

SONIC

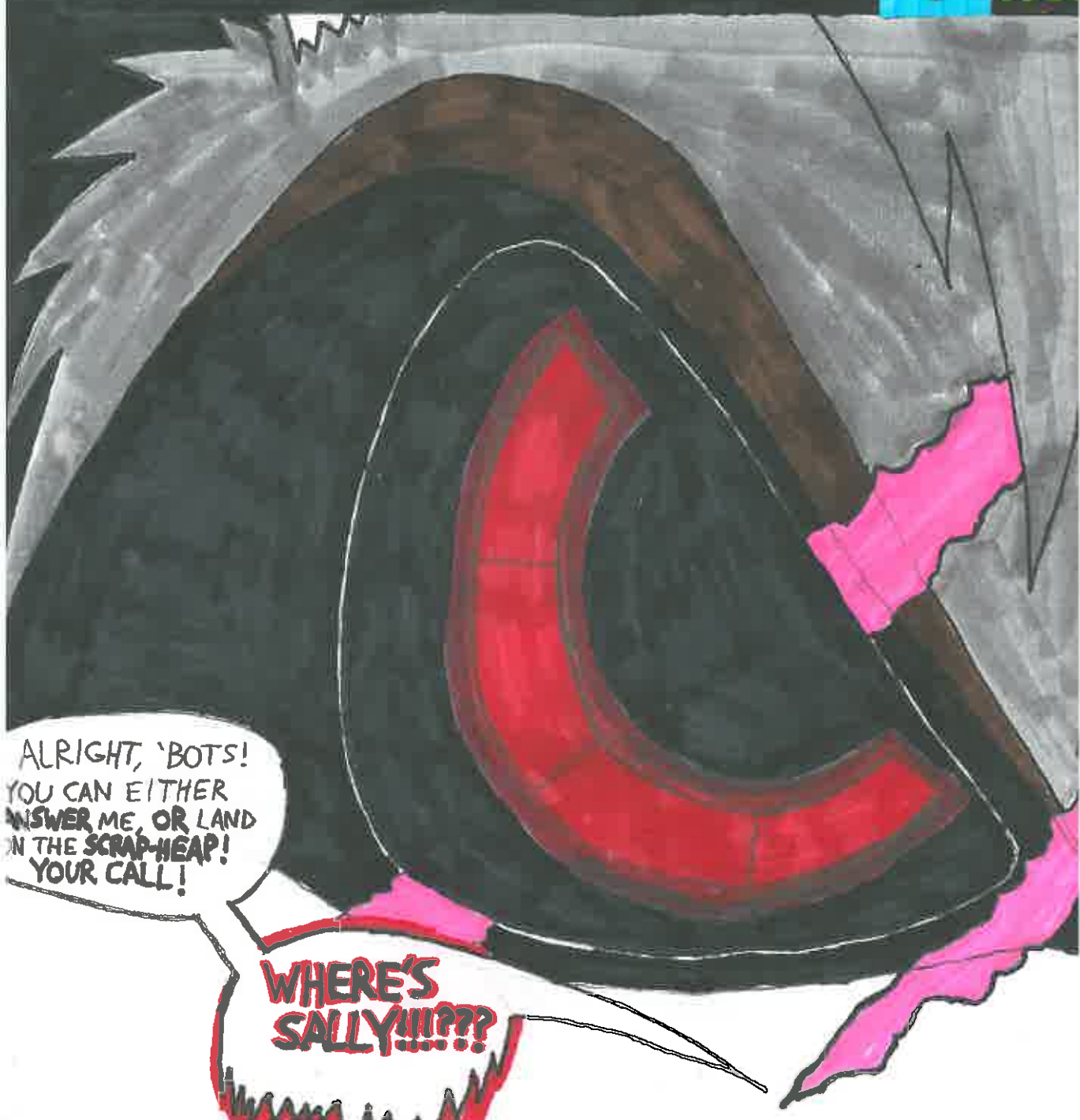
THE HEDGEHOG

CO-STARRING
ONE-EYED BLACK
OF THE NIGHTMARE PIRATES

IN...
THE RETURN OF
PRINCESS
Sally

CHAPTER
I

PART
OF THE
PROV



ALRIGHT, 'BOTS!
YOU CAN EITHER
ANSWER ME, OR LAND
ON THE SCRAP-HEAP!
YOUR CALL!

