

[ASMR] PHANTOM [MF4A][THIEVES][ACTION]

Roy, you and the Listener are a brilliant thief duo. You have earned infamy throughout most of the western world and now you're trying to get your hands on a very important item: The Star Diamond. It's really important to the listener and you can't help but want to ensure that the swipe is done without a problem. However, a certain femme fatale cannot resist showing up at the last second to make a mess of it...

Roy and the listener are crouched on the main floor of a museum, watching guards walk past a diamond in a display case.

~ROY

Okay. There's the diamond we've been looking for... we just have to wait out the security. It's almost 11:50, so they should make the switch soon. (Listen: Then how long do we have?) How long do we have after that? About ten minutes, give or take. The guards will head out towards the west wing where the security room is. The footage we fed to their cameras should be looping the room with the new guards, so they won't suspect a thing. (Listen: Okay. What's next?) Alright. Once they're gone, we can slowly make our way to the case. We got lucky; this museum doesn't use laser lights since they don't want to risk damaging the surrounding artwork. Certain old paints are sensitive to things like laser lights apparently. Kinda makes you wonder how much those art pieces would sell for... (Listen: We're not here for them, though...) You're right. We're not here for them. We're here for that diamond... What is it called again? The Star Diamond? Pretty impressive name. (Listen: It came out of a falling star.) It came out of a falling star? Really? A legitimate falling star? (Listen: A meteor, actually) A METEOR?... huh. That's pretty neat.

The guards look at their watches and begin to move. Anticipation grips you as you watch them take one more look around before leaving.

11:50. Right on cue. There they go... pfft, they are so friggen blind. We're not even hiding that well. (Listen: I think we're pretty well hidden!) You think we're hidden well enough? Ehh, whatever you say. At least they're gone now. Come on. (Stand and walk towards the diamond case) Wow... it's even prettier up close. No wonder it's called the "Star Diamond" ; it looks like it might as well have fallen out of the damn sky. (Listen: It did, technically.) It did? Hmm... wait, it's got a plaque here. (Look at it.) "This diamond was formed from a great asteroid that hit the earth long ago, dug up by a dedicated team of archeologists in Mexico. Scientists theorize that it was the Chicxulub Impactor, the same asteroid that ended the age of dinosaurs." You're kidding. This... came from *the* meteor that killed the dinosaurs? (The listener nods) Wow... holy crap, this must be worth SO much. (Listen: It's not for sale.) Huh? What do you mean? We planned to steal it, but we're not gunna sell it after? The kind of heat this thing can get us into-- (Listen: It belongs to me.) ... wait. It *belongs* to you? (Take a moment) This... you're telling me this is the thing that literally started your swiping?

The listener nods and kneels down to observe the pedestal. This was one secret you did not learn about the listener until just now.

Wow. I did not expect this to be a big deal for you. (Listen: So what if it is?) So what? We could have swiped this at any point with how lax the security has been with it, yet we kept putting it off for other, bigger fish. If this was such an important thing for you, we should have made it priority number one! (Listen: It's fine.) No, it's not fine! We've been partners for, what, three years? You know me better than anyone at this point and always had my back. Yet here we are, only now getting this diamond despite it being part of the public circle jerk tour of international treasure hoards. We could have nabbed it when it was still in Mexico! (Listen: It's fine! We're getting it now.) Yeah, I mean... ugh. Yes, we are getting it now. But you know that you're more than just some partner I work with for kicks, right? Your opinion matters in what we take and what we scout for. We make a helluva lot of money and we're practically number one and two on Interpol's most wanted for international thievery. Still... our relationship doesn't just have to be just focused on what makes us bank over what we really want. If you've wanted this so badly, this would have been my priority. I'm just saying.

The listener doesn't reply and starts to unlatch the glass case from the podium.

So, what's the plan once you get it out of the case? (Listen: Seal it away somewhere safe.) Stash it somewhere safe? I mean, that's clearly obvious. I meant more as in after that, you know? This isn't your last run, right? (The listener shakes their head.) No? Good. Phew... was a little nervous that was gonna be the case. (Listen: What do you mean?) What do I mean? Well, if this was your biggest goal, then what happens after it becomes a mystery. Like, where do you go after you take your dream treasure? Take Crowne Junior, for instance. He nabbed that painting from Peru, which he keeps claiming was a family heirloom of an ancestor of his. Remember what happened after? (Listen: Nothing.) Yeah. Nothing. The guy literally dropped off of the face of the planet. So, I'm just saying, that's why you should have told me about this. (Listen: You think I'm gonna bail on you?) Do I think you're gonna bail on me? Not really. Hell, I just said I would have helped make this a priority to get it to you sooner, but anything can change on a whim, right? You're a great partner, but I do have to make sure any rugs I'm standing on don't get yanked from under me. You get that, right? (They nod) Good.

The listener finishes unlatching the case and slowly lifts the top off of the podium.

Easy, easy... good job in unlatching the glass. Need me to take the case so you can grab the diamond?

~MICHAELA

I'll take it from here, you two~

~ROY

Huh-?!

A canister breaks open and smoke fills the room. Roy and the listener cough violently as their vision becomes blurred. When the smoke clears, the diamond is in the hands of a rival thief, Michaela.

~MICHAELA

Hmhmhmhm~ Thanks for doing the hard work for me, both of you. My hands appreciate it. Mmmm such a pretty little thing~

~ROY

HEY! Give that back--!!

