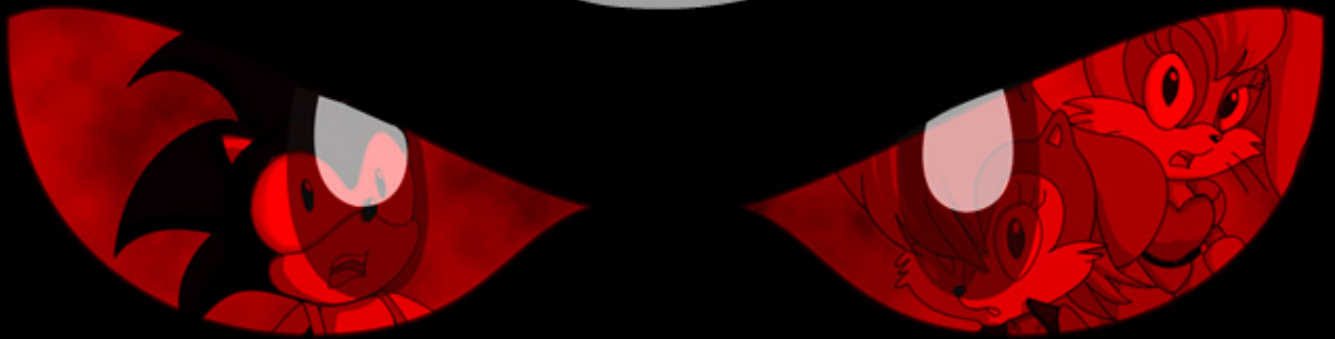


SONIC THE HEDGEHOG

SEASON 3





You still have that old guitar, Sonny?

You kiddin'? This baby's my prized possession!

ha ha
Ya didn't think that way when you were little.



That's 'cuz I didn't know the awesome power of Rock yet, Unc!



Hey, Sal, ya gonna just stargaze all night or are ya gonna have some fun?



Oh!
Sorry, I guess...
I got a little lost in thought...

Do tell.

It's just...
hard for me to believe it's really over.

Robotnik's gone,
Doomsday's been neutralized...

we can finally reclaim Mobotropolis...

I guess I'm just...
trying to wrap my head around it all.

Ditto.

Still...

It's real,
so what say we celebrate it while we can?

Hm. Good advice.

Don't think that means
you're excused from helping us clean up
when the party's over, though.



snap

Dam it!

hahahahahaha



Blasted Freedom Fighters...

I finally have my chance to run this city right, and they have to go and ruin it!



SLAM



Still... I'm sure they'll be here soon to pick up the pieces my 'dearly' departed Uncle Julian left behind, and when they do...

I'll have a little *surprise* waiting for them.

OK, people,
we've got a lot of work ahead of us now.

Fixing the mess Robotnik's stuck us with
won't be easy, but I know we can do it.

So what's the plan, Sal?

We start simple, Sonic.

You, me, and Bunnie will go into the city
to get a feel for its current condition.

In the mean time, Rotor,
I want you to work with Sir Charles
and start working on schematics for New Mobotropolis.

Can do, Sally.

And...what of me, my Princess?

You'll be sharing watch duty
with Tails for now, Antoine.
Robotnik may be gone, but his machines aren't,
and there's still a chance some of them
are operating on their original programming.

Good.

Then we'll make sure none of them
get anywhere near Knothole!

That's all for now, so let's get moving!



You two ready to do it to it?

You bet, Sugah-'Hog.
Though I gotta admit,
it's weird t' see this place so quiet...

I know what you mean.
It's like a ghost town...



Well, no use standin' around 'n' givin'
ourselves the willies.
Let's get movin'.

You got it, Sal.

Right. We'll split up, but keep in touch;
we don't know what dangers
are still lurking around the city.



Juice 'n' Jam time!







Hm hm...well done, pincushion!

Too bad you couldn't figure it out a bit...

faster!

Ugh. Snivley. Shoulda known you'd step up for ol' Uncle Tubby.

Look, d'you mind?

I'm kinda busy here 'n' I don't wanna stay in this dump too long, so why don't you just call your Scrap Squad off 'n' spare us both the headache, huh?

'Cuz either way this'll end up the same.

