

The Pick Candy



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Cover by Kestja

The Rock Candy

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Chapter 1

An evil Irish taco who is terrible at dancing named Takkoz was discussing evil plots with his evil french Cheese Minion robot chief, Sloppy. "The gummy bearr, zirr. Shall ve take care of heem?" asked Sloppy, an evil smile-frown creeping onto his face.

"Yes," Takkoz said, doing a terrible Irish jig. "Take care of him. Do whatever it takes to stop him and his friends."

"Yez, zir." On that note, Sloppy walked to the control room.

"Finally," said Takkoz. "I will be all powerful! Takkoz! Will! Reign!"

Meanwhile, a red German gummy bear named Goober who is awesome at dancing was working on his latest invention, a fan that runs on oranges. It wasn't going very well, and Goober was discouraged. Luckily, the doorbell rang. Goober got up, relieved, to answer it. It was his friend, Tamekocoa, the brown gummy bear.

"Hi, Goober," Tamekocoa said excitedly. "Whatchya workin' on?"

"A fan that runs on oranges," Goober responded.

"Oh," Tamekocoa sighed sadly. "But I was wondering if you would make me a special computer that could generate any kind of equipment I want."

"Oh, um, yeah, sure," Goober said, confident that he could create anything for Tamekocoa.

"Thanks, Goobs! You're the best!" Tamekocoa said, giving Goober a hug. Goober blushed. Then Goln, the green mean gummy bear, came up to the door. He loved picking on people, especially the people who he considered to be wimps. That made Coreo, a clear gummy bear, his main target. You could say that he was not very Coreo-ageous.

Uh Oh thought Goober.

"Hey, Booger," Goln said, a sneer forming on his sour, sour face.

"Whatchya workin' on?"

"Leave him alone!" Tamekocoa snapped. "What's he ever done to you?"

"Aw, c'mon, Tammy," Goln said, smiling sarcastically. "I was just bein' *friendly*."

"Don't call me that." Tamekocoa muttered. Goober gave him a dirty look.

"Let's go outside guys. C'mon," said Goober. With that said, he walked past Tamekocoa and Goln. Tamekocoa followed him sympathetically, and Goln followed him, well, grudgingly. He wasn't real enthusiastic about Booger getting his way. In fact, he wasn't real enthusiastic about *anybody* getting their way.

"Hey look!" said Tamekocoa suddenly. Goober and Goln followed her gaze. There was a...strange...thing in the sky.

"It's a bird!" said Goober.

"It's a plane!" said Goln.

"No...isn't that one of Takkoz's mechanical eagles?" suggested Tamekocoa cautiously.

"Aw man! This isn't good," said Goober.

"We must go and fight!" said Goln heroically, thrusting his fist in the air, like he was Superman.

"For once, I think Goln is *actually* right." admitted Tamekocoa.

"Hey!"

"Sorry."

"C'mon guys. Let's go get Jublee, Lublicious, Coreo, Velly, and...Novim," said Goober. Novim was the prince of the gang. Literally. He was as stuck-up and demanding as a gummy bear could get.

"Right behind you!" called Goober's little sister, Jublee, the blue gummy bear. They whirled around to see Jublee running towards them like a dog running towards a bone.

Shortly after that, Velly, the yellow gummy bear, and Coreo walked across the street to join them. "Hey guys, what's up?" said Velly cheerfully.

"Hi," said Coreo.

"Guys, one of Takkoz's mechanical eagles came around here. We think they're spying on us. You know, if they have an evil plan or something, they don't want us to interfere. That's what we think is going on. We gotta find out what the evil plan is, and put a stop to it."

A moment after he said that, Lublicious, the pink gummy bear, came running over. "Guys! S.O.S. here! Hide me!" She dashed behind a large bush.

Novim, the rainbow gummy bear, came running over. "Any of you guys seen *Lublicious*?" He asked innocently. A frightened squeal came from the large bush. Novim rushed over.

"Go away, you jerk." grumbled Lublicious.

"Anything for you, my dearest... except that."

Then Goober quickly explained what they knew. "So, we gotta go and stop them," Goober concluded. "Takkoz's base is in San Francisco, so we gotta go there."

"Well," Tamekocoa announced. "Looks like we got a flight to San Francisco to catch."

Chapter 2

"Uh oh..." Lublicious said, hugging her stomach. "I don't feel so good..."
"M'lady!" cried Novim, grabbing the nearest flight attendant and shaking her furiously. "Save her! Doggie bag! Ginger ale! NOW!"

The poor flight attendant looked startled for a moment, then fainted.

"Now I'm even sicker." grumbled Lublicious.

Coreo, who had been studying, looked up, confused. "Huh?" he said.

"Nothin'," sighed Goober.

The flight went well after that incident. When the flight was over, Goober suddenly stopped packing up, looking afraid. "What is it, Goober?" Coreo asked, looking scared himself.

"Wh-What if..." he trailed off.

"Spit it out, Goober!" exclaimed Tamekocoa impatiently.

"TAKKOZ WANTS THE LAST PIECE OF ROCK CANDY TO MAKE HIM ALL-POWERFUL!" Goober exploded.

"No...this can't be happening!" cried Tamekocoa, as she buried her head in her hands. Goober shifted his weight uneasily and said, "Well...you know...I'm not really sure..."

"But if you're right," Coreo said sadly, "We might be too late."

"NON-SENSE!" Novim suddenly exclaimed. Everyone, shocked, stared at Novim. "Takkoz is stupid," Novim stated. "I've pulled Excalibur from its place, I've fought Bigfoot, I've-"

"Just get to the point," Tamekocoa snapped.

"Uhm..." Jublee raised her hand as if this was a classroom. "What's Exscaly- whatever you said?"

"A sword that was used by King Arthur and-" Coreo was interrupted by a glare from Novim.

"So there's nothing I can't handle." Novim sniffed. Then a butterfly flew by. Novim screamed. A very high-pitched, loud scream.

"More like everything's something you can't handle." Lublicious grumbled.

