TREASURE HUNTER: THE DEAL

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FADE IN

INT. THE RV - DAY

The RV door is kicked open as an exhausted Diego is the first to step in. His clothes are torn and dirty. It's easy to guess they came back from a failed job.

DIEGO

Whelp, that job was a bust.

Next to come in is 49 who's sporting a similar look of exhaustion.

49

It's like everything that could go wrong did go wrong...ugh...

After him, was Spirit. She enters with a breathy sigh.

SPIRIT

Worst of all, we're not getting paid...

And finally, 35 comes in last. The right lens of his sunglasses are cracked while the left one is missing.

35

The pain...everywhere...

The four of them go to their respective beds and flop over them (Except for Diego who simply lies on the floor.) Everyone lets out a simultaneous groan.

DIEGO

I can't believe we fumbled the bag that badly...

Spirit shoots up with an agitated look.

SPIRIT

"We"? Who is "we"? I specifically remember 35 being the one triggered one the old traps!

35 raises a hand to object.

35

I...That's...not entirely
true...Look, can we not do this?!

Tired, 35 slowly drops his hand. Diego then trudges towards the stove.

DIEGO

Well, At the very least, I'll get lunch started. I think we have enough for Bell Peppers and Beef.

The three androids let out an audible groan. Diego turns to the three of them offended.

DIEGO (CONT'D)

What's wrong with me making Bell Peppers and Beef?!

49

Do we really have to explain it? After last time?

DIEGO

What the hell happened last time?!

35

Dude, there was no beef in your "Bell Peppers and Beef"!

SPIRIT

We just ate a bowl of grilled bell pepper slices.

Diego turns away with his arms folded.

DIEGO

Well we have beef now! And I was even gonna throw in some mushrooms we had left over too!

SPIRIT

Just make sure it has everything the title implies this time.

With a dismissive gesture, Diego begins to head over to the fridge and sifts through. As this happens there's a loud banging on the front door. Then, things go silent. The four look at each other. All of their expressions asking the same question: Who's going to get it?

The knocking happens again, this time a bit more aggressive. Groaning in defeat, Diego speaks up first.

DIEGO

Fine, I'll do it!

Diego walks over the door and peaks through the blinds. He sees a large man in an all black suit. Confused and concerned, he opens the door open a smidge. However, the moment the door cracks opens, the door is forced open, knocking Diego aside. The large man takes a step in and the RV rocks to the side. Following the big man in, a familiar face steps in after. This causes both Diego and 49 to gasp. However, Diego's is a gasp of legitimate shock whereas 49's was a happy one.

DIEGO&49

(49 says it happily while Diego is distressed)

Mr.Chen!!

35&SPIRIT

(Confused)

Who?

Mr. Chen chuckles and holds his arms up to greet the four.

MR. CHEN

Ah! 49! Lovely to see you again!

He takes a few steps forward while looking around. There's a look of growing discomfort and disgust.

MR. CHEN (CONT'D)

I am surprised that people of your stature, live in quite the...interesting choice of home...

He holds out his hand and 49 takes it to shake.

49 then turns to others and gestures to Mr. Chen.

49

Guys, meet Mr. Chen! He helped me out a while ago!

DIEGO

When the hell did you bump into Mr. Chen of all people?

49

When I...was out on my own that one time...

Diego face palms and his hand slowly drags down.

SPIRIT

So, is anyone gonna explain who this guy is, or am I just gonna have to guess.

MR. CHEN

(Sinister Grin)

Oh yes, Mr. Enravio. If you would be so kind as to explain.

Another sigh comes out of Diego.

DIEGO

Mr. Chen is a crime boss. The one who essentially owns the entire underbelly of the city.

MR. CHEN

(Playful giggle)

Do go on! Though, its not 'essentially'. I do own the entire underbelly of the city. Even with some feelers in the topside. But who's keeping track?

Spirit then tenses up, ready for a fight at a moment's notice. Noticing this, Mr. Chen turns to her.

MR. CHEN (CONT'D)

Now, now. None of that is necessary. I'm not here for a fight. However, if we were to come to blows, rest assured, I would come out on top without question.

With that, the big guy in the back takes a step and puffs out his chest. Spirit takes a step back and glances at Diego who slightly shakes his head when their eyes meet. At that, she calms herself. 49 then speaks up completely changing the tone.

49

So what brings you all the way out here?

Miraculously, Mr. Chen uncannily adapts to the tone shift as he turns back to 49 to address him.

MR. CHEN

Well my friend, if you remember in our last encounter, you owe me a favor. I've come to redeem that favor as I am in need of the services of you and your team.

DIEGO

And what do you need from us?

MR. CHEN

While I do respect your 'can-do' attitude, I would much prefer to do business in the comfort of my own office.

With that, Mr. Chen turns and begins walking away. The large man in the back opens the door as he approaches.