Do not confuse me with Julian, rodent. I'm not interested in playing games or pulling punches.

Just getting results.

snap





Sal! Bunnie! You two OK?

I'm sorry, Sonic,
I tried to stop it, but the words just...
came out of me...

Wait, that was really *you*
on the communicator?

Pay attention to *me*, brat, if you want
your friends to end the day still alive!

Yeah, yeah, keep your cool, Needlenose!

Hmph! We'll see how cocky you are when you're in a Holding Cell,
waiting for interrogation!

Later..

Dagnabbit, how'd we get into this mess?
When Sally signaled me t'the Factory,
I thought somethin' was a *little* fishy,
but we got *hosed*!

I'm sorry...
this is all my fault.

Don't go blamin' yourself, Sal,
that's not gonna get us anywhere.

But *I'm* the reason you two
got caught!

If I'd been stronger...
if I'd focused more,
I could've stopped myself...

Don't worry about it,
Sal, Snivley musta
drugged you or somethin'
when your back was turned.

Trust me, I know how
that little weasel likes to
mess with your head.

There was nothing
you coulda done...

I wish I could believe that, Sonic...
but I don't think it was a drug that
made me call you two...

PRIORITY ONE HEDGEHOG,
MASTER ROBOTNIK IS READY
TO INTERROGATE YOU NOW.

INCORRECT.
MASTER ROBOTNIK IS READY
TO INTERROGATE YOU NOW,
PRIORITY ONE HEDGEHOG.

Hmm...

Robotnik?
Y'all mean Snivley,
don'tcha?

CLANK

Sonic!

Don't worry, Sal, I'll be OK!
You two just figure out
a way t'get outta here.

SLAM!

I KNOW YOU CAN DO IT, SAL!





Naugus...

Ah, so you remember me, eh, Quickster?

Hm hm hm...

good.

So that's how you got Sal to lure me 'n' Bunnie into a trap!

My powers of persuasion are as strong here as they are in The Void, Quickster.

But I don't get it. You CAN'T leave The Void, not without turnin' to crystal!

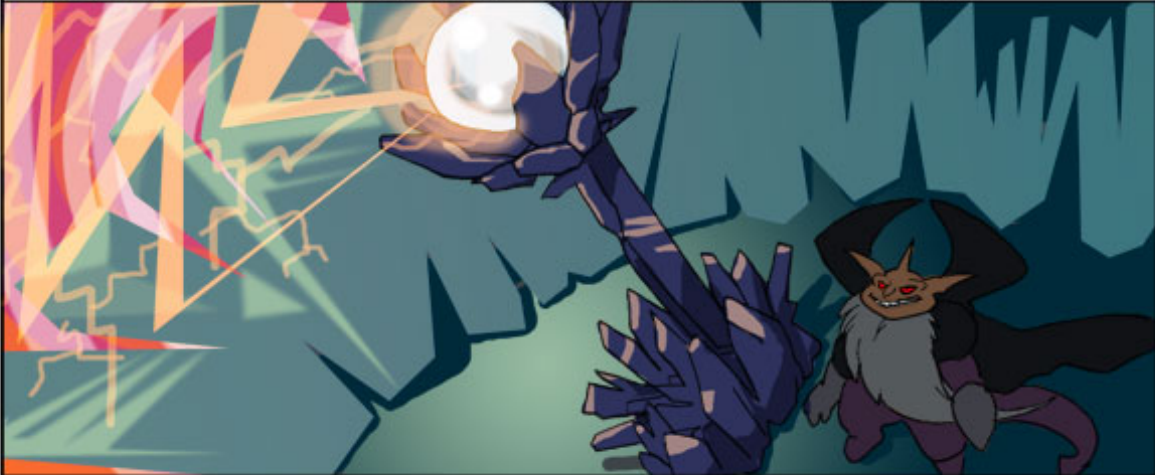
Crabmeat McHornhead used his magic to make her do it!

True... but fate intervened on my behalf.

When the Doomsday Device was destroyed, it released powerful waves of energy all over Mobius...

energy that reached even into The Void!

That energy solved the problem that had kept me from escaping before, for you see, I had learned that it was in fact the physical act of crossing dimensions that caused the crystallization of my body to occur!



