

INT. BASKETBALL GYM - DAY

Close up on a basketball being dribbled. Tilt up reveals ALEX face to face with his defender.

JOHN sits on the bench, yelling to a player from the other team as the play goes down.

JOHN (VO)
See that trash talkin' shit - it
don't work on our team !

The game goes on... We zoom back out of the gym through windows into the car parkade.

INT. GYM PARKING ARCADE - DAY

A green VW New Beetle pulls in. A pair of athletic girls legs get out; we follow the legs up to the waist where a hand clutches several copies of a newspaper.

From behind, we follow the girl who goes inside the gym; as we hit stairs that look over the court, she comes to a stop and bangs on the window.

Below the game stops. Everyone looks up.

STELLA, revealed from the guys' prespective on the gym floor, holds up the newspaper and waves it.

Alex and John exchange a smile.

She runs into the gym, playing it up.

STELLA
Can you guys believe these white
rabbit people.. They put the dean's
car inside his office !

ANOTHER PLAYER
Let me see that!

JOHN
That must've been such a hassle.

ALEX
Yeah. I bet it was.

Stella looks up at him; they exchange a mischievous smile.

EXT. GYM - DAY

They walk on the boardwalk.

JOHN

I think we should lay low for a while after this one guys.

ALEX

Maybe.

STELLA

Are you kidding? I want to steal something.

Stella grabs the basketball.

ALEX

What ?

STELLA

I don't know what.

ALEX

No. What did you say ?

STELLA

I said I want to steal something - don't you think it would be exciting - we could like skulk around secret agent style...

Stella mimes her cartoon like secret agent style against a nearby wall - leaning around it as if to check for enemies.

ALEX

Stella are you on crack ? We didn't sleep for three days doing your car stunt.

STELLA

No no - I want to be bigtime...

JOHN

Last time you tried to be bigtime we almost ended up failing History. Mr. Wendall still gives me dirty looks.

STELLA

I never meant for him to see those photos you dummy.

ALEX

Yeah that's why they accidentally appeared in his inbox. Ha.

John finishes unwrapping his sandwich.

JOHN

What do you want to steal ?

STELLA

I dunno...a firetruck, a whole bunch of screwdrivers...something cool.

Alex smiles to himself.

JOHN

It's all cool until we go to jail or someone gets hurt - stealing is serious shit - we can't just go around like "chipmunks going to a bank heist"

John makes high pitched chipmunk noises - Stella tackles him and he almost loses his sandwich.

ALEX

What if we stole a piece of art ?

JOHN

Same thing - there's still alarm systems, security guards - they have guns dude - not to mention the police.

Alex turns. The two stop playfighting

ALEX

No - I mean what if we stole a piece of art...only never actually stole it at all.

STELLA

Alex, what are you talking about ? Explain...

Alex sits on the grass next to them.

ALEX

What John said - think about it - anything you steal - providing of course you make it out of the building in one piece - leaves some kind of trail - even if we were experienced thieves, which we're not - there's a large risk someone will find us.

JOHN

Yes...AND ? What's your point
genius ?

ALEX

My point - you turd - is that if we
never actually steal the item in
the first place - there is no trace
of the crime for anyone to find out
about - therefore there is no
crime.

Stella puts her hand up.

Alex points at her as if he was teaching a class.

ALEX

Stella.

STELLA

You're not making any sense - if we
steal nothing then it's not really
stealing -

ALEX

- You hate pretentious modern
installation art right ?

John nods as Stella raises her eyebrows.

ALEX

Exactly. The only thing I hate more
than pretentious modern
installation art is the pretentious
rich cocksuckers that buy it...and
gaze at it longingly while drinking
their champagne and discussing the
state of their insular bullshit
world...

STELLA

Hmm...is there something you're
trying to tell us ?

Alex waves a finger at her.

ALEX

Cute. But no. I figure we give them
something they want - and fleece
them for as much cash as possible.

STELLA

Cool. What do we have that they
could possibly want ?

