



THE FRUCTOSE SAMURAI



THEY'RE NOT A TEAM. THEY'RE A CAST.

In
"Charles McGraw Returns to Hollywood"

Written By
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Follow the Fame of the Fructose Samurai

After their film franchise ended, eight Hollywood action stars took to the streets, fighting crime in the real world using their screen ready martial arts skills.

Their adventures are documented in a reality show that captures everything.

They're not a team, they're a cast!

FRUCTOSE SAMURAI
“Charles McGraw Returns to Hollywood”

CHARACTER LIST

STARRING

CHASTITY VIOLENTI
GIA VIOLENTI
BROOKE ADLER
SARA NAKAYAMA
JANE JULES
PAM WYATT
and DALE AURORA

WITH

OREN BILLINGS
and SENSEI KAI

GUEST STARRING (In Order of Appearance)

ALVIN DEAN KENSEY
SID
GUS GUSMAN
ANTON DRIES
JACK ST. JACKSON
THE DRAMATIC

FRUCTOSE SAMURAI
“Charles McGraw Returns to Hollywood”

SETS

REGULAR SETS

EXTERIORS (ESTABLISHING)

- FRUCTOSE SAMURAI INVESTIGATIONS
- SHUTTER SPEED CINEMA

INTERIORS

- FRUCTOSE SAMURAI INVESTIGATIONS
 - STRATEGY ROOM
 - TACTICAL DOJO
- SHUTTER SPEED CINEMA
 - MOVIE THEATRE

EXTERIORS

- SIDEWALK

EPISODE SPECIFIC SETS

INTERIORS

- REEL ACTOR'S HEADSHOTS
- BIGTIME STUDIOS - JACK'S OFFICE
- EAST VAN NUYS HIGH SCHOOL - THEATRE

EXTERIORS

- ALVIN'S PLACE

TEASER

FADE IN:

INT: REEL ACTOR'S HEADSHOTS - DAY

ALVIN DEAN KENSEY, 45, a short balding man with a bad combover, noxious breath, and a beer belly gut, leans on the counter just inside Reel Actor's Headshots, a photo-printing center in West Hollywood.

Moments later, SID, 21, emerges from the back, holding several boxes of photos.

SID

Here we are, Mr. Kensey!

Sid sets the photos on the counter.

ALVIN

Beautiful, beautiful...

Alvin takes the lid off the top box and removes a photo.

ALVIN

Amazing work! Deep contrast,
a glossy finish... That's why
you guys are the best!

SID

We aim to please, Mr. Kensey!

Alvin smiles, and then holds up the photo next to his face.

ALVIN

What do you think? Do I have
a shot at landing that new
Anton Dries picture?

Instantly, it's obvious that the photo Alvin is holding is not a picture of himself. Instead, it is of a striking and sophisticated looking actor.

Strangely, Sid seems not to notice.

SID

It's clearly you... And the black and white adds a whiff of old Hollywood charm. Anton Dries will love it!

ALVIN

It's like I always say, Sid. Don't send them a picture of yourself. Send them a picture of the character they need you to be!

Alvin picks up a marker on the counter, signs the photo, and then hands it to Sid.

SID

You're a wise man, Mr. Kensey...

ALVIN

It's called being an actor!

Alvin scoops up the boxes, and then starts for the door.

SID

So, should I be expecting you back next month for another order?

ALVIN

The way I'm scoring auditions... It's a guarantee!

And with that, Alvin is off.

Sid smiles, and then turns for the back room. Before he exits, GUS GUSMAN, 60, the owner of the store, steps through the front door, holding a takeout bag.

GUS

Sid! I need your expertise. I told them no cheese on my burger... I should have checked before walking back, but... You guessed it, halfway here, I started to notice the bag was a bit too heavy... So I unwrapped the burger on the corner of Wilshire and La Cienega, and... You guessed it again... A bright orange slice of cheddar.

SID

You can feel the weight of cheese?

GUS

Kid, working here for thirty years, I can tell how many 8x10 glossy's are in a stack with a zero percent margin of error! You think I can't feel the weight of cheese?

SID

No, I mean...

Gus cuts Sid off.

GUS

So, I'm going to need you to peel off the abhorrent slice and rinse the patty, do you think you can manage that?

Gus pushes the greasy bag into Sid's arms before he has a chance to respond.

SID

You want me to rinse the
patty...

Sid slowly unwraps the burger on the counter and starts to peel away the cheese.

GUS

Not want, kid, need! Now, did
anything important happen
while I was out?

SID

Oh, you should have been here!
Seeing him was the honor of a
lifetime!

GUS

Who?

SID

Only the greatest actor of our
time! Kinda my role model,
actually. Gave me some great
audition tips!

Gus laughs, almost incredulous.

GUS

Trust me, kid, ninety-nine
percent of actors go nowhere.
And all they're left with when
they're done is a stack of
headshots collecting dust in
the garage. Headshots, I
might add, that they paid
handsomely for!

SID

Maybe... But not Alvin Dean
Kensey.

Gus laughs again.

Sid rolls his eyes, half wanting to throw the peeled slice of cheese at Gus' head.

GUS

Alvin Dean Kensey!?! He's still hustling? If there's one guy who's sure not to make it, it's Kensey. He's been printing here for years! Long before I hired you... The guy can't act... He can't sing... And obviously, he won't be riding on his looks... Around town, his nickname is D-List.

