

I, the writer Tom Neenan, have been asked to write about a sample sketch I have created for The Show What You Wrote. I have asked my inner critic to annotate the sketch to help you see what I have done right and what I have done wrong....

HEIST¹

CURATOR: Thanks so much for all your hard work.²

CHRIS: Not at all.

CURATOR: It's just the Langley Diamond is by far our most valuable exhibit and it's so comforting to know that it's safe.

CHRIS: Well as we say at Chris's Security, your security is our assurity.

CURATOR: Is "Assurity" a word?

CHRIS: Ha, ha, ha. I have no idea.

CURATOR: So, I don't suppose you would mind talking me through some of features you've installed to keep the diamond safe?³

CHRIS: My pleasure. First we have the lasers.

CURATOR: Oh wow. Hi tech.

CHRIS: Only the best. Simply press this button to fill the gallery with bright red cool looking lasers.

CURATOR: I'd imagine they are quite close together these lasers.

CHRIS: Oh yes, nearly three feet.⁴

CURATOR: Three feet?

CHRIS: About that.

CURATOR: Won't that mean that, in theory, a human body could pass through them?

¹ Oh wow, it's called *Heist*. Is a heist really a thriller? Not really, anyway, moving on...

² The sketch starts in the middle of the dialogue so we are thrown into the scene, I suppose this is okay, but maybe could have been trimmed even more, maybe to cue 7?

³ Yeah that would be a much better point to start the sketch.

⁴ Blimey, just two people talking in a room can be dull. Why not add in another character or some more sound cues, liven it up a bit?

CHRIS: Well if they do I'd imagine they would have to be pretty athletic; they'd need to be able to do backflips, cat dives and, with this bit, a really cool move where they forward roll but still land on their feet. But like I say that's very unlikely.⁵

CURATOR: Wouldn't it make sense just to have a dense mesh of lasers, just millimetres apart, protecting the diamond?

CHRIS: Please, I've been designing security systems for years, I think I know what I'm doing.⁶

CURATOR: And are you completely married to the unprotected vent directly above where the diamond is standing?⁷

CHRIS: Well you've got to keep it cool haven't you? Nothing worse than a hot diamond.

CURATOR: And where does that vent lead exactly?

CHRIS: It leads out to a ledge at the very top of the building.

CURATOR: Well couldn't someone just climb the ledge?

CHRIS: Once again that's very unlikely. Anyway, don't worry, you've got the CCTV cameras.

CURATOR: Oh yes, about the cameras - thank you so much for installing them. Just one question; there are two buttons on them, I realise one is to switch them on, what does the other one do?

CHRIS: Ah yes, that changes the feed of the camera, from a live feed, to a recording made from the same camera three hours earlier.⁸

CURATOR: Why does it do that?

CHRIS: So you can re-watch footage and help you catch a would-be criminal.

⁵ Oh I see what you have done, you've looked at a heist movie from a different angle from that of the security expert who provides the arena for the set pieces. It's subverting a trope. Not a bad idea I suppose. Let's see how it is executed.

⁶ No he doesn't - Brilliant.

⁷ It's radio so feel free to be as inventive with the setting as possible. For instance, here Tom has let his creativity go wild and created... a vent.

⁸ Excellent I've got the idea of the sketch now, it's been set up, there have been some funny lines and now it's time to get out....

CURATOR: Oh okay.

CHRIS: You see, not just a hat-rack.

CURATOR: Could a thief just switch the feed?

CHRIS: What? Shimmy up the wall, balance along the ceiling beams, flick the switch and abseil down again? Very unlikely.⁹

CURATOR: And what happens if the diamond is actually taken?

CHRIS: Ah, that's the brilliant part! As soon as the diamond is removed, shutters descend from the ceiling and block the doors.

CURATOR: And how long does it take for the shutters to fall?¹⁰

CHRIS: About as long as it would take an athletic adult to sprint from one end of the room to the other, slide under at the last minute, realise they've dropped their hat, then quickly grab it. But like I say, the chances of that happening are very unlikely.¹¹

CURATOR: Well thank you very much for all your help. I suppose the last thing to do is test the alarm itself.¹²

CHRIS: Certainly. I'll just trip the switch and...

GRAMS: /MISSION IMPOSSIBLE THEME.

CHRIS: Ah yes, that's working perfectly.¹³

⁹ ...I said now it's time to get out.

¹⁰ This sketch has gone on for too long; try not to exceed three pages.

¹¹ It isn't unlikely - it happens in 'Indiana Jones'... Oh I see, that was the point.

¹² Ah yes, now it's time to top off the sketch with a great punchline...

¹³ Oh. Well don't worry, I'm sure those submitting to 'The Show What You Wrote' will be able to do a lot better.