WHERE'S
SALLY!!!!???

THE RETURN OF PRINCESS Sally

PART I

AS THE ONE KNOWN AS "BLACK-GLOVE" WATCHES HELPLESSLY AS HE WATCHES THE PRIZED TREASURE OF A HERO HE CHERISHES ABOUT TO BE DEAD-LOCKED TO THE DARK SIDE...



YER A REAL FUNNY GUY, EGGBREATH...
...AND I PLAN TO MAKE THE MOST OF THAT!





TASKS: ACCEPTED! SHOULD I ALERT THE OTHERS? AS YOU VERY WELL REMEMBER "ONE-EYED BLACK" THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS WILL NEVER LET YOU TAKE ONEGG MAN BY YOURSELF!

NO! THIS IS SOMETHING I GOTTA DO ALONE!

I CAN PROVIDE YOU WITH NEAR-FUWLETS MAPS OF ALL ZONES KNOWN TO EXIST IN THE SONIC WORLD PLUS, DO NOT FORGET ONE-EYED BLACK: THE DECREE THAT YOU NEVER ENTER MITTLE UNASSISTED, CAME FROM SALLY, HERSELF; AND BY VERY GOOD CHANCE THAT YOU DO GETHER BACK FOR THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS, A REPEAT OF THAT ORDER, WILL BE IMMINENT!



HEAR ME, ONE-EYED BLACK! I AM VERY WELL-AWARE THAT YOU DO NOT WANT ANY FRIENDS' BLOOD ON YOUR HANDS! AND I VERY WELL SEE WHERE YOU ARE COMING FROM! VERY WELL! IF YOU WILL NOT ACCEPT THE TEAM'S AT LEAST TAKE ME WITH YOU!

!!!???



CARRIE! I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'D DO WITHOUT HA

VERY WELL, CARRIE! PERMISSION FOR YER ENTITY TO JOIN ME FER THIS IS GRANTED!



IF YOU WILL NOT ACCEPT THE TEAM'S ASSISTANCE, I FEEL THAT THEY SHOULD AT LEAST HEAR ABOUT WHAT YOUR GAME PLAN IS!

GO AHEAD N' TELL'EM IF YA' WANT, CARRIE! BUT MY DECISION TA' TACKLE THIS ALONE STANDS!



AND AFTER EVERYONE HAS HEARD THE FULL EXTENT OF WHAT IS GOING ON, ALL MEMBERS OF TITANIUM CLAN CONTACT THEIR OLD LEADER, AND PRACTICALLY BEG ONE-EYED BLACK TO BRING THEM WITH HIM...

ONE AT A TIME, GUYS! NOW, MAKE IT QUICK!! GOTTA BEACH BALL TA' POP!

-GARBLED GIBBERISH-



TIM>BLACK! CARRIE TOLD US WHATCHER UP
 YOU AND THATCHER PLANNING TO DO IT ALL
 ALONE!!! YOU KNOW THAT'S SUICIDE, BLACK!
 MARC>LOOK, BLACK-GLOVE: I KNOW YOU
 FEEL LIKE YET THE ONLY ONE WHO CARES
 ENOUGH ABOUT SONIC TO WANDA HELP IN
 BUT LET ME BE THE FIRST OF A LONG LINE
 OF GAPIERS WHO'RE OUT TO PROVE YOU WRONG



ON THAT!
 MAJA>AND YOU REMEMBER
 WHAT WE PROMISED SALLY?
 NO SOLO BATTLES!!! AND
 SALLY HAD REASON BEHIND
 MAKIN' US MAKE THAT PROMISE!



