

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG
SEASON
3



SHORT 3

THE MECHANIC'S
PUZZLE



ROTOR'S JOURNAL, ENTRY #28.
THE TEAM LEFT FOR ANOTHER MISSION TODAY.
AS USUAL, I WAS ASKED TO STAY BEHIND.



IT USED TO BOTHER ME. I GUESS IT STILL DOES,
A LITTLE. BUT I ALSO KNOW, IF I DIDN'T GET
TO SPEND ALL THIS TIME HERE IN KNOTHOLE....



...I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO DO SO MUCH
WORK ON MY PET PROJECT.





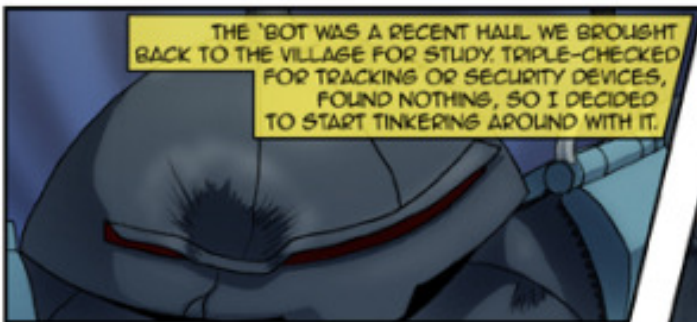
THE MECHANIC'S PUZZLE

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ILLUSTRATED BY SAW HALE

EDITED BY PAUL SCOTT AND JOHN ROBERTS

BASED ON THE "SONIC THE HEDGEHOGS" CARTOON, CHARACTERS OWNED BY DIC AND SEGA



THE 'BOT WAS A RECENT HAIL WE BROUGHT BACK TO THE VILLAGE FOR STUDY. TRIPLE-CHECKED FOR TRACKING OR SECURITY DEVICES, FOUND NOTHING, SO I DECIDED TO START TINKERING AROUND WITH IT.



I FOUND OUT THAT EVEN IN ITS BADLY DAMAGED SHAPE, ITS DATABANKS AND VOCAL FUNCTIONS WERE SOMEHOW STILL INTACT. ALL IT NEEDED WAS A CHARGE TO GET IT RUNNING.



SO I MADE ONE FOR IT.



TO SEE IF WE COULD EXTRACT USEFUL INFORMATION FROM THE 'BOT.

TO TRY AND ANALYZE HOW IT REACTS TO THE SITUATION AND LEARN MORE ABOUT HOW IT'S PROGRAMMED. AND OF COURSE, THE OLDEST REASON TO DO ANYTHING IN SCIENCE....



TO SEE IF I COULD.

VRRRM!



UNIT REACTIVATED.
CALIBRATING SYSTEMS
DIAGNOSTIC SCAN INITIATED.
MEMORY BANK SEARCH INITIATED.

YES, YES, YES!



