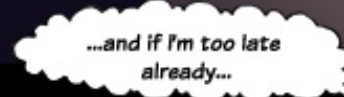


# SONIC THE HEDGEHOG SEASON 3



## CHAPTER 2







Come on, guys,  
this is crazy!



Look, we're all bummed  
Snivley 'n' Naugus are workin' together  
to keep Robuttnik's Empire goin',



but sittin' around mopin' about it  
won't do us any good!

We beat Robuttnik,  
we can beat these guys too!



sigh

It isn't that simple, Sonic.  
Naugus was someone who even  
Robotnik was scared of, after all...

Oui...zis Naugus,  
from what I am told,  
he is a hairyfull fiend...

That's "horrible", Ant...

Zee point eez zat 'e ees powerful  
in ways we do not know 'ow to deal with  
as we did with Robotneek.

Plus, I can't return to Robotropolis now.

I'm the only Drone unaccounted for  
after Doomsday went up in smoke...  
he'd figure out I was a Spy in a heartbeat.

SO?

OK, fine, we're startin' at a disadvantage,  
but that's never stopped us before!

We know all that, Sonic!  
And we know we can't  
sit around and wait forever.

I've tangled with Horn-Head twice now  
'n' walked away just fine, 'n' we didn't have  
Unc spying for us when we started  
this whole mess anyway!

But Antoine is right:  
this isn't the same fight we had with Robotnik!  
And that means we need to  
approach it more carefully than before!

C'mon, you two;  
whatever the solution to this problem is,  
we all know it isn't fighting with each other.

...Right.

Still...that does beg th' question:  
what in the hoo-haw're we s'posed t'do now?



The only thing we can do!

If the problem is we don't know enough 'bout Naugus, then we just gotta try 'n' find out more!



...right?



Right, Tails.



Heh heh...

I smell a mission brewin', Sal!



Don't get too excited, Sonic. I still stand by what I said before...

Buuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuut...



...but it is time to take action.

YES!













Coast's clear, guys.

We'll split into teams, get a full feel of what Snivley's done with the city, then rendezvous outside the Citadel in ninety minutes.

Bunnie, you're with me, we'll head to the West side. Tails, Sonic, and Antoine will head East. We'll rendezvous back here in one hour.

Remember, keep in contact and stay alert. Naugus' magic can sneak up on you, so you have to pay attention.

OK...Ready?

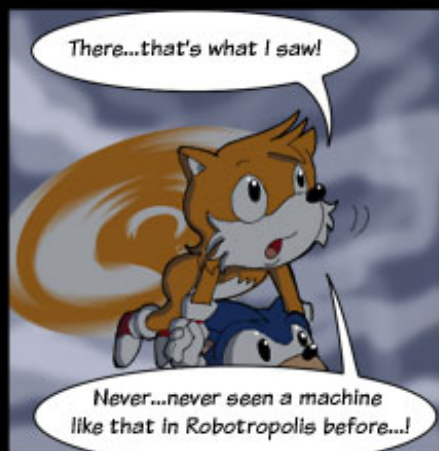
Ready 'n' Steady!

Let's do it to it!

Them again...interesting...







There...that's what I saw!

Never...never seen a machine like that in Robotropolis before...!



Me either...

Hey, don't poop yourself out, kiddo, you can take us back down; I've seen what I need to see.



EEEEEEEE!!!

whump



Whoa, WHOA!  
At ease there, soldier-boy.



My apologies...  
I am, 'ow you zay, a bit lumpy?

Normally, I'd correct you 'n' say "jumpy", but honestly?  
Can't say you're wrong this time.



Hmph!  
So...what did you find?

Somethin' that don't belong.  
We'd better check it out.

OK, just...  
just gimme a sec first, OK?



Hm hm hm...see, Naugus?

Now that Julian's robots have been reprogrammed to obey me, things are running along *quite* smoothly!

Maybe now you'll acknowledge my technological prowess, eh?

I've no interest in giving your wind-up toys much mind, Snivley, *especially* not before they've shown they're capable of achieving our goals.

Tch...they're *more* than capable, the question is whether *you* have your facts straight about these... what did you call them again?

