

ADLEY

Joy...has the actual secretary...sorry, *administrative assistant*...checked you in?

JOY

What makes you think it's a *she*?

(Beat)

ADLEY

Okay, look, I'm sorry about the secretary comment.

JOY

Forget it.

ADLEY

You're clearly miffed.

JOY

What'd you expect?

ADLEY

I didn't mean to assume...

JOY

But you did assume.

ADLEY

Starts struggling with his tie again.

I mistook, not assumed.

JOY

Look, forget it. I'm really nervous. This is a big deal for me.

ADLEY

Painting a mural *is* a big deal. I get it.

JOY

Especially in a museum. Murals are kinda permanent.

ADLEY

Stops with the tie.

Nothing's permanent. From what I understand, it will mean painting over an existing mural. Not sure I like that idea.

JOY

In some dining area. That means a lot of eyes will grace it.

ADLEY

So this is about restaurant decor...my god.

JOY

It's about communication, opening minds...at least for me it is.

ADLEY

Do I know you?

JOY

(Unconvincingly)

Uh, no...no, I don't think so.

More awkward silence.

ADLEY

So...I imagine the other finalist is in there groveling now.

JOY

(Lights up..a little)

Yeah, you know who it is, don't you?

ADLEY

No idea.

JOY

Z-Jones! I'm a co-finalist with Z-Jones!

ADLEY

Who?

JOY

Z-Jones.

ADLEY

I don't know who that is.

JOY

Really? He's famous.

ADLEY

For what?

JOY

Graffiti art.

ADLEY

Famous for graffiti?

JOY

Graffiti art. His work shows up all over the world...on buildings, on the streets. And he's anonymous.

ADLEY

Never heard of him.

JOY

Well, he's anonymous. And his stuff grabs you by the collar, demands your attention. It punches you right in the face, kicks you in the balls.

ADLEY

(Sarcastic)

Sounds lovely.

JOY

And he's right in there, behind that door. And we'll get to meet him!

ADLEY

(sarcastic)

Wow.

JOY

I saw a real Z-Jones in L.A. on a federal building once. I stood there in awe for an hour just staring into it. It was of a little girl with a crayon, writing on the wall, *The World Was Yours*.

ADLEY

(sarcastic)

Must've been cathartic.

JOY

I was literally in tears watching the government fascists scrub it off...still, I got to see an actual Z-Jones in person! It was like a religious awakening, and I don't even believe in god.

ADLEY

Maybe god should use a canvas.

JOY

Why?

ADLEY

I'm okay with defacing a government property, don't get me wrong, I fully approve, but it wasn't going to last. Sounds like a waste of time.

JOY

Who cares if it lasts? They can scrub it off the walls but not off the hearts and minds of people.

ADLEY

I see.

JOY

Some statements are too big for a canvas. Ask Michelangelo.

ADLEY

My god.

JOY

Defacing is part of his art. But I actually don't see it as defacing. I see it as improving.

ADLEY

You do?

JOY

Enough of the classical, neo-Grecco-Roman shit already! Let's move on.

ADLEY

So how can the guy be anonymous if he's in there, in person? Unless he's wearing a ski mask. Or sunglasses.

JOY

Talk is, after twenty years, he's stepping out of the shadows, planning a big reveal on social.

ADLEY

And this guy's a finalist for the Eadburg Art Grant? The same grant awarded to de Kooning, Rothko, David Hockney...

JOY

Yeah, that one. Is that a problem?

ADLEY

(Tempering himself,
insincere)

No...no problem.

JOY

You seem to have a problem with it, like you don't think he's worthy.

ADLEY

Never said that. It's up to the board, not me.