

Literacy at Work

The Writers Room

EPISODE PITCH



"We can spend a long time staring into space, but when the magic is happening, it's almost a tangible presence in the room."

– Duane Capizzi

CARMEN SANDIEGO

"The Duke of Vermeer Caper"

Setup

A thief calling herself "The Duchess" steals a painting by the famous Dutch artist Johannes Vermeer from a museum in Amsterdam. The thief is revealed to be Carmen Sandiego in disguise. Has our hero gone bad? Things are not as they seem. Carmen knows that her former teacher and nemesis Countess Cleo of V.I.L.E. has stolen 33 paintings by Vermeer from museums around the world. Carmen has number 34, the last known Vermeer painting. She intends to use it to bait Cleo into revealing where the others are hidden.

Escalation

Cleo sends the not-too-bright Dash Haber to collect the painting. Dash mistakes Carmen's driver Zack for a "duke" who wants to deliver the painting to Cleo in person. So it is Zack, not Carmen, who winds up invited to Cleo's private dinner party at a secret location. After dinner, the paintings will be auctioned off to an assortment of international criminals. Carmen and Ivy must act fast. They have less than 24 hours to train the unrefined Zack on how to be a convincing duke, otherwise Cleo will see through his ruse and their cover will be blown. Not an easy task when Zack not only has to learn proper dinner etiquette but swap his Boston accent for a British one!

Resolution

All parties converge at Cleo's chateau in the Swiss Alps. Zack struggles to maintain his charade over several dinner courses. Meanwhile, Carmen and Ivy race against the clock to sneak past Cleo's security and steal the paintings before dessert is served. Will Zack's cover be blown before they can complete the job? Suddenly, newbie A.C.M.E. Agent Chase Devineaux crashes the dinner party. His entrance allows Zack to hop out of the hot seat and Carmen to make a clean getaway with the stolen Vermeers. A snowmobile chase ensues. Agent Devineaux thinks he's tailing Carmen, but when he catches her, it turns out to be Ivy. He still believes Carmen's a criminal mastermind, oblivious to the fact that moments ago he was in the company of TRUE criminal masterminds affiliated with V.I.L.E.

