

Flip

by James Dunnison

It's all in the cards.

This 1/2-hour dramedy plunges us into the sometimes dreamy, sometimes nightmarish, sometimes hilarious and always astounding world of psychic WILLIAM “Monsieur le Wizard” BURKE (picture Zach Galifianakis at 27, but taller).

If you've ever ventured to the Psychic Fair – that travelling circus of fortune tellers, mystics, occultists, hucksters, hopefuls and true believers who've all made paranormal activity their passion – Will would probably be the last person you'd choose to do your tarot card reading. That's because, in a field of eccentrics, Will stands out as *especially* odd. He doesn't look a day over 24, he struggles with acne, he's overweight and awkward, his fingernails are bitten to the nub, and he wanders around in a purple cape with a big yellow “W” sewn onto the back.

The W stands for “Wizard.”

To say Will has his share of demons is an understatement. High on the list are his feelings of worthlessness and his allergy to getting out of bed in the morning – unless, that is, if he's off to his booth at the Psychic Fair, where he can turn a quick buck guiding strangers to better outcomes.

His family doesn't help. His DAD has never accepted Will's chosen “profession” (despite Will's undying passion for it) and can't hide his disappointment. His sister HELEN became a lawyer. She and Will couldn't be more different. She's buttoned tight and works alongside her boyfriend McKINNEY – picture Adam Scott with a spray-tan and delusions of genius – in a field that is less about seeking the truth than about cleverly bending it. Will, on the other hand, just goes with his gut and what he interprets to be truth in each flip of the cards – and *importantly*, in the order he flips them. The connective tissue. The story they tell.

He once found his MOM wearing a tinfoil cap. “Don't ask,” she responded angrily, “But you otta think about putting one on, too. The voices really do get quieter.” She's still disgruntled he never pursued medicine. “I coulda used the free prescriptions.”

Sick of feeling unappreciated, Will goes off his Prozac completely. Flushes the entire vial.

Then he gets **struck by lightning** – and gifted with a crystallized ability to prophesize. For real.

But was it the lightning that sparked these new powers? Or did the lightning, along with the Prozac flush, just trigger something in his genes that he inherited from his whacko mom?

No matter. The main thing is, soon he has clients lined up at his booth, begging him to play a more active part in solving their problems – some of which are pure melodrama, others dark and criminal. Always the social misfit, Will tries to keep his distance. Until one day, in the Pilot Episode, Will has a vision of McKinney's sinister future. Will can no longer resist the call. He has to stop that sociopath in his tracks and protect his sister Helen!

What follows is a shit ton of thrills, spills, wild revelation and occasional, hard-won triumph.