



THRILLRIDE MEDIA

NUMBER SEVEN

WRITER: ALAN J. FIELD / PHONE: (201)478-3800 / EMAIL: contact@alanjfieldbooks.com

LOGLINE

Inspired by true events, a free-spirited gardener challenges the art establishment when he attempts to authenticate a priceless Mark Rothko painting, but is unable to rein in obsessive behavior that ultimately threatens his relationships and his own sanity.

SYNOPSIS

This is a character-driven drama about a larger-than-life art collector and horticulturist, Douglas Himmelfarb, who in a 1987 estate auction in Los Angeles, purchases 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 the authenticity of his painting, Doug charms his way into the lives of two Brentwood sisters, Ella and Ruth Hirshfield, who share his interest in 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 reveals that he has seen a photograph of this exact painting, labeled No. 7, in the Rothko archives.

When he learns that the painting will not be authenticated after all. As a result, Doug wages an all-out war against the Rothko family. With finances already strained because of Doug's ill-advised 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.

When a judge grants Doug access to the Rothko archives, he finds the photograph of No. 7 in the archives. Yet his disregard of the judge's gag order causes him to be sanctioned with a stiff penalty.

As Doug hits rock bottom, now desperate to continue the fight, he 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.

A mere days after is granted permission to sue the Rothko Estate, paving the way for an authentication, and a big payday, 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 she finds a zip drive.