JAMES>LOOK, BLACK! WE ALL
 KNOW WHATCHER ANGLE IS: YER
 UPSET 'CAUSE SONIC'S "REAL"
 GIRL FRIEND GOT BENT THROUGH
 EGGMAN'S TWISTED WILL AND
 YA WANNA MAKE SURE SHE MAKES IT BACK
 TO SONIC IN ONE PIECE?
 EHAD>WITHOUT BACK-UP YOU'LL
 BE A SITTING DUCK AND CARRIE
 IS JUST NOT WHAT MAM'D CALL
 BACK-UP!



LOOK, YOU GUYS, I DO
 APPRECIATE THATCHER CONCERNED
 ABOUT ME, BUT I AM NOT-I REPEAT: AM
 NOT-GONNA HAVE THE SLIGHTEST
 AMOUNT OF YOUR GUYS' BLOOD ON
 MY HANDS, AND THAT'S ALL THERE IS TO
 IT!!!



MAJA>-sob-!-! GUESS I CAN KINDA UNDERSTAND HOW YA FEEL, BLACK! IF SOME BOD
 THREWED SOMEBODY I EVEN REMOTELY CARED ABOUT INTO A MIND EXROBOTIC SLAB, I'D
 WANNA TEAR THE GUY WHO DID IT APART, MYSELF! JUST DO ME A FAVOR, BLACK: GIVE THE
 FAT SICKO A NICE BIG WEDGE FOR ME! WE'LL BE ROOTING FOR BOTH YOU, AND SONIC'S
 TIM-I, TOO, UNDERSTAND WHERE YER COMIN' FROM, BLACK! BUT, SGNLQJA NEED US,
 ANY OF US, JUST GIVE US A SHOUT! AND I PROMISE: IF YA EVER DO NEED HELP, I'LL BE ONE OF
 THE FIRST, IF NOT THE FIRST, WHO ANSWERS YA!
 JAMES>MY NUMERO UNO COMPLAINT IS THAT I'CHER GOIN' IN THERE WITH PRETTY-WELL-NO
 BACK-UP! AND THE CHANCE OF YOU GETTIN' FRIED, IS JUST SET SOMETHIN' I WANNA THINK
 ABOUT!
 CHAD>JUST PROMISE US THAT YOU'LL BE CAREFUL, BLACK! TRUST ME ON THIS: WE DON'T
 WANT YOUR BLOOD ON OUR HANDS, ANY MORE THAN YOU WANT OUR BLOOD ON YOURS!
 MARC>BOTTOM LINE, BLACK-GLOVE: WE ALL KNOW THAT THERE'S NO WAY IN THE
 UNDERWORLD WE CAN STOP YOU! AND TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, BLACK-GLOVE: GIVEN
 THE OBJECTIVE THAT YOU SET UP FOR YOURSELF, I DON'T KNOW OF VERY MANY FANS



