Magic Elevator

**THE TRICK:** A volunteer is seated in a straight chair. Four other volunteers, of about equal size, stand on either side of the seated one—two on a side—facing in. The magician says he will give the four standees power to lift the seated player out of the chair, each using only two fingers. The four are told to clasp their own hands together, leaving only the forefingers extended. Two of the four then put their forefingers under the seated one's knees; the other two put their forefingers under the armpits. At the command "Lift!" the seated one is easily raised into the air.

**THE SECRET:** Before the act of lifting, all five volunteers count together, "One, two three." After "one," and "two," they all take deep breaths, then expel. After the count of "three," each holds his breath. At this point, the four volunteers place their fingers under the seated player's knees and armpits. Still holding their breath, they lift. The trick works, but it will fail if anyone expels his breath before the seated person is returned to the chair.