"Guys! No time to waste! Let's go!" Velly shouted, annoyed.

"Zir! Zir!" Sloppy dashed toward his "zir".

"Whadaya want?" asked Takkoz crossly. Sloppy had interrupted his terrible Irish jig.

"Ze gummy bear, zir," said Sloppy, his robot mouth turning from a frown to an even bigger frown. "Zey arre onto us. Zey arre goeeng zoo ze Rock Candy."

"I'm tired of walking," Goln complained as they walked to Takkoz's secret lair. Goln had insisted they take a gummy cab, but then Jublee reminded him that it might be too dangerous for the cab driver.

"On the bright side...well...There really is no bright side," Coreo said, half engaged in his math book.

"You're not helping!" Tamekocoa shouted.

"Oh look," said Lublicious sarcastically. "Here comes the *love of my life*." The gummy bears followed her gaze. She was looking at a rainbow GummyRide, a bed-sofa-canopy thing. This GummyRide had words that read *Prince Novim of GummyBearLandiah*.

"Pause here!" cried Novim. The servants set down the GummyRide and bowed. Novim stepped out of his ride.

"Lublicious, my dear," said Novim, kneeling on one knee. "Ride on my GummyRide with me."

"In your *dreams*!"

"Ah, well let us pretend it is my dream." He attempted to kiss her hand, but she yanked it away. At that moment, Goober came trudging up the hill.

"Hey, Goober," Lublicious said sweetly, batting her lashes. Novim was *furios*, and everyone was enjoying the dark, dull, unrainbowy colors his face was turning.

"TIS A DUEL YOU WANT, A DUEL YOU SHALL GET!" he shouted, thrusting out an imaginary sword.

"Uh, sir?"

"WHAT, SERVANT NUMBER THREE?"

"Th-There's no sword..."

"Well then, *get* me a sword."

"Um... sir, there's no swords or sword material nearby... so..."

Velly rolled her eyes.

"Be quiet and come *on* you guys!"

"Uh, Velly?" Coreo asked cautiously.

"*What?*"

"We're...uh, we're here."

They looked up. There was a big, bright, yellow building with a huge neon pink sign that read *Takkoz's Evil Secret Lair* in bold print.

"Not much of a secret, is it?" said a voice, much unlike a gummy bear. They all gasped as they heard a rustle in the bushes. Out stepped a delicious, unhealthy, real-life...Choco Taco.

"I hate to admit it, but Takkoz is my dad," said the Choco Taco, ashamed. "I'm Chaco."

For a moment, everybody was silent. Then they exploded like bombs. Everybody went on hyper mode and had a really fast, loud, at-the-same-time conversation.

Tamekocoa: HOW COULD YOU SCARE US LIKE THAT?!

Novim: ADDRESS ME BY MY FULL NAME WHEN YOU SPEAK!

Goober: STEP AWAY! YOU'RE TAKKOZ'S SON!

Velly: WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM?!

Goln: I DON'T LIKE YOU!

Coreo just stared at everyone for a moment, then spoke.

"But you don't like anyone," he said, wincing as if he might get beat up, which he actually might.

"Yeah, I'm his son, but so what? Doesn't mean I gotta *like* him. Am I right?" Chaco said defensively.

"No, I am right!" Novim cried. "Now, choose your part of the group: a servant of mine or—"

"Novim," Jublee interrupted, irritated. "Do you think of *anyone* but yourself?"

"Well..." began Novim slowly. "I *do* think of—ahem—the love of my life." He kissed a poor, unsuspecting Lublicious on the hand. She yanked it away and whacked him on the nose.

"Uh... so... am I in or...?" asked Chaco cautiously.

"Yeah, sure," Goober sighed absently.

"Uh, guys," Velly said impatiently. "Focus on the task."

"Right. And the task is... what's the task, exactly?"

"None o' yo beeswax, Tāco." Goln challenged, squaring his jaw.

"It's, uh..." Chaco started. Then, seeming to gather his courage, stated boldly, "It's Chāco, not Tāco."

Chapter 3

"Therre herr, zir," Sloppy said impatiently French. "Shall ve board ze invisible jet?"

Takkoz smiled evilly. "Of course, dear Sloppy. And Chaco? Has he gained their trust?"

"Yez, zir."

"Good. After we get the Rock Candy, maybe you and that girl of yours could spend a little time together, eh?" Sloppy turned a violent shade of deep red.

"Sloplicia iz *not* my girrlfrriend." Sloppy said, embarrassed.

"Very well, Sloppy. To the invisible jet!" Takkoz ran towards the take-off station.

"Vait, zir. It veel take at leazt twenty fourr hourrz for ze fuel pack zoo recharge." Sloppy cleared his throat. "And twenty three forr zee gummy bearrs zoo get herre."

"We need a way to stall them...." Takkoz muttered. "I wonder..."

"Yez, zir?" Sloppy questioned.

"Tell Chaco," Takkoz smiled evilly again. "That when the gummy bears get here, to find a way to meet with me without the gummy bears knowing. I'll tell him a way to stall them."

Jublee struggled to open the password-locked door. She found it rather odd that the operator had a French accent.

"Helloo, I eem Steenky. Vhat is ze password?"

"Takkoz rules!" Jublee tried.

"No!"

"Takkoz will rule the world!"

"No!"

"Jublee," said Chaco, insistent. "Let me try."

"No!" blared Stinky.

"Fine." Jublee sighed.

"No!" blared Stinky again.

"WILL YOU BE QUIET?" shouted Goln, annoyed.

"No!"

"Chaco and Takkoz will reign!" said Chaco, confident and bold. They heard a click and Stinky *finally* said something other than 'No!'.

"Vellcome Prrince Shaco,"

Novim was furious.

"I'M THE ONLY PRINCE AROUND HERE!" Novim shouted, thrusting out that imaginary sword again.

"Uh, sir-" said one of Novim's servants intently.

"I KNOW THERE'S NO SWORD!" Novim snapped.

