YOUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD SPIDER-MAN

The Hendricks Gun

CHARACTERS (speaking parts only):

Peter Parker/Spider-Man

Commissioner Barbera

Captain Stacy

Debra Whitman

Dave Harrison

Flash Thompson

Breeze

Shirley Fowler

Zapata

Meredith

Henchman Roberts

Henchman Quayle

Terry Fowler

Rusty Garrett

Spud

Mayor Carlson

Officer Cromwell

Dr. Foster

Police Officer #1

Police Officer #2

Security Guard

TV Newscaster

Dispatcher

Phone Operator

SPIDER-MAN

The Hendricks Gun

ACT ONE

We begin our story at a rehabilitation center for children, where ESU students are doing presentations about protecting the environment. Even FLASH THOMPSON is helping out by giving flyers. It was actually surprisingly easy to get him into the action. We hear DEBRA WHITMAN talking to some people going around the many presentation stands.

DEBRA

A lot of people don’t understand or don’t really know that high above our heads a fragile, invisible layer of Ozone shields the Earth’s surface against dangerous solar ultraviolet radiation. But now, we are destroying this protective shield by releasing chemicals into the sky!!! This means you and your children could suffer radiation burns from the sun. What can you do about it??? Lots of things. Stop using Polystyrene containers, aerosols with CFCs in them. And if you see your air conditioner is leaking, fix it!!! That way, you’ll be cool!!!

We go to another stand where DAVE HARRISON is showing kids some junk mail.

DAVE

(explaining to the kids while holding a bag with mail)

This is the junk mail that came to my mother’s house in one year!!! Now the junk mail that America receives in one day could produce enough energy to heat a quarter of a million homes for that same day. A quarter of a million!!!

(pointing at the bag)

Now let’s face it, do we want this stuff??? No!!! Do we need it??? No!!! Well, then why not stop it and put that energy into good use, heating homes!!!

In another stand, FLASH THOMPSON and PETER PARKER are giving flyers to some children.

PETER

(handing flyers)

And here you’ll find locations for recycling centers and phone numbers for any questions you might have.

FLASH

(handing flyers)  
Yo, Puny Parker, where’s Breeze???!!! He’s supposed to be handlin’ recyclin’!!! We’re supposed to be gettin’ volunteers for river and stream cleanup!!!

PETER

I don’t know where he is, Flash!!!

(handing more flyers)

Now this flyer will tell you how to recycle plastic and glass and paper. As a matter of fact, don’t you recycle this when you’re done with it, okay???

The kids giggle at PETER’S joke.

FLASH

Y’know, Breeze and his weirdo ecologist pallies set this whole thing up, it’s gonna be a real shame for these kids if he doesn’t show up!!!

PETER

I hate to say this, Flash, but you’re right… I’ll give him a call.

PETER goes into another room. Meanwhile, at a garage, a phone rings and a young, 18 year old black boy answers.

BREEZE

Talk fast, ah got a planet to save!!!

PETER

(through the phone)

Yeah, well, you were supposed to be doing it from here!!! Where are ya???!!!

BREEZE

Ah had to work overtime at the garage. Ahm on mah way, though. Gone!!!

BREEZE hangs up the phone and runs out the door, heading toward the center.

BREEZE

Hang tough, mother nature!!! The Breeze is on the way!!!

Meanwhile, two very tough looking teenagers are leaning against a wall. The black one is RUSTY GARRETT, a small-time drug dealer. The short, white guy is SPUD, his friend.

RUSTY

Ah don’t like it!!! The scales are just “disembalancing”, and not in mah favor!!!

Another teenager goes towards them. RUSTY reacts with disgust at the newcomer.

RUSTY

GIT OUTTA HERE, JUNKIE!!! Don’t damage mah image!!! ‘sides… you don’t have enough bread for the good stuff!!!

The teenager takes a gun from his pocket and shows it to RUSTY and SPUD. They just look at it.

TERRY

I got this!!! It’s loaded… and ready to go, it’s worth ten nickels!!!

RUSTY then takes a bag with white powder from his pocket and hands it over to TERRY while taking the gun from him.

RUSTY

Take it…

However, a patrol car drives in. TERRY, RUSTY and SPUD look at it and run away. The patrol car’s siren starts wailing and follows the three teenagers. TERRY manages to run away and disappear without a trace, but RUSTY and SPUD are about to get in their car, when two police officers get out of the car and aim their guns at them.

CROMWELL

STOP RIGHT THERE!!!

POLICE OFFICER #1

POLICE!!! HOLD IT!!!

RUSTY fires a shot and it hits Officer ROBERT CROMWELL in the abdomen. CROMWELL falls to the ground, dead. The other Officer fires at RUSTY’S car as he makes his escape. When the car drives away, he goes to check on CROMWELL. He then grabs his walkie-talkie.

POLICE OFFICER #1

Officer down!!! Officer down!!! Requesting an ambulance, corner of Mulberry and Grand Street!!!

DISPATCHER

(VO)

All units!!! All frequencies!!! Stand by. Suspects wanted for ADW against a police officer.