MARC



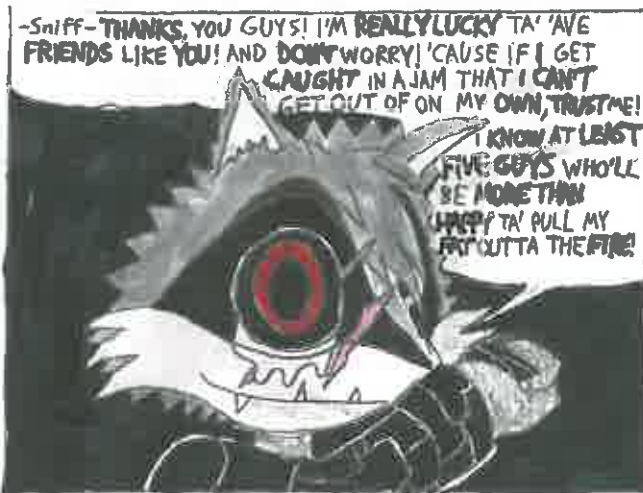
MAJA

OF SONIC, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO REMEMBER
 THE VERSION OF THE SONIC STORY I'VE OUT BY ABC IN THE
 EARTH-1990S AD. WHO WOULD WANT US TA' STOP
 YOU! IN THOSE REGARDS, WE GOT JUST TWO
 WORDS THAT'LL DESCRIBE HOW PRETTY-WELL-
 EVERY FAN O' SONIC'S FEELS ABOUT WHATCHA
 HVE IN MIND FER EGGMAN! AND THESE "TWO
 WORDS", COME FROM THE VERY BOTTOM, OF
 EVERY SINGLE NOBLE HEART WHO BELIEVES
 IN SONIC! ALL TOGETHER.. NOW YOU GUYS!
 ALL FIVE AT ONCE>

GET 'EM!!



JAMES



CARRIE!
STATUS!



UNFORTUNATELY, I WAS UNABLE TO FIND MUCH. MECHA-SALLY'S RECORDS ARE KEPT UNDER MAXIMUM SECRECY! ALL 'BOTS WERE GIVEN STRICT ORDERS, TO NEVER TELL A CREATURE WHERE TO FIND HER. LET ALONE, LEARN HOW TO BRING BACK HER ORGANIC COUNTERPART! TO EARN THE INFORMATION WE SEEK, WE MAY HAVE TO DISMANTLE THE ENTIRE CITY.

MEANING O' COURSE WE GET TA' MEA LIL' FUN WHILE WE LOOK FER 'SALLY, HUH!?

AFFIRMATIVE!



OF COURSE, NONE OF THE 'BOTS SEEMED TA' AVE A SINGLE CLUE WHERE TO LOOK! TO ME, THIS JUST MEANT THEY WERE PLAYING DUMB, AND WERE TOO AFRAID OF GETTING SCRAPPED, IF THEY WERE TO ASSIST ME, IN BRINGING ONE OF THE EGGMAN EMPIRE'S MOST DANGEROUS ENEMIES BACK FROM THE IRON GRAVE! ONE WAY OR THE OTHER, THE BOT THAT I ASK USUALLY ENDS UP GETTIN' SCRAPPED, AND WHAT-EVER REMAINS, IS TOO PETRIFIED TO SAY MUCH!

ALL INFORMATION - SEVERAL MONTHS AGO AND WAS DESTRUCTED BY THE EIGHTH FLOOR OVER THE VICTIM'S HEADS AT ALL TIMES. PRELUDE - HIM!

!!! NO!!! NOT HIM!!! ANYONE BUT HIM!!!



SPOON DEATH IS ONE EYEY BLACKS OWN, SPECIAL WAY OF DESCRIBING BEING ROBOTICIZED

AS A SQUADRON OF 'BOTS MAKE THEIR USUAL ROUND OF DELIVERING THE ROBOTICIZERS NOW-REPEL VICTIMS, QUESTIONS ARISE OVER JUST WHO "HE" MUST BE



ACCORDING TO ALL-SIGHTINGS, ONLY ONE SUSPECT FOLLOWS: O.E. BLACK, LEADER OF PRIORITY 6, NIGHTMARE PIRATES!

IMPOSSIBLE! THE NIGHTMARE PIRATES WERE DEFEATED LONG AGO! AND NOW THAT WE HAVE PRINCESS SALLY, THAT WRETCHED BASTARD SHOULD NEVER HAVE GROWN HIS MUTILATED FACE HERE!

IT'S NOT BETTER! CROWD! THE O.E. BLACK WAS BETTER! CLEVER, CRAFTY, OIL-THIRSTY, DEVILS, RETURNING AN ANSWER TO ALL THINGS MEANING OF EVIL! THEREFORE, THE MOST LIKELY TO BLAME THE SALLY-ABUSER AND WITH HIS SPIRIT VISION, HEARTY THIS TOWN, THIS EVEN, MECHA-SALLY COULD RIGHT HIM, AND WIN!