By using the power of Sanctuary to harness Doomsday's energy waves, I was able to activate a spell that teleported me directly out of the Void, bypassing the physical cross that had so frustrated my previous grasp at freedom.

Enough reminiscing, Naugus, get on with it!

Do *not* presume to...

Remember our *deal*, Naugus.

Looks like Needlnose has you licked, Bat-Ears.

Your quick tongue won't save you *this* time, Quickster!

Now...



...you obey me.

...Obey_You...

Yesssssss...



Excellent, **EXCELLENT!**

Now we can pick this hedgehog's so-called brain for all the information we need!

Whatever you wish to know, runt, find out quickly!

My magic is not as strong away from Sanctuary. I can't hold the Mind Control spell indefinitely!

Hm...first, I'd best discover what happened to those Power Stones. They could prove quite the threat.

Rotor believes some of their energy is still inside us both, but not enough for either of us to use.



Tell me, slave... what has become of the Deep Power Stones?

They disappeared after Sally and I used them to destroy the Doomsday Device.



The Stones themselves are gone.



I see...well then, I suppose there really is only one more question to ask.



Where is Knothole Village located?



I think I've almost got it, Sally-girl...

But maybe there's a better way...

Hurry, Bunnie.
I don't even want to think of what they might be doing to Sonic...

What do you mean?

Urk...sorry, Sally-girl,
I'm goin' as fast as I can...

Remember before?
These bolt-brains still think they're servin' Robotnik, not Snivley.
I'm willin' to bet, y'all put your mind to it, Sally-girl, 'n' we can use that to get outta here!

They think Snivley is Robotnik...

I...I don't know...

Sally-girl? Y'all OK?

they think Snivley is Robotnik...

Yes...fine.
Just...thinking, that's all...

Loud noise detected. Investigating cause.

huvu

HEY! COME OVER HERE!

Cross your fingers, Bunnie.



This is Robotnik.
Release both prisoners immediately,
then report to the neighboring cell block!

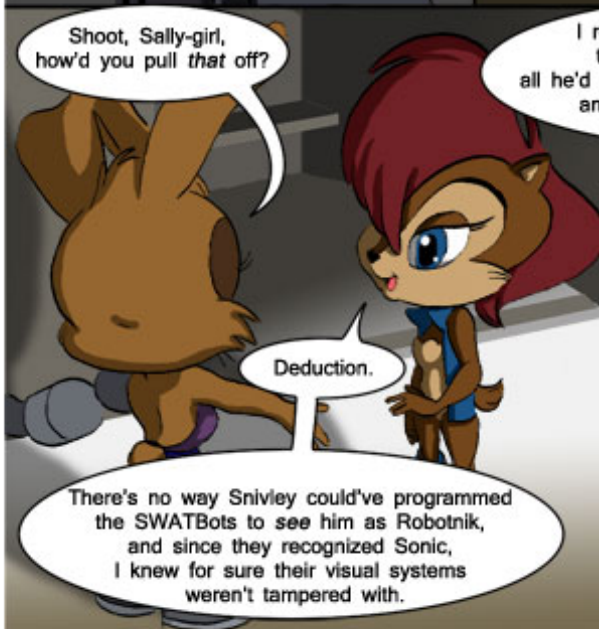


At your command, Doctor Robotnik.



GLANK

click



Shoot, Sally-girl,
how'd you pull that off?

Deduction.

There's no way Snivley could've programmed
the SWATBots to see him as Robotnik,
and since they recognized Sonic,
I knew for sure their visual systems
weren't tampered with.



I realized he must have adjusted
their audio receptors instead;
all he'd need to do is alter his voice a little,
and they'd hear him as Robotnik.

Ha ha

Now that's more like it!



Now, slave, answer me this:
where is Knothole Village located?

In...

In...

Yes? YES?

