



Motion Picture Synopsis

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We open close on a canvas of wheat fields as a brush paints flying crows with bold strokes.

Vincent is painting, when he's done he heads back into town and gets into an argument with Gauguin. He is barraged with narcissistic gas-lighting, gets frustrated and scared as Gauguin prepares to leave Vincent.

He goes to the café downstairs but does not have the money to pay for his meal.

A month later we see him in the asylum, nervous and shaking. Painting from his window. He writes to an artist in Belgium, a woman who likes his paintings hoping that she will buy one.

We see the canvas that he's painting from the window, of the town square below. He doesn't like it and he decides not even to sign it because he thinks it's terrible.

We see him leave the asylum with an arm full of canvasses. He goes from one Gallery to another but none of them want to display any of been since paintings, one is particularly cruel.

He's traveling on a dirt road to his mother's goat farm, she is a proud arrogant artist in her own right. Vincent tries to leave some of his canvases for safekeeping with his mother and she reluctantly takes them. She ridicules Vincent, telling him that he's not any good. Vincent bemoans the fact that no one has ever bought a painting from him and his mother scolds him for not taking the hint.

We see her watch Vincent leave down the dirt lane as she takes the canvases to her goat barn, cutting them up and using them to plug the holes in the walls of the structure.

We see Vincent at a park along the shore of the river. There are several boys taunting him. One of them has a girlfriend and convinces her to walk up to Vincent and feign attraction. Vincent is offended and hurt by this and argues back. The boys approach him, ridiculing and making fun. One of them has a gun that accidentally goes off and Vincent is shot in the abdomen

Vincent is in the hospital fading quickly. Vincent asks the doctors not to blame anybody for his injury, trying to protect the boys from what they've done.

We are close to Vincent as he is taking his last breath as the music swells and reaches a crescendo and the screen. The screen goes to black as the music reaches its climax as

the swirling moving stars of starry night slowly appear on screen

Vincent wakes up in a modern hospital in New York City. It's 2020. He does not know where he is.

The nurses see the strange homeless man has finally awakened from his coma. The doctors rush in and asks if he knows his name

He says "Vincent Van Gogh."

He reaches to his abdomen and feels the bandages. The doctors ask how he got shot but Vincent does not want to answer, in his mind he still protecting the boys. They say he's been there in a coma for months

He's later released from the hospital with nowhere to go. He's walking the streets of the city overwhelmed and scared. He sees things he's never experienced before and it frightens him. Passersby think he is drunk and crazy, many make fun of him.

A police officer directs him to a homeless shelter. As he walks to the shelter a bus passes by with a billboard on the side of his painting with Starry Night. Vincent is perplexed and angry and doesn't know what's going on.

At the homeless shelter he tries to tell people that he is Vincent van Gogh and they laugh at him. They seem to know his name but he realizes they do not know who he is. One man in the shelter says if you're such a good artist draw something and shoves a piece of paper in front of him. Vincent draws a sketch of the man who ridicules him who looks at the drawing and tells him, "if you're an artist I'm a brain surgeon."

The homeless shelter sends him to a government employment agency and as he's walking there he sees a billboard with pictures of his paintings. He asks a passerby what the billboard says and he was told the museum is showing the works of Vincent van Gogh. Vincent is on the street yelling and screaming, "But I am Vincent van Gogh."

The police come and take him to jail. A social services woman comes to him and during the interview he insists that he is the Dutch painter and he does not know why he is here and he does not know what's going on.

There is something gentle about Vincent so the social worker takes pity on him and decides to bring him to the museum to see the paintings.

On the way to the museum they pass a singer on the street corner, busking for a living. Vincent stops to listen and has pity on the artist as everybody passes by without paying any attention. He understands what that feels like.

They enter the museum and see Vincent's painting of the wheat fields ... the same painting that was in our first scene. He is shocked and agitated, how did they get this? Who gave them permission? He makes a commotion and the security detail escorts them both out of the museum.

It is nighttime and Vincent is walking the street, he's outside the museum staring at it trying to absorb what is happening. In the morning he's walking along the shore of the Hudson River and comes upon an artist with an easel. He stands there watching and longing to do the same. He tells the artist, a young woman, he used to be a painter.

She offers the strange man a blank canvas and a brush. Vincent begins painting furiously and the woman watches in amazement, not just the speed but the familiarity of his brush strokes and the way he treats the paint. She says, "your painting style reminds me of van Gogh." But Vincent is too frightened to give her his name so he stays silent.

Vincent leaves and lets her keep the canvas as a gift. He doesn't think it's very good. The woman is home that night staring at the canvas amazed at the exactness of the style. She takes it to a friend who owns a gallery and shows it to the owner who gets very excited thinking at first it's a lost van Gogh painting ... but the painting is still wet, it's still soft.

The young woman and the gallery owner think they've discovered something, a painter, of great value and set about trying to find Vincent on the streets of New York.

