

LOGLINE

An art collector stumbles upon a find of a lifetime but when he is blinded by his hatred for the art establishment that threatens to take him down, he brings loved ones down with him on his quest to authenticate the piece.

SYNOPSIS

This is a character driven drama about a larger-than-life art collector and horticulturist, Douglas Himmelfarb, who in 1987 at an estate auction in Los Angeles picks up what appears to be an authentic Mark Rothko painting for a mere \$300.00. What should have been an easy authentication process turns into a three-decade battle for the ages that has unforeseen consequences for Doug and the lives he touches.

On his quest to proving authenticity of his painting Doug charms his way into the lives of two Brentwood sisters, Ella and Ruth Hirshfield, who shares his interest for gardening and fine art. The Hirshfield's gangly neighbor, Fannie, a twenty year old college dropout and redheaded stoner, smitten with Doug, realizes too late that he sees her only as a friend with benefits distraction while conducting research on the painting.

After numerous attempts to have his painting authenticated Doug finally catches a break when the world's foremost expert on Mark Rothko, Dr. Anfam, reveals that he has seen a photograph of this exact painting, named No. 7, in the Rothko archives. To celebrate his anticipated windfall Doug throws a lavish party at the Hirshfield Mansion where he resumes his relationship with Fannie. His gleeful anticipation is crushed when, despite Dr. Anfam's earlier assurances, the painting will not be authenticated after all. As a result Doug wages an all-out war against the Rothko's and the art establishment. With finances already strained because of Doug's illadvised spendthrift lifestyle with the Hirshfield's money, the estate is foreclosed upon when the market collapses in 2008.

Tragedy hits when Ella dies of a stroke amidst all the turmoil. A ray of hope shines through when a judge grants Doug access to the Rothko archives. Although he finds the photograph of No. 7 in the archives, his disregard of the judge's gag order causes him to be sanctioned with a stiff penalty.

Desperate to continue the fight Doug sells a share in the painting to a shady attorney. He also begs, a now clean and healthy, Fannie for help in finding a small apartment for him and Ruth. She also hooks him up with a former drug dealer to help ease his physical and emotional suffering.

In 2014, Doug receives a call from his attorney telling him that the judge has finally granted him permission to sue the Rothko Estate, paving the way for an authentication. What should have been the most exciting news of his life turns into another tragedy when Doug collapses and dies of a heart attack leaving a horrified Ruth behind.

A teary eyed and heartbroken Fannie, rifles through Doug's apartment when his phone rings. She answers a call from a gallery owner, with an offer to buy No. 7, but the painting is gone. Meanwhile, a wrapped up painting, that could be No. 7, is secretly transported to a warehouse and placed in a temperature controlled storage unit, on a shelf next to other works of art, before the lights go dark.