Sid hands Gus the photo Alvin gave him.

SID

I don't know... I think he has that movie star look.

GUS

Who's this?

SID

Alvin Dean Kensey!

Gus continues to examine the photo.

GUS

I don't know who you just spoke to, but you can trust me on this... Whoever that was... It's was not Alvin Dean Kensey!

Gus hands Sid back the photo, and then exits to the back, leaving Sid alone at the counter.

FADE OUT:
END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT: FRUC. SAMURAI INVESTIGATIONS - TACTICAL DOJO - DAY

Six months later.

The Tactical Dojo...

CHASTITY VIOLENTI practices a kata, while her manager, OREN BILLINGS, 40, watches from the side.

OREN

It's kind of fitting that we're meeting here... I have something of an interesting offer.

CHASTITY

Oh? New movie?

Chastity continues the kata as she talks.

OREN

Not exactly. It's a fighting special. Like UFC, but you know... Not. They want you and the rest of the Fructose Samurai to duke it out on camera. After it's over, last one standing is crowned best team fighter.

CHASTITY

We're a cast, not a team. Doesn't this sound a bit tacky... We're not all Jake Paul trying to prove ourselves with exhibition fights. Our martial arts mean more to us than that.

OREN

The money is huge.

That doesn't sway Chastity. Oren continues.

OREN

And, yeah, your reality show is doing well. But this would give you a real chance to show people that your best fights aren't scripted.

Chastity pauses mid-move.

Then she turns to face Oren, realizing this conversation is more serious than she thought.

CHASTITY

They see that every day on the show.

OREN

And you're stars because of it. But reality television is inherently artificial.

CHASTITY

Not ours... Truth and honesty is literally part of the contract.

OREN

I know, I know. But audiences don't. And at the end of the day, you're still best known for the Intergalactic Ninja Society film franchise. To most people, you're stage fighters. This exhibition is the way to prove to everyone that you're not.

Chastity picks up where she left off in her kata.

CHASTITY

It doesn't sound like our kind
of thing.

OREN

It isn't. Which is exactly
the reason to do it. I don't
need your answer today. Just
think about it...

EXT: SHUTTER SPEED CINEMA - DAY

Shutter Speed Cinema, a retro theatre on Vine Street,
dedicated to playing vintage films from Hollywood's golden
age.

DALE (O/C)

So... What do you think?

INT: SHUTTER SPEED CINEMA - DAY

A dimly lit theatre. GIA VIOLENTI and DALE AROURA sit in
their regular seats in the back, the flickering light from
the projector, illuminating the space.

GIA

Pistol Harvest isn't my
favorite Joan Dixon film...
That would be Roadblock, but
this isn't bad.

DALE

Yeah, I tend to prefer film
noir over westerns, too...

GIA

Did you know both movies were
released exactly three days
apart?

DALE

Look at you with the obscure
cinema facts!

Gia sits smugly.

GIA

Impressed?

DALE

More enchanted!

GIA

I do have that effect... But
I'm sure you'll come up with
an obscure cinema fact to
impress me sometime soon.

DALE

Well, I do know that during
Joan Dixon's tenure at RKO
Pictures she was managed by...

Gia finishes Dale's sentence.

GIA

Howard Hughes... You're going
to have to go a lot deeper
than that, Dale!

DALE

I suppose I do!

A pause...

DALE

So, what do you think about
grabbing a bite to eat after
the movie? Blue Bar Sushi is
just around the corner!

Gia shakes her head.

GIA

Sounds amazing, but no...

DALE

No!?! Since when do you turn down lunch? Is this because you felt queasy after we dined at that less than spectacular pizza place I insisted on trying last week?

Gia laughs.

GIA

Definitely not! I have an appointment at the salon for a shave and color. Then I'm meeting up with Chastity to talk about a new case.

DALE

A new case?

GIA

That's what I hear... She's doing the preliminary interview with Brooke as we speak!

DALE

Really? That should be interesting!

GIA

Maybe... Though, from what I've heard, this one is a little... Peculiar.

Dale looks at Gia with a questioning expression.

INT: FRUC. SAMURAI INVESTIGATIONS - STRATEGY ROOM - DAY

Perfect for meeting new clients, the Fructose Investigations Strategy Room is a mid-century modern meets retro-future escape.

Chastity and BROOKE ADLER step through the main door, with film director ANTON DRIES, 50, following behind.

ANTON

The word the studio used was Crazy... Believe me, I know how it sounds... They think I'm coming up with excuses to explain a bad movie. I'm not! I've had flops... It happens.

CHASTITY

Of course! It's happened to us. Intergalactic Ninja Society IV was a complete failure.

ANTON

Was it ever! Talk about doing a project for the paycheck!

Brooke's temper flares.

BROOKE

Intergalactic IV was not a...

Chastity cuts in before Brooke loses it.

CHASTITY

Brooke...

BROOKE

Right... Not the time!

Chastity and Brooke take a seat on the couch. Anton takes a seat opposite them.

Brooke composes herself.

BROOKE

So, you sent over a screener
of your film, and I have to
say...

Anton cuts in.

ANTON

Let me guess... The lead
actor was a total misfire.

BROOKE

Completely! But clearly, you
already knew that.