Suddenly, some patrol cars start chasing RUSTY’S car. Meanwhile, BREEZE is heading to the center, when suddenly, he sees RUSTY’S car driving and skidding around. The car then crashes into a parked car. SPUD gets out of the car and runs away. BREEZE runs towards the car and sees RUSTY coming out of it.

BREEZE

RUSTY!!! Are you alright, man???!!!

Sirens can be heard.

BREEZE   
(frustrated)   
Awwww, Rusty, what did ya do???!!!

RUSTY   
(running away)   
You get outta here, man!!! YOU DON’T EVEN KNOW ME, YOU HEAR ME???!!!

As RUSTY runs away, a patrol car stops nearby and another police officer sees BREEZE near RUSTY’S car.

POLICE OFFICER #2

HOLD IT!!!

Feeling extreme fright, BREEZE impulsively runs away. The police officer follows him, gun in hand. After an intense chase, BREEZE arrives back at the garage and locks himself in, extremely scared. The police officer sees him enter and communicates with the dispatcher.

POLICE OFFICER #2

Dispatch… I got one suspect in the Bowery and Canal Street. Carter’s Garage. Requesting backup, the suspect is presumed armed.

Meanwhile, at the center, the phone rings and Peter answers it.

PETER

Center.

BREEZE

(scared, through the phone)

Peter, it’s me!!!

PETER

Hey, where are you??? You’re missing everything.

BREEZE

(anguished, through the phone)

Not everything… Peter, listen… ahm at the garage… ahm in big trouble… help me, please…

PETER

Hold on… I’ll be right there…

PETER then runs out of the center and changes to SPIDER-MAN. SPIDEY swings towards Carter’s Garage. Once he’s there, he changes back to PETER and sees CAPTAIN STACY talking through a bullhorn.

STACY

(through the bullhorn)

This is your last warning!!! The building is surrounded!!! You got thirty seconds left!!! Come out with your hands up, or we’re gonna come in for ya!!!

BREEZE just peeks through the window, sweating with fright. PETER has arrived.

STACY

Alright, bring out the tear gas!!!

Another officer takes the tear gas launcher from the car.

STACY

Okay, stand by to fire!!!

PETER

Wait, hold it!!!

STACY

WHO LET YOU IN HERE, PARKER???!!!

PETER

C’mon, Captain, I know this kid!!! Gimme a chance to talk to him, get him to come out!!!

STACY

You’re gonna get yourself killed, now get outta here!!!

(to the officer)

Okay, do it!!!

PETER just runs in front of STACY, blocking the tear gas launcher.

PETER

BREEZE!!! IT’S ME!!! PETER!!!

STACY

HOLD YOUR FIRE!!! What’s that fool Parker doing???!!!

PETER

Everything’s going to be okay!!! Come out!!!

BREEZE

(crying, from inside the garage)

They think ah shot a cop, Peter… it ain’t gonna be okay…

PETER

BREEZE, DON’T MAKE THINGS WORSE!!!

STACY

GET OUTTA THE WAY, HE’S GOT A GUN!!!

PETER

(turning to STACY)  
NO!!! HE DOES NOT HAVE A GUN!!! HE’S COMING OUT!!!

(turning to BREEZE)

AREN’T YOU, BREEZE???!!!

Inside, BREEZE starts crying even more. He had never been in this situation before.

PETER

He’s coming out!!!

(whispering)

C’mon, man…

(with a comforting tone)

Breeze… I’m right here…

BREEZE then unlocks the door and comes out, feeling extremely helpless. He puts his hands behind his head. PETER sighs with relief. An officer puts BREEZE down on his knees and puts cuffs on him.

BREEZE

(crying)  
Don’t leave me, Peter… ah din’t do nuthin’, AH SWEAR!!!

PETER

I’m not going anywhere… I’m here with ya…

Meanwhile, on an office at the docks, a man is watching the news.

NEWSCASTER

(on TV)

In the news, the bullet which yesterday took the life of Officer Robert Cromwell was found to be fired from the same gun which was used twenty years ago by Doman Yashir to assassinate then Presidential Candidate Senator David R. Hendricks. The startling discovery was made by Dr. Lawrence Foster, who was part of the forensic team which investigated the assassination of Senator Hendricks. Earlier this afternoon, a press conference was held by Dr. Foster.

FOSTER

(on TV)  
I realized immediately that the bullet came from the same kind of gun that killed the Senator. It’s an unusual gun. Out of curiosity, because I was so closely involved in the investigation of the Senator’s death, I made a close comparison.

Two pictures of bullets are shown on TV. One is labeled “Hendricks Bullet”, the other one “Patrolman Bullet”. However, both bullets look exactly the same.

FOSTER

(on TV)

As you see, the striations of the two bullets are identical. There is no doubt whatsoever… they came from the same gun.

Then, the man watching the news turns off the TV. This is Zapata, a Mexican gun dealer and businessman who controls the smuggling operations in the Middle East. He then walks to the phone and dials a number. Meanwhile, at a gun manufacturing warehouse, the phone rings while workers are preparing and manufacturing guns. A man is checking some of the finalized guns. This is ALBERT MEREDITH, owner of the Meredith Weapons Company. Suddenly, a man walks over to MEREDITH.