NO! NOT THAT WEAPON, ANYTHING BUT THAT WEAPON! PLEASE! BLAST-US-WITH-PLASMA! BLAST-US-WITH-LIGHTNING! BLAST-US-WITH PROTONS! BLAST-US-WITH-THE-PHANTOM-DAGGER IF-YOU-WISH! BUT PLEASE! LEAVE-KORLONIUM-CRYSTAL-OUT-OF-THIS! WE-BEG-YOU!



YOU GUYS CAUSED THAT MUCH DESTRUCTION, THAT MUCH GRIEF, AND RUINED THAT MANY LIVES, AND NOW YER ASKING ME NOT TO TEAR YOU GUYS APART FER IT ALL!? THREE WORDS, 'BOTS: YOU ARE-DREAMING!!!



WE WILL DO ANYTHING BUT PLEASE! PUT KORLONIUM WEAPON AWAY! WHAT IS IT YOU ARE HERE FOR? WE WILL BE OBLIGATED TO HELP YOU!



"ANYTHING?"

AFFIRMATIVE! ANYTHING BUT PLEASE! LEAVE KORLONIUM WEAPON!

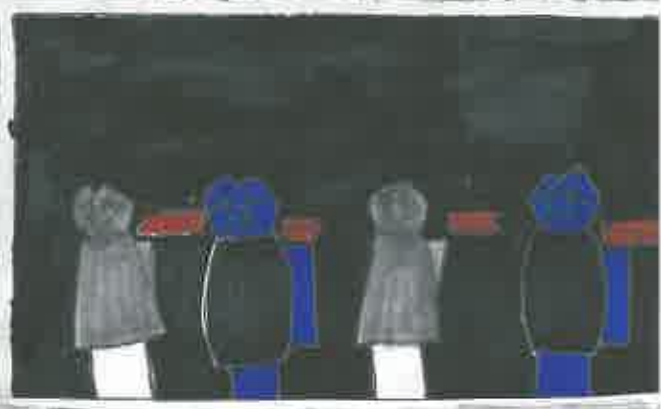


WELL, LET'S SEE IF YOU 'BOTS'RE TRUER TO YER WORD THAN YER MASTER! THERE'S REALLY ONLY ONE THING THAT I CAME HERE FOR FER TODAY! ANSWER THIS SIMPLE QUESTION, AND I'LL AT LEAST CONSIDER LETTING YOU 'BOTS EXIST FER ANOTHER FEW MINUTES OR SO!

VERY WELL WHAT IS YOUR QUESTION?

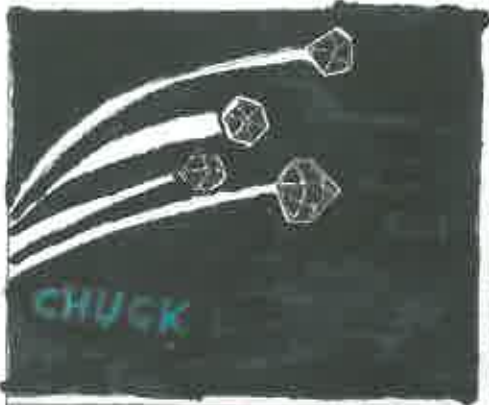


THE QUESTION, 'BOTS, IS SWEET N' SIMPLE: WHERE CAN I FIND THE ROBIN, KNOWN AS MECHA-SALLY!?



IF YOU WANT HER, YOU WILL HAVE TO GO THROUGH US AND SEVERAL OTHERS! MECHA-SALLY IS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO LORD-EGG MAN, AS WELL AS A MAJOR ASSET TO THE EGGMAN EMPIRE'S SUCCESS! WE WILL NEVER LET YOU TEAR HER BACK INTO OUR HATED-PRINCESS SALLY!

HAH! SEEMS LIKE THE VOLUME' YER WORDS NO HIGHER THAN THAT OF THE OVER-WEIGHT PUNK YA' WORK FOR!



CHUCK



SIZZLE



KA-KA-KA-BLOOY



CARRIE!
WHAT KEPT
YA'!?