CHASTITY

Weren't you watching the
dailies during production?
You'd have to have known.

ANTON

Of course! And that's why you
need to take my case. The
lead actor you're seeing in
the movie... It's supposed to
be Alvin Dean Kensey...

BROOKE

I've heard that name.

She turns towards Chastity.

BROOKE

Our manager, Oren, he's been
talking about Kensey for a
while. Apparently the guy has
booked and filmed several big
budget movies over the last
six months.

Anton nods.

ANTON

Yeah, including mine! I discovered the guy. But the man in my movie... It's not him!

CHASTITY

I don't understand.

Anton sighs.

ANTON

It's easier if I show you.

Anton removes a headshot of Alvin Dean Kensey from his satchel and slides it across the table.

It's the same photo Alvin had printed at Reel Actor's Headshots.

ANTON

This is the guy I cast.

CHASTITY

So... Why isn't he in the movie?

ANTON

He was! He auditioned, I cast him, and I filmed the entire movie with this man. After we wrapped production, I never saw him again! He was replaced with the guy you saw in the final cut... Every scene... Every frame... I personally went to Alvin Dean Kensey's house to get some answers. The guy that answered the door... The same guy who spontaneously appeared in my film.

Anton continues.

ANTON

Sure, he said he was Alvin
Dean Kensey... But he wasn't!
Even stranger... He acted
like we knew each other.
Brought up conversations we
had on set like he was
there... I thought I was
losing my mind!

CHASTITY

So... Let me see if I have
this...

Chastity pauses a moment to think it through.

CHASTITY

You filmed a movie with one
guy. He's not the guy who
ended up in the footage, nor
is he the guy who you visited
after production wrapped?

ANTON

Correct!

CHASTITY

That's impossible.

ANTON

The guy I cast, It's like he
disappeared. The only Alvin
Dean Kensey I can find is the
D-list hack!

Brooke flips the photo over, noting the printer logo in the
bottom corner.

BROOKE

This photo was printed at Reel Actor's Headshots... I know the place.

CHASTITY

Me too... It's in West Hollywood... That might be a good place to start, see if they know anything about the man in this picture.

ANTON

If anyone can figure it out, it's the Fructose Samurai. And I need answers, or my career is over... Don't let this be my final act!

Chastity and Brooke turn to each other, unsure of what exactly to say.

INT: FRUC. SAMURAI INVESTIGATIONS - TACTICAL DOJO - DAY

The dojo...

Sara, Jane, and Pam are in the middle of a sparring session, with Sara in the center, fending off various attacks from Jane and Pam.

After several moments of sparring, Chastity and Brooke step inside.

Sara evades a punch from Pam and counters, knocking her back.

Jane launches in with a flurry of punches and kicks, which Sara deflects and counters with a kick, ending the fight.

As Sara lands in her stance, she turns towards Chastity and Brooke.

SARA

So, do we have a new case?

CHASTITY

Maybe... You know, you just made that look easy.

Sara smiles as she helps Jane and Pam off the floor.

SARA

It wasn't...

JANE

Well, that's a relief.

PAM

Sara's kicks are deadly.

Pam turns towards Chastity.

PAM

How'd the preliminary interview go?

BROOKE

I'm not sure what to make of it.

CHASTITY

We were hired to find out why a lead actor that filmed an entire movie doesn't appear in the final cut...

JANE

I don't understand.

CHASTITY

You will. But first, I need you and Sara to check out the screener the director gave us...

SARA

What are we looking for?

CHASTITY

Anything that looks like the footage has been tampered with. Hard to do without the raw footage, but try your best.

BROOKE

You think the footage was altered?

CHASTITY

Not really, but we have to check.

Chastity, still holding the headshot of Alvin Dean Kensey, looks at the printer logo on the back.

CHASTITY

It's also important that we find the guy in this photo.

Chastity hands Brooke the photo.

CHASTITY

I'd like you to check out the photo lab to see if you can find out who or where this guy is.

BROOKE

That shouldn't be a problem!

Pam cuts in.

PAM

What about me?

CHASTITY

We'll be arranging a meeting with Jackson St. Jack, the studio head, to get his side on all this. I still have more questions.

PAM

Jackson St. Jack? You think he'll be helpful?

CHASTITY

Personally, I don't care for the guy. He's loud, angry, and uncreative. Also swears like a sailor. At least, he used to... About a year ago, he was told by his cardiologist that he needed to control his rage. Now he fake swears every other word.

PAM

Fake swears? Like dang and phooey?

CHASTITY

Not exactly... You'll hear it when you meet him.

Brooke studies the Picture of Alvin Dean Kensey.

BROOKE

What do you think? Any chance this guy ever spent a day on the set of this picture?

CHASTITY

One way or another, we'll get to the bottom of it.

INT: REAL ACTOR'S HEADSHOTS

Brooke steps inside.

She looks around at the various headshots hanging on the wall, quickly spotting the signed photo of Alvin Dean Kensey, now hanging up.

Moments later, Sid steps out from the back room, immediately excited to see Brooke.

SID

Brooke Adler! Don't tell me
you're here for new headshots!

Brooke smiles.

BROOKE

You never know... Maybe. But
today I'm here on Fructose
Samurai business.

SID

Like for the show?

BROOKE

You're on the show! Right
now, actually.