INT. ALEX BEDROOM - DAY

Alex, Stella and John are in Alex' bedroom. Alex grabs a page
from his printer and hands it to Stella.

ALEX

This.

STELLA

It's heinous.

ALEX

It's 40 million dollars worth of
heinous.

John leans over to look at it. It's a weird looking
sculpture, in the hands of a large man named as Nathaniel
Ipswitch.

JOHN

OK. So we do eventually get to
steal something. I was beginning to
wonder if you'd get to the point.

STELLA

We're stealing a fat dude ?

ALEX

No. We don't steal anything.

Alex pauses.

ALEX

We go see this Mr. Ipswitch, get
him to buy into the idea of buying
the statue, and then we get someone
to make an exact replica.

John thinks a bit and says.

JOHN

Maybe Dan can do it - he makes his
own crap all the time.

ALEX

He'd be perfect.

STELLA

Dan...*Action* Dan...who hates you ?

ALEX

Yeah I guess there is that.

JOHN

I can talk to him - we've hung out since like the ninth grade.

Stella warms to the idea.

STELLA

Say we do get Dan to do it. So we sell the replica - pocket the cash and that's it ?

JOHN

Killer plan doofus...Why would this Mr. Ipswitch guy give two shits about what we say we will do ?

ALEX

Because he's an arrogant bastard and this is a piece he's always wanted to add to his collection. Besides - I've been doing some research on him on the net, and he has his fair share of closet skeletons. I'll deal with him.

STELLA

Can Dan make a good enough copy of this thing, whatever it's called ?

Alex checks the printout again.

ALEX

'Odeon's revenge'...good question. Dan can do many things...

INT. DAN SPENCER'S WORKSHOP - MOMENTS LATER

DAN SPENCER is hard at work grinding some random piece of metal when Stella, John enter his workshop.

ALEX (O.S.)

maybe you should go pay him a visit.

JOHN

Hey Dan how's tricks ?

DAN

Tricks...tricks are good. How are you guys ? Stella ?

STELLA
Haven't seen you in a while.

DAN
I know. So what's up - what brings
you here to the cave ?

STELLA
I need your help.

Dan's eyes light up.

DAN
Really ? I mean - what for ?

Stella pulls out the piece of paper folded in her pocket.

STELLA
Can you make a copy of this ?

Dan walks to a bright light source to study the picture.

DAN
Hmmm...looks ok - probably
bronze...I wonder if I could use
the...How long can I have it for ?

Stella looks over at JOHN briefly.

STELLA
You can't.

DAN
What ?

STELLA
You can't touch it or hold it. The
only place to see it is in a
museum.

DAN
Are you intending to steal this ? I
don't know if I can be involved in
something...

John calms his friend.

JOHN
Don't worry we're not going to
steal it - we just need it for a
very elaborate joke.

Dan looks over it him - confused and concerned.

DAN

I know what your jokes are like -
there's still a big car shaped dent
in the wall outside my toilet.

Stella smiles.

STELLA

This is different. It would really
mean a lot to me. Can you do it ?

Dan speaks carefully. Still examining the picture.

DAN

Maybe if I...yes I can - but I will
need some things.

Stella glances at John who's smiling and making a "have him
around your little finger" gesture. Stella pulls out pad and
paper.

STELLA

What do you need ?

INT. ALEX BEDROOM - MORNING

Alex and Stella finishing breakfast as John arrives.

The same pad Stella was writing on in visible on the table
with lots of notes written on it.

Table is covered with breakfast bits and things from Stella's
list - digital camera and a diagram of the statue room with
arrows indicating angles from which photos need to be taken.
There is a laptop computer open on one of the kitchen
counters.

ALEX

Good morning.

JOHN

Not really...couldn't sleep for
shit.

STELLA

Yeah you should stop watching all
those late night horror movies.

JOHN

Those are works of art.

ALEX

Dude I saw your 'works or art' -
they're total garbage - gave me
fucking nightmares.