"Novim," said Chaco, cautiously. "You know I'm not really a prince, right?"

Chapter 4

The bears and Chaco stepped into the building. The walls were painted solid black, but the floor was made of clean, white tiles. On either side of them, there were dozens of doors painted bright red with bright blue checker patterns and dark pink handles. Lublicious couldn't bear to look.

"Look at this place," Lublicious wrinkled her nose. "It's so *unfashionable*."

"M'lady!" Novim exclaimed, covering her eyes and beginning to drag her out of the building. Lublicious pulled away.

"STOP THAT!" she shouted angrily. Novim thought she must be in a good mood.

"Guys! Stay together!" Goober pointed down the hall. "Look!"

At the end of the left side of the hall, a gigantic, bright, orange door labeled *Takkoz's bedroom* stood like a flashily dressed giant in a colony of drably dressed ants.

"Let's get in!" Jublee laughed at the easiness of it all. The words had just barely come out of her mouth when she took a few steps and the floor opened up beneath her, making her fall, screaming, into a kind of who-knows-where pit of despair.

"Jublee!" Goober screamed.

Suddenly, the floor closed. Randomly all over the place, Cheese Minion robots popped out of the ceiling, each name of the Cheese Minions being said over the loudspeaker at the same time they came down. The Cheese Minions had some odd names like 'Stupid' and 'Beef Jerky' (Coreo, being vegetarian, marked *him* as his main target), and they seemed to have 100,000,001 of them. Finally, the loudspeaker blared:

"Last but not least...actually, ze most brilliant, messy, robot chief everr... Zloppy!"

On a platform rising out of the floor, the biggest robot of all, Sloppy, came up.

"Vellcome!" Sloppy said, grinning super-mega-evil evilly. "Thiz iz ourr parrrty! Ze main event? Death of gummy bears!"

Chapter 5

The gummy bears immediately knew Novim was insane. Apparently, he hadn't learned his lesson after Jublee. He thrust out his nonexistent sword and charged.

"FOR THE LOVE OF MY LIFE!" he tripped and fell. "I MEANT TO DO THAAAAAAAAT!" Novim was falling into wherever. Fortunately, he grabbed a ledge and swung himself up. Lublicious groaned.

"Let us go, my sweet," Novim ran back to the bears, in front of Lublicious. "The others, well, we will send our royal guards to help them. Ah, I can imagine it- Princess Lublicious of GummyBearLandiah!" Lublicious gagged.

"In your *dreams!* And no pretending it's your dream!" Lublicious stuck her tongue out at Novim.

"Guys!" Tamekocoa said insistently, seeing Goober's expression. "Focus! The cheese minions!" They looked at the minions. They were occupied, doing their own randomly weird things - playing air hockey, doing root beer-chugging contests etc.

"I *HATE IT* WHEN PEOPLE HAVE FUN!" Goln shouted as if it was a battle cry. He charged.

"GOLN!" everyone screamed, but it was too late. Fortunately for everyone, Goln was a good climber.

"Okay, everyone. New plan. Huddle." Velly gestured for them to come to her. The second they were in their huddle, everyone started discussing plans.

"Okay," Lublicious advised. "Plans. We need to get over the floor hole thingy."

"I have a plan... I think..." Goober looked at Lublicious carefully. "But..."

"Spit it out, Booger." Goln snapped. "What *is* it?"

"Well... ya know.... I was thinking...."

"BOOGER! SAY IT!"

"We could undo Lublicious's hairties, bows, bracelets and necklaces to make a rope so we can swing over the floor hole thingy." Goober stated quickly.

"NO!" shouted Novim angrily.

"Well...ya know, if Novim disagrees, then I have to say yes." said Lublicious.

"Let's do it!" Goln pumped his fist in the air. So they went to work.

Chapter 6

Exactly one hour, two minutes, and thirty seven seconds later, the rope was done.

"All we need is a trampoline so that we can bounce up to that handle in the ceiling..." Velly looked at Goober, and the others followed.

"What?" he demanded, suddenly feeling defensive.

"I know where Takkoz keeps his SuperExtraUltraTripleFunBounceBounce trampolines," Chaco offered.

"Great!" Tamekocoa smiled. "Go get 'em!"

Chaco arrived at his father's base exactly five minutes, twenty-seven seconds, and one millisecond after he had left the gummy bears.

"Hello, father," Chaco smiled evilly.

"You have gained their trust, correct?"

"Correct."

"Wonderful." Takkoz smiled mischievously.

"Now, Father, I must go and retrieve your fake trampoline."

"Yes, of course," said Takkoz excitedly. "The electric one or the exploding one?"

"Electric one, please!" Chaco shouted as he dashed out of the room.

"Bye, my son!" Takkoz called after him. "I'm off to get the Rock Candy!"

"Bye, dad. Good luck."

In approximately eleven minutes, forty-eight seconds, and two milliseconds, Chaco was back to the bears with the trampolines.

"I'm back!" Chaco announced. "I brought the SuperExtraUltraTripleFunBounceBounce trampolines!"

"Great!" Goln shouted, surprising everyone. They never thought that Goln would ever say something like 'Great!' or 'Awesome!' or 'Super!' Really. He probably knew well not to make fun of Chaco.

"I'll jump first!" Goln jumped onto the trampoline, attempted to bounce off, and instantly got electrocuted.

"Gohn!" Chaco shouted. "Gohn! Ah, jeez. Takkoz probably replaced the regular trampolines with the electric ones. I'll disable them." He crouched down as he pulled some wires, pushed some buttons, and flicked some levers. Then he stood up and grinned happily.

"Disabled!" Chaco beamed.

"Great." muttered Coreo absent-mindedly, reading a book about the theory of relativity.

"Um... okay... I guess I'll go," said Tamekocoa uneasily.

She jumped... and everybody but Goober and Chaco got electrocuted. It was extremely dangerous, given the fact that Coreo was near the big hole. Luckily enough, no one fell in. Cheese Minions began dragging all his friends away.

