

THE SECRETS OF THE MONA LISA

(SAMPLE)

Written by

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FADE IN:

1 INT. MUSEUM - NIGHT

1

[Soft, mysterious background music]

We ZOOM IN on the MONA LISA painting, her eyes following the camera. A shadow flickers across the dimly lit museum.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

They say a great painting speaks to you. But what if the Mona Lisa has been whispering secrets for over 500 years right under our noses? It's just a portrait of a woman with a soft smile, right? But for centuries scholars, artists, and even conspiracy theorists have been convinced there's more to her than meets the eye.

A high-tech X-RAY SCAN sweeps across the Mona Lisa, her face flickering away to reveal -

A ghostly (male) figure hidden beneath.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

For a long time, we thought we knew who she was. Lisa Gherardini. A noblewoman. A commission. But what if the woman we see isn't the woman Leonardo painted at all? Researchers found that other portrait using advanced imaging techniques, discovering traces of an earlier portrait beneath the visible Mona Lisa. Some think she's not a woman at all. What if Leonardo painted himself, disguised behind soft features and a knowing smile? Or maybe... someone even closer to him?

SPLIT-SCREEN FACE MERGE

Half is the Mona Lisa's face, half is Leonardo da Vinci's face. They blend together.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Okay, now this one is a little mind-blowing. We have to ask ourselves one question when it comes up: Is the Mona Lisa...

(MORE)

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 actually Leonardo himself? Some say she's a blend of Leonardo's self-portrait mixed with his muse, Salai. A Renaissance-era Photoshop experiment, creating a perfect balance of male and female. But why? Was Leonardo playing a private joke? Or was he hiding something? Could it be Leonardo's greatest self-insert? Did he merge them all into one?

EXTREME CLOSE UP: MONA LISA EYES

We push into Mona Lisa's PUPILS and -

Tiny LETTERS and NUMBERS flicker to life inside her irises.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
 And then, there are the codes. In 2010, researchers discovered something eerie: Microscopic symbols hidden in her eyes. Could Leonardo have left behind a secret message? Were they Leonardo's initials? Coordinates to a secret? A message meant for the future? Some say it's proof of a hidden treasure. Others think it's a sign of something much bigger... something Leonardo wanted us to find. What do you think? Just a coincidence or something bigger?

The letters rearrange into cryptic SYMBOLS before vanishing.

CUT TO:

2

INT. OLD STUDIO - NIGHT

2

Leonardo stands in a dimly lit workshop, mixing chemicals into a vibrant PAINT. The mixture bubbles, releasing smoke into the air.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
 But maybe the real mystery isn't in what we see... It's in what Leonardo left behind. His genius might have come at a cost. That the woman he painted... may have been poisoned by his own creation. Let's talk about Leonardo's obsession with experimenting.

(MORE)

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 The model of the Mona Lisa may have fallen ill (or worse) due to his chemical creations in the paint itself. Could that explain the woman's ghostly, almost otherworldly, look? Was this just the side effect of Leonardo's genius... or something more sinister? A deadly masterpiece, perhaps?

CUT TO:

3 INT. MUSEUM - NIGHT 3

Scene shifts to a MASKED FIGURE stealing the Mona Lisa from the wall, replacing it with a fake.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
 And then there's the biggest question of all. Is the Mona Lisa we see today even real?

INSERT: 1911 Newspaper Headline Stating:

Mona Lisa Stolen from the Louvre!

NARRATOR (V.O.)
 She vanished once before. Stolen in 1911. Gone! For over two years!

3A INT. MUSEUM - NIGHT 3A

We're back to looking at the Mona Lisa on the wall.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
 But here's the question: Did the Louvre really get the original back, or did someone pull off the ultimate swap?

We PULL OUT.

A series of near-identical Mona Lisa paintings appear on the wall. Endless copies.