John whaps Alex on the shoulder with a rolled up newspaper.
Then he sits down - eyeing the pile of stuff on the kitchen
table. He lifts the digital camera.

JOHN

Did it not occur to either of you
that museums don't allow any kind
of photography ?

We see Stella holding a cellphone to her ear, and then
pointing it at the laptop computer.

STELLA

Look at the laptop.

We see a picture (John's POV) of John holding up the digital
camera - taken seconds earlier by Stella.

JOHN

How'd you do that ?

Stella waves her cellphone and passes it over as a closeup
shot reveals a camera built into it.

STELLA

They can't stop me checking my
"voicemail" can they now...

JOHN

Nice.

Stella hands John the sheet of paper with a big diagram on
it.

STELLA

I suggest we go scope out the
gallery and collect all the photos
Dan needs.

ALEX

In the meantime I'll spend some
time finding Nathaniel.

JOHN

Yeah I meant to ask how you were
going to do that ?

ALEX

Turns out the guy speaks at a lot of charity events - so I spoke to his booker and pretended to be a contract writer for the Arts Review - she told me where he goes for lunch.

JOHN

Well let's get on with it - the museum gets busy at noon so that gives us two hours.

STELLA

Don't forget to do the dishes. I cooked you do dishes.

John looks over at Alex and laughs. Alex mimes Stella.

INT. MUSEUM - AFTERNOON - SPEED MONTAGE

Stella/John wandering through the museum taking stealthy photos of the statue. Scene is set to music.

EXT. STREET AND COFFEE SHOP - SPEED MONTAGE - CONTINUOUS

NATHANIEL, an elegant collector is seen emerging from a restaurant into a limousine. Alex follows . He stops in a coffee shop - Alex parks a block down the road and doubles back.

INT. MUSEUM - AFTERNOON - SPEED MONTAGE - CONTINUOUS

Details shown are digital camera, Dan's list that Stella made, the statue, the different approach to the statue, security issues - small cameras, emergency exit doors.

Stella notices VERITY, a sexy professional woman, admiring the sculpture from afar. Verity gives Stella a knowing smile.

After taking multiple pictures and making notes throughout the museum she hands notebook to John who carries it off.

INT. DAN SPENCER'S WORKSHOP - AFTERNOON - SPEED MONTAGE - CONTINUOUS

Dan overlooking the photos on computer screen and starting to make prototypes of the statue.

EXT. STREET AND COFFEE SHOP - AFTERNOON

Nathaniel doesn't even look up from the paper he is reading as Alex extends his hand.

ALEX

Mr. Ipswitch - Scott Sanchez, Arts
Review.

NATHANIEL

Hello. Please sit down. Call me
Nathaniel. Only my tax advisors
call me Mr. Ipswitch.

Alex sits down as Nathaniel folds up his paper.

NATHANIEL

What would you like to talk about ?

ALEX

We are doing a piece on
contemporary Italian Sculpture and
I'm told you are best in the field.
There's a wonderful Santorini piece
at the National Gallery.

Nathaniel walks confidently into Alex' web.

NATHANIEL

My personal favourite.
The "Odeon's revenge". Nice name
don't you think ?

ALEX

How would you like to own it ?

Nathaniel looks up at him.

INT. MUSEUM - AFTERNOON

From behind, Verity is standing beside Stella looking at a
different piece of art. They are not making eye contact.

VERITY

Nice piece.

STELLA

Yes. Very provocative.

VERITY

I was talking about your camera.

Stella looks over annoyed but recovers composure quickly.
Verity analyzes her response.

STELLA

What camera ?

VERITY

The one in your cellphone. A neat trick I must admit...

STELLA

Not much of a trick - I was just talking on the phone.

VERITY

Really ? Next time you should try moving your lips.

STELLA

What are you - security ?

VERITY

Quite the contrary.

Verity gives a mischievous nod, gets up and walks away. Stella looks fiery but confused.

