CRIME SYNDICATE

BY FRED PERRY

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SAY IF THESE "FORCES OF EVIL" KNOW WE PLAN TO SHUT THEM DOWN, WON'T THEY COME AFTER US?

BRUNNA'S GOT A POINT, DANIELLE. IF THAT'S TRUE, WE MUST BE PREPARED!

IT WOULD BE DISASTROUS FOR US IF WE WERE CAUGHT UNWARES!

CRASH!

...YOU ARE SOOOO RIGHT!

OOPS!

MY MIND! MUSTN'T LET HIM SEE MY FACE!

IT'LL BE ALL OVER FOR ME IF THE WORLD DISCOVERS DANIELLE CARTER'S THE AVENGER!
All right, who's first? You've got some nerve barrelin' in here like that! You've got two seconds to drop those weapons and give up before I get brutal!

Be careful, Cheetah! That's Technicka! He may be a novice, but he's tricky.

Bad judgement. Putting all of your weight on the sofa like that, babe...

Swoosh

Scoot. Because where it goes you go!

That's what you think! You sound like I was supposed to stand still and let you make me into street soup! Of course I jumped!

Have a nice flight!

I'll try!

My sofa! Someone'll be killed if it falls on them!

Genlin can you fly and save it?

Ooh! Good shot with the coat, Cheetah!

Thanks, Brianna!

Not if I can help it--oof!
HERE I COME TO SPOIL DA DAY!

GIRL, YOU’VE JUST SIGNED YOUR DEATH Warrant! Oh, please!

HEH HEH

BY THE MAKER!

DID YOU SEE THAT? Genn ran into trouble out there, Cheetah.

I saw it!

GIMME THAT!

SWIPE

I GUESS IT’S UP TO ME TO HELP GENN. KEEP TECHNINJA BUSY FOR ME!

Goin’ Down!

SHUFF

YEAH, OR Aiki!

When

Magic! Magic! Magic!

Ugh!

GOT IT!
SHOOT! I missed one!

DAN: AVENGER'S TV got nuked!

WE'LL buy her a new one later!

MISS!

CATCH!

Right after I pull the rug out from under that ninja - bigot!

"Here kitty kitty" indeed!

Britanny, he grabbed Avenger! They're both falling out of the window!

WHOA!

Not if I can help it!

GRAB!

Snap!
I WAS HOPING YOU'D SAY THAT!

SLAYER, GET AVENGER! WE NEED A HOSTAGE!

I WAS HOPEING YOU'D SAY THAT!

I CAN ONLY LIFT THINGS WITHOUT ADROS LIKE THIS SOFA AND THIS UNDEAD CREATURE.

IT'S TOO LATE ANYWAY, GENN.

THEY'RE TAKING DAN! PRISONER!

THEN WE'LL HAVE TO FIND OUT WHERE THEY'RE TAKING HER AND RESCUE HER!

CAN'T WE TRUST YOU TO DO ANYTHING TECH?

WHAT HAPPENED?

I'M AFRAID NOT.

T-HAWK! I HAD EVERYTHING UNDER CONTROL UNTIL... SHUT UP!
BUT BRITTANY, HOW CAN WE TRACK THEM?!

THEY'RE LEAVING BY AIR AND I'M SURE THAT CRAFT IS MUCH FASTER THAN I AM. THAT MAY BE TRUE GENN...

"...BUT THEY LEFT US A GUIDE TO FOLLOW THEM WITH!"

CHERRY POINT MILITARY BASE AT NORTH CAROLINA...

YOU WERE GREAT ACE! PRINCESS TYR AND I WERE WATCHING YOU FIGHT FROM THE POOL OF LEGENDS!

SHE LOVED IT WHEN YOU DIPPED THAT BULLDOG GUY... *

I LOVED IT WHEN YOU AND TYR SIGNED UP WITH THAT BIG SEA MONSTER, GINA.

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REMEMBER, KEVIN, YOU OWE ME A NIGHT ON THE TOWN...

WELL, YOU TWO HAVE A GOOD TIME...

WE'LL GO STEPPIN' SOON ENOUGH, PENNY. I'VE GOT TO PARK THIS STARRIFTER FIRST.

I'VE GOT SOME OVER-DUE LIBRARY BOOKS TO RETURN.

SOON...

OKAY GINA, THE BAY DOORS ARE OPEN.

I'LL SEE YOU LATER, AND PENNY...

THANKS ACE.

I ASSUME OUR TRUCE IS OVER?
Good! ?

Tag! You're it!

HA, HA, VERY CHILDISH!

I PERFECTIONED MY HOLOGRAPHIC TECHNOLOGY LAST WEEK. WORKS PRETTY GOOD, EH?

You just remember that the next time we meet, I'll show no mercy!

NEITHER WILL I, CHUNKY!