QUAYLE

Zapata’s on the phone.

MEREDITH walks over to the phone and answers.

MEREDITH

Yes, Mr. Zapata???

ZAPATA

Mr. Meredith… did you hear on the television about the Hendricks gun???

MEREDITH

The Hendricks gun???

ZAPATA  
The gun Doman Yashir used to assassinate Senator Hendricks!!!

MEREDITH

Yes, I know that, I just don’t understand the significance, Mr. Zapata.

ZAPATA

A policeman was shot with it yesterday. It’s missing, I want you to get it. Find it for me, get it for me!!!

MEREDITH

(with disbelief)

What?

ZAPATA  
I’ll pay anything… whatever it takes…

MEREDITH

Uhhh, ummm… Mr. Zapata, I-I’m in the middle of shipping hundreds of AK-47s, grenade launchers, sniper rifles…

ZAPATA

Yes, you are, and now I’m asking you to add one more gun to that order, is that too much to ask???!!!

MEREDITH

No, no, no, of course not… uhhh… who am I supposed to get it from???

ZAPATA  
They arrested a young man for the shooting. Get him out of jail. He can tell you where it is.

MEREDITH  
I’ll see what I can do just as soon as I make the delivery.

ZAPATA  
NOT AFTER, NOW!!!

MEREDITH

Mr. Zapata, be reasonable. You want me to drop everything for a single handgun???!!!

ZAPATA

Since you are incapable of understanding this, I will explain it to you. Maybe all you can see when you look at this gun is a piece of metal, but this gun is different, Mr. Meredith. This gun changed the world with a single act of violence. It is a symbol. A holy relic. Placed in the right hands, it could be held up to desperate men and make their blood boil. This gun symbolizes anarchy, violent overthrow, a change in the world order!!! It can also be used as a rallying point to create new markets and profits for both of us. Get me that gun, Mr. Meredith… or there will be no more business between us.

ZAPATA hangs up. MEREDITH has an expression of unease in his face. He then turns to his assistants.

MEREDITH

There’s a kid in jail for that cop killing yesterday. See if his bail is set. I wanna spring him.

ROBERTS

What’s dis all about???!!!

MEREDITH

Zapata wants me to get him the Hendricks gun.

ROBERTS  
WHAT???!!!! Da guy is a nut!!!

MEREDITH

Yeah… he’s a nut who can pull his order and put me into bankruptcy. Zapata is our only connection to the Middle East. Sporting goods stores aren’t enough to cover the overhead… so, get the kid outta jail.

Meanwhile, at the police station, PETER and COMMISSIONER IRWIN BARBERA are checking some file folders.

BARBERA

Lots of information ta get t’rough…

PETER

Yeah, well, I don’t see any other way to the real killer except through that gun.

BARBERA

Yeh… even dat’s a longshot… twenty years wort’ of files on da Hendricks gun… I’ve never seen anythin’ like it. Our records show dat da Hendricks gun wus a very rare Czechoslovakian 7-shot Rupper. 7.5 mm. And it wus sold at a police auction after da trial.

PETER

Auction??? Isn’t that kind of a weird thing for cops to do???

BARBERA

Yeh… well, some departments still do it, for da revenue, I guess. Sold to a man named Philip Orwell, gun dealer, and stolen a few weeks later in a robbery.

PETER looks at another file.

PETER

What does this say???

BARBERA looks at the file PETER is looking at.

BARBERA

Ah… six years ago… a Mrs. Mary Dryden wus killed by a stray bullet in a drive-by shootin’. Da bullet came from da Hendricks gun… and it wus released and sold at auction again!!!

PETER reacts with frustration.

PETER

Man… it’s as if that gun has a life of its own!!!

BARBERA

Yeh, a very active one at dat.

PETER

Who bought it???

BARBERA

A guy named Martin Jenkins. And dat’s it. No mention of what happened to it after dat.

(after a brief pause)

Well, listen, at least it’s a name!!! Why dontcha check da telephone listings… I’m gonna go down and see if your pally is still around…

BARBERA walks out as PETER keeps reading the files. Meanwhile, a young woman is entering her house with a grocery bag. She accidentally drops the newspaper as she leaves the bags on the table. She glances at it and the headline leaves her shocked. It says “Hendricks Gun Used to Slay Policeman”. She then looks at a display case on the wall with guns hanging in it and notices that one is missing. She then walks into another room. We see TERRY FOWLER smoking a pipe with the powder he had bought with the gun. The girl bursts into his room and is shocked to see her brother smoking that.

SHIRLEY   
(shocked and extremely upset)   
Terry… you swore to daddy… you swore to a dying man you’d stop!!! You liar…

TERRY  
I tried… just leave me alone!!!

SHIRLEY

Terry, this is very important… LISTEN TO ME!!! You stole the gun!!! Did you kill that policeman???!!!