SID

Really? Wow! Where are the
cameras?

Sid glances around the room.

BROOKE

Trade secret... But we are
filming, trust me. I'm
wondering if you know anything
about a client of yours?

Sid frowns.

SID

Oh, that... We're not really allowed to share info like that with the public. Privacy and all...

Brooke smiles, not deterred in the slightest. She'll get what she wants.

BROOKE

Oh, that's not any kind of official rule... Besides, if you're able to help me, I'm sure I can get you more screentime on the episode... You're an actor, right?

SID

Well, yeah...

Another smile from Brooke. She has Sid right where she wants him.

BROOKE

I knew it! You already look the part. So, what can you tell me about this man?

Brooke removes the headshot from her purse, unfolds it, and hands it to Sid.

SID

Oh, Mr. Kensey! He's great! He's coming by today to pick up another batch of photos.

Sid points to the picture of Alvin, hanging up behind him.

SID

Got the same headshot signed on the wall.

BROOKE

And you're sure this is him...
Alvin Dean Kensey?

SID

Yeah...

BROOKE

This guy?

Sid starts to get exasperated, unsure why Brooke keeps asking.

SID

Yeah! I don't really get the question.

Brooke nods.

BROOKE

What do you think about me sticking around until he gets here? I'd love to have a chat with him.

SID

Well... If it'll get me more screen time. And... Only if you're a fan.

Brooke smiles.

BROOKE

Oh, trust me... Huge fan!

FADE OUT:
END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT: FRUC. SAMURAI INVESTIGATIONS - STRATEGY ROOM - DAY

Sara and Jane sit in front of the television, scanning through footage of the film.

SARA

This is some of the worst acting I've seen in my life... The man can't act, he has zero charisma...

JANE

It's not even at the point of being so bad it's good. It's just... Bad! Undeniably bad!

Dale steps inside.

DALE

How's it coming?

SARA

We've been sifting through footage all morning... From what I'm seeing, it isn't tampered with.

Dale turns his attention to the television.

DALE

That's the actor?

SARA

If you can call him that...

Dale notices a headshot of Alvin Dean Kensey resting next to Sara, and picks it up.

DALE

Who's this?

JANE

That's the guy that the director says he cast and filmed... Clearly not the guy in the final cut...

Dale studies the picture.

DALE

I've seen this actor before.

SARA

Alvin Dean Kensey.

DALE

No... That's not right. I can't quite place him... The way he's dressed, the way he looks... It's like it's from...

Suddenly, it all clicks. Dale's eyes widen as he studies the photo closer.

DALE

Hold on... It's not possible.

JANE

What's not possible?

Dale continues to examine the picture.

DALE

If I'm right, we're looking for a ghost... I need to talk to Gia...

Dale exits.

Sara and Jane turn to each other, shrugging.

SARA

He needs to talk to Gia!

Then they turn back to the television.

INT: BIGTIME STUDIOS - JACK'S OFFICE - DAY

A stylish and modern office. JACK ST. JACKSON, 60, leads Chastity and Pam inside.

JACK

The unfortunate fact is,
you're wasting your time... I
already know what happened.

Jack takes a seat behind his desk as Chastity and Pam sit across from him.

CHASTITY

You do?

JACK

It doesn't take a genius to
see that my director
completely deuced the bed on
this one.

PAM

That's what we're looking
into. He claims that the man
in the final cut isn't who he
filmed.

JACK

Gave me that line of bull
himself. Now tell me, do I
look like a moron? Do I look
like someone who would believe
that grade A pile of manure?
No, I don't!

Jack continues.

JACK

I'm a normal, thinking, human being! I have a brain! My director... That two-bit UTI with a camera... Not so much.

PAM

UTI with a camera!?!

JACK

I'm sorry... Am I offending you?

CHASTITY

Brooke is trying to find the actor you hired... It would help to know who exactly you paid...

JACK

You don't think we followed the money? We did! I'm not someone who lets someone else flush millions down the crapper and not ask questions. But the fact is, we hired Alvin Dean Kensey. We paid Alvin Dean Kensey. And the man in the final cut... That is Alvin Dean Kensey. Our pustule of a director is trying to escape studio wrath... My wrath... But it isn't going to work.

PAM

Could you tell us who the man in this picture is?

Pam hands Jack the headshot of Alvin Dean Kensey.

JACK

That's easy! This is the bogus actor our idiot director claims he hired. Along with a cast and crew so obviously covering for him... You want to meet the real Alvin Dean Kensey... The D-List hack who suckered his way into production... I'll give you his address.

Chastity and Pam look at each other.

CHASTITY

Yeah, that could help!

EXT: REAL ACTOR'S HEADSHOTS - NIGHT

The sun is beginning to set.

SID (O/C)

So, my first question is...
At what temp do you rinse off
a burger.

INT: REAL ACTOR'S HEADSHOTS - NIGHT

Sid leans against the counter, in the middle of a conversation with Brooke.

SID

I would think in hot water,
but to be honest, I've never
rinsed a burger before.

BROOKE

It is a unique request...

Before the conversation can continue, Alvin steps through the door, looking just as he usually does, unimpressive, and nothing like his headshot.

Brooke spins around.

BROOKE

Alvin Dean Kensey.

ALVIN

Brooke Adler! I don't believe we've had the pleasure.