You'd better carry your chubby tail out of here before I go off on you!

Bye, Lunkhead!

Bye, Miss Tang!

Bye, Ace!

Beep Beep

I guess that's as peaceful as both of your "goodbyes" are going to get, right?

Right, Kevin.

Meanwhile, in New York...

Waitaminute... where are her togs?

We had to... er... strip her, crush. She had all kinds of hidden pockets and stuff.

Yeah! We couldn't be sure if we grabbed all of her gear so we took the whole suit.

Well...

Under the circumstances, I suppose that was the most intelligent choice. But don't let this become a habit!

You act as though Slasher and Techninja should care, Crash!
But Sir...

Avenger's welfare is of no concern to any of us, Crush. She is only here as bait to trap her friends.

Remember that.

I... I will sir...

Crush is only worried about Avengers' pride, boss. They used to be buddies until Crush betrayed her and joined us last week!

But don't worry, boss. After we get Avengers, or should I say... Danielle Carter's family's addresses, she'll join our little club just like you did!

Or else.

But first we must deal with Avenger's new allies!

When Burnhead leads them here...

True... I'll have to practice my William-Talk a little more.

Presence is everything!

Techinju, relieve Rhead on watch duty.

Right.

Ughh! If you wanted them out of the way, why didn't we just get them while we were there, boss?

What's all this trash junk?

Pretty good, boss... it would have been better if you had made your eyes glow some.

Slasher, T-Hawk! Come with me. Crush, guard Avenger.

Make sure to give us warning if you spot Avenger's allies before you attack them.

We fight on our terms and our terms alone, T-Hawk! The Crime-Syndicate-X cannot afford to take the chance of a defeat in public!

We must always look like we get what we were after even if we didn't!

Are you sure you want to let Crush guard her, boss?
Hey, heh... don't worry about Crab-Slasher.

Under the circumstances, she is the last person that will let Avenger escape.

Avenger... come on, Pinky, wake up!

Crush?

Um... you didn't call me that! Only my friends call me that...

Crush?

Don't call me that! And you're definitely not one of them anymore!

Crush?

Danielle, please let me explain...

Uh...

Oh... my head...

Explain what? How Vector and I trusted you? How you led us into a trap?? How you snapped Vector's spine??

Vector and I were your friends, Crush! He'll never walk again thanks to you and I won't rest until I've made you pay!!

Pinky, look at me...

Dani, please!!

They know all about me now! They know where my parents live! They know where my little brother goes to school!!

If I don't do as they say, who knows what they'll do to them?
WHO ARE "THEY"?!
WHO IS IT THAT'S SO POWERFUL THAT YOU'VE LOST HOPE AND FORGOTTEN TO TURN ON YOUR FRIENDS?!

CRIME-SYNDICATE-X

WHAT?!

OUR LEADER'S NAME IS "TIRANT"
AND THIS TYRANT-GUY HAS THE POWER TO GET THE CITY'S MOST POWERFUL AND INDEPENDENT CRIMINALS TO FOLLOW HIM?

YES... I TRIED TO RESIST HIM ONCE. I DARE NOT TRY IT AGAIN.

NOT AGAINST HIS POWERS...
...AND NOT WITH MY FAMILY AT STAKE.

SOMEONE FINALLY BANDED THEM TOGETHER. I'M ONE OF THEM NOW.

IT'S A NEW COALITION OF ULTRA-CRIMINALS

MY DAYS AS BARBRA DUNCAN: BIOCHEMIST, ARE OVER, DANI.

I'M CRUSH NOW. YOU'RE RIGHT. THE BARBRA DUNCAN I KNEW WOULDN'T HAVE LET SOMEONE PUSH HER AROUND!!

AND TURN ON HER FRIENDS!

SIGH: YOU'LL UNDERSTAND SOON ENOUGH, DANI. FOR WHAT THEY DID TO ME...

THEY'LL DO WITH YOU!

MEANWHILE, JUST OUTSIDE...

YOU CAN GET YOUR SQUAT OFF THE LAMP-POST NOW, RADIOD.

TI' SENT ME HERE TO RELIEVE YOU.

DID YOU SEE ANYTHING?

NAY...

I'M OUTTA HERE

WAIT UP... MY INFRA-RED PICKS UP SOMETHING FROM THE SOUTH!

UH??... I DON'T SEE OR HEAR ANYTHING!
WELL I DO. I'M CALLING TIRANT! HEY BOSS...

I'M LISTENING... THEY'RE HERE! I UNDERSTAND. KEEP THEM BUSY UNTIL I ARRIVE.

BINGO! WE'VE GOT IT! DANIELLE'S MOTHER'S ADDRESS, HER BROTHER... THE WHOLE SIMILAR!

EXCELLENT!