TERRY

I dunno what you’re talking about, Shirley…

SHIRLEY

It’s in the newspaper, Terry!!! A policeman was shot with the Hendricks gun!!!

TERRY then looks at SHIRLEY with disbelief and then heads to the living room to see the display case. When he sees which gun is missing, he reacts with extreme frustration.

TERRY

I was hurtin’… I needed to get straight… I TOOK THE WRONG GUN!!! IT’S WORTH A FORTUNE!!!

TERRY punches the wall and runs away.

SHIRLEY

TERRY!!! Terry, you can’t go out like that!!! TERRY!!!

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

At COMMISSIONER BARBERA’S office, PETER is still searching through the files. BARBERA comes in.

BARBERA

Any luck, Parker???

PETER

Well, Jenkins was killed in a car crash four years ago. His wife says he sold the gun, but there’s no record of who bought it.

BARBERA

Well, I got a bit of news… Breeze is out… da check was signed by a guy named Meredith from Meredith Weapons.

PETER

Hmmm… I’ll go check it out… thanks, Commissioner.

BARBERA

(sarcastically, as PETER walks out)

Don’t thank me… I wus born a warm and wonderful human being!!!

PETER stops for a bit after hearing BARBERA’S words and just smiles at what he said before going on his way to MEREDITH’S warehouse. Later, PETER arrives at the warehouse and goes to the entrance. A security guard is there.

SECURITY GUARD

You have an appointment, boy???

PETER

Yeah, with a Mr. Meredith, I think it was…

SECURITY GUARD

Mr. Meredith is in weapons assembly… didn’t say anything about having an appointment.

PETER

Well, that’s up to you, it’s just an order. Once you make another appointment I’ll see if I’m available, okay???

PETER is about to walk out.

SECURITY GUARD

Hey, hey, hey!!! Not so fast… just asking…

(pointing to the door)

In there.

PETER smiled smugly. His ruse worked. He goes into the warehouse and sees MEREDITH and his men talking to BREEZE.

MEREDITH

I want the gun you used on that policeman. I’ll pay you a thousand dollars for it.

BREEZE

Ah never even saw the gun ‘till the shootin’ started.

MEREDITH

Alright… let’s say that’s true, you know who did use it, don’t you??? Same thousand dollars to find him for us.

BREEZE

Ah keep tellin’ you ah don’t know him!!! Ahmma go home now, okay??? And don’t worry ‘bout that bail thang… ah’ll show.

The two henchmen get in BREEZE’S way. However, BREEZE looks at PETER.

BREEZE

Peter!!! Tha’s mah friend, Peter!!!

PETER approaches MEREDITH and his goons casually. The goons look at MEREDITH, waiting for an order.

MEREDITH

(to his henchmen)

It’s okay…

BREEZE

He wants the Hendricks gun. Ah told ‘im ah din’t know anythang ‘bout it!!! He wants it real bad.

PETER

(looking around)  
Don’t you have enough guns??? What do you need another one for, huh???

MEREDITH

Guns are my business. When there’s a demand, I supply it.

PETER

Ah, so I see.

MEREDITH

It’s in the Constitution, Mister… people have a right to bear arms.

PETER

The second amendment… yeah I know. You really should read that sometime… it has a lot to say about things like the security of a free state and a well-regulated militia. But I’d be willing to bet this batch isn’t headed for the National Guard, am I right???

MEREDITH

I see, you’re one of those.

PETER

(with his typical wisecracking attitude)

Yeah, I’m one of those. I just can’t help it, y’know. I got this thing about innocent people being shot down in the streets or through the walls of their homes.

(his tone becoming more serious)

You know, like babies, cops, housewives… presidential candidates.

MEREDITH

Well, you know what they say… guns don’t kill people… people do.

PETER

Is that anything like hydrogen bombs don’t kill people… it’s the people who set them off???

MEREDITH

Young man, I’m not gonna get into this tired old debate with you. I’ve offered your friend a thousand dollars for the gun.

PETER

Oh, he doesn’t seem to have it.

(turning to BREEZE)

Do you have it???

BREEZE

No.

PETER

He doesn’t have it. So I guess we’ll be leaving. C’mon, Breeze, let’s get out of here.

BREEZE and PETER walk out while MEREDITH and his henchmen look at them with frustration. How will they explain this to ZAPATA??? Then, outside, BREEZE and PETER walk to the Bugle car which PETER was driving.

BREEZE

Thanks, Peter. That guy was workin’ up to somethang.

PETER

Who was it, Breeze???  
  
BREEZE  
Who was what???

PETER

Who shot the cop???

BREEZE

Ah keep tellin’ everybody ah don’t know!!! The car crashed, ah went over to…

PETER

Aw, c’mon, man!!! We’ve been friends a long time!!! I know when you’re lying.

BREEZE looks down with shame.

PETER

Look, Breeze, I know you didn’t do it. But they’re still gonna try you for murder!!!

BREEZE

Well, ah take mah chances.

PETER

The only one you got is to find that killer!!!

BREEZE

Ah do not hand brothers to the man!!!