Chaos Emeralds.

Primordial relics said to harness the power of the very Universe... I learned of them while researching the Void.

How *much* did you learn?

Enough...

...though I admit, specific information on them was scarce. Most of what I found came from the myths of long-dead cultures, the Mandarra in particular, and they all spoke of the Emeralds with reverent caution.

Supposedly, the seven Emeralds, scattered across the planet, are physical manifestations of the wild Elements that form our world-fire, water, wind, rock, forest, light, and darkness-that, when gathered together, can bend the very fabric of reality.

Whoever controls all Seven, then, would have potentially *unlimited* power...

Something a man of your... heh heh...*prestige*... could most certainly find useful.

At the very least, it would solve your Rodent problem, eh?

True, true...

And even if the Emeralds do prove to be only a Fairy Tale, I'm sure we can find other uses for our new Scanning Apparatus.

After all, if it can pick up sources of concentrated energy like your supposed Emeralds, it could also track those blasted Gold Rings the Hedgehog is so fond of.

I still say you should let me use my Magic to track them instead...

Yes, well, you're not the one in charge, are you?

My Apparatus is far more reliable than any silly spell, and once we create a mobilized version... hm hm...the possibilities will be endless.

Of course, using a Scanner of that magnitude will put a strain on the City's Power Grid...

... but it will be more than worth it if it means stamping out those verminous Freedom Fighters once and for all.

INTRUDERS  
DETECTED  
092.930.281.38

INTRUDER ALERT  
092.930.281.38

It would seem our new Project has attracted the attention of a certain Blue Pest...

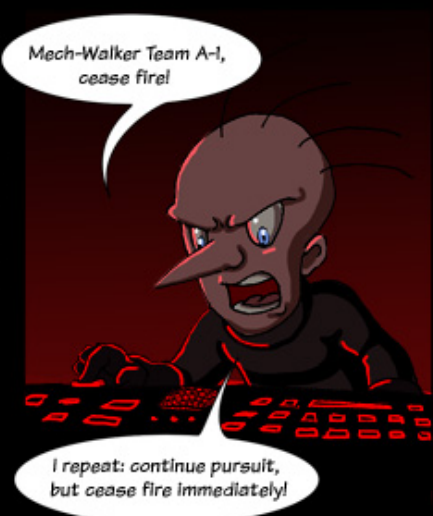
I suppose you want me to take care of them?

Tch! After your miserable failure last time? Go, but take a Mech-Walker team with you.

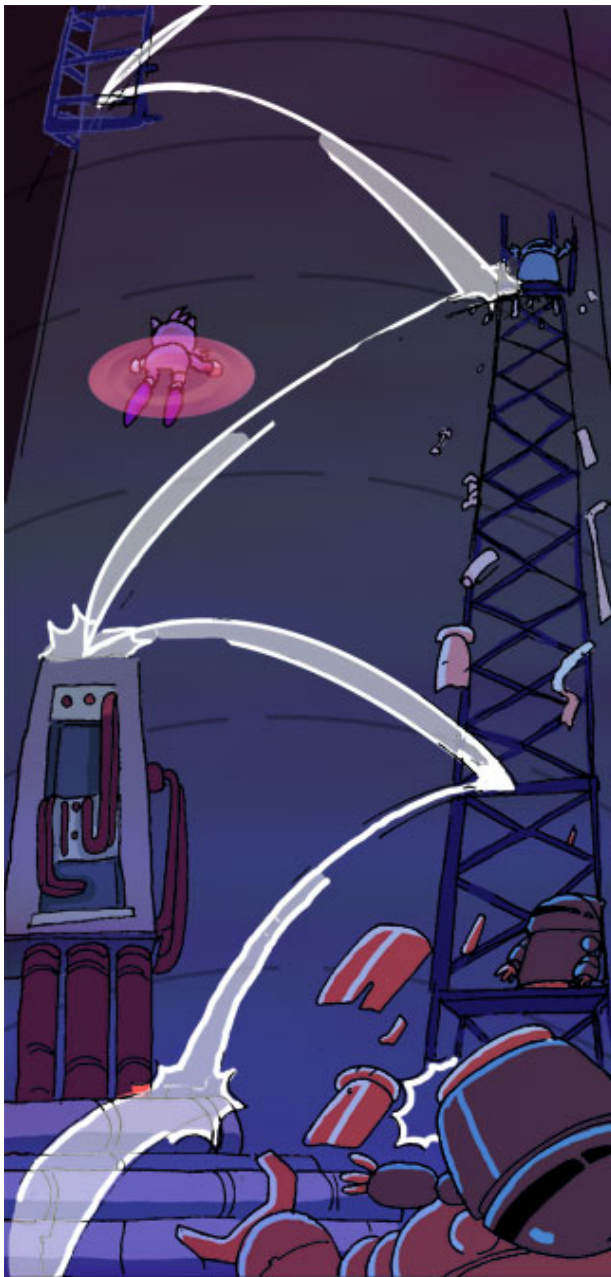
I'll order a squad to rendezvous with you at the Apparatus.

