

Friend or Foe

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Sly Cooper has found another Cooper, but will his new relative live up to the Cooper legacy, or is he involved with Muggshot?

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1 - Impossible

The emerald was beautiful. A magnificent addition to the Cooper's treasure... but first Sly had to steal it. The jewel was surrounded by lasers. Sly Cooper quickly picked the lock. Before stepping into the room he dropped a smoke bomb. Tiny lasers appeared on the floor, and then quickly disappeared. Pulling a specially prepared grappling hook he shot it onto the chandelier and swung onto the sofa, then a chair, then a desk.

"Sly, how did the grapple work?"

Great, but I really need you to deactivate the lasers on the emerald."

"One minute." Sly could hear Bentley typing furiously on his laptop. "Got it."

Sly swung onto the top of the jewel's case and cut a hole in the top. His hand grasped the emerald.

"Halt, Cooper!" Commanded a familiar voice.

"Carmelita! Nice to see you," he said without turning around.

"The feeling's mutual. If I bring you in, I'll get a raise for sure!" Sly threw his cane like a boomerang, smacking the blaster out of Carmelita's hand. He took the large emerald and dashed down the hall with Carmelita hot on his heels.

"Murray, start the van! We've got company!" he yelled into his COM link.

"The Murray is ready! Who dares to challenge us?"

"Carmelita, and she's mad!" Sly ran outside and into the street. The van was waiting. As soon as Sly jumped in, the van shot down the street, leaving the inspector to cough on their dust.

At the Cooper vault Sly put the emerald out on display next to the Mona Lisa. He began to look for the Thievious Racoonus to chronicle his latest adventure...

Bentley was working on a tracker which could self destruct, injuring whoever it was attached to. Slam!

The door crashed open. Sly's expression looked confused.

"It's gone, Bentley! All that work and now it's gone!"

"What's gone? The emerald?" Bentley was worried for his friend.

"Not the emerald!"

"I'm confused," moaned Murray as he rubbed his head.

"The Thievius Raccoonus has been stolen!"

2 - Discovery

"But that's impossible! Only a Cooper could come in here. It takes your cane, Sly. Unless..." Bentley thought aloud.

"Unless there are still Cooper's left besides me," Sly's mind began to wander. "I will find the Thievius Raccoonus- no matter what it takes!"

At Inspector Fox's office, Carmelita began to relax. Suddenly the phone rang, startling her.

"Inspector, we've found the raccoon," stated the gruff voice of a guerrilla.

"Sly?"

"No, Jak Cooper. Maybe a relative of Sly or something. No one really knows, but he's got the same cane. We sent you a file on the guy. Check it out. In the mean while, what do you want us to do with him. Right now my men are holding him down."

Carmelita looked over the file on her computer.

"Don't let him out of your sight. I'll be right over."

On the roof of next to Carmelita's office, Sly Cooper listened carefully. Bentley had been right when he suggested bugging the inspector's office on a previous mission. As much as he wanted to get the file, he knew this was his one chance to save his relative.

"Bentley, his name is Jak Cooper, and Carmelita is going after him. I have to save him if I ever want to see the Thievius Raccoonus again. Bentley, I need you and Murray to break into Carmelita's office and steal the file on Jak. Take Murray and do it quick, before they return! Bentley, I'm counting on you!" Sly quickly turned his COM link off before Bentley could protest. Sly glanced up just in time to see Carmelita's car speeding down the usually quiet streets of Paris, siren blaring loudly for all to hear. He ran in pursuit of the police car. Just when he thought he had lost her, he spotted the car, waiting impatiently at a stop light. Sly leapt lightly onto the car, holding on tightly to the siren as the car sped onward.

Finally the cop slowed to a stop and Sly jumped off before the fox could notice him. Then Sly spotted him, restrained by several guerrillas. Jake Cooper looked similar to Sly, but older. He possessed a cane identical to the Cooper family's. In fact, it was a Cooper family cane. Sly threw a smoke bomb into the middle of the guerrillas. Carmelita was enraged that Sly Cooper would interfere in Interpol

business-again. When the smoke cleared, Sly *and* Jak were gone.

In the van Sly and Jak were conversing excitedly. "But how did you get that cane?" inquired Sly skeptically.