BROOKE

I recognized you from your picture! You're a hard man to track down.

Brooke holds up the picture.

BROOKE

This is you, right?

ALVIN

Well, of course... You've been looking for me?

Alvin turns towards Sid.

ALVIN

What is this, Sid, some kind of ambush?

SID

What? No...

BROOKE

Not an ambush. We just have some questions... About your recent movie.

Alvin nods.

ALVIN

You'd have to be more specific. Unlike you, I'm not riding on a single franchise. I've been cast in six big pictures this year. First to release is with...

BROOKE

Anton Dries. I saw a screener.

ALVIN

You did! Then you must... What did you think of my performance?

BROOKE

You didn't quite look like yourself.

ALVIN

Well, I was in makeup! And with lighting... It changes everything... Why exactly were you looking for me?

BROOKE

Well, it's just that... The final cut.

ALVIN

So, this is an ambush...

Alvin turns to Sid.

ALVIN

And you helped her... I'm honestly hurt, Sid.

SID

Mr. Kensey... No...

ALVIN

I'm not sure I'm comfortable
doing business here any
further... Destroy the
pictures, Sid. I'll take my
printing elsewhere!

Alvin storms out.

Sid turns to Brooke, annoyed.

SID

You just lost us our best
customer.

BROOKE

No... Something more is going
on, Sid. I just don't know
what!

INT: FRUC. SAMURAI INVESTIGATIONS - STRATEGY ROOM - NIGHT

Dale sits down, next to Gia.

He hands her the headshot of Alvin Dean Kensey.

DALE

I think I'm starting to figure
it out. Who do you see in
this picture?

Gia studies it.

GIA

It's obvious, isn't it? I
mean, we were just talking
about his film the other day.
That's Charles McGraw! From
Roadblock.

DALE

So, I'm not crazy!

GIA

What's going on?

DALE

This is the guy our client
claims to have cast in his
movie.

GIA

Well, that's impossible.

Dale nods.

DALE

Yeah, I know... Which is why
I think it's time we share our
findings with the rest of the
cast!

FADE OUT:
END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

INT: SHUTTER SPEED CINEMA - DAY

The team is assembled... Chastity, Gia, Brooke, Sara, Jane, Pam, and Dale... All sitting in the back of the theater.

DALE

The answer was in front of our eyes the entire time... We just weren't looking in the right place.

BROOKE

And the answer is here? At Shutter Speed Cinema?

Gia cuts in.

GIA

In a way... The film we're watching... It's a Joan Dixon Classic. Roadblock! Dale and I were just talking about it the other day.

CHASTITY

You were?

DALE

We both agreed that this was her best film. And she steals the show... A classic femme fatale. But it's her co-star we're more interested in at the moment...

GIA

Charles McGraw!

JANE

Never heard of him...

GIA

Not surprising. In his day,
he was a star. But most
people don't know their
Hollywood history... And his
fifteen minutes of fame ended
decades ago.

Dale points to the screen.

DALE

This is his introduction...
Take a good look, and see if
you don't recognize him from
somewhere...

Brooke leans in, suddenly understanding.

BROOKE

That's him! Alvin Dean
Kensey! But... He'd have to
be well into his 90's...

SARA

Probably older.

DALE

If he were alive, he'd be over
one-hundred. Charles McGraw
died in 1980. After slipping
in the bathroom and crashing
through his shower door. He
bled out before paramedics
ever got there.

PAM

So... He's been dead for
almost fifty years.

Brooke looks confused.

BROOKE

Then who did I see at the
photo lab?

DALE

That's the part I'm stumped
on...

Chastity starts to connect the dots.

CHASTITY

I think I'm starting to
understand... What we're
dealing with, is some kind of
Hollywood catfish.

SARA

A Hollywood catfish?

CHASTITY

Yes, but it's more than that.
Brooke saw Alvin as Charles
McGraw. The director filmed
Alvin as Charles McGraw. But
then, when he visited Alvin at
his house, No Charles
McGraw... Just Alvin. And
the camera saw Alvin as he
truly was... All along.
That's why Alvin used Charles
McGraw's photo. He couldn't
fool the cameras. And if
you're going to fake a
headshot, why not pick an
actor long forgotten?

JANE

What you're talking about is
some kind of advanced...
Hypnotism?

Chastity nods.

CHASTITY

Maybe... I'm starting to think Alvin Dean Kensey's true gift is his ability to make us believe he is who he wants us to believe he is.

BROOKE

Maybe... It's a big leap. But I saw Charles McGraw. And so did the director.

CHASTITY

It's time we pay Alvin a visit. And thanks to our little meeting at the studio... We have an address!

EXT: ALVIN'S PLACE - DAY

Alvin Dean Kensey, turns into his driveway and parks his car.

He steps out of the car, takes a bag of groceries, and makes his way to the front door, stopping immediately as he sees Chastity and Gia standing at his front door.

ALVIN

Chastity and Gia Violenti...
I'm surprised!

CHASTITY

Are you? You did meet with Brooke at the photo lab. Though... I'm not sure that was really you. If you know what I mean...

Alvin shuffles past Chastity and Gia, as he starts to unlock his door.

ALVIN

I don't have time for this!

CHASTITY

Of course... I'm just
wondering... Which Charles
McGraw movie is your favorite.

Alvin stops cold.

