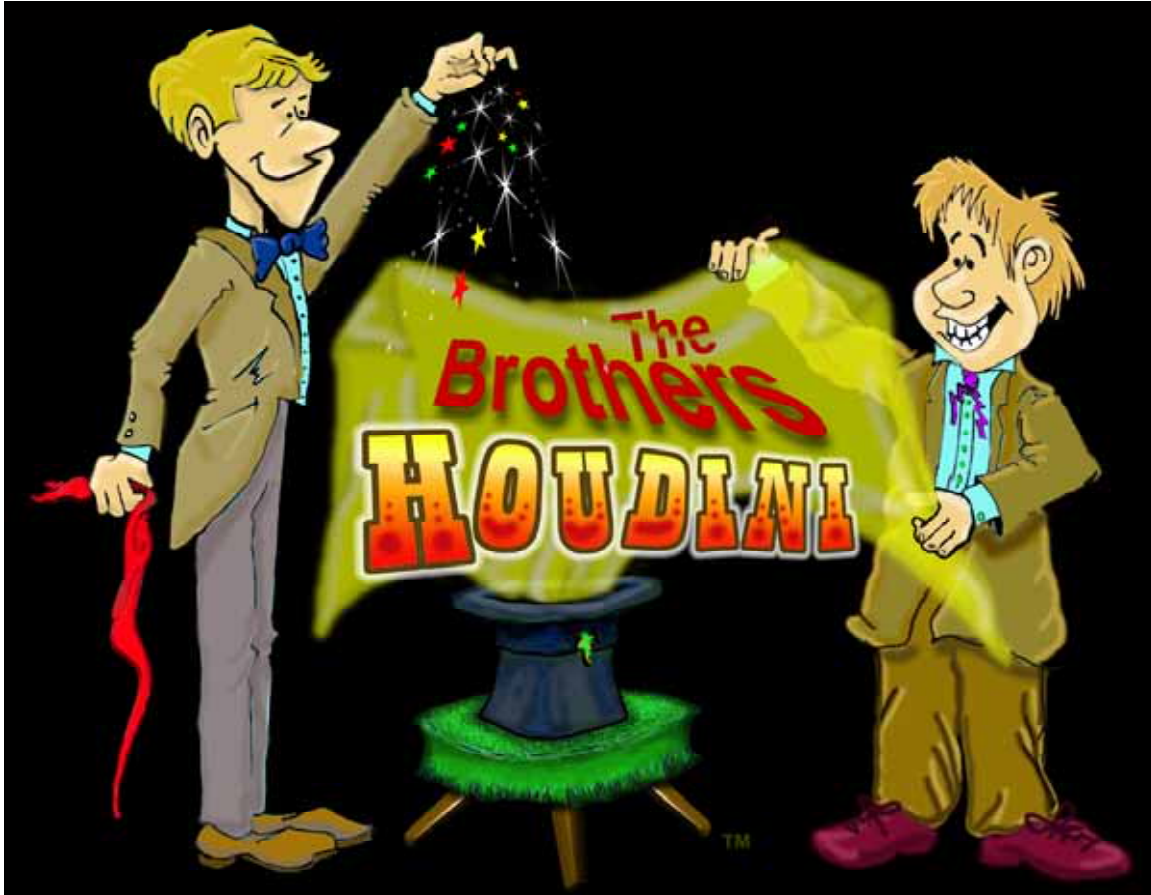


Story Synopsis

“The Brothers Houdini”
Original Story Synopsis by

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Story Synopsis

The Brothers Houdini

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The story takes place in middle America during the depression. Two brothers (Eric & Jacob) in a small mid-western town are cutting lawns to earn extra money. A new client ends up requesting service, and turns out to be Mr. and Ms Harry Houdini.

The boys are immediately fascinated by master magician Houdini, and pester him whenever possible to perform some tricks for them. After a fashion, Houdini is finally persuaded by his wife Beth to pay more attention to the boys, and maybe even consider becoming a mentor to them... after awhile Houdini softens, and soon finds himself teaching them how to perform some of his tricks. It doesn't take long for Harry to see that the two youngsters are taking magic as seriously as he did. Soon, he begins to teach them magic in earnest.

Within a few months the two brothers decide to establish their own magic act, and they approach Houdini for permission to call themselves "The Brothers Houdini". Harry is flattered, and agrees immediately.

The boys, and their act... Mature over the following summer and soon they begin performing. At first at their high-school, and then at small auditoriums in neighboring towns. Houdini is delighted and watches over them like a surrogate parent. There is an obvious affection that has built up between the boys and Mr. & Ms Houdini.

Then tragically Houdini dies unexpectedly, his wife Beth and the boys are devastated at this loss. The boys retreat to the safety of their home where they all but crumble at the loss of Houdini.

The day after the funeral Beth is visited by a competing magician (Morgan the Magnificent) who makes a cash offer to the wife for her husband's magic chest. He is intent on finding out the secrets to Houdini's greatest illusions, and is willing to buy them. But Beth knows Morgan through her husband, and is certain that Harry would NEVER consider giving his secrets to Morgan.

Beth kindly refuses his offer, explaining that the chest has already been promised to someone else. Morgan feels like he's been slapped in the face by Houdini yet again, and vows to himself "I shall have it!" as he leaves the premises.

The next Saturday, when the boys arrive to do the regular gardening tasks, Ms. Houdini invites them inside for a glass of cold lemonade, and while the boys are sitting down... she explains... "Harry would have wanted his magician's chest to go to you boys".

The boys are stunned, and yet at the same time, excited... in their state of disbelief. After they grasp the importance of this day, they finish their work, and

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rush home to make arrangements with their father, to help them pick up the chest on the following day.

However, that night Morgan along with two of his henchmen, break into the Houdini mansion, and steal the chest.

The rest of the story reads like an episode of the Hardy Boys, that takes Eric and Jacob all the way to Chicago in pursuit of the missing chest. There's danger to overcome, as the boys match wits with the very cunning Morgan and his henchmen.