"But... What...?" Goober stammered. Chaco smiled evilly.

"Congrats!" Chaco announced. "You've been manipulated!"

One of the Cheese Minions knocked Goober out from behind, and the next thing he knew he was waking up...and trapped.

Chapter 7

"Ohh..." Goober groaned, sitting up. He appeared to be in a dungeon made of candy canes, heavily guarded by Cheese Minions. His only comfort was the fact that Chaco wasn't there and he was with his friends.

"CHACO IS SUCH A LIAR!" Velly exploded. "HE IS EVIL! HE *LIKES* TAKKOZ!"

"Calm down, Vel." Tamekococa said irritably.

"HOW CAN I CALM DOWN?!"

"Look what I kept!" Lublicious beamed, holding up a charred hairbow. "We can use it to get out!"

"It'll only hold two people at the most, though," Coreo pointed out.

Goln grabbed him by the scruff and shouted in his ear, "WELL, THERE YA GO, COREO, *ALWAYS TRYIN' TO MAKE THINGS SO MUCH BETTER!*" Coreo whimpered.

"Put him down, Goln." said Goober firmly. "We need to get out. I'll go. Tamekococa and Lublicious can come too. It'll only hold two people at once, but not two people at different times."

"But how will we get past the Cheese Minions?" Lublicious asked.

"Um, Lubbie?" Tamekococa said awkwardly. "Look at them. They're asleep."

It was true. The Cheese Minions were sound asleep, snoring the night...er, day away.

"Well... that solves that." said Goober, "But... why are they asleep?"

"'CAUSE THEY'RE SO LAZY!" cried Velly.

"Shh, be quiet, Velly," whispered Tamekococa. "The cheese dudes are sleeping."

"Okay, guys. Let's go," stated Goober boldly. They climbed up the rope and into the hallway.

"Okay, Goobs," Tamekococa smiled, "what do we do next?"

"Uh..."

Her smile vanished. "You mean you *don't* have a *plan*?"

"Er...not *exactly*..."

" THEN LET'S JUST BREAK DOWN EVERY STUPID DOOR IN THIS DUMP!"

"Actually," Lublicious butted in, "That's not a bad idea."

First, they tackled Chaco's room. Next was Sloppy's VIP room. Then was the Cheese Minion robot's mini lair. Last was Takkoz's control room/bedroom.

"Well," Goober began slowly, "Clearly, this dump is empty."

"Wait...what about *that* door?" Tamekocoa asked, seeming astonished. They all looked up to see a giant, shiny, golden door that sparkled with rubies, rhinestones, and diamonds. In plain sight. An ordinary wooden sign in the center of it all read *Takkoz's office*.

"How could we *not* have noticed that?" Lublicious asked, attempting to push the door open. "Man, this door is heavy!"

"Here." Tamekocoa pushed the door open.

When they walked in, they found something they didn't expect. A living, sweet, salty . . . gumball . . .with french fry legs. It cocked it's head, seeming to consider them.

"Meep?" It squeaked, studying the new and unfamiliar gummy bears. Its eyes locked on Lublicious. "Meep!" It exclaimed happily, rushing up to lick her.

"Eeeeeeeeeek!" Lublicious shrieked.

"Meep?" the gumball asked, confused. Lublicious slowly crept towards the gumball. She reached out to pet it.

"Aww, you know, it's actually kinda cute. I think I'll name it...Johnny... no... Bob? Nah... Bobo?"

"That sounds like a monkey." remarked Tamekocoa.

"Okay... Gummy?"

"Perfect." Tamekocoa winked.

"Okay, enough with the naming," Goober said. "Back to the mission-ish thingy."

"MEEP!" exclaimed Gummy, suddenly running towards the refrigerator.

"What is it, boy?" Lublicious asked. "You want food?" She opened the fridge, and grabbed the container labeled *Gumball-thingie's food*, and under it was a note.

"What does it say?" asked Tamekocoa eagerly. She picked it up and began to read.

*Dear dumb gummy bears,
Get it? Dear dumb diary, but dear dumb gummy bears?*

She stopped reading and remarked, "Wow. I figured Takkoz's jokes were bad, but I didn't think they were *this* bad." They all laughed and she continued reading:

Ah, forgot it. Anyway, you have ben tricked! I'm afraid you have ben stuck in that cage for so long, that you have been foolld! Ha Ha! Now, I am on a taco-ship-robot-thingy with my evel allys, Beaverinmuffle, a banana muffin, and Stoothie, a smoothie! Along with Chaco! Ha Ha! And on another plane heading the opozit way are my Chezze Minyuns with Jublee! Heading across the contree! When they make it, Jublee wil be thrown into the water! Ha ha!

"Not if I have anything to say about it, they won't." growled Goober. Tamekocoa put a sympathetic hand on his shoulder. She began to read again:

And she can't swim! Ha ha! Ha. ha. ha. ha. ha! You snooze, you lose, Gummies! Ha ha ha...suckers.

*Love, your enemy,
Takkoz Ferrari*

"Takkoz!" Goober snapped. "I. Hate. Takkoz!"

"Calm down, Goober," Tamekocoa looked at him with sympathy.

"The important thing is we save Jublee, right?"

"What about...ahem...*SAVING THE WORLD?!*" Lublicious cried. Goober gave her such a terrible look, that if looks could kill, Lublicious would be *far* dead.

"Guys, calm down," Tamekocoa said eagerly. "I have a plan."

Chapter 8

They ran out of the office with Gummy at their heels. Slowly creeping down the dungeon stairs, they heard a *thump. Thump. Thump.* They froze.

"You go first, Goober," Lublicious whispered. "You're the man." Goober rolled his eyes and hesitated. He took a deep breath and then began cautiously to make his way down the stairs. *THUMP!* A louder thump made Goober lose his footing.

"Aw, Gohn," a gummy bear girl's voice complained. "Do ya *have* to be so loud?!"

"Well, *SOR-EE!* Why don't *you* try breaking metal?"