ALVIN

So... You know...

CHASTITY

Why don't you come with us...
Back to Fructose Samurai
Investigations. We have
questions!

ALVIN

No.

CHASTITY

At the very least, you'll be
on the show...

Alvin reconsiders.

FADE OUT:
END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

INT: FRUC. SAMURAI INVESTIGATIONS - STRATEGY ROOM - DAY

Chastity hands Alvin a cup of tea and takes a seat across from him, and next to Gia.

ALVIN

I'm not a criminal. I'm an actor!

CHASTITY

When Brooke saw you at the photo lab, she saw Charles McGraw. I don't. And when the camera sees you...

Alvin cuts in.

ALVIN

The illusion has limits.

CHASTITY

Let's start at the beginning... How did you get this ability?

ALVIN

You wouldn't believe me if I told you.

GIA

Try us...

ALVIN

I was working for years, no luck. They said I couldn't act! Couldn't sing... Couldn't dance... Obviously I can't model...

Alvin sighs.

ALVIN

But despite that...
Performing is all I ever
wanted to do. You're actors.
You get it... If you didn't
land Intergalactic Ninja
Society all those years ago,
wouldn't you still be out
there, hustling to make it
happen?

CHASTITY

I'd like to think the answer
would be yes...

ALVIN

Well, I think you would. And
if someone came along...
Offering to make you the lead
in any film you wanted...
Wouldn't you have taken it?

Chastity nods.

CHASTITY

Yeah, I think I probably
would.

ALVIN

Well, that's all I did.

GIA

So, what exactly happened?

Alvin thinks about how to answer the question.

ALVIN

He called himself The
Dramatic. He said he was an
acting ghost.

Gia is incredulous.

GIA

Sorry, acting ghost?

ALVIN

Maybe acting spirit, I don't really remember. Anyway, I auditioned for him... Did my famous Hamlet monologue.

CHASTITY

You have a famous Hamlet monologue?

ALVIN

Of course... All actors need a paragraph or two of Shakespeare in their back pocket. And the acting ghost liked it!

Alvin smiles.

ALVIN

So much so, that he gave me a makeup case...

CHASTITY

A makeup case?

ALVIN

At first I didn't understand. Not until I tried the makeup. When I put it on, it suddenly made sense. Almost like instinct... Through the simple application, I could make people think I was anyone. In the case of my last film, Charles McGraw, a forgotten golden age actor, who was ready for a comeback.

CHASTITY

But it didn't exactly work?

ALVIN

More precisely it isn't permanent. When I'm wearing the makeup, like I was with Brooke the other day, she saw who I wanted her to see. When I filmed my film, they saw it, too. And even though it isn't what the camera saw, the cast and crew continued to see the illusion. I think, maybe, because I was still in character. But after production wrapped... The day of... The illusion faded away... And just like Cinderella at the stroke of midnight, I turned back into a pumpkin.

GIA

She didn't turn into a pumpkin.

ALVIN

Sure she did! Right after she lost her slipper.

GIA

No, her carriage turned into a pumpkin. Cinderella stayed human.

Alvin isn't so sure.

ALVIN

Agree to disagree.

CHASTITY

The studio will likely vault
your film before release.

ALVIN

Unfortunate, but I still got
paid for the job.

Chastity continues pushing her point.

CHASTITY

And if this happened in this
picture, it's sure to happen
in the others that you filmed.

ALVIN

The illusion has limits. Like
I said.

CHASTITY

Right... So, why continue?

ALVIN

I'm not following. I told you
I got paid.

CHASTITY

But wouldn't you like to see
your films get released? What
if there was a way to keep the
illusion intact? It's like
you said... The makeup
doesn't change anything about
you physically. It just
changes our perception of who
you are. It gives you the
freedom to build the illusion.
More specifically, it gives
you the freedom to build your
character. The illusion faded
after production because you
stopped believing in the
performance.

Gia isn't convinced.

GIA

That's another big leap.

CHASTITY

I was right with my first big leap... And I'm not so sure this one is as big. An actor creates a character... Finds the truth of the character in the performance. If you can do that, hold onto that truth... Then the performance remains honest. After production wrapped, you dropped it. Cashed the paycheck, so to speak. You want to act, sure... But you don't want to be an actor. If you did, we'd never stop believing what we saw on camera.

ALVIN

I'm not following. At all...

Chastity gets up.

CHASTITY

Let me show you.

Chastity walks to the television in the corner, and pushes play on the screen of Alvin's film.

CHASTITY

I want you to put yourself back in the mindset of your character. Right now... With all your heart.

Alvin sighs.

ALVIN

I can try, but I really don't think...

CHASTITY

Just be an actor for a minute.

Gia continues to watch the film.

Alvin closes his eyes, trying to find the truth of his character.

GIA

Chastity... Look...

Chastity looks at the screen and smiles.

CHASTITY

You're doing it... It's...

GIA

I see the performance! More strangely, I see Charles McGraw.

CHASTITY

It isn't Charles McGraw. It's the character Alvin wanted to be.

Alvin looks at the screen.

ALVIN

It's me, but... Also.

CHASTITY

The role.

Suddenly, Alvin relaxes, and the performance fades.

GIA

Wait... It vanished!

Chastity turns to Alvin.

CHASTITY

What happened?

ALVIN

I can't maintain it. It's too hard...

