

FINAL FANTASY VII

Chapter 3: Assault on Mako reactor 05















Cloud, Barret and Tifa left to join Biggs, Jessie and Wedge on the train. Once in the car, Barret attempted to clear it out for peace and quiet...



Hey! I told you this wagon was private, so scram!



...More thugs. Just my luck...



You said something? ...I said: Did you say something!? Ooooh look at that, he chicken out!



But...but... What the hell! If I'm chickening out it's... thanks to you! Y... you haven't seen the news or what? Avalanche says there will be more bombing! Only a dedicated employee like me goes to work in Midgar on a day like this!



You work for Shinra?



I will not give in to violence... and you won't get my seat!

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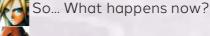








Hmph... It's your lucky day mister Shinra!



Pfft, you're ruining my rhythm!...

The train started.



Looks like we're finally moving.

Okay so what's the next move?



Ha! Listen to Mr. Serious-in-work! Anyway... Let me explain! Like Jessie told you before, there's an ID checkpoint that scans the train at some point.



Of which Shinra is very proud.



We won't be able to use our fake ID cards again...



Hello and welcome to Midgar railways. We will arrive at the Sector 4 station at approximately 11:45 am.



This means only three minutes left before the checkpoint.



Right, in three minutes, we're jumping off the train. Got it?



🦟 Great plan, Barret...

Suddenly the control alarms triggered.



That's way too soon! The checkpoint was supposed to be further ahead.



Class A security Alert! Confirmed unidentified passengers... A car search is in progress! I repeat, class A security alert! A car search is in progress!



What do we do?



I don't understand! What's happening?

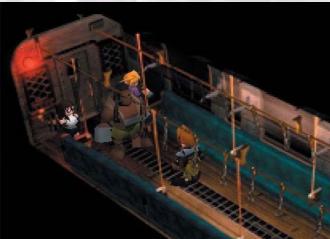
Jessie arrived...



There is a problem, I'll explain later... Quick! Jump into the next car!

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Someone spilled the beans or what?



Unidentified passengers found in car 1, doors locked.

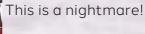


Lets' move!

Cloud, Barret and Tifa went into wagon 2.



Car number 1 locked. Alert level 2.



They will close all the doors!

Just run! Go, to the next car!



Unidentified passengers found in car 2, doors locked.

Cloud, Barret and Tifa went into wagon 3.



Car number 2 locked. Alert level 3.



Are they toying with us or what?!



It's possible! I think they are trying to lead us to the head of the train, we have to break down one of the doors!



Unidentified passengers found in car 3, doors locked.

They went into the fourth wagon...



Car number 3 locked. Alert level 4.

Jessie, Biggs and Wedge had just robbed three passengers of their clothes and boarding passes. They went into the back of the car and blasted the door using Jessie's mini-bomb.



Car number 3 locked. Alert level maximum!



Do I look like a Shinra employee in these?



Alright! Now is the time, let's jump!



Wait, don't be reckless!



Too late to back down now Tifa! Why did you come with us again?

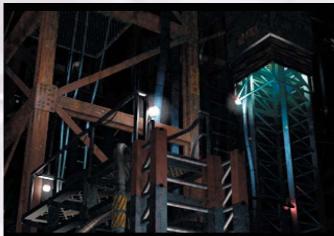


It's because you...

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Hey you two! We don't have time for that!

Okay fine, I'll jump!

Tifa jumped off the moving train.



Barret, do you mind if I go first?



A leader stays til the end. Don't worry about me, go on ahead! The mission only just started!

Cloud and Barret jumped off the train one after another and regrouped with Tifa.



Good, everyone is in one piece! But don't let your guard down until sector 5 reactor... The others should be preparing the way for us. Let's move. The reactor is at the end of this tunnel!

After walking for a while, they came across an array of lasers blocking their way...



Those lights... It's the Shinra checkpoint, we won't go any further!

Cloud noticed a small hatch on the side, he opened it.



Wow! That's a small opening. And we can't see the bottom either... I'm not very keen going that way... Cloud, what do you think?



I say, we take it.



Yeah... I'm still a little concerned.

They took the cramped tunnel leading to the structure carrying the train tracks. There, Jessie was waiting for them.



I knew you'd come this way!



Shall we continue?



Right. It's this way... Sorry for earlier, it was entirely my fault. I forgot to check if they changed the checkpoints location...



