

Sam started to feel better after resting for a couple of hours, not feeling sick anymore from vomiting.

He still felt slightly queasy from vomiting all the time, so he decided to follow Stephanie's medical explanation given to him by drinking water and eating light snacks to keep his stomach from hurting.

"For someone who is a thief," Sam mumbled to himself after stepping out of his car. "She is very kind towards cops."

As he glanced to the side of him, he had a faint expression of sadness on his face as if he missed someone.

"Sam?" Sam perked after hearing one of the cops speaking his name and changed his expression.

"What?" he gruffly responded as the cop walked over to him.

"What are you doing here?" the first cop asked, cocking his head to the side slightly. "I thought you were in your headquarters sulking to yourself?"

"I was," Sam growled a little but sighed. "But someone who was with Saul the Killer Alligator escaped from her jail cell, and I am trying to find her."

"Oh, one of the suspects of yours?" The second cop mentioned, perking a little. "Does she wear a cameo sweater, long, medium brown hair, and two different eyes?"

"Yes, that's her!" Sam nodded her head. "You've seen her before?"

"Only in the museum." the second cop explained with a shrug of his shoulders. "She stole nothing from what I could see and only followed the group. When she

noticed you were in the museum with her, I saw her panicking as soon as she saw you.”

Sam blinked after the second cop mentioned and asked, “She panicked when she noticed me?”

“It seemed like it,” the first cop nodded. “Bucky here told me she was very terrified after seeing you and was trying to hide from you. It wasn’t from not trying to get caught and arrested, but like she had a phobia.”

‘A phobia of dogs,’ Sam thought to himself as the two cops talked to themselves. ‘That explains why she seemed so terrified of me while I was integrating her, but that does not mean why she stopped when she discovered that masked man wearing that mask.’

After he finished talking to the two cops about what they saw in the museum, Sam decided to find out who else was in the museum before it exploded.

He walked past a large group of people who were talking to others and themselves and taking photos of the remains of the museum.

Sam observed every person in the large group thoughtfully, thinking to himself about which one had stayed in the museum longer.

Suddenly, he spotted the familiar boar that was in the bathroom with him after...

Sam winces at the memory in his head but shakes it off and walks over to the boar as he glances up and recognizes Sam.

“Oh, hello!” the boar greeted. “Oh, wait. It was you who... yeah, sorry about that.”

“No, it’s fine,” Sam sighed. “You only had a bad stomach and couldn’t hold it in anymore. Can you answer a few questions?”

“Sure, shoot.” The boar nodded his head.

“Have you seen a young girl about this height, human, long brown hair, and-” Sam explained before being cut off when the boar finished, “Wearing a blue cameo sweater? Yeah, I know her!”

“You do?” Sam cocked his head a little after the boar nodded.

“Yeah!” the boar nodded again. “That lady is super sweet and forgiving! She gave me underwear and these pants after I completely soiled mine from all those bean burritos I ate!”

The boar lifted a leg up and showed Sam the pants Stephanie gave him, seeing they were his size and were in a dark black color.

“In gratitude for her kindness, I gave her an adorable pin I got from the LGBTQ Pride Festival!” the boar remarked.

“What did the pin look like?” Sam asked with a curious question.

“It has a rainbow skull with a halo, wings, and a devil tail!” the boar remarked with a bright smile on his face. “It suits her too since she has the face of an angel!”

‘I wouldn’t be too sure of that,’ Sam thought to himself after the boar remarked. ‘She may have the face of an angel, but she has the mind of a demon.’

“I’ll talk to you later,” Sam spoke.

“Sure thing!” the boar nodded.

After speaking with the boar, Sam walked away from the group and headed towards the museum, seeing the entire place was completely demolished.

‘This museum was over a hundred years old,’ Sam thought to himself as he stepped into the burnt-down museum. ‘It kept being remodeled since the old wood was starting to give away and soon replaced the place with a more modern appearance.’

As Sam entered the burnt-down museum, he looked around at the charred remains, noticing that most gemstones had survived, but others were severely damaged.

After that, he glanced up at the corners of the building to see if there was anything else left behind but paused when he noticed the cameras were half-destroyed and covered with water from the firefighters.

‘Wait a moment.’ Sam glanced up at the corners of the room where the crime had occurred, noting there were cameras as well. ‘Of course! Why didn’t I think of that? The cameras must have recorded the crime scene that had happened!’

So Sam ran back outside after noticing the cameras and went over to one of the trucks to see if he could enter one of them to look through the videos but paused when he recognized a familiar face standing at the back of one.

‘Oh, it’s Superball.’ Sam thought to himself as he sighed. ‘What is he doing here, though?’

Superball has short jet-black hair, fair skin, and his black shades hide his eyes.

He wears a black suit with a red tie and a white button-up dress shirt with black shoes.

Superball saw Sam and said, speaking to him as he walked up to him, “Wait a moment.”

He knocked on the side of the door in morse code as Sam looked slightly confused before stopping.