NOW, I'LL
ASK YKONE
MORE TIME
NICELY,
SWAT-BUTTS
WHERE
IS
MECHA-
SALLY!

IT WILL TAKE FAR MORE THAN A MERE HOLOGRAM TO SCARE US INTO SURRENDERING OUR MASTER'S FAVORITE VICTORY PRIZE, PIRATE!



-SIGH-HAVE IT
YOUR WAY,
'BOTS!!!

KORLONUM
BOOMERANG

GO!



KRA-KOW

KA-BLAM

KA-BOOM

KA-RANG

KA-BLOOY

ANY 'BOTTY' COME ANY CLOSER, AND YOU ARE ALL SCRAP! NOW, FER THE LAST TIME, BEFORE CARRIE N1 REDUCE YALL TA' SCRAP AND SERVE OUTYER NON-EXISTANT HEARTS FER BREAKFAST--

WHERE IS
MECHA-SALLY!?

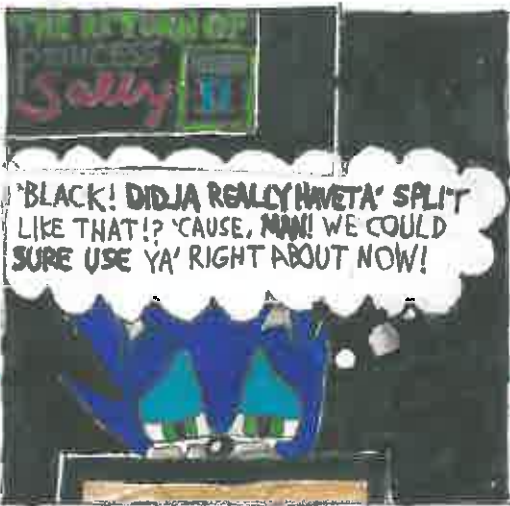


TECHNICALITY! THAT WAY! ABOUT
1.28 KILOBYTES FROM YOUR CURRENT
POSITION! PLEASE! DO NOT TELL
EGGMAN THAT WE TOLD YOU!



ONE SYLLABLE OF THIS CONVERSATION TA' EGGMAN,
AND THIS KORLONIUM BOMB GOES INTO THIS CITY'S
PRIMARY POWER-SUPPLY! IN THE HEDGEHOG'S VERSION O'
ENGLISH: YOU TELL EGGMAN THAT I'M HERE, AND THIS
ENTIRE CITY, IS FILINGS!!!





'BLACK! DIDJA REALLY HAVETA' SPLIT LIKE THAT!? 'CAUSE, MAN! WE COULD SURE USE YA' RIGHT ABOUT NOW!



" 'CAUSE IF YOU WERE HERE, YOU COULD INFILTRATE THE DEATH EGG, AND SAVE SA NO PROB!"

YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT HIM AGAIN, ARENTCHA SONIC?

SIGH-YOU KNOW I AM, BIG GUY! -I MEAN-WE SURE COULDA' USED A GUY LIKE OL' 'BLACK! I MEAN, IF WE HAD HIM OR ANY OF 'IS RUDS, AND IF THEY THROW THAT STUPID TREATY SAL'S DAD MADE 'EM SIGN IN THE TRASH, WHERE IT BELONGS, EGGMAN'D BE DUST BY NOW!



DONT WORRY, SONIC! ONE-EYED BLACK OR NONE, WE'LL GET SAL BACK! YOU'LL SEE!



-SNIFF- HOPE YER RIGHT, ROTE!

BUT I STILL SAY WE COULD ONLY USE OL' 'BLACK RIGHT ABOUT NOW!



AND SONIC MAY JUST GET HIS WISHEVEN SOONER THAN MOST READILY ANTICIPATE, OR IN THE BAD GUYS' CASE, WANT! MEANWHILE, AT THE MAIN LAB IN ROBOTROPOLIS.....

HMMM...