PRINT OUT THAT DATA AT ONCE...

LET'S TAKE 'EM RABID! QUIETLY!

"RAARGH!" JUST POINT ME IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION! RARR!

why am I always stuck with the idiots?!

RAAHR... THEY'RE COMING AT US FROM MAIN STREET! LET'S HEAD THEM OFF!

RAAH... WAIT A MINUTE. HOW DID YOU GET DOWN HERE SO FAST? RABID! YOU BONE-HEAD!

THIS IS ONE OF THEM! ATTACK!

POOR, SOUL... THERE'S MORE TO FIGHTING A BATTLE THAN BRAVING YOU KNOW...

ZAM
I wonder if I should say grace before I carve up this turkey...

I've got this one, Genn.

RAARGH!

ICK!

This guy's slobbering!

Um-oh... This guy has the center of a tank!

That's a pretty spiffy "gang go" stance you've got there, pal. Reminds me of my old sensei's do tell!

As a rakshasa, I can imitate the abilities and skills of any one you know!

Prove it, goat face!

Hons this!!

Blok

Slap

WH-WAK

UGH!

CUGH! I never could block that punch...

Surrender now! I don't wish to harm you!

CUGH! OOPS! My foot slipped!

It's time to fight like me!!

RRRRR TAHSH!

O?

Oo?

Oo?

O?

That's what I get for trying to fight like cheeta!

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I'M CLEAR, BRIANNA...

YES! THAT WORKED BETTER THAN I PLANNED!

TEN POUNDS OF SUPER-COMPRESSED AIR!

SHE'S BOTH UNCONSCIOUS!

WHERE'S CHEETAH?

SHE'LL BE ARRIVING SOON...

WHAT WAS IT?

...SUDDENLY RELEASED!

THERE SHE IS.

I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU TO WAIT UP FOR ME!!

SORRY, WE'RE BORED.

PLEASE DON'T USE "WE" WHEN YOU MEAN YOU, BRIANNA.

SKIP IT! LET'S GO RESCUE DANI!

YEAH! LET'S KICK GLUTENUS!

AN' ISN'T HE THE CUTEST THING? CAN WE KEEP HIM, OFFICER BOB?

YOU BET WE CAN! HE'S WANTED IN 50 STATES!

OH, I LEFT HIM ON SOMEONE'S DOORSTEP.

CHEETAH? WHAT DID YOU DO WITH BURNT HEAD?

THIS SUCKS!

I'M A HUNGRY PRO CRIMINAL MAF JAIL ME!
MEANWHILE...

WELL, WELL... LOOK WHAT THE CAT DRAGGED IN!

GOOD, YOU'RE FINALLY AWAKE. I HAVE A TASK FOR YOU...

CRUSH! UNTIE HER.

YES SIR.

AND WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I WON'T KICK THE TAR OUT OF YOU WHEN I'M FREE?

INSTEAD OF DOING THIS "TASK" OF YOURS?

OH, YOU'LL DO EVERYTHING I SAY...

UNLESS YOU WANT SLASHER TO PAY A SOCIAL CALL TO THE RESIDENTS OF "613 WEST LANE."

BOB CARTER... YOUR BROTHER AND HIS FAMILY!

IS A SMALL FAVOR TOO MUCH TO ASK FOR THEIR LIVES??

NEARBY...

CAN YOU READ ANY OF THEIR THOUGHTS WITH YOUR ESP, GENN?

YES BUT THEY'RE HARD TO MAKE SENSE OF!

THEIR MINDS ARE ALL BLURRED AND RUSHED!

THEY MEAN TO ATTACK SOON!
Hina!

Hiya!

Bash!

Genn!

Hey!

See ya!

Limp!

Not even worth my time!

I'm outta here!

Don't worry, guys! He won't get far!

Cheetah! Wait!

Meanwhile...

I heard his thoughts with my ESP! It's a trap!

What's keeping them! I thought you said they were fast slasher!

They are!

Then let's take the other way around!

Something's wrong!
Fasten your seat belt, Curly...

What??

Clamp

Cause your con' on the 'Cheetah-Express''

Map

Uhg

That was for Avenger!

And you'll get more if you don't free her right now

Free Avenger? I'm afraid that's quite impossible!

Brianna!

Back me up!

Yowl!

I'm way ahead of you, sis...

You sloppy lummox! Let me show you how to bring home the bacon!
BOOM

GOOD ONE, BRIANNA...
DO YOU NEED ANY HELP WITH SLASHER, GENN?

NOT AT THE MOMENT.

SO! I CAN’T STAND SMUG HEROES!

AAAH...
Y-YOU'RE POWERLESS, BRITANNY... THIS AUGMENTED TANTER IS NULLIFYING YOUR MUSCLES...

DAN!?

PLEASE BRITANNY, DON'T D-DON'T LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT.