CHASTITY

That's the acting part.

Alvin shakes his head.

ALVIN

No. I starred in six movies this year. Six! With this makeup kit, I can become anyone. And that's all I need to land the role. We're not talking about performing. We're talking about auditioning. If the studio isn't happy with the final cut... After it's all said and done, that's their problem. They hired Alvin Dean Kensey, and they got Alvin Dean Kensey, warts and all.

CHASTITY

But if it isn't honest, or real...

ALVIN

No performance is real!
That's why it's called acting.
The last place to find truth
and honesty is at the movies!

Gia is incredulous.

GIA

That's not true!

ALVIN

Before this makeup kit, do you know what they used to call me? D-List! Alvin D-List Kensey... Everywhere I went! Do you know how humiliating that was? But now, I'm a star. Not an artist searching for truth. Not an actor... A star! You think my films won't get released... They will. Because some profit is better than zero. And maybe I won't be remembered for some kind of nuanced performance. But I will be remembered! That's enough!

Chastity is disappointed.

CHASTITY

I thought we could find common ground. But we can't. Because you're not really an actor. We'll tell the studios about you... Alvin Dean Kensey, no matter what he looks like, will never get a part again.

ALVIN

Maybe not. But Alvin Dean Kensey doesn't have to audition anymore. A simple stage name fixes everything. The studios will think with each role, they've cast the next Lawrence Olivier.

Alvin laughs.

ALVIN

But they'll really be getting D-List... And if I'm being honest, it serves them right. This town is tough.

GIA

What you're doing is wrong.

ALVIN

It's not illegal. And you really can't stop me. I could be anyone. Maybe even the guy cast in your next picture.

Alvin takes a final sip of tea, and then walks to the door.

ALVIN

Oh, and because it really doesn't matter anymore... If you want to find the guy who did this... Check out East Van Nuys High School... The auditorium... My alma mater. That's where this all started. I worked janitorial after graduating. Just be there at precisely 2:59... AM...

Alvin stands up, removing a key from his pocket. He hands it to Chastity and then exits.

EXT: EAST VAN NUYS HIGH SCHOOL - NIGHT

A full moon and decidedly spooky night...

GIA (O/C)

Do you think he was setting us up?

INT: VAN NUYS HIGH SCHOOL - THEATRE - NIGHT

Chastity, Gia, and Dale step onto the stage, looking around.

CHASTITY

Maybe. But so far, it's a very typical high school stage.

DALE

Even the smell is familiar. Do you miss it?

CHASTITY

The stage?

GIA

There was an energy to those high school productions. Something about being fully about the craft... The art.

Chastity nods.

CHASTITY

That can happen on set, too... But lately... There's a studio element I just don't love. I'm in this business to find the truth.

GIA

Something Alvin Dean Kensey doesn't fully understand. But you've always been truthful about your performances.

Chastity seems almost unconvinced.

CHASTITY

I suppose.

A pause.

DALE

What? You're having doubts?

CHASTITY

Not exactly, no... I met with Oren a few days ago... He was pushing for us to sign on to an exhibition fight, all of us duking it out in the ring...

GIA

Sounds awful!

CHASTITY

Oh, I turned him down. But something he said bothered me. He said that it would be a good chance to show the world that we can really take a punch. That we could prove our best fights weren't scripted.

GIA

I think what we do as the Fructose Samurai already proves that.

Chastity nods.

CHASTITY

That's what I told him. And, if I'm being honest, myself, too. But to the outside world, that's all reality television, and if there's one thing people know, it's that reality television isn't real at all.

DALE

That's Oren talking. That's why we're different.

CHASTITY

The audience doesn't know that.

GIA

People know when they're being lied to. Even on stage.

CHASTITY

It is the job of the actor to find the truth in a role. And to show it. I'm an action star. A genre inherently larger than life and exaggerated. But even within that genre, it's still my job to find the truth in the action... The fight. So, when Oren said that it was a chance to prove myself...

GIA

It was like he was saying your films never did that. That the fight wasn't real. That they weren't truthful.

CHASTITY

Exactly.

GIA

Then he's an idiot. I know what you put into them. All of you... And if you found that truth, then it's there. And not that it matters... Because it doesn't. Audiences loved those films, too.

CHASTITY

I think... Alvin Dean Kensey
reminded me... Indirectly...
What we do is more than just
memorizing lines and showing
up to set. We don't write the
words, but we tell the story.
And it's our truth that makes
it honest.

Suddenly the stage lights surge on, and THE DRAMATIC, an
aged actor in a flowing robe, emerges from behind the
curtain.

A spotlight bathes him light.

THE DRAMATIC

Welcome! My name is Dramatic,
and I understand you want to
refine your craft...

FADE OUT:
END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

INT: VAN NUYS HIGH SCHOOL - THEATRE - NIGHT

Chastity, Gia, and Dale look towards the stage, at The Dramatic, who stands poised in the spotlight.

THE DRAMATIC

Your courage brought you to me, but you will not leave without my test.

CHASTITY

We came here to ask what you did to Alvin Dean Kensey.

THE DRAMATIC

I merely activated the actor within. Giving him his ultimate desire... To be whoever he wants. To win the audition!

GIA

And who are you?

THE DRAMATIC

I am The Dramatic... Comedy and tragedy rolled into one. I am all acting, all performance, personified.