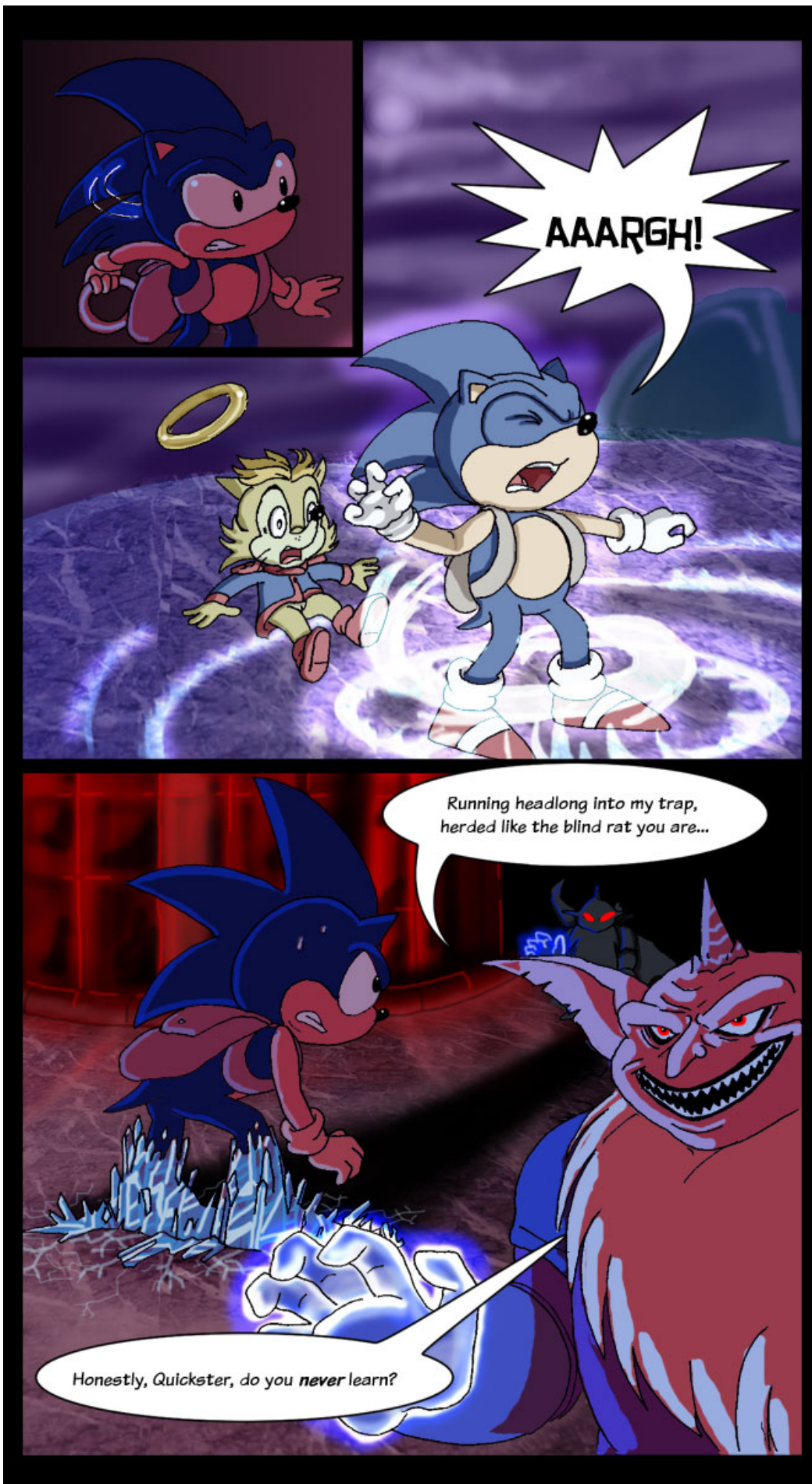