"Guys!" Lublicious shrieked happily. "I'm so very happy to see you!" Gummy looked at her quizzically. Lublicious dashed down the steps, shoving Tamekocoa out of the way, making her fall face-first into the floor. Then Lublicious ran into Goober, who then smashed into the cage bars.

"Ow." Goober muttered.

"Tell me about it," mumbled Tamekocoa.

"Uh, we missed you too, Lublicious..." Coreo was looking at her with a mix of surprise and amusement. "Even though it was only a few minutes."

"WHERE WERE YOU!?" Velly shouted. "DO YOU EVEN *KNOWHOW* ANNOYING IT IS BEING THE ONLY GIRL!?"

"Sorry, a little busy." Tamekocoa muttered, throwing them a rope. "Come out. Oh, by the way, Lublicious might've broken some bones that weren't hers."

Goober reviewed what they had come to find out so that everyone could process and problem solve (with Lublicious interjecting from time to time with statements like 'And he was so cute!' or 'And then I had an idea.').

"So, we need to split into groups," Goober concluded. "I go after Jublee--"

"No," Lublicious said, "I will. Coreo, Novim... I'll need you."

"But--"

"Jublee is my best friend," Lublicious stated. "You focus on the Rock Candy."

"But-you see--" Goober stammered. Then he sighed. "Alright." he said reluctantly.

"And Novim," Lublicious glared at him, "I am *so* not into you."

"I'll take Tamekocoa and Goln and...I guess Velly." Goober decided. Velly gave him the stink eye.

"I mean..." Goober shifted his weight awkwardly. Velly sighed.

"Just focus."

"I can find Takkoz's Secret Jet Chamber of Doom," Tamekocoa offered.

"Alright," Goober said, watching Tamekocoa hurry off, the gummy bears behind her. She gestured for Goober to follow. He obliged. When they arrived at the jet room, they saw a tracking screen and a large selection of jets.

"Uhm, guys?" Coreo gulped. "According to this tracker screen, Takkoz...he's already in the Maple Syrup Swamp. That's where the Rock Candy is - the Pancake Cave in the Maple Syrup Swamp."

Chapter 9

The group went into a panic. Only a weird panic. A silent but deadly panic. A panic where everyone was looking around at each other and the jets in the jet room around them. Of course, that only lasted for five seconds.

"AAH!" Lublicious shrieked. "WE'RE ALL GONNA DIE! Ooh, but if we live, I want *that* jet." The other bears followed her gaze to a pink-frosted lemon cake jet, complete with edible pearls and candy bows. It was labeled *The Cream Cuff*.

"I want..." Goober scanned the jet room. His eyes locked on a jet made entirely of pepperoni pizza. It was labeled *The Millenium Pizza*. "... That one."

"All in favor of *The Cream Cuff*, raise your hands!" Velly shouted all official-like. Only Lublicious raised her hand. "Okay, for *her* quest, no *Cream Cuff*." Velly winced sympathetically.

"Then I want..." Lublicious seemed to decide on a black licorice jet with orange flame patterns on the side. It was called *The Hot Licorice*. "... That."

"When we come together," Goober said. "We ride in the Millenium pizza. Agreed?" Everyone nodded.

"Okay, get into your team's jet." Goober announced. Coreo, Novim, Lublicious, and Gummy stepped into *The Hot Licorice*. They (not including Gummy) waved goodbye and wished the other bears good luck. With that, they flew off. Not too long after that, Goober, Tamekocoa, Velly, and Goin got onto *The Millenium Pizza* and flew *their* ship away.

"Uhm..." Goober gestured to the jet's screen, which was showing a video of unicorns with mustaches on a rainbow-colored stage dancing to Gangnam Style. "Is this really what Takkoz likes?"

Velly shrugged, then laughed. "Hey, I dunno, Goobs." she giggled once more. "You gotta admit, it's pretty funny. I'm looking at his previous search history." Velly had somehow managed to hack into Takkoz's history. Among his previous searches were: "101 Disasters: How people die in them", "How 2 Dance with POW-AH!", and "Evilnet: DESTROY THE GUMMY BEARS!!!! XD lol".

"LOOK!" Tamekocoa shouted, but the screen had blacked out. Then it came on again, to reveal the *Music Video Maker* app, showing a video of Takkoz in a ridiculous costume, dancing terribly.

"Oh, wow," Goober said, covering his eyes. "I just... can't look."

"Don't worry, we got onto the internet," Velly said. Three bookmarks popped up: "Penguins in tuxedos and top hats dancing the merengue," "#Evil_Selfies: Me having fun," and "Evilnet: Takkoz's evil secret plans."

"Okay, we should see if he's trying to trick us," Goober said. "Let's click on Evil Selfies." He clicked on it, only to find several pictures of Takkoz in photo booths.

"Well, *that's* not it," muttered Velly. She closed the website and opened the Evilnet.

"Welcome to: The Evilnet." the robot computer said in monotone.

"Enter your username and passcode. Are you IHateCandy4Life?"

"That must be Takkoz." Tamekocoa muttered. "So... um, no."

"New account?" asked the computer.

Goober looked at Velly. Velly looked at Tamekocoa. Tamekocoa looked at Goln. Goln looked at Goober. It kept going like that for precisely three minutes, seven seconds, and two milliseconds. Then Tamekocoa asked, "Um... why are we all staring at each other?"

"Well?" asked the computer. They all looked at each other once more.

"Uh... New account, please," Goober half-firmly stated. A sound popped out of the computer that sounded like clinking metal.

Chapter 10

"What was that noise?" asked Tamekocoa.

"I think it was just the operation noise," replied Velly.

"Oh... gotcha."

"Yeah."

"Mm-hm."

"Right."

"Guys, focus!" shouted Goober.

"Please choose a username," said the computer. "The special requirement of the day is that it must rhyme."

"Hmm..." thought Velly. "Medieval-Evil?"

"Sure, why not?" Goober shrugged.

"Great choice," said the computer. "Please choose a profile picture. The special requirement of the day is that it has to go with your username."