MR. CHEN (CONT'D)
Come to my office downtown, we'll
continue our conversation there.
And please don't make this more
complicated by fleeing. You won't
make it far, but you will make it
tiresome.

The two make their leave and the door slams closed behind them. Diego and Spirit are standing there tense and quiet while 35 and 49 exchange confused looks.

35

Hey so...what the hell just happened?!

(FADE TO BLACK) ROLL THE INTRO!

FADE IN

INT. MR. CHEN'S OFFICE BUILDING DOWNTOWN - AFTERNOON

A soft ding breaks the silence the group held, followed by the opening of elevator doors. The four of them slowly walk in, the doors close, and they stand there, picking the silence back up. Shifting around uncomfortably, in the total quiet, 49 speaks up.

49

SPIRIT

No one's mad at you, 49.

Diego turns his head to 49 with an eyebrow cocked.

DIEGO

You did what you had to do. Can't really fault you for that. That being said, we still gotta lay in the bed we made. No avoiding that now.

SPIRIT

And that brings us to the subject at hand. Give us the actual rundown on this Chen guy. Is he really as dangerous as everyone keeps saying?

DIEGO

MR. Chen is every bit as dangerous as everyone says. The guy not only owns half the city, but he's probably the reason why we don't constantly get swarmed by cops. He pays them off! With all that being known, I suggest you three let me do all the talking.

Spirit scoffs, folds her arms, and leans back into the wall.

SPIRIT

I still don't see why we can't just beat them up. It'd make things way easier and it'd definitely get them to leave us alone.

35's eyes silently shift over to the camera watching them from a corner.

3 =

I dunno...I get the feeling that this guy is one of those...old fashioned, concrete shoes at the bottom of a river kind of mob boss.

DIEGO

That's because he IS!! It's been on the news before! That's why I'm gonna need you guys to let me talk! Trust me, he'll talk some shit, maybe threaten us vaguely, give us some easy milk run job just so he wave his dick at us, then we go home.

49 slumps over defeated.

49

This isn't making me feel better...

The rest of the elevator ride is quiet. Diego is staring off into space, Spirit stalks the door intensely, 49 anxiously looks down at the ground, and 35 sits watching the camera that's ominously watching the lot of them.

Soon, the same soft ding from before go off as the elevator doors open once again. The group of four are greeted by two large armed guards. They wordlessly gesture forward and follow behind as they walk forward down the expansive hallway.

Eventually, they reach these massive double doors with depictions of Mr. Chen in many different poses carved into it. One of the big guards bangs his knuckles onto the door, the knocking echoing throughout the halls.

Mr. Chen's bright and energetic voice pierces through the door. Its undoubtedly his.

MR. CHEN

(Muffled voice)

Bring them in!

The bodyguards move to either door, and they both pull them open. As they come open, Diego leans over to and quietly speaks to the cyborg trio.

DIEGO

Remember, Let me speak and we'll get out of this no problem.

As they walk in, the guards close the door from the inside and they move to opposite sides of the room.

Pacing back and forth in front of his desk, Mr. Chen seems to be in the midst of a conversation over the phone.

MR. CHEN

And what I'm telling you is that I'm growing quite tired of your excuses. You will have our money by the agreed time or you'll find yourself with very heavy shoes the next morning!

35 then looks at the others with a "See, I told you!" look.

Mr. Chen then presses a button an ends the call. He moves his arms behind his back and greets the group with a contrastingly large grin. He gestures to two office chairs in front of him. 49 and 35 take them while Spirit and Diego stand behind them both.

MR. CHEN (CONT'D)
Well, Mr. Enravio, so nice of you
and your team to accept my
invitation and agreeing to meet me
here.

Spirit folds her arms

SPIRIT

(Grumbles)

Not like you gave us any choice ...

There's a moment of pause as everyone looks at her. The boys have this instant look of fear, with Diego's specifically looking with a face of dread.

DIEGO

W-well, nonetheless...we're glad to have gotten your personal invite! And I just want to say thank you for all you've done for the team in keeping off the radar of the cops and getting 49's wallet back!

Spirit looks at Diego with utter disgust.

Without noticing, Diego elbows 49, who's been sheepishly looking down at the floor by this point, in the side. He looks up and quickly responds.

49

Yeah! You really helped out! Thank you so much, Mr. Chen!

To that, Mr. Chen leans back in his chair. Smile persists

MR. CHEN

Ah, yes! It was no issue at all! Honestly, I should be the one thanking you! After all, you did me the service of ridding me of the squatters in my warehouse. Business is back on track, in case you were curious.

35 leans over to 49.

35

(Whispers quietly)
Dude, he's making it sound like you
beat up some homeless people...

49

(whispers quietly)
Well, I kinda did...Its a long
story...