A response came from the other side of the door, and Superball glanced back over at Sam and said, “You may enter.”

“That easy?” Sam shrugged his shoulders.

“Of course,” Superball nodded his head. “Someone you may be familiar with is in the van.”

A more confused expression appeared on Sam’s face after Superball mentioned ‘someone you may be familiar with’ but opened the van doors.

As soon as he opened the van doors, someone jumped out from inside and hugged his middle with their arms.

“Sam!” Sam blinked after being knocked back a few steps back but glanced down to notice a familiar redhead.

“Geek?” Sam lifted the small person up from his chest, seeing it was, in fact, Geek.

Geek has an older appearance but still has short red hair, green eyes, and fair skin.

However, they wore black rectangular glasses, a dark green sweater with a light yellow shirt, dark red pants, and deep green sneakers.

“What are you doing here, Geek?” Sam spoke with a confused tone in his voice. “I thought you were back at home!”

“I watched the news that you were on another case,” Geek explained as Sam placed them down on the ground. “I was worried you might be hurt by the explosion, but you managed to survive it!”

“Because Ms. Stephanie had protected me from being harmed,” Sam calmly explained as Superball closed the van doors behind.

“Yes,” Geek nodded before clicking their keyboard into a computer. “I hacked into the database of the cameras since the cameras record what happens in the museum.”

“And what did you find?” Sam asked as he knelt down behind her.

“This.” Geek plays the video and shows the recording of the emerald along with a diamond.

Behind the corner, a person wearing a dog’s mask appears and runs over to the case containing the diamond.

They placed something on the case and pressed a button, watching as the glass vibrated before shattering.

The mysterious person then reached over to the diamond with both hands and grabbed it before struggling with it since it was heavy.

“Hey, that happened when that boar... um,” Sam paused a little as he winces.

“Farted?” Geek finished as Sam nodded his head. “Yep, but keep watching.”

So Sam glanced back at the computer screen and watched as Stephanie appeared minutes after the stranger ran away with the diamond, glancing around for a moment with a confused expression.

Then, she glanced over and noticed the diamond was missing from its case and cocked her head to the side.

Suddenly, the emerald sample in front of the large piece of emerald glows, and Stephanie glanced over at the example before taking out the same pocket watch Sam held before.

Like magic, the pocket watch floated out of Stephanie's hand, and the glass case protecting the emerald sample was unscrewed from the hinges.

As it lifted from the pedestal, the emerald floated up and went into the pocket watch after shrinking down and fitting into a gem slot.

“Whoa...” Sam remarked as Geek pushed their glasses into place.

“That's not all,” Geek remarked as the video continued. “See what else happens.”

After Stephanie's pocket watch received the emerald, the lights went out, and the same masked stranger appeared, running over to the large piece of emerald and shattering the glass.

The lights flickered back on, and Stephanie turned around to see the masked figure with the emerald in their arms.

Stephanie made motions with her hands to put the emerald back, but the stranger did not but took out their gun quickly and fired at her.

Sam expected Stephanie to collapse on the ground after the shot but instead pressed the pocket watch in her hand and transformed into a half bull.

“Hey, that’s when I came in and saw the scene!” Sam remarked after Geek stopped the video. “She used that pocket watch to transform into a bull! Even when I was chasing her through the streets and had transformed into a ram.”

“Huh,” Geek remarked with a gentle hum. “It seemed like that pocket watch activated with only a single press of a button. I’ll let you know when I search up some ideas about what it could be and look up who wears a Doberman mask.”

Sam paused a little after Geek told him before saying, “Darla, I think you should stay home.”

Geek stopped typing after Sam spoke and turned around to him, asking, “Why?”

“Because it is dangerous for you to be around me on these cases!” Sam mentioned. “What if I lose you like what happened to Max?”

“I want to help you find Max!” Geek argued as they clenched their hands. “He’s my dad too!”

“And again,” Sam huffed. “I don’t want you to get yourself caught.”

“I’ll stay in the van instead of getting out,” Geek explained, standing up from their chair. “You won’t worry about me if I step out!”

“But you will still be in trouble no matter what!” Sam argued. “Just... head back home and call me when you figure out who wears a Doberman mask and what the pocket watch is.”

Geek opened their mouth to argue with Sam but instead closed their mouth after he glared at her, responded, “Alright.”

Sam stepped out of the van as Superball moved to one side after Geek agreed with him.

‘Alright,’ Sam thought to himself after talking to Geek. ‘If I remember from the last conversation I overheard between Stephanie and Santiago, Stephanie was collecting gemstones to power her pocket watch to get back home.’

As Sam was thinking to himself, he walked back over to his car and sat down in the driver’s seat as he had a finger against his chin.

‘But what would happen if Stephanie *collected* all the gemstones?’ Sam thought to himself before shaking his head. ‘Whatever the case is, I need to stop Stephanie and Santiago from collecting the gemstones before something happens!’

So Sam drove out of the museum and started to follow where Stephanie and Santiago were heading to.

And that place is *Seaside World of Naturals* in Mexico.