

Preface:

- Setting: JFK Center for the Performing Arts in Washington DC (~2017)
- Narrator: Jason
- A 30 year old magician named Jason (stage name: Prospero) is preparing for a big show.
- Before the show, he sits down with his biographer, Miles. Jason begins to tell Miles how he got into magic.
- The two people that got Jason into magic are named Tiegan Rose Marie Atherton and Mr. Murray McBride

Chapter One:

- Setting: Lemon Grove Illinois, 20 years before the events in the preface (~1997)
- Narrator: Murray McBride
- It is Murray McBride's 100th birthday. Murray eats his breakfast of Bran Flakes and lung medication alone.
- Murray reflects on his loneliness - his wife passed away 18 months ago, and he does not have any family or friends (except his Doctor)
- Murray goes to his yearly physical with Doc Keaton, and tells the doctor he expects to live until the 22nd.
- The Doctor expresses concerns about the lack of Murray's social life, and tells Murray he needs to make a change
- Murray asks himself how he could possibly find a reason to live

Chapter Two:

- After his doctor's appointment, Murray decides he isn't going to take his medication the next day. Once he decides this, Murray thinks about what he will do during his last day on earth.
- Murray decides he will go spend his last day at a children's hospital, and chooses to visit the cardiac floor
- On the cardiac floor, he finds a sickly yet energetic ten-year old boy named Jason. Murray plays video games with Jason until Jason is rushed out of the hospital by his father
- When Jason gets into the elevator, he realizes he forgot something and tries to go back into the hospital to find it. His father doesn't let him. Murray then finds a piece of paper with Jason's bucket list, titled "Five Things I want to do Before My Heart Dies and I go to Heaven"
- Reading Jason's bucket list gives Murray hope and a reason to live. He decides to continue to take his medication and stick around to make sure Jason gets each of his wishes before he dies