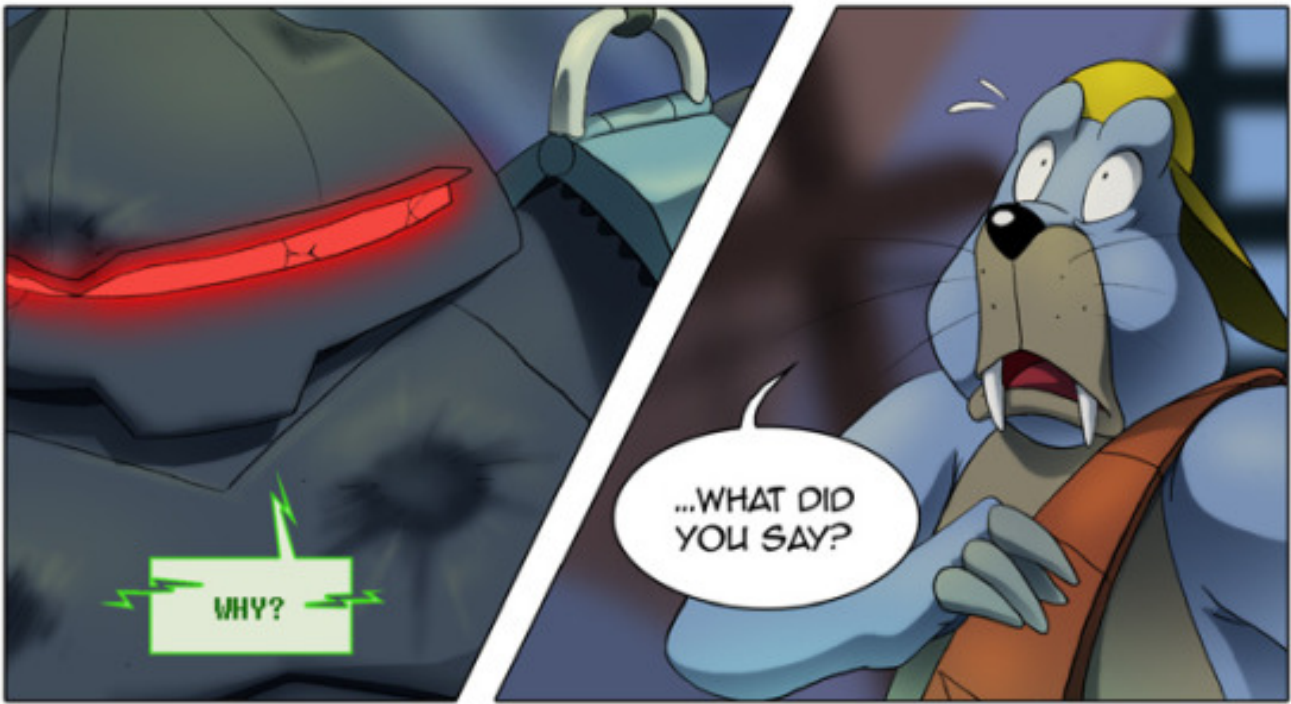
IT WORKS!



SYSTEM CALIBRATIONS COMPLETE.
UNIT HAS SUSTAINED HEAVY DAMAGE.
PROTOCOL SYSTEMS MALFUNCTIONING.
REPAIRS NEEDED IMMEDIATELY.

YEAH,
SORRY ABOUT THAT,
BUT I CAN'T HELP
YOU THERE.

'SIDES, EVEN IF I COULD,
I DON'T THINK I WOULD.



WHY?

...WHAT DID
YOU SAY?

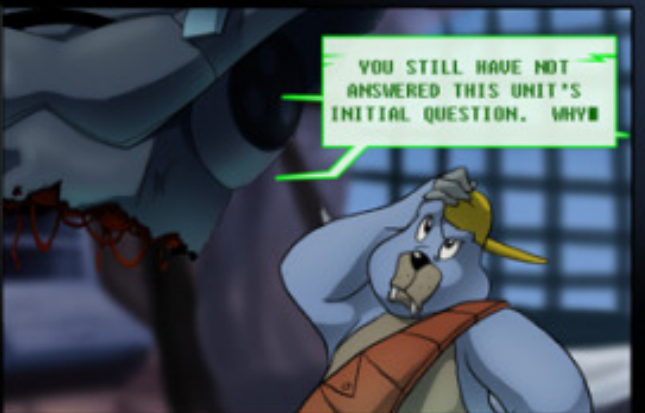


WHY WOULD YOU NOT REPAIR THIS UNIT, EVEN IF YOU HAD THE CAPABILITY TO DO SO?



I HEARD YOU THE FIRST TIME! BUT YOU'RE A MACHINE, YOUR BRAIN'S A COMPUTER!

YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE TO ASK "WHY", THE ANSWER'S PROGRAMMED INTO YOU!