"Hmm..." Tamekocoa thought, scrolling through the Evilnet's options. "How about this one?" She was pointing at a picture of a crazy knight with red, glowing eyes.

"Excellent," said the computer. "What do you wish to search?"

"Takkoz's evil secret plans," Goober stated firmly. A few search results came up: *The Evil Daily Double: Putting Jeopardy in Jeopardy, Eat my cooking or die*, and *DESTROY THE GUMMY BEARS!!!! XD lol*.

"There we are," Tamekocoa said. She clicked on *DESTROY THE GUMMY BEARS!!!! XD lol* and a slide came up. It looked something like this:

Slide one:

DESTROY THE GUMMY BEARS!!!! XD lol
By Takkoz Furrari

"His last name is *Furrari*?" questioned Velly as she burst out laughing.

Slide two:

Thanks too Chaco 4 help on speling me last neme!

Tamekocoa snorted.

Slide three:

**Step 1 is that yow have to mak them go
seve Jublee and let my win the end.**

"His grammar is just... wrong," Goober muttered. "Good thing Coreo isn't here... he'd freak out."

"Pfft, yeah," Goln laughed. "That'd be fun to..." his expression suddenly turned serious.

"What is it?" asked Tamekocoa, confused.

"We have to hurry," Goln gestured to the tracker screen. Takkoz had parked outside of Pancake Cave.

Chapter 11

Meanwhile, on *The Hot Licorice*, Lublicious was busy being annoyed by Novim."

"My love!" exclaimed Novim. "Oh, of all reasons... why don't you want me? I am the richest of all rich! I am the greatest of the great!"

"More like the worstest of the worst," Lublicious muttered.

"Um, Lublicious," Coreo shyly beckoned. "Worstest isn't a word..."

"Who cares?" Lublicious stuck out her tongue at Coreo. "I'm not exactly 'the Grammar Queen'."

"And I'm not exactly 'the Grammar King'!" Novim shouted. "We're *perfect* for each other!"

"Not..." muttered Lublicious.

"What was that, my love?"

"Grr..."

"C'mon guys. Let's cooperate here," urged Coreo.

"Meep!" Gummy squeaked in agreement. Novim tackled Lublicious with such force that it turned everyone into a... Lublicious sandwich. Novim at the top, Lublicious in the middle, and poor squished Coreo at the very bottom.

"GUYS, WILL YOU QUITIT?! I AM SICK AND TIRED OF YOU TWO FIGHTING! WHY WON'T YOU GET ALONG FOR ONCE?!" Coreo shouted from the bottom of his heart at the bottom of the pile. Lublicious and Novim stood up and stared at Coreo in astonishment. Then, to his surprise, they started clapping.

"What's the applause about?" Coreo wondered aloud.

"Alas..." Novim shook his head slowly. "Young Coreo still has much to learn, but he has mastered the art of yelling."

"Oh! I-I didn't mean to be harsh..." began Coreo. "I... was just tired of you two fighting, okay? Besides, the ship might've overloaded..."

"What do you mean?" asked Lublicious, looking confused.

"Well, I did some looking around, and I found the ship's manual. I found out that the ship's speed is based on fighting. If there's no fighting, the ship can still run, it just won't go as fast. If there's too much fighting, the ship will overload and we'll crash."

"Okay, got it."

"I got it too!" Novim said happily. "We're just *perfect* for each other."

"I DON'T LIKE YOU, YOU-YOU BAG OF-OF STUPIDNESS AND-AND
DESP-" Lublicious was interrupted by a loud, beeping alarm sound.

"FIGHTING OVERLOAD!" a monotone voice shouted. *The Hot Licorice* exploded, and the gummy bears fell into a who-knows-where pit of despair.

"AAAAAAAAAAHHHHHHH!!!!!!!!!!!!!!" Lublicious screamed in agony when they landed.

"My love!" Novim cried. "What is it?!"

"I-I I-lost m-m-my bracelet!" Lublicious sobbed. Coreo, who had looked concerned, now looked like he was about to explode. But before he had a chance to, they heard a faint voice mumble,

"Heh heh."

They ducked behind a candy cane tree.

"Heh heh." It was coming closer. The leaves crackled on the ground. They all held their breaths as they slowly turned around. They gasped at what they saw.

Chapter 12

Standing before their very eyes was a French fry wearing a tie and a black beret. Gummy seemed to be looking at him with fondness.

"Heh heh." he mumbled. He looked at Gummy. His eyes grew wide as Gummy rushed towards him. "Frenchy!" the French fry yelled as he threw his arms around Gummy.

"You...know Gummy?" asked Lublicious.

"Not Gummy, Frenchy! Yes! Frenchy old pet. Stolen by evil cheese. I Crazy Steve." he drawled.

"Well, uh, Crazy Steve, do you know where we are?" asked Coreo hopefully.

"I is pilot. I can fly. You in Maple Forest, close to Maple Syrup Swamp. You need go place, heh heh?"

"Um, yeah. Pancake Cave. Do you know where th-", Coreo was interrupted by a loud war cry like a choking opera singer. Cheese minions emerged from the shadows, creating a circle around our heroes.

Novim turned around and fled straight into the arms of the Cheese Minion chief, Sloppy. "Going some place?" he asked smugly, revealing his yellow teeth. Novim screamed a very loud, high-pitched scream.

Lublicious wrinkled her nose in disgust. "What a man," she muttered.

"Even I'm more manly than *that*," said Coreo. "That's the *first time* in my *whole life* that I've been able to say that," Coreo dreamily muttered. Then he was brought back to Earth. "Well, maybe it would not be the first time, in comparison to Novim. I should say I'm always more manly than *him*." The Cheese Minions advanced, ready to strike.

Chapter 13

"WA-YAH!" exclaimed Crazy Steve, climbing into his jet and beginning to fire. The cheese minions drew back for a moment, but even the powerful explosive jawbreakers were not enough to push back the strong cheese minion robots.