BUT SIR! WHY ARE YOU WASTING SO MUCH TIME AND MATERIAL ON THIS ONE ROBBIAN!? WE HAVE SEVERAL OTHER ROBOTS THAT ARE FAR STRONGER!



AS I'VE EXPLAINED MANY TIMES OVER, SNIVELY: THIS "ONE ROBIAN" WAS ONE OF MY MOST HATED ENEMIES, AND NOW, SHE'S ON OUR SIDE! AND I INTEND TO KEEP IT THAT WAY! PLUS: LET'S NOT FORGET, SNIVELY: SINCE THIS ROBIAN WAS ONCE THEIR FEARLESS LEADER, SHE FORCES HER FORMER COMRADES TO LET DOWN THEIR GUNN! AND THE MORE I UPGRADE HER, THE LESS LIKELY IT WILL BE, THAT HER PATHETIC FRIENDS WILL EVER RETURN HER TO "NORMAL"! HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA!



THAT'S A NICE, SINISTER STRATEGY Y'GOT THERE, DOC! TOO BAD IT'S NOT GONNA GET CARRIED OUT BY FURTHER!

THAT... VOICE!
NO! IT CAN'T BE!!!



IT JUST MIGHT BE, FAT BOY!

SORRY! BUT I DON'T THINK THAT SHE BELONGS TA' YOU! SHE'S NEEDED TOO BADLY BY 'ER TRUE FRIENDS! SHE'S COMING WITH ME!



WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT, YOU STATE-MORGUE REJECT!!!
SNIVELY! ACTIVATE MECHA-SALLY!!!

NOW, SNIVELY!!!

BUT SIR...
...

AND WHEN MECHA-SALLY IS ACTIVATED...

SUBJECT: O.E. BLACK, TOPPING MOVE - STAFF REGION FIGHTER ESSENTIAL PRIORITIES: BRIGHT AND FUTURE - ABOUT THREE TO EGGMAN EMPRES - CAUSE!



AND WHEN MECHA-SALLY IS ACTIVATED... ALL COSTS

-GROAN-EGGMAN! SERIOUSLY! HIDING BEHIND A ROBIAN!? I THOUGHT YOU WERE MADE! O'METAL, NOT SILLY PUTTY!



!GRRRR... I'LL SHOW YOU WHO'S SILLY PUTTY!!!!!! MECHA-SALLY!!! ATTACK!!!!



ORDER APPROVED ONE-ARMED BLACK GREENY APPROVED CLOAKING STRATEGY





YOU CAN'T... YOU WON'T...
YOU WOULDN'T DARE!!!



SHUDDER-OOO, BELIEVE ME, FAT BOY! I WOULD DARE! I CAN! AND I DEFINITELY WILL!!! AND HERE'S A FURTHER CALLING CARD FOR YA; Y'PUSS-FILLED BLUBBER COLLECTION:



NEXT TIME WE MEET, DON'T EXPECT TO COME BACK TA' THE CONTROL ROOM,



WITHOUT SPENDING AT LEAST A FEW WEEKS IN THE HOSPITAL, FIRST!!!