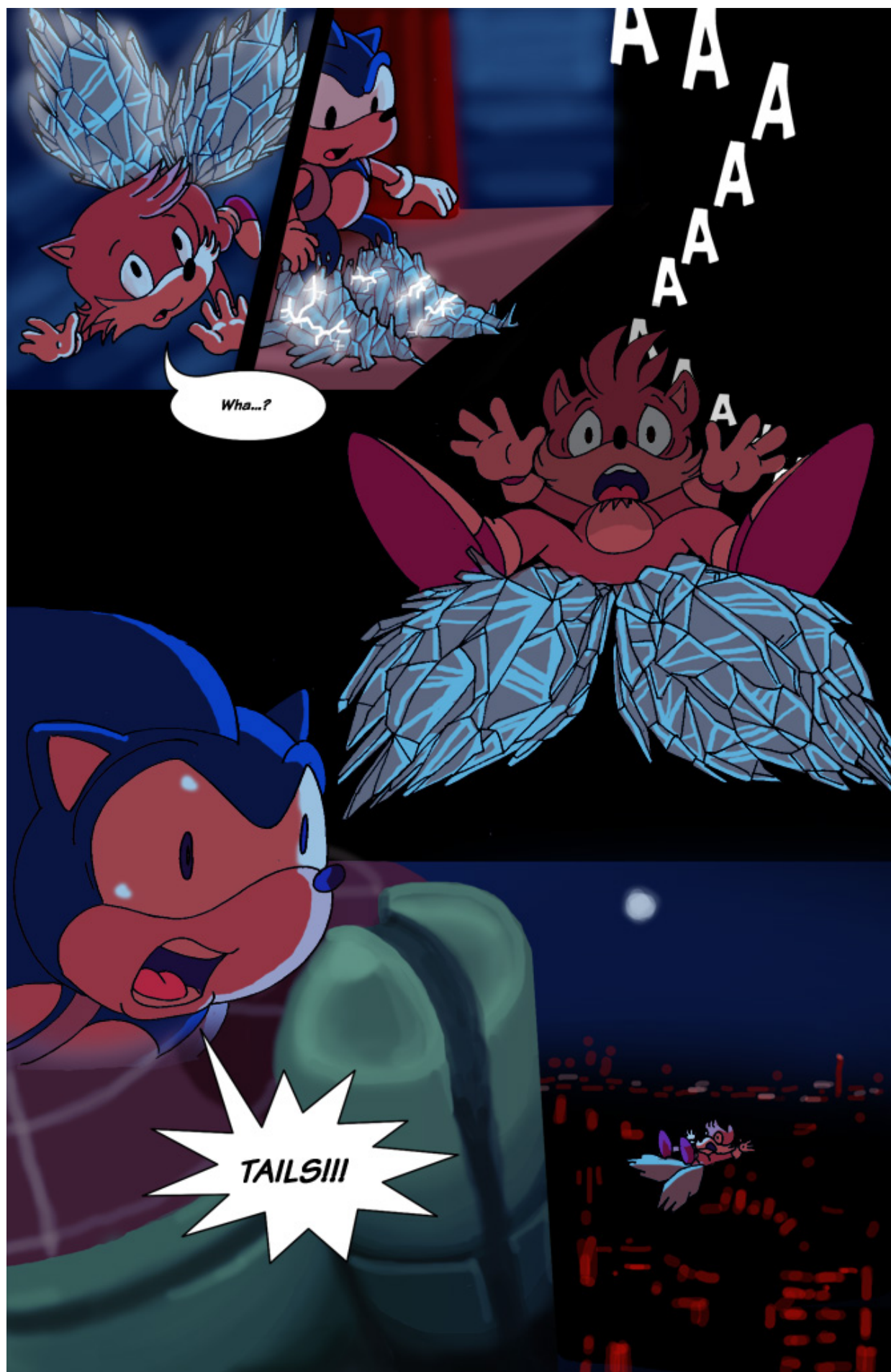


















I don't wanna die!