"You didn't really think you were the *only* Cooper left, did you?"

"But didn't Clockwork attack you too. He wanted to kill all the Coopers!" Jak quickly changed the subject.

"You mentioned there being a Cooper gang. Can I meet them?"

"Of course, but first things first," Sly's tone became serious. "Where is the Thievius Raccoonus?"

"I don't have it."

"YOU WHAT?!!!"

"The person who has it really wants you to meet him..." The van stopped and Sly stepped out, wondering what Jak was talking about. That night after introducing Jak to the gang, and showing him to his room, Sly and Bentley conversed quietly in a secret room.

"Bentley, he doesn't have the book, but he gave it to someone who wants to meet me. He seemed very secretive about it, like he didn't want me to know who. I asked him if Clockwerk had tried to kill him too, but he changed the subject. The pieces don't fit."

"Well, I may have a clue. Murray and I stole the file. I've been studying it. You'll never guess who he's been working with for five years."

"Enlighten me."

"Muggshot."

"No way!"

"Yes way, and he's stolen from people of national importance, even the President! Heh, maybe we should thank him, though. Thanks to him, Rajan is stook out on the street after having everything but the clothes on his back stolen from him."

"Wow! I just hope he's on our side. I'm going to get ready for tomorrow. I'll have some surprises for him too."

The next day Jak insisted on introducing Sly to the man he had spoken of the day before. He also assured him that he would get the Thievius Raccoonus back as soon as they met, but not before. As the two rode off in the van, Bentley wondered if he would ever see Sly again- alive...

3 - The Meeting

Jak and Sly approached the site where Jak's friend was to meet them. There was no one to be seen in the empty ally. Sly looked up on the tops of the roofs and to his horror saw Muggshot glaring down at him angrily, hate shining in his dark black eyes.

"You stole everything from me, so there was only one thing I could do... steal the thing that matters most to you." He held up the Thievius Raccoonus victoriously. "And before you die, I want you to know, your friends will be next, and know that you will be slain with your family's moves that you hold so dear." Muggshot jumped to the street, shaking the ground.

"What do you want?" Sly asked quizzically.

"REVENGE!!" Muggshot's roar echoed through the ally. He pulled his large twin revolvers, firing off several shots in the air. Suddenly his guns lit up brightly and fired off a shot straight at Sly. He dodged the bullet, but as soon as the bullet hit the wall behind him, a shock wave resonated from it like a wave. Sly had read of this move before. It could defeat a foe in several shots. Then Sly remembered Muggshot's threat to Bentley and Murray. He would not allow this fool to hurt his best friends because of his inability to get over the past. His cane lit up with an unearthly glow. He cracked the vicious dog across the head, knocking him senseless. Sly moved in for the kill. Though he did not believe in killing his enemies, Muggshot was too dangerous to let roam about the streets of Paris. He raised his cane above his head and brought it down with all his strength. He felt a sudden pain slam into the back of his head. Just before he went unconscious he saw Jak Cooper, staring down at him, and then helping Muggshot into the Cooper van, and then everything went dark.

4 - Ready

Everything... so... blurry... Where was he? How long had he been unconscious? What hit him? Wait! Jak hit him!! Sly clenched his cane. Good thing Bently had put a tracking device on the van. He looked around him. The alley was now dark and it was getting late. There was no time to go and get the gang. He would have to do this alone. He pulled out the tracker screen. The van was no longer moving. They must have parked it. Good. Murray would never forgive him if he lost the van. He called a cab. A frantic driver glanced out at him. It was a small lizard with dark darting eyes. Sly jumped in the back.

“Step on it!” Sly yelled up to the lizard. Oh, how he regretted saying that later. The lizard went full speed, not stopping for stop lights or signs. Sly quickly strapped on a seat belt, vowing under his breath never to take a cab again. Finally the little yellow car came to a screeching halt in front of a large casino with neon, flashing lights advertising its existence. Sly stepped out of the cab and walked towards the building. He noticed the band in front, but decided it wiser to get it later, not even wanting to think about the booby traps awaiting inside. Muggshot simply could not let go of the past. He was still furious about Sly wrecking his last casino operation. The front door creaked open. Sly continued on, ready to fight. Ready for Muggshot...