"CHARGE!" shouted Lublicious. So they did. Novim held them off with his sword (his servant finally got to make him one), Lublicious fought people out of agony (from losing her headband) and Coreo flew up in the air with Crazy Steve and Gummy, giving the bears all a walkie talkie so Coreo could warn them about cheese minions.

"Guys, we need to go!" Coreo shouted. "It's hopeless! We're powerless against them!"

"Fine!" shouted Lublicious. "Let's get outta here!"

"Heh heh, jet," mumbled Crazy Steve.

"He's right!" Coreo exclaimed. "He can fly us to safety in his jet!"

"Load up the plane, Crazy Steve!" shouted Lublicious.

"JET!" Crazy Steve screamed angrily.

"Right, sorry."

Crazy Steve rushed over to his jet, kissed it's nose, and motioned for them to come over. They ran over and made it in two seconds. Coreo hopped on, followed by Lublicious and then Novim. Crazy Steve started the engine and began to count down.

"5...4...3...2...BLAST OFF!"

"AAAAHHHH!!!!" They all screamed.

"Who goes on *two*?" questioned Coreo, bewildered.

"I do!" shouted Crazy Steve from the pilot's seat.

"Okay, Crazy Steve, we need to get to Pancake Cave. Do you know where that is?" asked Coreo hopefully.

"Me know where, heh heh. Me mother took me there when I was boy, heh heh," Crazy Steve muttered. "Me like Coreo. Coreo friend, heh heh." Coreo and Crazy Steve fist bumped.

A few hours later, they had rescued Jublee and were on their way to Pancake Cave (how they rescued her was unimportant, but it involved whoopee cushions, mass confusion, and pie. Lots and lots of pie.).

"I don't get it," said Jublee, confused. "Where are the others? Why are we in a stranger's jet?" Lublicious quickly explained about Crazy Steve and the Millennium Pizza.

"And so we rescued you and here we are," concluded Lublicious.

"Yes," Crazy Steve mumbled. "Here we are. We're all here because we're not all there. . ."

"Okay, that is *seriously* getting annoying," Coreo said.

"Super annoying," added Lublicious.

"No, really. We is here." Crazy Steve said, irritated.

"We is at Pancake Cave!"

Chapter 14

Meanwhile, Goober, Tamekocoa, Goln, and Velly had landed at Pancake Cave and were waiting for back-up. But their waiting location was rather precarious. Takkoz (in his robot suit) and Chaco had them dangling from a licorice rope and was lowering them into a pot of steaming hot chocolate while he was holding the Rock Candy.

"Mmph," complained Goln as he gnawed viciously (he didn't make much progress, considering he has no teeth) at the rope. Actually it just became kind of sticky and gross.

"Aww, don't be such a weenie," said Velly. Goln stopped chewing and glared at Velly.

"I'm sorry, would *you* like to chew, if you're sure it will go faster?" Velly stuck her tongue out at Goln.

"STOP FIGHTING! PRISONERS ARE NOT SUPPOSED TO FIGHT! PRISONERS ARE SUPPOSED TO MOURN!"

"My bad," muttered Velly.

"Hey, smarty over there. You got a plan yet?" Tamekocoa glared at her.

"I'm working on it!"

"Oh, that's okay! Just take your time! We're only *three feet from a burning pot of hot chocolate!* No pressure!"

"Well, SOR-EE! Why don't *you* try thinking up a plan? I *quit!*"

"*Fine, I will!* And it'll be *way* better than any of *your* stupid plans!"

"C'mon, guys! This is silly! You've been best friends forever!" Goober put in.

"Not anymore, we're not!" Velly grumbled.

"Could you two just please make up so we can get out of here?"

"We don't even have a *plan!*"

"I do. While you two were busy fighting, *I* used the time to actually *make* a plan. Empty your pockets, all of you." Tamekocoa pulled out a wad of gum, a paperclip, and two triple-A batteries. Velly pulled out a licorice whip, an eraser and a *GummyDoll* (a doll shaped like a gummy bear). Goln pulled out a pocketknife, many many many many scraps of metal, and a brick.

"Um, a brick?" questioned Velly.

"It gives me exercise," replied Goln.

"Anyways," said Goober. "Velly, use your whip to knock over the pot." Velly did, and Takkoz glared at her, looking ready to charge.

"Now what?" asked Velly.

"Goln cuts the rope with his knife. Then, well..."

"Then..." Tamekocoa urged impatiently.

"He creates a distraction with his brick and all his metal, while the rest of us run around and wait for backup in a less precarious setting."

"Aw, c'mon!" Velly complained. "That sounds... so... *unheroic!*"

"It might be the only option," Goober stated.

Goln cut the rope, and soon he started hurling scraps of metal and chunks of brick at Takkoz while the others ran in circles, figure eights and squiggles, constantly shouting, "DOWN WITH TAKKOZ!", which left Chaco totally confused.

Just when Takkoz was about ready to charge, a jawbreaker hit him in the head and exploded. From up in the sky, they heard a heroic "Da da na na, na na!" and saw a jet with the letters CS on the side. On the inside there was a french fry in a black beret, along with their other friends. The jet landed in front of them.

"Need some help?" asked Lublicious, grinning.

"Please," Tamekocoa muttered. The gummy bears charged, but so did Takkoz.

Chapter 15

Takkoz fired at Tamekocoa, but she dodged. Coreo wasn't so lucky. He began to run from an atomic chocolate piece, but it caught up to him. It hit him directly in the back. He rolled into Pancake Cave, knocked out.

"COREO!" Velly screamed, whipping her whip. It made a dent in the robot, but that was all. Takkoz knocked Velly into the forest. On her way there, she hit Lublicious, sending both of them flying.

"DON'T TREAT M'LADY LIKE THAT!" Novim exclaimed, cutting open Takkoz's robot's... logo. Novim was frozen with a mint. Goin managed to get a couple of dents and a hole in Takkoz's suit, but he accidentally touched a wire and got electrocuted. Now there were only three bears left... Tamekocoa, Jublee, and Goober.