PETER

Brothers???!!! People who shoot people down on the streets are not your brothers!!!

BREEZE

You don’t understand!!!

PETER

(angry)

NO, YOU DON’T UNDERSTAND!!! That gun is your only chance!!!

BREEZE

This is not fair.

PETER

LIFE’S NOT FAIR!!! That gun killed a man who might have been President of the United States. Last night, it killed a policeman!!! In-between, it killed a woman who was just crossing the street!!! Now she probably would have liked to see her kids grow up. And they probably didn’t think it was fair when their hearts were broken!!! And that’s not worth being a snitch for, is that what you’re telling me???!!!

There is a moment of silence until BREEZE finally speaks up.

BREEZE

His name is Rusty Garrett. He’s a pusher.

PETER

(with disbelief)

You were protecting a pusher???

BREEZE

We knew each other all our lives. Got sent to camp together. You ever wondered how ah got into that save the planet stuff???

PETER

It was a little out of character???

BREEZE

It was that summer… me and Rusty got on that bus and we were tough, man!!! Two weeks in the country seemed like nowhere to go to us. Ah saw all that green grass and ah was gone. Ah couldn’t get enough water and air and green grass. Ah’d lay down and roll down that hill ten times a day just to smell it. Somethang inside of me changed forever. But Rusty, he was already crippled from the pavement and the ghetto. It was like his inside had already turned to concrete. You understand what ahm sayin’ to you, Peter???!!!

PETER nods softly. He had seen things like this before. It was pretty hard for BREEZE to admit that the one who shot the gun was a friend.

BREEZE

(tearing up)  
Ah know him… it’s hard, man.

PETER just walks over to BREEZE and pats his back in a comforting manner. He also extends his hand for a handshake. BREEZE returns the handshake. Meanwhile, RUSTY and SPUD are looking at the newspaper. They’re near a bowling alley.

SPUD

It’s da gun ya got from da kid!!! Look at it!!! It killed Hendricks, man. It’s wort’ some big bucks!!! What didja do wit’ it, ya still got it???

RUSTY

No, ah-ah t’rew it down a sewer in Hester.

SPUD

Aight, which one???

RUSTY

Ah-ah dunno, maybe in da intersection.

SPUD

Well, let’s go gittit!!!

RUSTY

No way. Ahm not going near it, man. Look, ah iced a cop with that gun.

SPUD

Fine. But if I find it, I’m keeping everythin’, man!!!

RUSTY

Go for it.

SPUD walks out to Hester Street to try and find the gun. Meanwhile, TERRY is looking at RUSTY from afar. SHIRLEY walks in.

SHIRLEY

Terry.

TERRY

(with frustration)

What’re you doing here???

SHIRLEY

Trying to keep you out of trouble.

TERRY

Well, I don’t need you!!! Go home!!!

TERRY looks at RUSTY run to a nearby junkyard.

SHIRLEY

You’re still high, aren’t you???!!! Terry, come home, now!!! What’re you doing here???!!!

TERRY

(turning to SHIRLEY)  
It’s the gun!!! Don’t you get it???

(there’s a moment of silence)  
I’m sick of your nagging and I’m sick of your whining… I’m sick of you!!!

TERRY runs to the junkyard. SHIRLEY just looks at him go, concerned and confused. Then, the Bugle car arrives near the bowling alley. PETER and BREEZE come out of it.

BREEZE

When Rusty isn’t hustling in the street, he’s in here hustling. Ah’ll go in and ask around.

BREEZE goes into the bowling alley while PETER stays back and waits for him. He then sees SHIRLEY standing in confusion at the other side. He seems to recognize her and walks toward her. SHIRLEY just walks away and heads to her car, feeling stalked. PETER then stops and feels his spider-sense. TERRY is following RUSTY in the junkyard. RUSTY takes something out of a junk car. It’s the Hendricks gun!!! He then puts it in his pocket. TERRY then jumps on top of RUSTY and they both start fighting violently. TERRY grabs the gun, but RUSTY grabs him by the hands. Then, the gun hits RUSTY in the abdomen. The gunshot is heard even from the bowling alley. BREEZE has felt it and runs toward the junkyard. PETER has already arrived at the junkyard and sees RUSTY on the ground and TERRY holding the gun. TERRY tries to run away, but PETER manages to grab him and they both fight violently. TERRY grabs the gun and hits PETER with the holster. BREEZE runs in and sees RUSTY lying on the ground.

BREEZE

Rusty!!!

PETER stands up, still somewhat dizzy from the hit in the head. He then goes toward BREEZE and RUSTY. RUSTY looks at the two and utters some words.

RUSTY

(in pain)

H… he’s got… the gun…

RUSTY then loses consciousness. PETER puts his fingers around RUSTY’S neck in order to take his pulse. He then looks at BREEZE.

PETER

He’s dead.

BREEZE reacts with frustration and sadness.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

Back at Police Headquarters, PETER and BARBERA are still looking through the police files. BREEZE walks in while BARBERA is talking over the phone and PETER is looking for something in the files.

