick
would sound like this!

WIPE TO:

Doubting Dave suspended in mid-air as before, with Ted gesturing
magically. There's an insanely loud <SFX: ENGINE RUMBLE!>

TED
(yelling, but barely audible)
ABRACADABRA!

DOUBTING DAVE
(yelling, but barely audible)
WHAT?

<SFX: WRONG-ANSWER BUZZER>, as the picture freezes, and the word
AIRPLANE ENGINE appears crossed out on the screen.

WIPE TO:

Doubting Dave in the Mystery Lab holding a helium balloon.

DOUBTING DAVE
Helium makes things float...

(he releases the balloon, which
floats up and O.S.)

... but you'd need so much of it to
lift a person that the trick would
look like this.

WIPE TO:

Doubting Dave suspended in mid-air, with Ted gesturing magically.

TED
(extremely high voice)
Abracadabra!

DOUBTING DAVE
(extremely high voice)
I'm like a bird!

<SFX: WRONG-ANSWER BUZZER>, as the picture freezes, and the word
HELIUM appears crossed out on the screen.

WIPE TO:

Dave holding a levitron that suspends a mini U.F.O. in mid-air.

DOUBTING DAVE

Magnets can make it *look* like something is floating, but it would take one as big as a house to push a person off the ground, AND you'd have to be lying on metal.

CLOSE-UP of Levitron. <SFX: WRONG-ANSWER BUZZER>, as the picture freezes, and the word MAGNET appears crossed out on the screen.

WIPE TO:

INT. DOUBTING DAVE'S OFFICE

Dave is seated at his desk.

DOUBTING DAVE

So no wires, no airplane engines, no helium, no magnets... It looks like we're left with more questions than when we started.

He looks cautiously around him, then he leans in to the camera.

DOUBTING DAVE

(secretively)

But I do have the answer you're looking for, Brian. The way magicians make people levitate is...

<SFX: FINGER SNAP>, as Dave disappears in a puff of smoke.

WIDE SHOT as Ted enters from O.S., then looks down at the chair.

ANGLE ON chair, with a FROG sitting on it. <SFX: RIBBIT>

CLOSE-UP of Ted, as he furrows his brow.

TED

Hm... I was trying for a cat.

He shrugs, then walks O.S.

FADE OUT