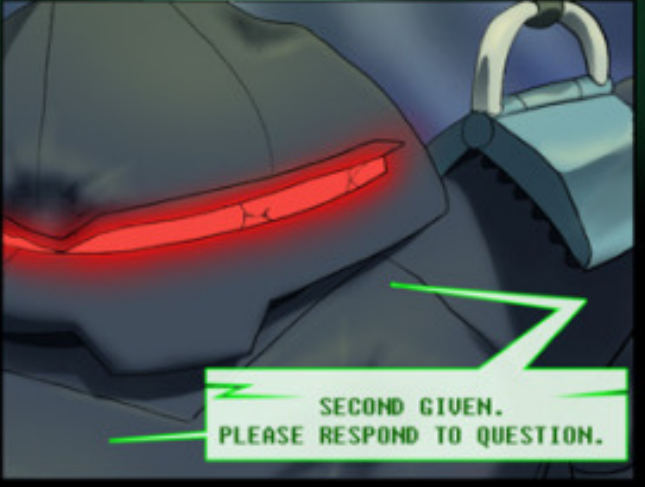


YOU STILL HAVE NOT ANSWERED THIS UNIT'S INITIAL QUESTION. WHY?



WON'T I REPAIR YOU, YEAH, I HEARD YOU THE FIRST TIME.

JUST...GIVE ME A SECOND HERE, OK?



SECOND GIVEN. PLEASE RESPOND TO QUESTION.



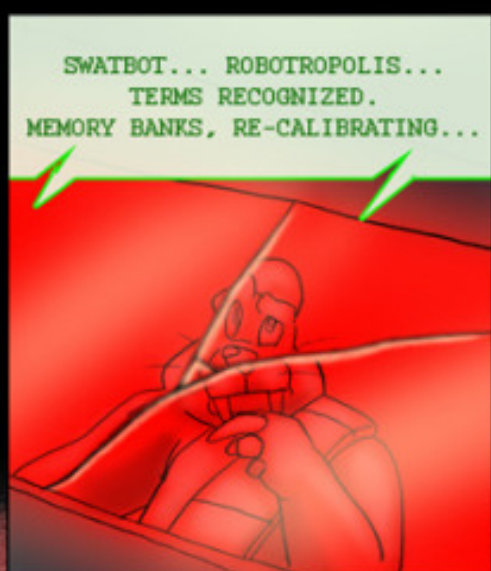
HOO BOY...



OK, TELL ME IF ANY OF THIS SOUNDS FAMILIAR:

YOU ARE A MACHINE, A SWATBOT.

BUILT IN ROBOTROPOLIS TO ACT AS SECURITY AGAINST ANY AND ALL THREATS.



SWATBOT... ROBOTROPOLIS...
TERMS RECOGNIZED.
MEMORY BANKS, RE-CALIBRATING...


PRIORITY-ONE TARGETS IDENTIFIED.
COLLECTIVE DESIGNATION: FREEDOM FIGHTERS.



INDIVIDUAL TARGETS INCLUDE...



...YOU. ROTOR WALRUS.




AND NOW YOU
KNOW WHY I CAN'T
REPAIR YOU.

BECAUSE WE'RE
ENEMIES.




ANSWER INSUFFICIENT.




THAT'S...
I MEAN,

I DIDN'T THINK IT
WAS POSSIBLE FOR A
SWATBOT TO MAKE THAT
CALL FOR ITSELF.

