

“Dealt” starring Richard Turner, Johnny Thompson, Max Maven, 2017, NR, 85 minutes

Major themes:

- Cards
- Card Mechanic
- Sleight of hand
- Family
- Support
- Discipline
- Precision
- Denial
- Disabilities

Major characters:

- Richard Turner
- Kim Turner (wife)
- Asa Turner (son)
- Lori Dragt (sister)

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Background info:

- Richard Turner was born in San Diego in 1954, which he dubbed "*the year of the full deck*" (referring to a standard 52-card deck of playing cards, plus the two jokers).
- When Turner was eleven years old he created a puzzle game called "*Batty*", inspired by the game Tower of Hanoi. In May 2011 he released his fourth version. Batty has eleven levels of difficulty ranging from an uncomplicated Level 3 through the extremely complex Level 11. While a Level 3 can be resolved by an elementary school student by making between 6 and 7 moves, mastering Level 11 demands far greater mathematical acumen, and requires between 1,023 and 2,047 moves without making a single mistake.
- "*Maverick*" is an American Western television series that aired from 1957 to 1962.
- The United States Playing Card Company employs Richard Turner's services as a "*touch analyst*" to evaluate the texture, flexibility and cut of dozens of decks of cards each year.
- In 1987, Dai Vernon (Canadian magician and sleight-of-hand artist who was one of the 20th century's most renowned practitioners of "*up-close*" magic and card tricks) described Richard Turner as the most skillful card technician in the world, proclaiming, "*Having seen countless numbers of card experts execute for over eighty years, I consider Richard Turner to be by far the most skillful. He performs the most difficult moves with the greatest ease. I doubt if anyone can equal him. He does things with cards that no one in the world can do – no one. I don't care if you go to China, France or Germany, he does things that no one else can do, and he performs them beautifully.*"

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Scriptures:

Proverbs 12:27 (The Message) – *“A lazy life is an empty life, but ‘early to rise’ gets the job done.”*

Proverbs 10:4 (ESV) – *“A slack hand causes poverty, but the hand of the diligent makes rich.”*

Proverbs 26:15 (NIV) – *“A sluggard buries his hand in the dish; he is too lazy to bring it back to his mouth.”*

Psalms 119:60 (ISV) – *“I hurried and did not procrastinate to keep your commands.”*

Proverbs 13:4 (The Message) – *“Indolence wants it all and gets nothing; the energetic have something to show for their lives.”*

Hebrews 12:7-13 (NIV) – *“Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children. For what children are not disciplined by their father? If you are not disciplined—and everyone undergoes discipline—then you are not legitimate, not true sons and daughters at all. Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of spirits and live! They disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in his holiness. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it. Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees. ‘Make level paths for your feet,’ so that the lame may not be disabled, but rather healed.”*

John 13:34 (NLT) – *“So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other.”*

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Discussion points:

1. Respond to this quote from the film: *"You cannot conquer what you're not willing to confront."*
2. Some people do extraordinary things in life: change the world, share their talents, or overcome challenges that most of us don't have. Richard Turner does all three. In what way does his life most inspire you?
3. What impacted you the most about Richard's wife Kim? Richard's son Asa? Richard's sister Lori?
4. Richard Turner earned a fifth degree black belt in Wado-Kai Karate. How has his disciplined approach to life changed him?
5. In what ways did Richard Turner's denial of his reality help him? In what ways did it hinder him?
6. Thomas Edison famously said, *"Genius is one per cent inspiration, ninety-nine percent perspiration."* In what area of your life could you add more perspiration to the inspiration you've been given?
7. Richard Turner says that he considers procrastination and laziness the worst disabilities of all. How does this challenge you, coming from someone with his disability?