BARBERA  
Yeh, Stacy… go ahead…

(after a brief pause)

Okay, thanks.

(hanging up and turning to PETER)

Well, I just got da ballistics report on da bullet dat killed Rusty Garrett.

PETER

(with his typical sense of humor)

Oh… let me guess…

BARBERA

Ya got it, Parker… da Hendricks gun.

BREEZE

So, what are you messin' with this computer for??? Rusty's dead. And you can forward mah mail to death row.

PETER

Hey, you told me somebody else was with Rusty. We’re not beat yet, okay???

BREEZE

Well, it wasn’t the guy at the wreckin’ yard. Ah told you that too, and you’re not gonna find either one of them in there.

PETER

Yeah, well, I’m not looking for them, I’m looking for the girl I saw outside the wrecking yard.

BARBERA

What???!!! Parker, I t’ink dat clonk to da head damaged yer brain!!!

PETER  
Commissioner, I think I’ve seen her before somewhere in here.

Suddenly, Peter finds a file with a newspaper article with the headline “Detective Honored by Hendricks Foundation”. There is a picture of SHIRLEY with a tall, gentle looking man who seems to be in his sixties standing in front of a car. This man is FRED FOWLER, SHIRLEY and TERRY’S father.

PETER

Yeah… Shirley Fowler… she attended a ceremony honoring her father for his efforts on gun control and other services to the Hendricks Foundation.

BARBERA

Wait, now I remember. Fowler, Fred Fowler was one of da detectives in charge of investigating da assassination. He died about a year ago.

BREEZE

What does she gotta do with the Hendricks gun???

PETER

(thoughtful)

Good question.

Meanwhile, at MEREDITH’S weapons warehouse, a phone rings. ROBERTS goes to answer it.

ROBERTS

Hello.

TERRY

(through the phone)

Word is on the street that Mr. Meredith’s interested in rare guns. Maybe a special gun???

ROBERTS

Who is dis???

TERRY

It’ll cost you fifty thousand!!!

ROBERTS

He oughta be back in a couple of minutes. Uh, look, gimme ya number.

TERRY

I’ll call back.

TERRY hangs up the phone. He then hears a car parking nearby. He looks out through the window and sees PETER and BREEZE coming out of it. SHIRLEY comes into his room.

SHIRLEY

Terry? Something wrong???

TERRY

Uh, no, nothing… ummm… I-I’m not here is all, I’m just… not here, understand???

TERRY walks out of the room. SHIRLEY looks through the window and sees the car. Meanwhile, at MEREDITH’S place…

MEREDITH

What exactly did he say???

ROBERTS

Special rare gun. What else could it be???

MEREDITH

Alright, did he give you a phone number???

ROBERTS

(pointing at a signal tracing machine)

No, he didn’t give it, but we got da location thanks to dis!!!

MEREDITH

Good. Go there and bring him.

MEREDITH then dials ZAPATA’S number.

MEREDITH

Mr. Zapata.

ZAPATA

(through phone)

Mr. Meredith, I hope you are calling about the Hendricks gun.

MEREDITH

As a matter of fact I am.

ZAPATA

You have it??? Y-you have the gun???

MEREDITH

I will. Meet me here at five o’clock to accept delivery of your shipment as well as the Hendricks gun.

ZAPATA

I’ll be there, Mr. Meredith, and please… do not disappoint me.

Meanwhile, at the Fowler house, SHIRLEY is talking to PETER and BREEZE. TERRY is hiding behind a wall, overhearing the conversation.

SHIRLEY

Yes, I was at the wrecking yard.

PETER

Yeah, I know you were. And a few minutes later, a kid was killed.

SHIRLEY

I don’t know anything about that.

PETER

The bullet came from the Hendricks gun, maybe you know something about that.

SHIRLEY

(nervous)

I-I don’t know anything… could you please leave???

PETER

(keeping his cool)

Do you expect me to believe that you and the Hendricks gun being at the junk yard at the same time is just a coincidence???

BREEZE

Lady, they think ah shot that cop… ah din’t… but if ah don’t find me a witness, ahm gonna fry… please, lady.

PETER

(turning to the display case with the guns)

Your father bought the gun, right???

(looking at the empty spot)

Is this where it was kept???

BREEZE

(begging)

Please…

SHIRLEY sits on the couch, trying to hold back her tears.

SHIRLEY

(tearing up)

My dad loved Senator Hendricks. When he found out he was running for President, he was so happy. And when the Senator died… it was like losing a member of our own family. It broke dad’s heart. He worked twenty four hours a day to convict Yashir. It became so personal… and when he finally thought it was over, when he could finally say that there was an end to everything, the gun popped up again and killed somebody else. Daddy bought it and put it here along with the others. It was like a superstition. I think that daddy thought that guns were cursed. He was guarding them. He thought… as long as he could see them… nothing could happen. I know that sounds silly.

PETER

(speaking from experience)

No… I understand…

PETER had seen people killed because of guns, including his own UNCLE BEN. He understood the pain that SHIRLEY was feeling, and he felt empathy towards this girl.

PETER

(softly)

Where’s the gun now???