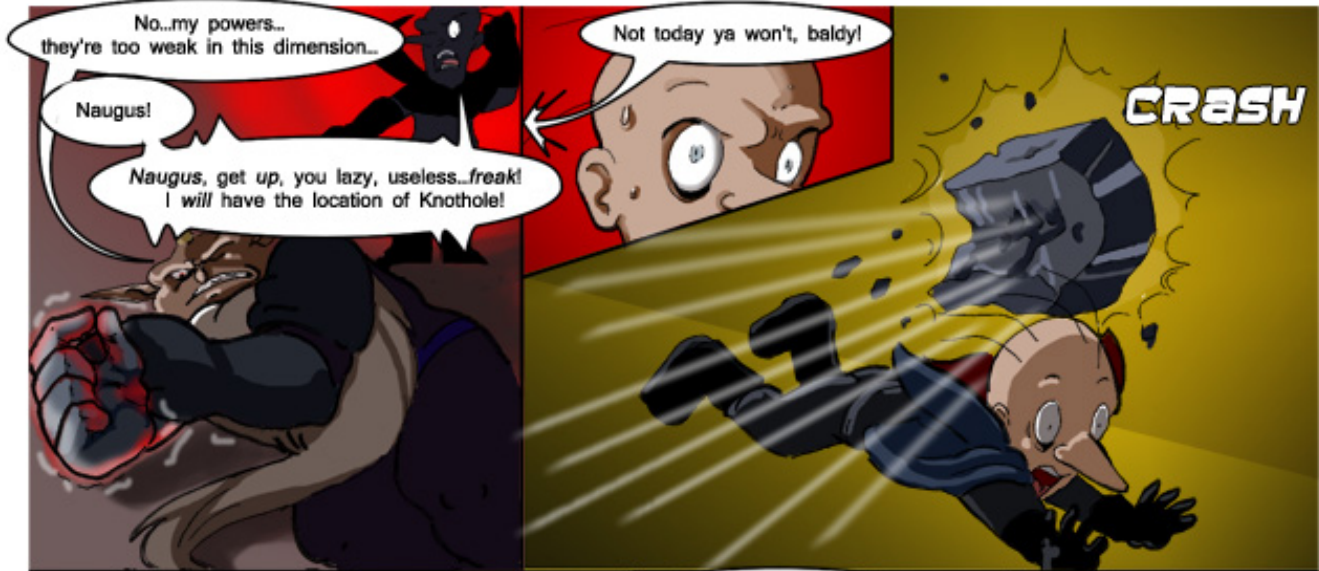
He's...urgh...he's resisting me!
My...my spell is wearing off!

No! NO! Hurry, get the location!

IN...

In your DREAMS, needlenose!

gasp



I imagine *this* is a refreshing change of pace, huh, Sal?
You savin' *me* for a change?

Not that I *needed* to be saved,
mind you, but...

...Sal?

Just...keep moving, Sonic...

Blasted rodents!
How did they escape from the cell?
I had the perfect plan, *PERFECT!*

How, how, *HOW?*

Unless...

...they figured out my modification
to the SWATBot's audio receivers!

Hrr...your weakness is the same as Robotnik's...
you trust too much to your feeble-minded technology.

Grrrrrrr...

I *knew* that quick-fix was no
substitute for a full reprogramming!

Blast, blast, *BLAST!!!*

Don't *start* with me,
you washed up wizard!!!

What in th' heck was *Naugus* doin' here?
I thought he couldn't leave the Void
without goin' all shiny on us...

Long story, Bunnie.