EXT. STREET AND COFFEE SHOP

NATHANIEL

You're wasting my time, kid. The "Revenge" has been at the National since it was discovered in 1930. You will never get it out of the building.

ALEX

Not only do I intend to get it out of the building but I intend to replace it with an exact replica.

NATHANIEL

Bold claims. For someone I've never heard of ? Who do you work for ?

ALEX

That is not your concern.

NATHANIEL

Hmmm. Suppose I was interested. How much would you want for it ?

ALEX

To someone like you it is priceless.

NATHANIEL

Yeah yeah screw you kid. How much ?

ALEX

2 million in bearer bonds - and be advised that I know - about all the other... things... you've been accumulating.

Nathaniel ignores the threat completely - believing his alter ego is safe.

NATHANIEL

Yeah - like what ?

Alex hands Nathaniel three white cards which show photos (of art that Nathaniel has bought).

ALEX

The databases of Ebay are not impervious to all mortals. If a certain South American dealer of Nazi war regalia often dealt with a known fence for illegal art who could be connected to a -

Alex changes his tone - Nathaniels face reveals fear.

ALEX

'legitimate' art historian and dealer...well let's just say the newspapers - not to mention your colleagues would be most intrigued.

NATHANIEL

I could have you killed.

ALEX

You could.

Alex pauses. Then pulls a card with an email clearly written on it out of his pocket. (The card says 'whynot@stealart.com' on it)

ALEX

But then no "Odeon's revenge".
Think about it - you have 24 hours.

INT. ALEX APARTMENT - EVENING

Alex enters the apartment where Stella is already sleeping on the sofa fully clothed. She half awakes as he closes the door and as he walks to the computer she speaks while stretching her arms over her head.

STELLA
Hey - how did it go ?

ALEX
I think very good. Wait a sec...

Alex taps the space bar to wake his screen up then hits a combination of keys on the keyboard and a "new mail" sound effect is heard. He speaks with a broad smile while turning to Stella.

ALEX
We have our collector.

STELLA
Are you serious - already ?

Stella is still lying down - though has propped herself up slightly. Alex walks over to the sofa.

ALEX
Yeah - just got the mail.

STELLA
How did you get him to agree so fast ?

Alex mimes nazi mock salutes.

ALEX
I found out that our little friend has a penchant for the swastika...the rest was easy.

Alex sits down next to Stella.

ALEX
What about you - did you and Dan get on well ?

Alex delivers his last line with a thinly veiled sexual innuendo - while starting to stroke Stella's bare waist.

STELLA
Dan was fine.

Stella brushes Alex' hands off - but smiles while doing so and continues to hold onto them when they are off her waist.

STELLA
I got all the photos and he's building it for me now.
(MORE)

STELLA (cont'd)
Should be ready tomorrow afternoon.
I've asked him to build two of
them.

ALEX
Why ?

STELLA
You never know when we might need a
spare.

Alex looks intrigued.

ALEX
Why do I think you're getting us
into a real mess this time.

STELLA
Trust me...

Alex smiles - they kiss and roll over onto the floor as the
music plays.

INT. ALEX APARTMENT - LATER

Alex walks back to the bathroom - steam is still visible
through the half open door. He wears a towel.

He's seen filling a glass of cold water up and tipping it
over into the shower. Stella screams then laughs. Alex exits
bathroom and walks out of shot (camera holds on bathroom
door)

He addresses Stella who is still in there.

ALEX
So he now wants to know if we can
guarantee the Museum will not
suspect tampering with the statue.

Stella comes out of the bathroom and flops onto the bed
beside him.

STELLA
How will we do that ?

ALEX
There's only one way. We have to
fake a heist.

STELLA
So the museum thinks we attempted
to steal it and failed.

ALEX
Exactly.

STELLA
Can we use explosives ?

Alex laughs and throws his towel at her.

EXT. DAN SPENCER'S WORKSHOP - AFTERNOON

Dan is seen through the window by the camera (not by John, Stella and Alex who are approaching) with an offbeat look on his face.