Suddenly, TERRY accidentally hits a table, causing it to fall.

PETER

Who’s back there???

SHIRLEY

That’s my brother.

TERRY runs toward the back door. PETER and BREEZE follow TERRY.

SHIRLEY

Terry’s not well, he needs help!!! Please don’t hurt him!!!

PETER and BREEZE keep running after TERRY, but he manages to lose them. PETER and BREEZE then decide to go back.

PETER

Maybe Miss Fowler knows where he hangs out.

PETER and BREEZE see SHIRLEY standing there.

BREEZE

Any idea of where your brother might have run out to???

SHIRLEY didn’t answer. She had a terrified expression in her face.

PETER

What’s the matter???

Then, PETER’S spider-sense kicks in. QUAYLE and ROBERTS walk in, holding guns and aiming them at PETER and BREEZE.

ROBERTS

It appears we’re all lookin’ for da same guy.

PETER, BREEZE and SHIRLEY are then taken to MEREDITH’S warehouse. ZAPATA and MEREDITH are checking the order. ZAPATA turns around and sees all the people that ROBERTS and QUAYLE brought. MEREDITH then turns around and sees them.

ZAPATA

What are all these people doing here???!!!

MEREDITH

Roberts???

ROBERTS

Her brother’s da one who called about da gun. Dese two came in while we were dere. Her brother never showed up.

ZAPATA

(to SHIRLEY)  
Your brother has my gun… where is he???

(brief pause)

WHERE IS HE???

SHIRLEY

I don’t know!!!

PETER

He ran away when he saw us, okay???

Suddenly, the phone rings and QUAYLE answers it while ZAPATA angrily talks down to MEREDITH.

ZAPATA

I don’t believe this!!! This is totally out of control!!! NOT ONLY HAVE YOU LOST MY GUN!!! YOU HAVE IDENTIFIED ME, IDIOT!!!

QUAYLE

(to MEREDITH)

It’s the guy with the gun.

MEREDITH goes to answer the phone.

MEREDITH

This is Meredith.

TERRY

I called before.

MEREDITH

You have the gun???

TERRY

Yeah. The other guy tell you I want fifty thousand???

MEREDITH

Yes. Pier 9 in an hour, bring the gun!!!

MEREDITH hangs up. ZAPATA has an expression of relief.

MEREDITH

(to ZAPATA)

We have the Hendricks gun. I’ll give it to you along with the shipment at your freighter, agreed???

ZAPATA nods at MEREDITH and then looks at PETER, BREEZE and SHIRLEY.

ZAPATA

They can identify me along with the illegal shipment of weapons.

MEREDITH

What do you want from me???

ZAPATA

Only your silence, Mr. Meredith, I’ll take care of them. You get my gun.

MEREDITH

Oh, I don’t like this… I didn’t want to kill anybody…

ZAPATA

I’ll do it, at sea… away from you… have them put into the cargo container.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

At Police Headquarters, BARBERA was asking if PETER had called.

PHONE OPERATOR

No, Commissioner Barbera. Still no word from Mr. Parker. I’ll let you know the moment I hear something.

BARBERA

Goddammit!!!

BARBERA grabs the folder with the file about the Hendricks Foundation ceremony which had the picture of SHIRLEY and her father standing in front of their car. He then looks at his watch and decides to go to the Fowler house in order to get some answers himself. Meanwhile, a cargo truck is driving towards the docks. Inside the cargo container, we see PETER, BREEZE and SHIRLEY. PETER is opening some of the crates and grabbing some restraining straps. He then finds a crate with grenades inside. He opens it and takes two grenades. He then opens another crate with some laser rifles inside. He then takes the scope of the rifle. He disassembles the scope and takes some copper wire out of it. SHIRLEY and BREEZE look at him do his job.

SHIRLEY

What’s he doing???

BREEZE

He’s trying to get us outta here. Just relax, tha’s what he does.

Meanwhile, TERRY has gone back to the Fowler house and just as he enters the house, BARBERA arrives in his car and parks nearby. Inside, TERRY takes something hidden in the couch. It’s the gun!!! He then runs through the door. BARBERA notices TERRY running towards a car. BARBERA then looks at the file. It’s the same car in the picture!!! TERRY then drives away to the docks. Having a hunch that TERRY might know where PETER and BREEZE are, BARBERA decides to tail him. Meanwhile, at the docks, the cargo container in which PETER and the others are is about to be loaded. PETER notices that they’re hooking it to a crane. Meanwhile, ZAPATA and MEREDITH are waiting for TERRY as they stand in the ship. TERRY drives into the docks, while BARBERA parks his car on the outside, so they don’t suspect him. Then, MEREDITH notices TERRY’S car coming in.

MEREDITH

I think that’s him!!! I’m gonna go down and see.

As MEREDITH comes down from the ship, ROBERTS receives TERRY.

ROBERTS

Have ya got it???

In the container, SHIRLEY sees her brother handing the gun over to ROBERTS.

SHIRLEY

It’s Terry!!! He’s brought the gun!!!