We see Vincent in a small market, he got a job stocking shelves. He hates the work and he's argumentative. He looks at the labels in the pictures on the boxes and laments how plain and uninspiring everything looks.

He's in a homeless shelter and they are watching TV and a commercial comes on using an image from one of his paintings. Vincent stands up and unleashes his temper and hurls a chair at the television set. He's asked to leave the shelter.

Vincent is walking the streets and sees a graffiti artist painting the side of a brick wall. He's fascinated by this and begins instructing the street artist on the colors. The artist barks at Vincent, telling him to mind his own damn business and throws a paint can at him to chase them away.

He is sitting on the sidewalk against a store front and an elderly man in a suit walks by, thinking he's a beggar, and asked him what does he need. Vincent says he wants to go to the museum to look at the paintings. The man is surprised Vincent did not ask for money, and agrees to take him to the museum.

On the way there or the man asked him his name, and again Vincent is afraid to answer. They enter the museum and, one by one, they stand in front of Vincent's paintings. Vincent begins to describe what it was like to paint them and the man at first startled but then fascinated by Vincent's knowledge and directness about each painting.

A museum guide is hearing their conversation and mentions the value of the paintings. Vincent is shocked at the idea that they have value at all, and ask how much it cost the museum to get his painting of the sunflowers. The guide asked him to guess, so Vincent guesses 3 or 400 francs. The guide laughs at Vincent, that's less than \$500. The frame cost more than that. The man with Vincent pats him on the shoulder and says this painting cost \$20 million.

Vincent begins yelling that nobody liked that painting. Nobody cared about it. Not a single gallery owner was willing to carry it and show it because everybody thought it was horrible. Why does it all of a sudden have such value.

The security man hears the yelling and recognizes Vincent from earlier and they escort him out of the museum.

The man that brought Vincent there gives him \$100 to help him out and tells him that he hopes he finds peace.

Vincent takes the money and goes to a small art store and buys a canvas and some paint. The store owner tries to sell him an array of paint colors but Vincent doesn't know why he would need them. "I can mix my own, I always have." He looks on the wall and he sees a print of one of his paintings. "Did that cost \$20 million too?" he asks.

The store owner says everybody wishes they could paint like van Gogh. The owner says, "Who are you, Who do you want to paint like?" Vincent, instead of giving the man his name simply says, I can paint like him. The store owner laughs and points to an

easel in the back of the store and says, “tell you what, if you can paint something like van Gogh I’ll let you have the canvas and paints for free.”

Vincent walks up to the canvas and paints an image in his mind, the young woman artist he met along the river. The store owner watches him paint fast and intensely, using the paint in thick layers and bold colors. The store owner is watching in amazement as the painting quickly takes form and when Vincent is done the store owner is shocked.

“I think I’ve heard about you, he says. You met my niece along the river. That’s her in the painting.”

He gets on the phone and called his niece.

We see Vincent in the young woman in a café. Vincent is nervous and confused and upset. The woman says, “you really believe you’re Vincent van Gogh?” but Vincent doesn’t want to respond. He says, “all I want to do is paint, I don’t want to talk.”

They go to the woman’s friend, the gallery owner, who tells Vincent that he has a room above the gallery and he will let Vincent stay there and exchange for 20% ownership of his paintings. “Do you really want 20% of nothing?” Vincent says.

Vincent is setting up his room and his easel. The man says he could have as many canvases and paint that he wants. Vincent asks, “why?” The man simply says “because you’re very good sir. I just have a hard time calling you Vincent van Gogh.”

Vincent responds, “you can call me Monet... Just don’t call me Gaughan.”

“Why not Gaughan?” the gallery owner asks. Vincent responds, “he was very mean to me.”

The gallery owner and the young women are later talking. “Yes he’s good, he knows virtually everything about van Gogh. It’s creepy and it’s strange. He must’ve gone to college or an art school before he went crazy.”

We see Vincent painting canvas after canvas to the amazement of the gallery owner. He brings the paintings to the van Gogh exhibit at the museum and shows them to his friend, the curator. They look at the paintings and are in awe of what they feel is a counterfeit of van Gogh’s style. “Is this the same crazy guy that does all the screaming in the museum?” They ask.

We see Vincent and the young woman at a bar. Vincent is trying to explain some of his life, how his brother used to take care of him just like the gallery owner is and how badly that used to make him feel. He talked about his mother hating his artwork. He talked about how he tried to even be a minister at one time. The young woman knows the history of van Gogh and snidely says “you obviously read Wikipedia a lot.”

Vincent does not know what she’s talking about.

Her cell phone rings and it’s at the gallery owner. The museum curator wants to meet Vincent at the museum but she needs to make sure Vincent stays calm.

The next day they are at the museum and Vincent is allowed to look at his own paintings. He describes in great detail the kind of brushes he used and his argument with the owner of the shop that he would try to get his paints from. He talked about the prostitutes and the street walkers and the workers in the field that he would paint.