INT. DAN SPENCER'S WORKSHOP - AFTERNOON

The offbeat look turns into a smile. John, Stella, Alex enter and sit down. Dan shows them the statues. They are in a clear plastic (glass ??) protective case.

STELLA
Nice work.

DAN
OK so it's not going to set for another 24 hours...

ALEX
What ?

Dan is slightly hurt by the speed of Alex' response.

DAN
It's the best that I could do.

Stella kisses Dan on the cheek and rubs his upper arm in a friendly way. He is quite embarrassed by this but pleased.

STELLA
It will be fine Dan - thanks a lot.

Alex and John move in for a closer look.

DAN
(whispering to Stella as
an aside)
Are you sure you want to go through
with this Stella ?

Stella nods and walks back to Alex.

STELLA
Don't worry about us.

DAN
So...What are you going to do with
them now ?

Alex smiles mischievously.

INT. ALEX BEDROOM - LATE AFTERNOON

Alex, Stella and John sit in the apartment collecting all the
stuff they need. There is a blueprint unfolded on the desk.

ALEX
This should take no more than 15
minutes total. Let's go through it
again.

Alex points at John.

JOHN
I'm in the car...I circle around
for ten minutes and then wait
idling in the back alley.

Stella points out places on the blueprint as she speaks.

STELLA
We climb the fire-escape access
ladders of the building next door.
We go in through the bathroom
windows here and then we are in the
corridor here 20 metres from the
main exhibit.

JOHN
What about the guards ?

ALEX
The guards are in light rotation on
Friday nights because the weekend
contingent has not arrived yet.

Stella holds up a dusty can of pepperspray.

STELLA
And if we come across any they get
a faceful of this...

JOHN
How old is that can of pepperspray
Stella ?

Stella waves can threateningly.

STELLA

It's new enough - you want me to
test it - on your FACE ?

JOHN

Thank you but no...

ALEX

Stella will cover our escape route
while I go near the statue. I'll
knock some stuff over and make some
noise and then we'll get out of
there.

Everyone is good to go. Stella grabs a bag with rope and
stuffs the pepperspray inside.

ALEX

Synchronise watches.

Alex puts his hand to his watch - and everyone else follows
suit.

INT. ALEX BEDROOM - EVENING - SPEED MONTAGE

Alex, Stella, John take bags into car. Alex and Stella are
dressed in black clothing. John wears casual clothes.

EXT. CAR - EVENING - SPEED MONTAGE CONTINUOUS

All three drive in the car to get to the museum. In the car
all three of them dance to music on the radio.

EXT. MUSEUM - EVENING - SPEED MONTAGE CONTINUOUS

John drops off Alex and Stella and drives off - they climb up
the fire escape and enter through the bathroom window.

INT. MUSEUM BATHROOM - EVENING

Alex speaks in a hushed voice.

ALEX

Hand signals only now.

Stella signals a thumbs up. They crack open the door of the
bathroom and see that the dimly lit hallway is empty.

INT. MUSEUM HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Alex stands up against a wall - Stella is silhouetted by
doorway. He blows a kiss, she gives a mock salute as he rolls
around the corner.

INT. MUSEUM APPROACH HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Alex is making his way towards the more brightly lit chamber at the end of the corridor.

INT. MUSEUM HALLWAY

Stella hears a noise and decides to close the bathroom door and stand in the shadows where Alex was standing moments before. She is getting antsy and seems to want to follow Alex.

INT. MUSEUM SCULPTURE ROOM

Alex walks in and observes the sculpture with a HALO of light around it. He looks around for something to create a noise with and suddenly he has been placed in a choke hold by a SECURITY GUARD (and his nightstick) and is being dragged towards an alarm activation switch.

ALEX

Stella !!

He manages to partially scream out the name - through the choke hold.

INT. MUSEUM HALLWAY

Stella's hiding place - but Stella is no longer there.