"TAKKOZ!" Tamekocoa shouted. "YOU NEED TO STOP!"

"NEVER!" Takkoz shouted, kicking her out of the way. "I'LL ELIMINATE EVERY SINGLE ONE OF YOU PUNY RUNTS! EVERYONE WHO STANDS AGAINST ME WILL BE CHARGED OF A CRIME!"

"In that case," Chaco spoke up for the first time since the battle had started, "you'll have to charge me of a crime."

"Ha ha, Chaco!" Takkoz laughed joyfully. "Good one!"

But the bears saw that Chaco was serious. Takkoz aimed his microwave-effect laser at Jublee, fired, and... Chaco jumped in the path.

"Ow, ow, ow," he winced. "Ouch."

"Chaco!" the bears rushed over to him.

"I only have one wish." Chaco stated. "Someone needs to wear me."

"Um, uh, what?" Jublee looked confused.

"Wear me, please. I'll help you." He started to fade into a cloud of green sparkles, taking the shape of an emerald pendant the delicately clasped around Jublee's neck.

"Wow." Jublee muttered. "I'm wearing... *Chaco*."

"YOU KILLED MY SON!" Takkoz suddenly exclaimed. "NOW I KILL YOU!"

"Uh, news flash," Goober said, annoyed. "You killed your son. Not *us*."

"YOU WILL DIE!" Takkoz screamed. "YOU WILL... actually, I have the Rock Candy. No need for killing! So toodle-oo! I'm off to take over the world!"

"Not quite, heh heh," came a voice from the sky. Crazy Steve's plane grew grabber arms and snatched the Rock Candy out of Takkoz's robot's hands.

"MY CANDY!" screamed Takkoz like a spoiled child whose mother took away his tons and tons of candy (that he was once gifted) as a consequence for bad behavior. As soon as the Rock Candy was taken out of the robot's hands, the self-destruct signal was activated. Crazy Steve quickly landed.

"Quickly get in, heh!" shouted Crazy Steve as he collected the knocked-out gummy bears. In 5.4 seconds, they were all in the jet, just as the robot exploded.

Chapter 16

"That. Was close," wheezed Goober. The jet was much bigger on the inside than it seemed on the outside. There was even an *infirmary* so that they could heal the gummy bears.

"At least I saved you all," Novim said, puffing out his chest.

"Hmm, that sure is a strange recount," Lublicious said. "When you weren't frozen, I seem to recall you *running away* and hiding behind *Coreo*, and screaming like a *little girl*."

"Uh... well... er..." stammered Novim, looking for an excuse. "YOU ARE BLIND!" Lublicious raised her eyebrows. Novim froze, realizing that insulting her was *not* going to get him with Lublicious. "Uh, erm, I'm sorr..." Novim was not used to apologizing. "I'm very sorrrrr..."

"What?" Lublicious smirked.

"Sorrrrr..."

"Go on..." Lublicious urged.

"SOR-EE!" Novim shouted like a whiny two-year-old.

"Fair enough," sighed Lublicious.

"At least we made it through the battle alive," Coreo said. "That was good." He glanced at Goln and quickly added, "Thanks to Goln." Goln put on a smug smile.

"Let's not forget Goober's quick thinking," reminded Tamekococia, glancing at Goober with an expression of fondness.

"I... er... um... you were the one... thanks, but..." Goober stammered.

"Aw, don't be silly," chided Tamekococia as she wrapped her arms around him. Soon Lublicious joined, then Coreo, and soon they had a full group hug (except for Goln, who awkwardly patted Goober).

"We made it," whispered Jublee. "We made it."

Chapter 17

After the gummy bears were all feeling better, they had a dance party/sleepover at Crazy Steve's house.

"By the way, heh," Crazy Steve said, "you can keep Frenchy." Crazy Steve and Coreo had much time to bond in the jet, and with this time, they had become best of friends.

"Um, Crazy Steve, are you *sure* you want us to keep Gum-er, Frenchy? He's *your* gumball."

"Yes, heh heh. You keep," Crazy Steve replied. "When I was boy, I had to let go of pet chocolate lizard."

"You mean chocolate *frog*?"

"No..." Crazy Steve shook his head slowly.

"Anyways," said Velly, glancing at the snacks and refreshments table. "Are those... GUMMY BEARS?!"

"Uh... no?" Crazy Steve quickly pushed the gummy bears under the table. He looked sheepish. "Heh heh."

"THEY *WERE* GUMMY BEARS?!" Velly began shouting at Crazy Steve.

Goober looked around at all his friends. They were acting as they normally did. Novim and Lublicious were busy fighting again; Coreo was trying to make peace in between Velly and Crazy Steve; Goln and Tamekocoa were arm wrestling. Goober sighed. He walked into the nearby room where the Rock Candy was kept, the room labeled "KEEP OUT!". Inside was the Rock Candy: a beautiful, purple, glowing gem. Anyone who saw it would know it.

"Taking your last looks?" said a voice behind him. Goober whipped around to see Jublee (in her new pendant) behind him. He gave her a confused look.

"I'm giving it away," said Jublee. "*Gummybearlandia* could use little pieces of this in medicine. This could save *lots* of people." She tapped the case.

"When will it... go?" asked Goober, studying the Rock Candy.

"Tonight, ten-o'clock," Jublee said. "I have to have it outside by then. Will you help?"

"Sure." Then, together, they lifted it outside.

"The jet should be here in 3... 2... 1..." Jublee muttered. Just then, a jet came by and landed. A purple gummy bear and a white gummy bear came out, lifted the Rock Candy into the jet, and flew off.

"Well then," said Jublee. "I guess it's bedtime."

Goober couldn't sleep, thinking about all he'd done in the past day (it would take weeks to do this, but time is different in their world). They'd escaped several traps, found the Rock Candy, and defeated Takkoz. Takkoz probably wasn't completely defeated, and would come back for more. For now, though, they were safe. But little did they know about another special artifact...