

Fiction

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laughing at.

In "Pulp Fiction," Tarantino manipulates chronology by intertwining three separate stories, in which characters often appear to come back to life. Noticing where one story crosses another becomes part of the fun of the film.

Two scenes set up the three tales: A couple of liquor store thieves (Tim Roth and Amanda Plummer) decide to make the move up to robbing restaurants; and two underworld henchman (John Travolta and Samuel L. Jackson) are sent to retrieve a mysterious briefcase.

In the first tale, "Vincent Vega and Marsellus Wallace's Wife," Vincent (Travolta) and Mrs. Wallace (Uma Thurman) are transported to a fantasy restaurant called Jack Rabbit Slim's in the 1950s. Another scene involves Vincent trying to revive Thurman from a drug overdose by stabbing her with a needle, much to the delight of those watching.

The second story, "The Good Watch," focuses on the tumultuous situation of a prizefighter named Butch (Bruce Willis). Butch has been paid to take a fall in a fight, but instead, he wins the fight and tries to run from the country. Willis gets side-

tracked trying to recover a watch that is a family heirloom. This segment includes a disturbing sadomasochistic scene that Tarantino finds a way to fit in the film.

The third part of the film, "Jules, Vincent, Jimmie and the Wolf," returns to the two hit men and adds Mr. Wolf (Harvey Keitel) and Jimmie (Quentin Tarantino). Mr. Wolf is actually a Mr. Fix-it-all who shows up at Jimmie's front door to clean up the dead body without a head and save Jimmie's marriage. The film eventually rejoins the two thieves at the beginning of the film.

The cast members, who might be prone to bringing extra baggage to their roles because of their star status, avoid that tripwire, thanks to Tarantino's excellent script. Jackson turns in an excellent performance as a Bible-quoting, analytical hit man, and Thurman is piercing in her role as Mia Wallace.

The film creates some graphic, disturbing images, but it also creates some compelling plot twists. And the selection of background music is interesting in itself.

The world of "Pulp Fiction" is made up of people with sensational lives making irrational decisions in extreme situations. It's a '90s film noir gangster movie that peers in through The National Enquirer.



Courtesy of Linda R. Chen
John Travolta stars as Vincent Vega, a heroin-addicted hit man, in "Pulp Fiction."

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Kim Wilson "Tigerman"



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