

Final Draft 8 Demo

ARTIST UNKNOWN

Written by

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FADE IN:

INT. KINDERGARTEN CLASS ROOM - DAY

It's utter chaos as MISS HEATHER a fresh out of college teacher tries to keep the class focused on painting the canvas and not each other. Flecks of paint fly through the room and children squeal as they chase each other with paint brushes.

MISS HEATHER

Billy, put that down.

Miss Heather takes a JAR of paint from a young boy.

MISS HEATHER (CONT'D)

Cindy, get down from there.

Miss Heather picks girl up from off of a table and places her gently on the floor.

MISS HEATHER (CONT'D)

Johnny, not in your nose.

Miss Heather heads off screen after an other young boy and we focus in on a small lonely boy, DANNY. Danny is the only child in the class who is behaving himself and painting.

Danny finishes his PAINTING. It's not anything special but it is fairly advanced for someone his age with no prior experience. It's the quality one would expect from a gifted high-schooler.

DANNY

Miss Heather, take a look.

Miss Heather is too busy to look.

DANNY (CONT'D)

Miss Heather, look.

MISS HEATHER

Not now, Danny. I have to find a way to get Johnny cleaned up.

DANNY

Please, Miss Heather. Would you just look for one second?

Miss Heather turns around very quickly and barely looks at the painting before turning back to work.

MISS HEATHER
It's very nice Danny.

Danny turns his head down dejected.

INT. ART STUDIO - NIGHT

TITLE CARD: 20 years later

ADULT DANNY paints in his studio. His work is fresh and original. It is abstract and ethereal.

DANNY (V.O.)
I always wanted to make people happy. But no matter what I did they couldn't see what I valued in my work.

Danny RIPS a page off an EASEL. After destroying this painting he takes a piece of CANVAS and puts it on the EASEL.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Danny shows his painting to his friend JOEL. Joel looks at it questioningly for a second. His face lights up as he looks harder at the painting.

JOEL
That's some great stuff, right there. I love this part over here.

Joel gestures to a part of canvas that Danny hadn't focused on painting.

Danny looks down at the PAINTING.

The PAINTING has changed from an abstract blend of colors to a concrete image of a city street.

DANNY
Thanks man. I wasn't really thinking of it in that way but it think I understand what you mean.

JOEL
This would look great in the shop. I'll buy it off you for a hundred bucks.

DANNY
Really man? That's great.

JOEL
I'm always there to help out a
friend.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

The painting hangs on a wall in a empty coffee shop. It doesn't seem that business has been going really well for a long time. A man walks in and orders a cup of coffee. As he turns to look at the painting it CHANGES to picture of a park on a summers day. The man smiles and leaves as another customer walks in.

JOEL
I suppose you want your usual, Don.

DON
Yeah.

DON looks at the painting which CHANGES into a image of war and death.

DON (CONT'D)
That new piece is really nice.
Seems a little out of place here
though.

Joel fiddles around with a coffee machine.

JOEL
Well I love it.

DON
No, no. It's. I love it too. It
just doesn't seem like something
your want to hang in a coffee shop.

JOEL
You see anyone here to complain?

DON
Hope you got a good deal on it at
least. It looks pricey. What is it?
A reprint of some famous guys?

JOEL
Nope. My friend Danny is the
artist.

Joel places a coffee and scone on the counter.

DON

Good deal man. It's always good to have talented friends. Make sure you can get some of his work while it's still cheap.

Joel leans over the counter to look at the painting. Joel does a double take and the picture CHANGES BACK to the image of a park.

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INT. COFFEE SHOP - NIGHT

The coffee shop is filled with people sitting sipping coffee. Many of them are talking about the painting. Others just seem to be talking about how nice the decor is in general.

CUSTOMER

It's a political statement.

GIRLFRIEND

I thought it was about commercialism.

A group of hipsters stands around talking about the painting.

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HIPSTER
No, no, no, it's about how we're all monkeys chasing cars, always trying to act more advanced than we really are.

The painting can be seen to be changing rapidly as more people look at it. The images are odd and semi abstract but grounded in real images that make it easy to discern meaning from the painting.

Danny and Joel lean against the counter sipping COFFEE

JOEL

You'd think we were in a museum.

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DANNY

It's insane. All this buzz over it.

JOEL

So are any of these guys right about what it means?

DANNY

Haven't really heard what they have to say. It's all sort of a blur.

An excited FANGIRL walks up to the two with a NOTEPAD.

FANGIRL

Are you the artist?

DANNY

That's me.

FANGIRL

You're so talented. Can I get your autograph?

The fangirl hands Danny the NOTEPAD and a PENCIL. He draws a quick SKETCH and signs his name.

The fangirl runs off.

JOEL

My god, you already have groupies.

DANNY

Yes, there is a line of girls waiting to sleep with a semi-employed single dad.

JOEL

Chicks dig the lonely artist thing. And the fact that you have a kid just makes you seem even more damaged and brilliant.

DANNY

I'm not sure that works that way. I'm gonna go have a cigarette out back if you need me let me know.

Danny heads out the back door behind the counter.

GUY HALSNER walks into the bar wearing a tan business suit and a cheap car-saleman smile.

GUY HALSNER

Guy Halsner. You the owner?

JOEL

Yeah I own the place.

GUY HALSNER

That's great. You see I own a gallery up town and we're look for new talent. Now, I'm authorized to go as high as one thousand dollars on that there painting. What do you say?

JOEL

Look man my friend did that painting for me I can't just sell it without talking to him first.

