***Contract of Dead***

*Inspired by game Cyberpunk 2077*

-Two Johnny Silverhand please.

The cute little barman sarve us shots. One fast move we drink it. Still I hate this burning feeling in my mouth, but some kind I still drink it, every single opportunity. Jackie looks at me in his special way. I know this kind of look and I really don’t like it.

-V, please listen to me. We can have easy job and earn some money.

-I know Jackie, but… Ahh… For me it’s too easy, somewhere, somehow we get trapped. And Valentinos won’t help us this time.

-Why are you such a scary boy?

-I just want to survive. Become a legend? Not my type.

-This last time V. Remember, that you owe me a favour. For saving your ass in the last contract.

-Yeah - a slight smile appears on my face - I remember that and I remember that you brought guns without any ammunition.

-I was running to you. I didn’t even say goodbye to Mama Welles.

We laugh some time and then he ask me about the contract. And like always I accepted it.

The contact was easy. Get a package from Mr. Wong bar in Little China and transport it to Maelstrom headquarters. But the problem is we don’t know what we are transporting. Normally we don’t ask, but normally we know who is asking. This contract was just sent to Jackie from nowhere. We tried to check IP of device or any cyber-print of message but we didn’t find anything. That’s why I was really uncertain about this job.

We drive to Little China and as always I was fascinated about the beauty of this place. Full of colors, neons and small stalls to sell anything you need. From food, clothes and music to chips, guns and implants. If you want to prepare for any action you will go here. Jackie starts flirting with a pretty woman standing behind stalls so I look for the bar we need.

After a couple of minutes we find a pub. Mr. Wong bar is a pretty cool place. There is all decor Chinese stuff and ambient regional music. Behind the table stands a waiter. Eight feets height with black straight hair and green neon eyes. He peels the parsley with great peace on his face. We ask him about a package and instantly his face get terrifying.

-Please, please go away. I don’t want to have any more problem with her

- Her? - I asked with curiosity

And after my words, the skin on that man changed. From normal Japanese style to hard red. He’s eyes go black and voice changes to pure mechanical AI.

-Good job V and Jackie. Your first trail is completed.

The man was standing in a line without any move, even a breath. Jackie takes out a gun and starts aming to that… thing.

-Hell no, I don’t like it V.

-Your second trial is to kill the Mary Crown.

-The CEO of Vision Industry?! I don’t think so!

With one quick move the man throw a grenades. We try to avoid them but they are magnetic so they fastly pinned to your bodies. Jakie says:

-Shit V, this stacks on my jacket.

-You have twenty four hours to complete this trial.

-What if we don’t?

-Explosives on your bodies will detonate.

First time I see terror on Jackie's face. He try to take off this hell but after his movements AI says:

-I advise against doing that. Explosives are very sensible. One wrong move and… Bum!

-So the only way to survive is to kill one of the richest women.

-Take it as a contract. Twenty four hours and please don’t disappoint me.

After these words the man returns to his normal body. He’s confused but alive... somehow. He takes a few deep breaths and looks at us. He grabs a pen and starts to write on a table. His arm is shaking but we can read his words without problems. “DON’T TRY TO CHEAT WITH HER”. We don’t have any other options. We have to complete this contract.

If above your head lay a spectre of death any tasks will be easy to do. We seperate each other to different jobs. Jackie starts looking for whole equipment for action and I start searching where Mary is. After a couple of minutes we are ready. The target is in her apartments in Westbrook. Without any waste of time we drive to our destination… in a complete silence. I am angry at him and he knows it. Every single time Jakie has a choice to do, he goes that easier way, not a very stable way. Because of that someday he will die… but not this time. I don’t let them kill this son of a bitch. We arrive and Jackie looks at me. He tries to say something, but he doesn't have to. Not now, where we still can die.

The apartment is secured in three different ways. The first is cameras hard connected to NCPD headquarters. The second is robotic guards with all deadly weapons, ready to use. And last one, but still important, lasers that can activate explosives. Mary Crown has a lot of apartments and villas, but here secure is the most valuable. And she doesn't trust humans. That is our only key to completing that contract. Jackie finds an EMP emitter that can shut off a whole defensive. Like I said, in a Little China you can find anything you need. With few quick moves the emitter is ready and we can start our action. We take off the car and go to Mary. Some of the rest guards still can shoot at us but with fast reactions we send them to robotic hell. We assault the Mary room and stand one on one with the CEO of Vision Industry.

-Hello gentlemen. I was waiting for you - She isn’t too scared or shocked, like she was expecting us. - Wine, or whisky?

-Sure why not - Jackie says.

-Jackie… come on… You know what is going on, yeah?

-After the death of Marek Lunk I saw that someone is trying to kill the whole technologic progress we have made. Sure I wasn’t very upset, he was my competitor and someone did a dirty job that I don’t like but I couldn’t pass by it indifferently. I knew that the next target will be me and here you are.

-So… You want to say this is some kind of your master plan?

-Of course you little tiny boy. Have you on your backs explosives? - Me and Jackie look at each other, then to Mary. - I can deactivate them but only on one condition. You will find her and kill... for me.

After saying these words, explosives start shaking and some kind of red energy starts flowing around.

-V… I don’t like this. Explosives soon will explode.

-I will pay you four times as much. With me… You… Can become a legend.

-V I think that is a good option.

-Jackie! We are already close to death and you want negotiations?! Are you out of your mind?!

-You saw what that girl did with a Japanese man. I want revenge on him for this.

-Why do you care about random people?

-Today is random, but tomorrow would be Mama Welles or Victor and we regret that we didn’t stop it earlier.

-What is our guarantee that she can deactivate explosives? Maybe she is lying to us. Her whole company is built on a lie of a good future!

-The choice is yours gentlemen - a slight little smile appears on her face. - The choice is yours.