Forget about it Jessie. We are all safe and sound, that's all that matters.



Barret... Thanks...













After a trek with no much hurdle, they finally found themselves in front of the Mako reactor bearing the number 5. Cloud was about to plant the bomb when he was seized with another discomfort... His vision turned red, a hissing pierced his ears. Then suddenly, the whole decor had changed... He found himself in a more archaic reactor, only Tifa was present. She was holding in her arms a mortally wounded old man. Beside her laid a long blade Cloud knew only too well...

Dad... Sephiroth!? Did Sephiroth do this!? Sephiroth... SOLDIER... Mako reactors... Shinra... All of them! I hate you all!!!

Cloud woke up facing Reactor 5.

Damn Cloud, get a hold of yourself!

Is something wrong?

...Tifa.

Mmm?

No... Forget it... Come on, we need to hurry!

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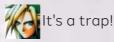




Cloud planted the bomb. The whole team ran out of the reactor when, on the main deck...



Look! A whole troop of guards?! The road is blocked!



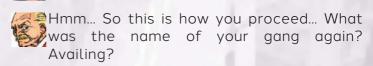
They were surrounded by guards who seemed to be waiting for orders. The sound of footsteps came in their direction from the dark corridor of the reactor... It was President Shinra himself!





Pres... President Shinra?!

What the hell is he doing here?





Avalanche! Never forget that name! And you, you are President Shinra, right?



lt's been a while, President.

...A while? Oh I see... You left SOLDIER for Avalanche, right? I can see it in your eyes, they are Mako infused! Tell me, traitor, what is your name?



My name is Cloud.

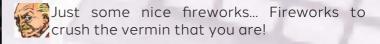
Forgive me for forgetting your name. I don't remember each one of my SOLDIERs, hehe... Unless, if you become the next Sephiroth... Even though he was a little too bright, I guess.



Sephiroth...?



Stop with the senile speech already! This place is gonna blow up in a few moments, how about that?



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Vermin!? That's all you have... Vermin! Your company is killing the planet and you call me a vermin?



...There now, you managed to upset me. I'm 🕻 a very busy man, so you will excuse me I have a business lunch to attend to.



Lunch? Don't screw with me, I'm not done with you!



Don't you worry, I've made arrangements to keep you company.

A huge flying robot landed...



!? What's that... thing?

What in the hell!?



Let me introduce you to the Airbuster, a tech-SOLDIER. Creation of our Advanced Weaponry Division. I am sure that the information he will extract from your dead bodies will be invaluable for its perfection.



A tech-SOLDIER?



Now, if you'll excuse me.



Wait, President!

However he climbed into his helicopter and fled the scene...



Hey, Cloud! How do we deal with this big SOLDIER!?



So that's a SOLDIER!? Help!



Don't make me laugh, it's just a machine!

I don't care what it is, I'm gonna blow it up!

Barret unleashed a burst of bullets. The machine turned directly towards him before retaliating. Barret jumped to the side, narrowly avoiding the shot ...



Missed me, ha ha!

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Hey Barret! Here's a little demonstration...

Cloud then grabbed a metal part on his sword... The small green orb embedded there began to shine in a hissing light. An aura of light surrounded him.



Cloud, is this...?

Materia! He's using Materia!

A huge lightning bolt came out of nowhere and struck the robot which immediately began to malfunction.



So this is SOLDIER's power?



It's preparing another attack!



With me! One... Two... Three!

Barret machine-gunned the Airbuster while Tifa severed its wiring using her metal knuckles, jolts of lightning were running across the machine...



Watch out! It's gonna blow!

The robot exploded, ripping the bridge they were standing on in half. Cloud, carried by the landslide, was now hanging over the void, clinging to a metal bar...



This ain't good!



Barret, can you do something?



I... I don't know if I can.



Cloud! Please don't die! You can't die! I still have so much to tell you!



l know, Tifa...



..Cloud, I'm gonna get something for you to grab, can you hold on?



I don't know if... Shit, I can't hold much

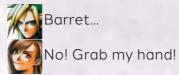


Don't be a wussy now! We still have few seconds left before our bomb explodes, we can still grab you!

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Suddenly, the bomb detonated rumbling the whole bridge. Cloud let go and vanished into the mist of the slums, in front of the horrified eyes of Barret and Tifa...