Sonic...  
Aunt Sally...  
everyone...

I let you all down...!



WHAT THE...?!?

Calm yourself.  
You are safe now.



Who...are you...?



A Guardian.

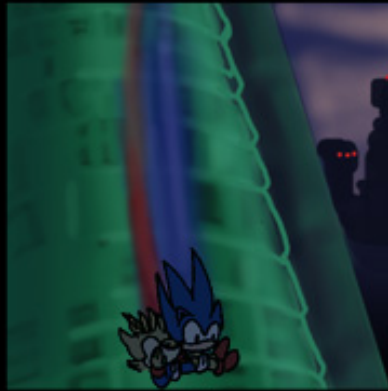


Zonic...!



Talk later, move now!





Miserable mechanized monstrosities!  
The Hedgehog's already *escaped*,  
you slow-moving scrap piles!

**RRAGH!!!**



Pleasebeekpleasebeek  
pleasebeekwhereareyou  
whereareyouwhereareyou?

**SMASH**



Still, scrap *does* have its uses...

Come on, *come on!*  
He had to have  
pulled up *somehow*...!



Zonic, while I too am  
in ze mourning of Tails,  
zis is not a safe place  
to be doing it in!



*Nobody's* mourning  
*anyone* yet, Ant!



I second that!



**TAILS!  
YOU'RE OK!!!**



Of course I am!

You didn't really think  
I'd go down *that* easy, did ya?



Not for a minute, bud.



Who's your new friend?







And you?

I will come with you for as long as you will let me. We still need to talk.



Follow me, you two! Ant, drop Sal 'n' Bunnie a line, tell 'em to get to the Rendezvous Point 'n' fast!



RRRAAAAAAGH!

Blasted vermin, escaped *again*...!

Naugus! Come in, Naugus!



I read you, Snivley...

Did you catch the Freedom Fighters?



No...

Very disappointing, Naugus...but at least you kept those rodents away from my Apparatus.

Perhaps now my drones can finish their work uninterrupted.



There is one other thing, Snivley...

What? What?

There was someone else with them...

someone *different*...







Who in the heck're you?

A Guardian.

He said that to me too...

Tell me...

you...

and you...

...you two have been in contact with a strong source of great power recently, haven't you?

Yes...but how did you know, and why are you interested?

I have a...Sixth Sense...for such things. As for my "interest"...that is rather complicated.

Try us, Mr. Mystery.

That's easier said than done... neither of us knows the other very well, so you will understand if there is some information I do not yet wish to reveal.

However, what I can say is this: whatever power you invoked, doing so has consequences further reaching than you may realize.

It is of the utmost importance you understand that truth. That is why I came here to this city: to give you this, so you might better understand.

Thank you...

Keep it safe, and read it with an open mind.



Whoa there, Li'l Grey Ridin' Hood,  
just where d'you think **you're** goin'?

Yeah, that wasn't exactly the most  
informative Q 'n' A we've ever had. There's  
still a lot we wanna know.

All you need to know at  
the moment is on that scroll. It is  
likely we will meet again, but for  
now, I must leave...

there are other  
matters I must attend to...

Hold up, Sugah-Hog, ah wanna  
follow him too, but we ain't got time fer  
chasin' shadows right now.

Bunnie's right. We'd better get  
back to Knothole quickly so we can  
examine this scroll and you can fill us in  
on just what happened.

Oui...I can not **wait** for  
zis day to be over...







I know Sal's usually the one puttin' ya to bed, Big Guy, but she 'n' Rotor are a little busy with that Mystery Scroll your New Friend gave 'em tonight.

That's OK, Sonic, it's cool.



Sleep well, kiddo.