MR. CHEN

Now, I suppose I should get down to business. The reason why I called you all out here.

Everyone leans in a bit with bated breath.

MR. CHEN (CONT'D)

I want to hire the four of you to hunt some treasure for me.

Diego softens and gives a reassuring smile to the rest.

DIEGO

Oh, is that all? Seems simple-

MR. CHEN

But!

Mr. Chen rests his chin on his bridged fingers.

MR. CHEN (CONT'D)

I will require your treasure hunting talents for quite the unique circumstance.

SPIRIT

(Rolls her eyes)

Aaaaand here it comes...

MR. CHEN

What I require is the elusive Mask of Ahnra.

(MORE)

MR. CHEN (CONT'D)

Which is currently being held on display in the Conroy City Public Museum.

Diego stiffens. His expression immediately shifts into that of anger.

DIEGO

Hell no! That's not an option! Ask for something else?

35

What's the big deal? Shouldn't the job be way easier if its in a museum?

SPIRIT

Yeah, compared to some old, decrepit, and booby-trapped temple, grabbing it from a museum should be an absolute walk in the park!

DIEGO

(Agitated sigh)

Except that a museum is constantly under watch! There are these things called cameras! You think boobytrapped temples are bad? How about motion sensors? Any slip-up and the place will be swarming with cops within minutes! There's no damn way we're taking this job!

The guards on either side of Mr. Chen stiffen and are about to move with aggression, but Mr. Chen raises a hand and halts them.

MR. CHEN

My apologies, Mr. Enravio. It appears I've been hit with some form of short term memory loss. I don't seem to recall giving you an option at any point in this conversation.

The tension shifts some. Everyone is taken aback quiet as Mr. Chen continues.

MR. CHEN (CONT'D)

Now, this previously mentioned mask. It will soon be going on auction. Consider it a time limit of sorts. An added challenge, I'd like to think.

49

Well...when is the auction?

MR. CHEN

Ah, excellent question, my cybernetic associate! The auction is Friday morning as soon the museum opens.

Diego takes a tense step forward, piecing together the situation. His eyes widen.

DIEGO

Hold on a second! You want us to pull off a job like that in a single day?! You're kidding!!

Mr. Chen leans back in his chair and swivels around playfully.

MR. CHEN

I suppose it looks like you and you're little team will have your work cut out for you, then.

The three androids give their unsure looks to Diego who is currently pondering deeply. Despite his senior authority, Diego seems really distressed. Noticing this attention, he quickly takes a breath and calms himself.

DIEGO

So, I guess with all that said, I could write up a list of equipment we'd need for this job. We'll need a lot of stuff to get this job done in a short amount of time.

MR. CHEN

(Shrugs)

I don't care how you handle your equipment, Mr. Enravio. All that matters is you bringing me the mask before the auction.

SPIRIT

You're making it sound like you're not gonna front the cost!

MR. CHEN

(chuckles lightly)

Young lady, if I were to pay for your tools and equipment, it would entirely defeat the purpose of hiring you.

(MORE)

MR. CHEN (CONT'D)
At that point, I may as well send
my own people. Little girl, I'm
paying for your services. That's
all.

Diego folds his arms and groans.

DIEGO

I don't know what you're grand scheme is, Mr. Chen, but I can't say I'm a fan of whatever it is.

Mr. Chen looks over at Diego and his smile drops somewhat. Its in between his normal smile and a neutral expression.

MR. CHEN

Mr. Enravio, you thanked me previously for keeping you off the radar of the police. While I appreciate the gratitude, truly I do, you have a slight misunderstanding. You seem to miss the scope. See, its not just the police, but also the SPD as well as media figures who've also had their sights on you. You fail to realize with a single phone call - nay - a single press of a button, an army of police as well as the top agents of the SPD will arrive before you could leave this office, let alone this building. What I ask for is a simple service for you and your team. On top of that, I'll pay quite the pretty penny for a job well done.

The room goes silent as the tension rises. Everyone has their eyes on Diego as he stares daggers at Mr. Chen, who's smile returns to its original size.

DIEGO

(Sighs and rolls eyes)
Fine...We'll get the damn mask for you...on time...

Mr. Chen rises and happily claps his hands together.

MR. CHEN

Delightful! Well, you're free to leave now! I'll have the guards see you out!

And with another snap, the bodyguards instantly move toward the large double doors and swing them open to escort the group out. As the group make their way out, Mr. Chen waves at them.

MR. CHEN (CONT'D)
I'm looking forward to the results
of this job, Diego Enravio! I know
you won't disappoint!

The doors slam closed behind them. The gang head into the elevator and 49 presses the button for the 1st floor. The gang let out a collective deflating sigh as the doors close.

SPIRIT

So, big dick waving job, huh?

DIEGO

Shut up...

FADE TO BLACK