~MICHAELA

Ah-ah-ah. Keep your voice down~ We're still in a museum. Our voices can travel farther than we think. (Listen: What are you doing here??) What am I doing here? Well, I heard that this pretty little diamond was in town for its American tour, so I just had to stop by and see it for myself~ I have a soft spot for stars.

~ROY

That's rich, coming from you.

~MICHAELA

Ooo~ I am deeply offended, my little Roy boy~

~ROY

Do *NOT* call me that. (Listen: Roy boy?) Right. You two never met, have you?

~MICHAELA

Like I would ever forget meeting this little cutie~ I haven't yet had the pleasure. I must seem so rude for not introducing myself to you before, but I was a little busy with my own escapades of thievery.

~ROY

What you do is beyond thievery.

~MICHAELA

Tomato, tomahtoe~ Unlike you, my sweet Roy boy, I don't like leaving loose ties when I take what I want. If that means my pursuers have to taste bullets, so be it.

~ROY

Quit being cute and give back the diamond.

~MICHAELA

Why? I think it's fair game to take what is about to be stolen anyway. It's not like either of you owned it-- (Listen: I did.) Huh? You did? You're the original owner?... pfftt hahaha~ mildly rich story.

~ROY

It's not funny. It's really theirs.

~MICHAELA

And I rule the Philippines as it's queen and sovereign forever more. I've been watching this gem get passed around and know exactly where it came from and it certainly had no owner before being taken from the space rock. (Listen: It was taken from my family!) Your family claimed it? Likely story, cutie. But that doesn't change the fact that I'm the one holding the diamond now.

~ROY

(Aim a gun at her, cock it.) Don't make me do this. (Listen: A gun?!) Sorry, I should have told you that I was packing. Plan C, you know? (To Michaela) Give it back or I will absolutely use this.

~MICHAELA

Oooo~ A gun? I'm surprised you have one. I thought you swore off violence in all regards~

~ROY

I did, but I'm not an idiot. I knew you would show up one of these days to try and snatch one of our targets. You don't play the game passively.

~MICHAELA

And here we are, just as you anticipated! Bravo~ (Listen: Just give back the diamond.) Just give back the diamond? Hmmm.... how about.... **no~**

Michaela pulls a gun and takes three shots at Roy, intentionally missing. Roy dives for the listener, protecting them as a fourth shot aims high and cracks into the glass ceiling, allowing a rope to propel down to the femme fatale. Alarms start blaring at the breached security.

~ROY

GAHH!!! H-Hey, you okay?!

~MICHAELA

I do hate to be the villain of this little adventure of yours, but this diamond is mine. If you truly want it that badly, you know where to find me, little Roy boy. (Listen: Where are you taking it?!) Hahaha~! Where am I taking it? Ask your partner. He knows me all too well~

Michaela gets propelled out as if getting pulled up by a helicopter.

~MICHAELA

Have fun with the guards~

~ROY

Crap!! We gotta move. NOW!!

Roy and the listener book it out of the room, busting their way down hallways towards their potential escape route.

SHIT! This wasn't supposed to happen! How did she find out about our plan!?! (Listen: Who was she?!) Nevermind who she is right now! We gotta get out of dodge before they release the search dogs. This way!! (Dive towards a stairway and start climbing down) We'll make our way down to the basement and book it to the garage. The van's still there, so we should be able to speed outta here! Stay on my ass like you want it! Come on!!

Roy and the listener practically jump down the stairs towards the basement, busting through the emergency exit door into the garage and rushing towards the van.

Get in!! (The listener jumps into the van as you start it up) come on... Got it!! (Kick it into high gear and speed out of the garage) Ughh... this is a disaster... one of our contacts must have filled her in, but who? Barely anyone works with her... (Listen: Who is she?) Who is she? Well, she's a pain in the ass, first of all. She's also really dangerous. Unlike the rest of us, who just try to snatch and go, she's not afraid to pull the trigger on anyone to get what she wants. (Listen: How do you know her?) How do I know her? A friend introduced us and we worked some jobs together, but she wound up being a little too psychotic for me. Kept calling me Roy boy...

Roy speeds the van out of the parking lot, trying to lose any trail by ducking and weaving through the city.

And now she's got the star diamond. Damn it!! (Smack the steering wheel) I'm so sorry... we'll find a way to get it back. I promise. (Listen: What is she gonna do with it?) What is she gonna do with it? Probably stash it somewhere no one can find it. She has a little dragon horde of stuff she likes so if she really likes it, she'll find a place for it. Otherwise, if she doesn't keep it, she'll probably bid it off to get some heat off of her and make a fortune off of it. Either way, we'll get it back. She's not winning this one. (Listen: Why didn't you shoot her?) Why didn't I shoot her? I wanted to protect you first. Besides, you know my MO; no violence if at all possible. Not only is it bad for business, but it would have made things so much worse. Especially with her.

Drive a bit in thought. There has to be a way to get under her radar and take back what was stolen.

Okay. I think I have an idea. Maybe. It's a little crazy, but if I know her like I think I do, there's one way to get to her and her little treasure horde. (Listen: What would that be?) What would that be? Well, she's not the kind of woman to just hide her treasure away. She sometimes hosts little showings when she has something really valuable. Now, if this star diamond is as big as

you say it is, there's no way in hell she'd just keep it to herself before she sells it off or hides it away. She'd make a big deal about it and make a party happen to flaunt it off. I think that's where we'll get her. Yeah. I'll keep my ear to the ground and see if she makes any moves. I'm certain someone will slip up and spill her plans. She may have many allies, but give them enough of a reason and they'll turn on her just as quickly.

Don't worry. We'll get it back. You'll see.