

The Writing Room

by Juliet Robinson

Distraction jumped to her feet and Can't Get in the Zone follow. They paced the room, poking in drawers, and rifling through books on the shelves. Great Idea grumped, annoyed that they were once again dominating. Inner Critic rolled her eyes and got up to join them, she was pretty sure that Great Idea had floundered again.

'Ignore them,' Inspiration urged. She was sitting in the corner, surrounded by notebooks, postcards, and magazine clippings. Distraction drifted over to join her, they had a natural chemistry but were a bad influence on each other. Within minutes Inspiration had her phone out and was spiralling down a black hole with Distraction.

Research started to get angsty, she and Inspiration had been going steady lately, but she was jealous of Distraction. She marched across the room, and tapped Diligence on the shoulder, 'have you seen what those two are up to?'

'Again,' Diligence groaned and hurried to break the pair up. Research smiled smugly and went to sit with Creativity, who was doing a plot puzzle. Research immediately found a missing link.

'We've been here for ages,' Stuck in the Middle moaned. She always felt slightly trapped and she sensed that they were going nowhere, she was anxious.

'Yeah, I don't think Productivity is coming back,' Inner Critic gloated.

The room fell silent, and a creeping sense of panic settled on everyone.

Distraction abandoned Inspiration and started to make the bed. She pulled the covers back and found Fear of Exposure, curled up in a ball. Fear of Exposure grabbed at the blankets and tried to bury herself again, but Diligence pounced and wrestled her out of her hiding place.

Forced into the open Fear of Exposure scuttled across the room to join Perfectionism. Immediately they set about reworking the rooms latest completed short story. Inner Critic rushed to join them she had a lot to say about it and wanted to make sure her opinions were heard.

Can't Get in the Zone went to the record collection, maybe the right music would help. Distraction and Inspiration joined her and before Productivity and Diligence could get a handle on things the tunes were pumping.

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Productivity strode into the room. Great Idea, Inspiration and Research all cheered. Great Idea turned the computer on and hovered excitedly next to the empty chair. Distraction picked up her phone and quickly tried to open Facebook, but Diligence was onto her. Before doom scrolling could commence, she logged on and changed the password. Productivity gave Diligence a high five as she took her seat. She flexed her fingers and opened a new word document.

'We've got this!' Great Idea declared. Inner Critic pretended to vomit.

Undeterred Great Idea and Inspiration both started talking at once, gushing with excitement. Creativity began to hum as Productivity was on a roll. The room quickly divided, half of the occupants were bubbling with anticipation, the other half were agitated.

Great Idea and Inspiration called Research over, they conferred, and Research opened a search engine. They needed to know more.

Distraction zoned in on Research, she slunk across the room seductively. 'What are you looking at?' She purred.

Research looked up and Distraction smiled at her sweetly. Research blushed she thought Distraction was looking rather attractive. She started to explain what she was investigating.

'Ohhh, that's interesting. Dogs are cute, maybe we should check the adoption sights?'

Research hovered, they all liked dogs. Inspiration floated over, she forced herself into the narrow space between Research and Distraction deliberately jostling the would-be tangent off the bench.

Fear of Exposure had overheard what Research was looking up. She started huffing and puffing, pacing back and forth across the room. Finally, she could take it no more.

'That's controversial topic Research. I don't think we are qualified to write about it. We could upset people.'

Inner Critic agreed. In the corner Stuck in the Middle started to cry. She wasn't close to being needed yet, but she had a sixth sense for knowing when things could get messy and she had a bad feeling about this story already.

'We haven't had a cup of tea in ages,' Distraction grumbled.

'Or a biscuit,' Can't get in the Zone added.

Productivity, Inspiration, Great Idea, Research, Creativity and Diligence shared a look.

'Get them!' Productivity shouted.

There was passionate tussle, but Diligence won over. Distraction, Can't Get in the Zone, Perfectionism, Fear of Exposure, Inner Critic and Stuck in the Middle were soon all tied up in the corner.

And I was in the middle before I knew had begun.