GUY HALSNER

All right. I see, it's sentimental. It's insulting that I should offer you so little. I'll tell you what. I'll double my offer. That way you and your friend can each make a chunk of change on it.

Joel looks behind him. At the door Danny just left through.

JOEL

If I could just talk to my friend, first. He's just in the back.

Guy keeps applying his high pressure tactics to Joel.

GUY HALSNER

Twenty-five hundred is as high as I go, but I need you to make the deal right now, and I guarantee you won't find a buyer looking to go higher on a piece of art from someone as unknown as your friend.

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

Guy Halsner returns with his check book in hand. He hands a check to Joel and whistles to a moving team who pack the painting for transport. As they close it up Guy looks over at the painting. The painting CHANGES to an image of a receipt for six figure sale.

GUY HALSNER

It was a pleasure doing business with you.

INT. DANNY'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Danny paces back and forth in his living room furious at Joel

DANNY

You sold the painting?!

JOEL

Yeah.

DANNY

Did you even think about asking me about it?

JOEL

Briefly.

DANNY

Why didn't you ask me?

JOEL

You'd have gotten mad.

DANNY

I wouldn't have.

JOEL

Look, I gave you a share of the profits.

DANNY

You only made a profit because I sold it to you cheap because you're my friend.

INT. GALLERY - NIGHT

Hordes of people gather in the gallery to see the new acquisitions which will be put up for auction. The most attention is paid to Danny's Painting which is changing at a rate of 10 frames per second.

INT. DANNY'S LIVING ROOM

Danny continues to scream at Joel.

DANNY

I wasn't ready to put it out there for the world to consume. I wanted to see it make people happy.

INT. GALLERY - NIGHT

The PAINTING is placed on an EASEL in front of a crowd of seated people. The painting continues to change but begins to slow down as bidding begins.

BIDDER

How do you think it works?

CRITIC

I don't know. I don't see any projectors or anything. Maybe something in the frame.

AUCTIONEER

Let's start the being at twenty-thousand dollars. Do I hear twenty thousand.

Someone in the back raises a PADDLE.

With each bid the PAINTING changes but instead of changing entirely new things are added to the PAINTING without removing the previous image.

AUCTIONEER (CONT'D)

Twenty thousand. Do I hear twenty-five?

PADDLE is raised

AUCTIONEER (CONT'D)

Twenty-five thousand. Do I hear Thirty? Thirty thousand dollars. How about Thirty-five. Thirty-five thousand dollars to the man in the back. Do I hear Forty? Forty thousand dollars here in the front. How about Forty-five?

PADDLE is raised.

AUCTIONEER (CONT'D)

Fifty? Fifty thousand dollars.

DANNY (V.O.)

They'll change it and corrupt it and look for meaning where none exists.

AUCTIONEER

Sixty thousand? Sixty thousand going once. Sixty thousand going twice. Sold the gentle man in the hat.

INT. MUESEUM EXHIBITION HALL - DAY

The PAINTING hangs on a wall. People bustle about. People pay less attention to the PAINTING. It changes subtly but doesn't seem to stand out from the paintings around it.

INT. MUESEUM ENTRANCE - DAY

Joel and Danny walk through the museum.

JOEL

Look man. I'm sorry. I was an ass.
I shouldn't have done what I did.

DANNY

All right man. I get it. You were just trying to make some cash for the two of us and get some of my work out there.

JOEL

Hell of a place for it to end up though. It's probably hanging next to a Picasso or something.

DANNY

Yeah, right. It's probably in some back room no one ever visits.

INT. MUESEUM EXHIBITION HALL - DAY

Danny and Joel look around at some of the paintings trying to find Danny's painting, which hangs on a pillar in the center of the room.

JOEL

Just two more rooms to check, man.

DANNY

I told you it's probably not here. They probably buy hundreds of paintings every week and only a few actually get a spot on the wall.

JOEL

Still, there are some really interesting pieces in here.

Joel points to a picture on the wall to left of the pillar.

Danny walks directly past his painting to look at an abstract interpretation of a street corner.

DANNY
I've seen that one before, on the
cover of the map booklet.

Joel wanders around the room and stops in front of Danny's
painting.

JOEL
What do you think of this? It's
wild, huh?

Danny walks up and stands beside Joel. He looks closely at the
picture and the title card.

DANNY
(reading)
Artist Unknown.

Danny stands up straight.

DANNY (CONT'D)
It's kinda sad. Guy didn't even get
credit.

Danny and Joel leave to look in another room.

JOEL (O.S.)
That is one big naked lady.

INT. DANNY'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

CHARLIE, a young boy, about kindergarten age, paints a
PICTURE on a miniature EASEL. The child looks much like Danny
did in the first scene. The BABYSITTER sits on the couch
reading a magazine.

Danny opens the front door.

DANNY
I'm home. How was Charlie?

BABYSITTER
Charlie was just fine. He really
takes after you, you know? He
painted all afternoon.

DANNY
That's good to hear.

BABYSITTER
Did you find what you were looking
for at the museum?

DANNY

No.

BABYSITTER

Well, I'm sure if you keep looking
you'll find it.

Charlie takes his PAINTING off the EASEL.

CHARLIE

Daddy, I made you a picture.

Danny picks up the PAINTING with one hand and lifts Charlie
by the other.

DANNY

It's beautiful, Charlie. Let's go
hang it on the fridge.

Charlie claps his hands.

Danny carries Charlie and the PAINTING into the kitchen.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Danny takes a MAGNET and pins the PAINTING to the FRIDGE. The
PAINTING doesn't change.

FADE OUT.

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