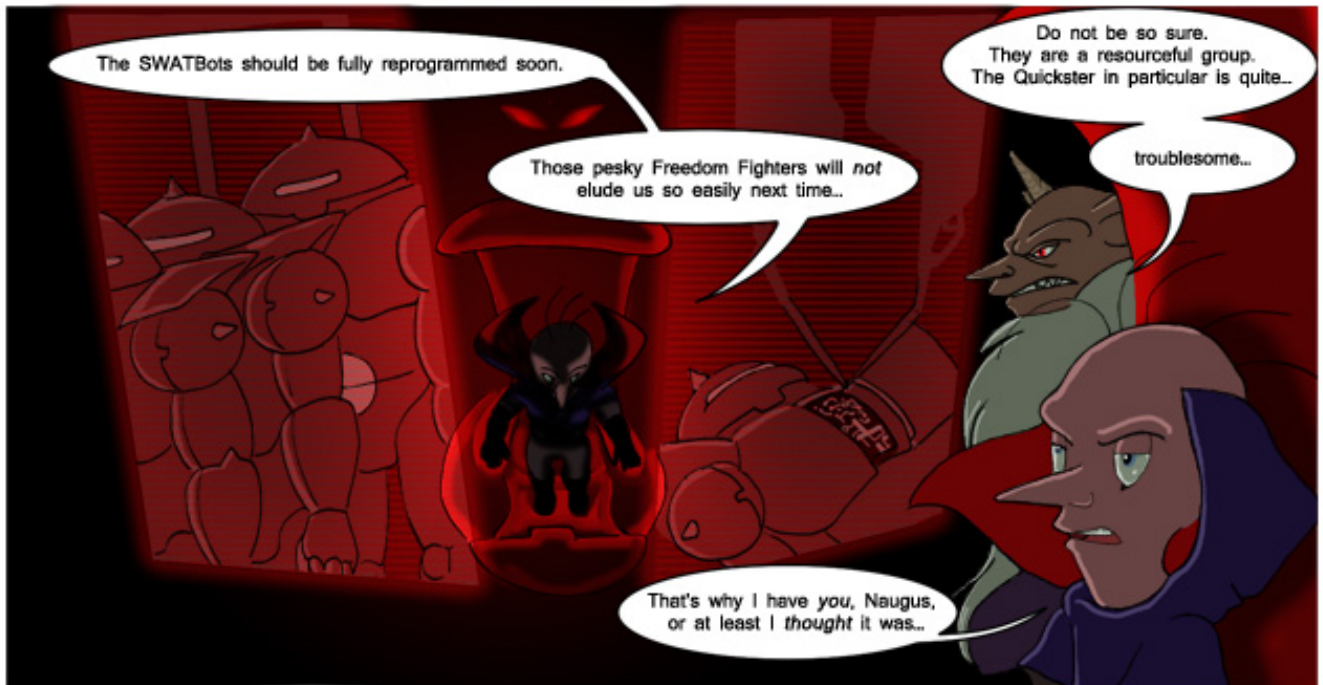
Yeah? Well what's he helpin' Snivley for?
I thought he *hated* Robotnik...

Dunno, but from the sounds of it
he's got some sorta deal with Needle-nose.

Then our troubles just got a whole lot worse...







The SWATBots should be fully reprogrammed soon.

Those pesky Freedom Fighters will not elude us so easily next time..

Do not be so sure. They are a resourceful group. The Quickster in particular is quite..

troublesome..

That's why I have you, Naugus, or at least I *thought* it was..



My failure today is..frustrating..for both of us. It seems I have overestimated my powers without Sanctuary to augment them.

Still, I believe I have a solution..

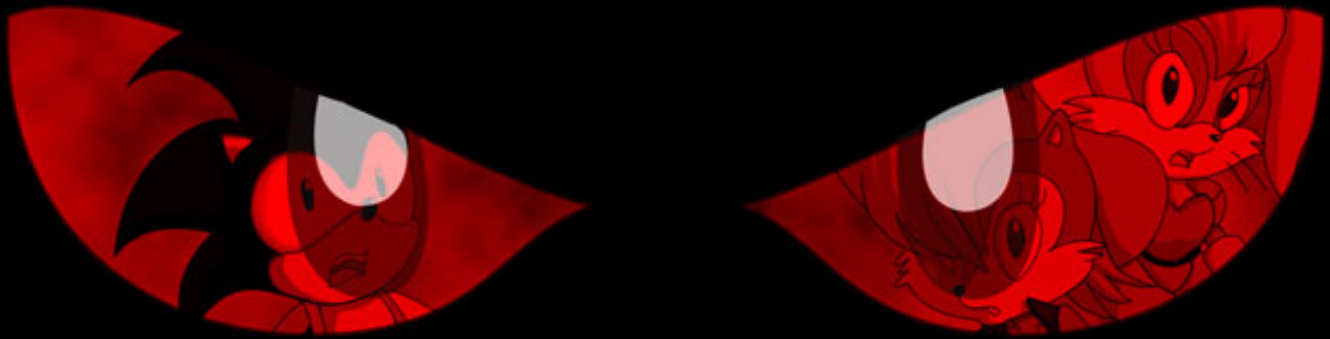
Oh?



You spoke of the Deep Power Stones before.. but I know of another magical power even greater than theirs.



They are known as.. *Chaos Emeralds*..



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