

Art Heist

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Log Line

A tight-knit group of artists seek revenge against painter-diva Zinny Rococco, as a reaction against her cruel caricatures of the people in her scene, by conducting a high-concept art heist that goes awry.

Synopsis

When hipster artist, Zinny Rococco unveils her latest paintings at a Downtown Los Angeles gallery show, she gets a harsh reaction from the critics, her best friends. Initially the show opening is a grand success with the usual fain-fair, glammers people, in elegant surroundings, but there is something disruptive in her portrayal of the people closest to her that stirs an ominous anger among them that grows into the fires of revenge. As they view their portraits it's as if they become unmasked. Betty sees herself portrayed standing on a street corner holding a sign that says "will work for art" while Suzy is painted in a frumpy sweater eating a hamburger. The subject of her paintings stew in anger at a drug-addled after-party and conspire to do the unthinkable; they plan to take the paintings from the gallery to the desert and burn them in a high-concept art heist.

They put their plan into action, also with seemingly great success, but there are secrets tearing at the fabric of their trust and their security begins to unravel. After they burn the art in effigy, as part of a luxurious glamping experience under the stars, they return to their usual routine.

A savvy detective uncovers clues that lead Zinny to confront ex-lover John in a deadly confrontation, where in self-defense he kills her with her own Derringer pistol. He is then forced to go back to the desert and bury her. His wife Laurie is suspicious, and the art world is astir with rumors, as Zinny's few remaining paintings sell for an extraordinary price at auction, and the NFTs of the lost work gain value as the scandal unfolds. In short, of the six conspirators: two commit suicide, two become rich, one goes mad and another escapes to a completely new life.

I started this piece as a short story, then I wrote it as a script for a pilot series, but then a colleague noted there were parallels with Shakespeare's Julius Caesar, and I took up the challenge of taking the story through those tragic turns. I also referred to Alfred Hitchcock films for aesthetics and pacing, where Laurie narrates the action as seen in Rebecca, and the art auction scene is similar to the action in North by Northwest. I also pulled on the influence of Scooby-Doo mysteries for a bit of light-heartedness and fun.

I've been writing for some time, to include experience editing fiction for Zharmae Publishing Press and assisting with the efforts of House of Bleu Productions. I've had two scripts place in contests and I received high scores when evaluated by an AI computerized evaluation system.

I'm inviting you to read the completed script of Art Heist and assess its merits for production. I hope it will be worthy of your time and consideration.