Stay There

THE TRICK: "I will hypnotize a boy or girl so that he cannot move at all," says the magician. When a volunteer comes forward the magician seats him in a chair with his arms folded, his head thrown back and his feet extended. Then the magician lightly touches the volunteer's forehead with a finger and says, "You cannot rise! Stay there!" The volunteer tries to rise but cannot—until the magician removes his finger.

THE SECRET: The volunteer's position makes it virtually impossible for him to rise, for in order to do so he must move his head forward and up. The pressure of the magician's finger prevents him from doing this. So long as the volunteer's arms are crossed and legs extended, he cannot exert any strength at all.