The curator is stunned by his in-depth knowledge of van Gogh and simply goes along with it. Until Vincent sees one particular painting and offhandedly mentioned that he did

not like the first painting on the canvas. The curator says, "what do you mean the first painting?" Vincent says, "I tried to paint the portrait of a young girl in a field but it didn't please me so I painted over it." The curator stands back. He looks at the gallery owner and pulled him aside saying "the canvas had been x-rayed a month ago and they discovered the shape of a woman's head beneath the overlay painting. How could he possibly know about this?"

They look at Vincent staring at the portrait he made of his own self. And they both begin to wonder, could it even be possible that this strange man is van Gogh?

The young woman takes him by the hand to show him her favorite painting, the Starry Night painting. Vincent looks at it and explains why he felt the stars were in swirling motion. When he's done with his poetic description he pauses and says, "nobody liked it. It didn't sell."

The young woman looks at him and says, "this sold for \$42 million." Suddenly Vincent becomes incensed again, starting to lose his temper. "Why do they have such value now? Where were these people when I was painting, where were they when everybody was making fun of me. Why was I such a burden to my brother, why could not the gallery owners even hang one to help me."

His temper gets out of control and the security again wants him leave the museum but this time the curator in the gallery owner stops them, they are genuinely questioning the possibilities of who this man could be.

Vincent breaks free of the security guards and runs out of the museum into the New York City night.

Later, we see Vincent in his room in front of an easel in the dark. The door opens and the young woman enters. They sit quietly, not talking and after a while she looks at him intently and asks, "who are you ... really?"

He simply says, "my name is Vincent. I am a painter."

The woman says she'll be right back. She leaves Vincent in the darkness of his room. He looks out the window trying to see the stars in the sky but they are overshadowed by the glare of the city. The woman comes back with a bottle of wine, she looks out the window with Vincent.

Staring at the city lights he says, "I don't know how to paint that. It is not peaceful."

"I'm sure you can," she says. Pouring a glass of wine they sit and talk and she tells Vincent of her childhood, wanting to be a painter. How much she admired the great painters and then she mentioned his name.

"Nobody thinks I am a great painter, nobody thinks I'm very good at all."

"Then why do you paint?" She asks.

"Because I love. You must love to paint." He looks out the window, "I love it all, even what is not peaceful." he says.

She says "if you are Vincent van Gogh then you must know how wealthy you can be."

He says "I can't even buy my own paints, my brother buys them for me. If not for Theo I would be less than nothing. My brother is great, I am not."

"But nobody knows your brother," she says. "They know who you are." And then she says it with confidence,

"You are Vincent van Gogh."

Vincent starts to silently weep. "But I don't know it's happening he says. I don't know how I got here."

She takes his hand and holds it close to her chest. She lights a candle and quietly says, paint me. "I want you to paint my portrait."

With her back to the camera, she drops her dress, a silhouette in the moonlight. Vincent simply stares at her for the longest time. Then he picks up a brush and moves to the canvas.

We are in a board room at the museum, there is arguing going on. "It's insane," says one man. "Not only is the idea insane but the man himself is insane."

The museum ends up hiring van Gogh to paint his own paintings on a display inside the museum for the public to watch.

We see him at his easel as the crowds gather, many in amazement. Many holding up their cell phones taking photos of Vincent painting. Vincent becomes more and more agitated by the commotion. The young woman tries to get him to calm down and settle his mood to keep working. TV cameras enter and the news portrays him as a Vincent clone and a copycat.

Vincent sees this and becomes incensed, "they are treating me badly all over again only now they are paying me," he says. "You think I am insane but your world is insane," he cries.

It becomes too much and Vincent leaves the museum with the young women running behind him. Vincent passes things in the city that look oddly like scenes from his own paintings.

He runs into Central Park and is confronted by two young boys from the hood

They see Vincent and they make fun of him, they see the young women calling out to him and they ridicule him and his girlfriend. Vincent yells back and makes the boys angry and they get in his face and they start hitting and slapping Vincent looking for money in his pockets. The young woman screams for them to stop and one of the young boys takes out a gun and accidentally shoots Vincent in the abdomen

We see Vincent back in the hospital, the young woman is at his bedside as he struggles to breathe. His chest is covered with blood and the screen slowly goes dark as the music rises in intensity. As it reaches its crescendo the screen goes black.

After a while as the music subsides we see the swirling textures of Vincent's starry night and he's back on the cot in Europe from 200 years ago. They're trying to treat Vincent for his gun shot and he tells them again not to ask who did this.

As Vincent fades he becomes more delirious, the doctor asked him if he knows where he is, if he knows what day this is, does he know his name. As the camera comes close to Vincent's face he simply says

"I am Vincent, I am a painter."

END CREDITS, MUSIC UP. SCREEN TO BLACK