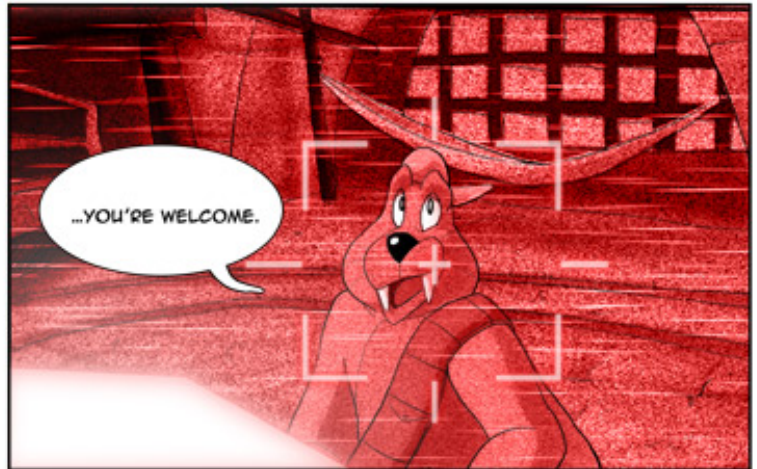
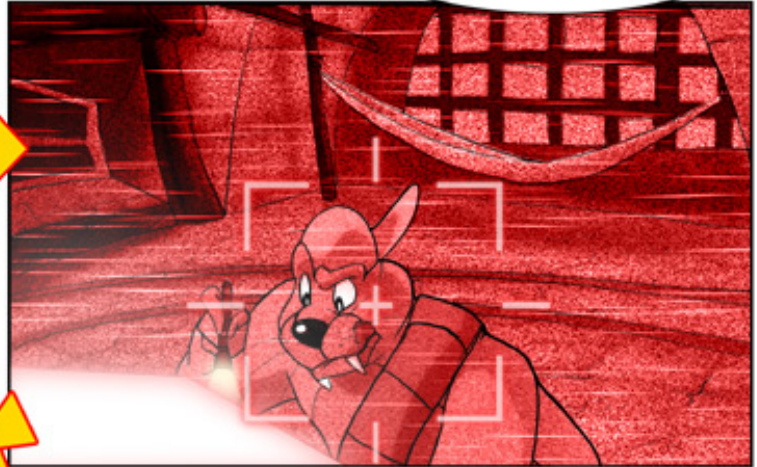


YOU ARE THE ONE WHO
RE-ACTIVATED THIS UNIT.
THIS UNIT HAS NO REASON
TO CONSIDER YOU AN ENEMY.



I WONDER...
COULD THE SECOND-HAND
ENERGY SOURCE BE AFFECTING
YOUR PROGRAMMING
SOMEHOW?





WHAT?

OH MAN, OH MAN,
THE GENERATOR'S ENERGY
MUST'VE STARTED OVERLOADING
YOUR SYSTEMS!

I'VE GOT TO DE-ACTIVATE
THE GENERATOR!

IF THE GENERATOR IS DE-ACTIVATED,
THIS UNIT WILL ALSO BE DE-ACTIVATED.

LOOK...
I KNOW IT'S ASKING FOR A LOT,
BUT I NEED YOU TO TRUST ME HERE.

AND IF I DON'T DE-ACTIVATE
THE GENERATOR, YOUR
SYSTEMS WILL BURN OUT
COMPLETELY AND I'LL
NEVER BE ABLE TO
FIX YOU!

I'LL DEACTIVATE YOU NOW,
BUT I PROMISE, ONE DAY I'LL
FIND A WAY TO FIX YOU AND GET
YOU ACTIVATED AGAIN!

PAL .

I UNDERSTOOD .



RRRRRRMMMMMMVOOOOOOOO....

ROTOR'S JOURNAL, ENTRY #29:
FIRST EXPERIMENT WITH
GENERATOR COMPLETED. THE RESULTS...
HAVE LEFT ME WITH MORE
QUESTIONS THAN ANSWERS.

IS THIS SWATBOT UNIQUE?
CAN I FIND A WAY TO FIX IT SOMEDAY?
IF I DID, WHAT WOULD WE DO WITH IT?
WHAT WOULD IT DO FOR ITSELF?



I DON'T HAVE THE ANSWERS FOR ANY OF THAT.



STILL, LIKE A
GOOD SCIENTIST....

I WILL KEEP TRYING TO FIND THEM.

-THE END-



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NICOLE, let me in.

I can't do that Sally....

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