WH-- WHY DANNI?? WHY ??

DON'T STRUGGLE, CHEETAH! IT ONLY MAKES IT PAINFUL.

YES, THEY REAL
BRIANNA! CHEETAH'S IN TROUBLE. YOU'VE GOT TO UGH!

EXCELLENT, WORK AVENGER. NOW STAND AWAY! I'LL DEAL WITH HER NOW!

GO HELP THE OTHERS TAKE CARE OF THE REST OF YOUR FRIENDS!

SHE MUST PAY FOR HER ASSAULT AGAINST MY PERSON!

SHE MUST DIE!

I-- I MUST HAVE BEEN OUT OF MY MIND TO JOIN YOU, TIRANT!

YOU'RE GOING DOWN!

YOU DARE STRIKE ME?
Okay then... How about if I electrify the entire smoke cloud!

You've got to be in here somewhere!

'You'll be screaming for your mama to help you when I'm done! Wimp!' That does it! Now I'm mad!

Wamm

No need to lose your temper! Slasher's through slashing!

Explain yourself! Why did you attack your ally? I'm on your side now, against Tirant. We've got to stop him! Hold your attack, Brianna, my ESAP tells me that—maybe we should just pop her anyway, Glenn... just to be on the safe side!
TIRANT!

Consider this my resignation!

I should have suspected that you would gather enough courage to defy me again...

Especially after seeing Avenger attack me!

Perhaps you need a reminder of what happened the last time!

Well shoot! Maybe we should have believed her, Genn...

I was trying to tell you that her thoughts were sincere, Bronna.

Hmph!

Don't even embarrass yourself by attacking me...

Whatever. This "Tirant" guy's got my full attention now!...
TAKE COVER, GENN! SOMEHOW WE DEFLECTED THE SHOCK-WAVE!

TAKE COVER?
WHERE?

UHG

WHEN... THIS DAGGER I SNATCHED FROM SLAUGHTER EARLIER CAME IN HANDY AFTER ALL?

I COULDN'T HAVE AVOIDED TIRANT'S ATTACK WITHOUT IT...

WELL, THAT'S THE LAST OF THEM...

NOW WHERE'S AVENGER'S BODY? I THOUGHT I FRIED HER IN THAT CLOUD!

IT'S NOW OR NEVER!

...IF SO, A FULL-POWER ELECTRIC FIELD SHOULD PROTECT ME!

AND FRY YOU!

AHAH!!! THERE YOU ARE! AND WHAT'S THIS?

AVENGER WITH A BLADE IN HER HAND AND MURDER IN HER EYES?

THIS SHOULD BE AS ENTERTAINING AS A POLISH SAVAGE IN A MICROWAVE OVEN, AVENGER!

UHG!

IT'S COMMON KNOWLEDGE THAT YOU WON'T TAKE ALIVE, DANIELLE! HAVE I FINALLY REDUCED YOU TO MY LEVEL??

CHINK
WHAT HAPPENED TO MY POWERS??

WHO DO YOU THINK I AM? MS. WIZARD??
I'M NOT GOING TO TELL YOU! FIGURE IT OUT ON YOUR OWN!

OF COURSE! I SHOULD HAVE SEEN IT COMING WHEN YOU GRABBED FOR SLAMER'S STEEL WHIP INSTEAD OF ME!

YOU GROUNDED ME!

AND NOW THAT YOU'RE NICE AND ORDINARY LIKE ME.......

WELL, DUH!

3AM!

LATER...

WELL, THAT'S THE LAST OF THEM, GANG...

THE POLICE ARE ON THEIR WAY TO PRISON WITH CRIME SYNDICATE - X!
I just hope they can keep them in jail for a while.

I'm sure they'll be on ice for a long time, Dani.

Sigh.

But what happens when they get out of prison? They know Barbara's and my identities.

Don't fret, Dani...

Genn and Brianna took care of that.

Huh?

I took care of that when I... er... consumed the ether from our... um... unconscious foes while Brianna was erasing their computer files.

Could I resist a meal, huh, Genn?

Let him finish, Brianna.

Thanks, Cheetah... anyway, while I was at it, I managed to use my E.S.P. to find their memories of Danielle and Barbara's secret identities and erase them.

Then we're off the hook!

Barb, about what I said to you earlier... I understand why you did what you did now...

It's too bad I had to have the same thing that happened to you happen to me before I understood. You're okay in my book, Barbara.

Thanks, Dani... but I had committed crimes while with the crime syndicate. I'm turning myself in. It's the right thing to do,

Cheetah? Can you forgive--

Do you even have to ask?

You're my bestest buddy in the whole wide world, Dani! Of course I forgive you!

(Now let's get out of here...)

All this excitement put me in the mood for some tuna subs!

And that's that.