DALE

I think, maybe, the better question is what are you?

THE DRAMATIC

Only the craft. Nothing more and nothing less.

Gia turns to Chastity.

GIA

What do you think?

CHASTITY

He's the Dramatic...

THE DRAMATIC

You are not masters of the craft. You are performers, yes... But not true actors in the raw and pure sense of the word. The soul of the stage is not inside you. Instead, it is that of a warrior. I can amplify your strength! But first, you must prove you're worthy.

CHASTITY

How?

THE DRAMATIC

Through combat!

CHASTITY

You challenged Alvin Dean Kensey to combat? And he accepted?

THE DRAMATIC

His test was one of performance. A simple audition. And he was rewarded with all roles. Your performance is captured through the physical. Action, stunts, movement.... It is a different skill, but still uses the body to tell story. Now, prepare yourself!

The Dramatic drops into a fighting stance.

Chastity, Gia, and Dale phase into their Fructose Armor.

A fight ensues, and a flurry of punches and kicks are traded back and forth. Then in a final show of strength, Chastity knocks down the Dramatic.

Almost supernaturally, he rises back up.

THE DRAMATIC

You have proven yourselves.
And you will be rewarded, take
it!

The Dramatic gestures to the other side of the room. A box now appears on stage, in the spotlight.

Chastity, Gia, and Dale turn back to the Dramatic, watching as he vanishes behind a curtain.

Then they turn their attention to the box. After walking over, Gia reaches out to open it, but Chastity grabs her arm, to stop her.

CHASTITY

Don't touch it...

GIA

But think about it... Alvin
Dean Kensey became the
ultimate actor, what would
this do to our fighting?

CHASTITY

It isn't real. And you were
right. There is truth in our
performance. We don't need
this. Alvin Dean Kensey's
gift didn't help him. Neither
will this.

Gia nods

GIA
Aren't you at least curious?

CHASTITY
Skill can't be given as a
gift.

EXT: CELLULOID CINEMA - DAY

A sunny afternoon.

CHASTITY (O/C)
I don't know which part of
this story I expect you to
believe...

INT: CELLULOID CINEMA - DAY

Chastity sits next to Anton.

ALVIN
That Alvin Dean Kensey
projected an image of who he
wanted you to think he was...
Or that he was gifted this
ability from a powerful acting
spirit calling himself The
Dramatic. Or that the actor
you thought you cast was a
golden age actor forgotten in
Hollywood history.

ANTON
It all sounds insane...

Chastity nods.

CHASTITY
Yeah... But at least now you
know you're not.

ANTON

The studio isn't going to believe a word of this, you know. No matter what, my film is doomed, and after the release, so is my career.

Anton stuffs a handful of popcorn in his mouth.

CHASTITY

You said it yourself, we all have flops. After Intergalactic Ninja Society IV bombed, my career was nearly over. But then... Just like that... It wasn't.

Anton

You're really satisfied with this... Reality show?

CHASTITY

We solve crimes. We help people. And as an actor that specializes in action, I'm able to bring that truth to the camera. Take some time, figure out what you want your next film to be about.

ANTON

I have been thinking about that. And after this whole experience, I'm toying with the idea of doing something supernatural. Maybe when I get something written, you'd consider a role?

CHASTITY

I'm not opposed...

She stands up.

CHASTITY

Well, I better get going... I have an appointment with the rest of the team, don't want to be late. We're all sparring.

ANTON

Getting ready for a televised fight. I heard rumblings of something like that.

Chastity slides out of her chair and grabs her purse.

CHASTITY

Nah, with the referees and rules, it wouldn't be honest. And that's not us...

Chastity exits.

INT: FRUC. SAMURAI INVESTIGATIONS - STRATEGY ROOM - DAY

SENSEI KAI, instructor of the Fructose Samurai stands at the head of the dojo.

The Fructose Samurai, all phased in their Fructose Armor, spar with one another, refining their technique.

A moment later, Chastity is hit with a punch, as she gets up, she phases out of her armor, and takes a place next to Sensei Kai.

SENSEI KAI

You don't usually miss a kick like that.

CHASTITY

Nobody's perfect.

Sensei Kai nods.

SENSEI KAI

There's always more to learn.

A pause.

SENSEI KAI

Maybe. I heard that you had the chance to take all of fighting and make it your own.

CHASTITY

Yeah, I'm not so sure that was ever the case. I'm also not sure we fully solved the case... Gia asked me... When we got to the auditorium, if we were being set up...

Another pause.

CHASTITY

We were. Alvin Dean Kensey knew, once we knew the truth, we could never release the episode. Too many non-actors would seek out The Dramatic. It was his way to escape.

SENSEI KAI

What's the worst that can happen?

CHASTITY

Nothing that'll destroy the world... But for all those filmmakers out there... Looking to put truth to screen... They'll have to be careful. Because if they're not, the final cut could star a true D-List hack...

SENSEI KAI

Yep... Not the end of the
world. The Dramatic's gifts
can only cause so much
trouble...

INT: EAST VAN NUYS HIGH SCHOOL - THEATRE - NIGHT

A MYSTERIOUS FIGURE, bathed in shadows steps onto the stage,
and takes the unopened box left behind by The Dramatic...

FADE OUT:
END OF ACT FIVE