PETER then goes to take a peek of the transaction. Meanwhile, BARBERA is stealthily going towards them. He then sees ROBERTS go behind TERRY as he’s talking to MEREDITH. ROBERTS then knocks TERRY on the back of his head. QUAYLE is controlling the crane and prepares to load the container. MEREDITH then raises the hand holding the gun, showing it to ZAPATA. ZAPATA grins victoriously. Inside the container, PETER keeps working.

PETER

You guys get these restraining straps off.

As BREEZE and SHIRLEY remove the straps from the gun crates, PETER keeps putting the plastic explosive of the grenades on two of the hooks holding the container and the container’s door.

BREEZE

Okay, we got the straps off.

SHIRLEY

What now???

PETER

Attach them to the back wall and strap yourselves in, I’ll be right there.

Meanwhile, BARBERA is sneaking behind ROBERTS. He then touches ROBERTS’ shoulder. ROBERTS turns around.

BARBERA  
I’d like ya ta meet my friend!!!

BARBERA then punches ROBERTS, knocking him unconscious. He then takes ROBERTS’ gun from him. In the container, PETER makes some final adjustments to the plastic explosive bags he’s attached. ZAPATA then goes towards MEREDITH, who has just climbed up the ship. MEREDITH hands the Hendricks gun to ZAPATA.

MEREDITH

(handing over the gun)

The Hendricks gun.

PETER then grabs the copper wire attached to all the bags and grabs a custom made detonator while outside, ZAPATA looks at the gun and then at MEREDITH.

ZAPATA

I promised you war and profit, my friend. This will contribute to both.

Then, both ZAPATA and MEREDITH shake hands victoriously. Inside the container, PETER straps himself along with BREEZE and SHIRLEY and he’s ready to press the detonator’s button.

PETER

Alright, you ready???

BREEZE and SHIRLEY nod and then, PETER presses the button and the two hooks holding the opposite side of where our three heroes were are blown away along with the container’s door. ZAPATA and MEREDITH look up and scream with terror as all the crates start falling from the container and on top of them. They are crushed to death by their own weapons. BARBERA looks up and sees the container dangling. He then decides to go into the ship to investigate. Thanks to the straps, PETER, BREEZE and SHIRLEY didn’t fall. BARBERA goes to the crane and punches QUAYLE, knocking him unconscious. He then lowers the container to the ground. Once it’s on the ground, PETER, BREEZE and SHIRLEY unstrap themselves and look at all the crates lying around the boat. MEREDITH’S legs can be seen coming out from underneath the crates. And not too far away, ZAPATA’S hand can be seen sticking out, clutching the Hendricks gun. The Hendricks gun has claimed its last two victims.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

At a warehouse, we see technicians carrying a vat with molten metal. They leave it on top of a special metal casing. COMMISSIONER BARBERA is addressing the people at this demonstration. Among them, we see PETER, SHIRLEY, BREEZE, DEBRA WHITMAN, CAPTAIN STACY, DAVE HARRISON and FLASH THOMPSON. We also see New York Mayor HENRY CARLSON standing there, listening to BARBERA.

BARBERA

Everyone agreed dat da problem of crime guns findin’ deir way back to da streets required an aggressive solution. And so, through da good offices of Mayor Carlson, City Hall in association wit’ da Police Department and da Daily Bugle is beginning a new program of destroying rather dan auctioning all weapons dat have been used in crime. Mayor Carlson???

CARLSON

Thank you.

People clap as CARLSON steps in to address the people.

CARLSON

This is a program I’ve been looking forward to implementing for some time. Now that’s not to say that there’s not a legitimate gun market for decent people who wanna hunt or get some private practice in at the range. But I’ve been convinced that we don’t need to recycle crime guns back into our community.

PETER

Hear, hear!!!

The people clap once again.

CARLSON

Now it is time for the real ceremony. Breeze???

BREEZE then takes over and looks at the people. PETER, DEBRA, DAVE, FLASH and BARBERA look at him proudly.

BREEZE

Ah was born with guns. Ah grew up with them. Ah discovered green grass and trees and clean air later, so ah guess ahm an expert on this subject at least. We need to get rid of everythang that pollutes our planet, so today we’re gonna get rid of another kind of pollution, ‘cause it will not do any good to save the Earth. There’s nobody here to enjoy it. This is my friend, Shirley Fowler.

SHIRLEY smiles at BREEZE and walks over to him in order to address the people. As she walks over, the people clap, moved by BREEZE’S speech. Then, SHIRLEY speaks as she holds the Hendricks gun in her hands.

SHIRLEY

To begin this ceremony, I’d like to donate my father’s collection of crime guns, including the Hendricks gun, which has done the last of its damage.

People then clap as SHIRLEY hands the gun to a technician, who tosses the Hendricks gun into the molten metal vat. Fire starts coming from the vat as the gun melts away. SHIRLEY goes back to PETER and the others.

BARBERA

Well, dat is about a thousand guns dat nobody is gonna use on anybody else.

PETER

Yeah… a thousand down… only a hundred million to go.

END OF ACT FIVE