EXT. CAR

John looks at his watch and pulls into the back alley.

INT. MUSEUM SCULPTURE ROOM

The struggle is still going on. MAX, the Security Guard taunts Alex as he struggles to drag him to the alarm switch.

MAX

Thought you could beat old Max eh ?
Don't know how you got in here -
but you're going out in irons
boy...

Alex is trying to fight off the night stick but it's a good hold and he cannot do anything.

Unseen to Alex and Max a shadow flits through a doorway.

MAX

When I push this button it will
call half the police force in this
precinct.

Max has dragged Alex almost to within reach of the switch.
Alex is struggling to breathe.

MAX

Stop your struggling - What did you
think - that we just let people
have these beautiful pieces for
nothing ?

Stella steps into frame holding the pepper spray.

STELLA

Actually - that's exactly what we
thought ?

Max has a look of disbelief on his face as Stella presses the
pepper spray. But nothing happens. She presses it again.
Everyone stands eerily still for a split second and then Max
releases Alex and slams the alarm switch button. Sirens are
heard and lights are turned on. Alex drops to the ground
clutching his neck but turns to see Stella grab the
nightstick with one hand and elbow Max' temple with the other
(still holding the pepper spray) knocking him out cold.

STELLA

Should've tried spraying that thing
into John's face after all.

The doors to the Sculpture hall are starting to close.

STELLA

C'mon we gotta go...NOW !

INT. MUSEUM - SPEED MONTAGE

Alex and Stella run back towards the bathroom - through
flashing lights and blaring sirens (smoke grenades) and back
to car.

EXT. CAR - NIGHT

The three of them drive away into the night.

FADE TO BLACK.

EXT. STREET AND COFFEE SHOP - DAY

Nathaniel is sitting down in the same coffee shop he met Alex at before. He is reading the newspaper (which shows a front page story about the robbery attempt the night before)

There are two goon looking men sitting nearby.

Alex smiles as he sits down.

ALEX

So how about that robbery then ?

NATHANIEL

Interesting. Bunch of amateurs obviously - didn't steal anything.

Nathaniel and Alex exchange bags.

ALEX

Till we meet again.

Alex starts to walk off - tipping an imaginary hat to the two goons.

Nathaniel admires the statue (now out of its protective box) and upon touching the head of it - the statue begins to emit a tinny muzak melody. After a moment of shock he realises he's been duped and he gestures to the goons and they run after Alex, who, noticing something is amiss - drops the suitcase of bearer bonds and takes off.

INT. ALEX BEDROOM - AFTERNOON

Stella and John are sitting on the sofa looking through a photo album as Alex runs in, out of breath.

ALEX

Dan...set us up....

STELLA

What ? What happened ?

Alex starts rummaging around for the second replica.

ALEX

Dan made them musical toys - when you touch their heads...

He finds the second statue near the bag with the rope from the night before.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Like this...they play some idiotic
tune.

JOHN
Oh my god he really screwed us
over.

Stella starts to look concerned, and embarrassed but proud at
the same time.

ALEX
But this ones not doing it...

John notices a signature on the bottom of the statue - and
points it out to the others.

JOHN
I'm pretty sure this wasn't there
before.

Stella is tiptoeing into the kitchen.

ALEX AND JOHN
STELLA !!!

Camera pushes into statue and pushes out of statue with "SIX
MONTHS LATER" on screen.

INT. MUSEUM - EVENING

A Mexican janitor pushes a janitors broom through the museum
and whistles to himself.

We see him arrive in the Sculpture Hall and he leans his
janitors broom against a wall.

He pulls out a dustcloth and starts to mime bullfighter
movements and hum a hispanic tune.

A few moments later he starts to dust the area near the
Odeon's revenge. The movements of the dust cloth cause a dust
bunny to land on the statues head.

He flicks it off with a gloved hand and walks off to the next
room.

The tinny piece of muzak starts up again as the camera fades
to black on the statue.

The end.