Um, Sonic?

Yeah, Tails?



Earlier...back in the city...

when...when Naugus zapped my tails...

...when I was falling... when I thought...I wasn't gonna make it...

I got *really* scared.

I...I know Freedom Fighters aren't supposed to get scared...'n' I'm OK now, honest, but...

...I feel like I let you down... like I can't come with you guys to Robotropolis anymore because I'm not tough enough...



You kiddin', Big Guy? Of course you can, you were great out there today! Spottin' that machine, gettin' the drop on Naugus...we'd be crazy to leave you out.

Look...just because you got scared, that's no reason you can't be a Freedom Fighter anymore. Bein' scared...it's practically part 'o' the job description for us.

R...really?

Really. And I know it's hard, but the thing that counts is gettin' past that fear 'n' still doin' what ya gotta do. You did that today, Tails, 'n' that's how I know you're a Freedom Fighter now.



Thanks...Sonic.

No prob, Big Guy.



G'night, Sonic.

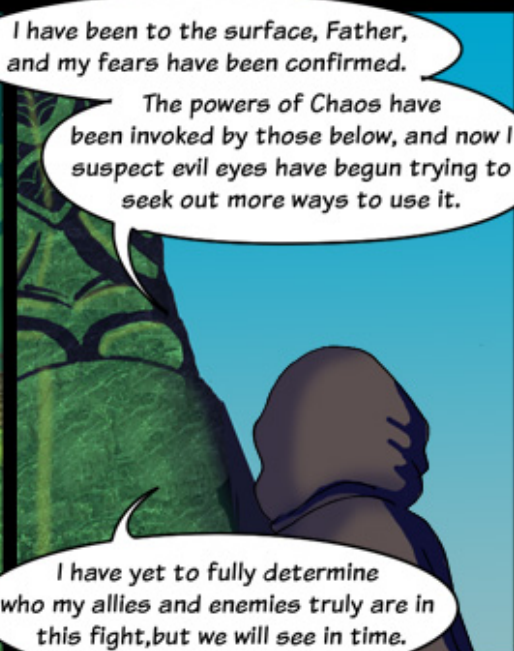
Night, Tails.







I honor those who came before me.



I have been to the surface, Father,  
and my fears have been confirmed.

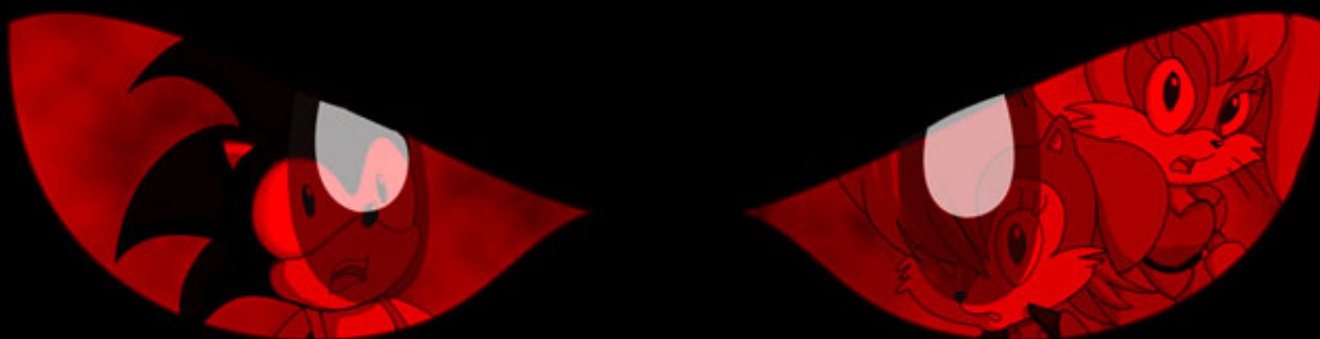
The powers of Chaos have  
been invoked by those below, and now I  
suspect evil eyes have begun trying to  
seek out more ways to use it.

I have yet to fully determine  
who my allies and enemies truly are in  
this fight, but we will see in time.



This...is only the beginning.





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What do they put in those Chilli Dogs?

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG  
SEASON  
3