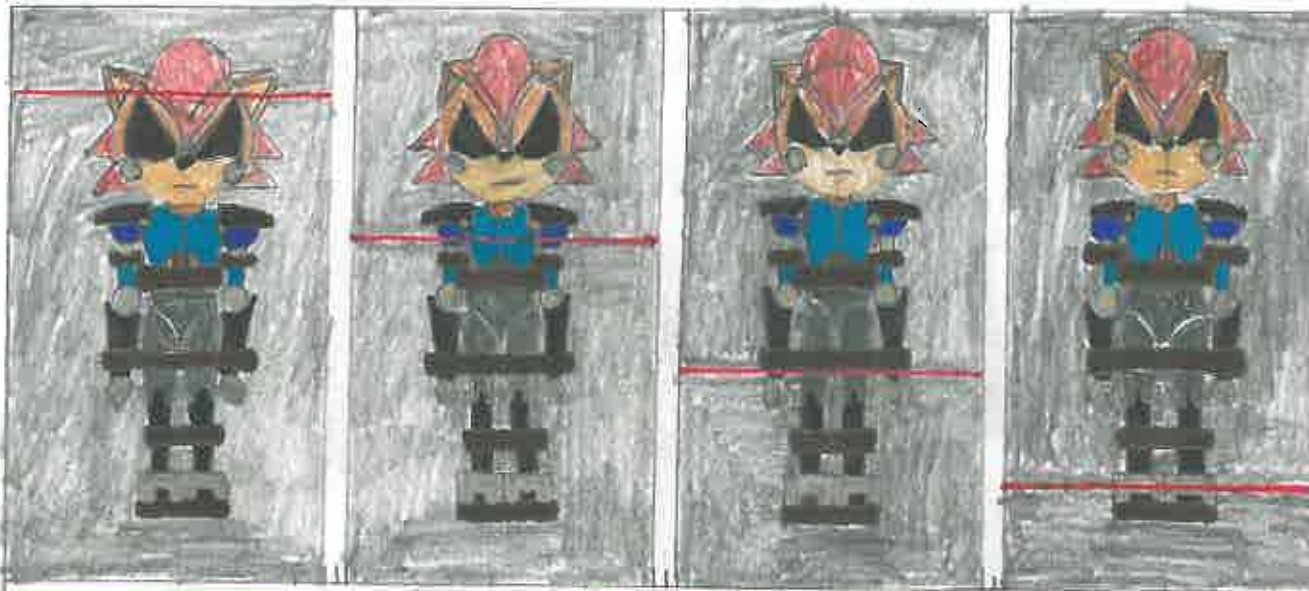
EVEN SO...

HEH, HEH, HEH, HEH, HEH! WELL, THAT WAS MERELY THE PRINCESS'S BODY THAT THAT BLIMPLESS BUCCANEER JUST STOLE FROM ME! AND I KNOW VERY WELL, THOSE PATHETIC PIRATES CAN ONLY RESTORE A ROBIAN, IF ITS "REAL" SOUL'S STILL IN IT! AND I TOOK THE PRINCESS'S "REAL" LIFE-FORCE OUT OF HER WEEKS AGO! THERE IS NO WAY THAT THAT CREEPY SCARECROW CAN RESTORE HER!



WHENEVER YOU SAY "THERE IS NO WAY THAT THE PIRATES CAN WIN" SHUDDER-THEY USUALLY FIND A WAY!
-SHUDDER-





ANALYSIS: COMPLETE!

ALRIGHT, CARE! GIMME THE LATEST!

IT'S EXACTLY AS WE HAVE FEARED FROM THE START, ONE STEP BLACKER! SALLY HAS GONE THROUGH NUMEROUS UPGRADES! THESE UPGRADES WERE ALL DESIGNED TO MAKE SALLY A MORE EFFECTIVE FIGHTER, AS WELL AS TO KEEP HER ON EGGMAN'S SIDE!

HOW SERIOUS ARE THESE UPGRADES, CARRIE!?

WILL MENTION THE NEWS AT THE TIME FEEL FIT: THE MAJORITY OF THESE UPGRADES ARE RELATIVELY MINOR, AND WILL NOT INTERFERE WITH OUR USUAL METHODS OF DE-MECHANIZATION; UNFORTUNATELY, ONE OF THE MORE EXTENSIVE UPGRADES, PROBABLY AMONG THE FIRST, IS THAT SALLY'S BRAIN, HAS BEEN SWITCHED OUT! IF WE ARE TO RESTORE PRINCESS SALLY, WE WILL FIRST RESTORE HER ORIGINAL BRAIN COMPONENT.

MEANING, O' COURSE: THAT YOU N' ME GET TA' HAVE A LIL' MORE FUN BEFORE WE ANNOUNCE THAT WE'RE BACK, HUH!?

IF YOU'RE NOT FULLY LEVELING UP OF ROBOTROPOLIS, LOOKING FOR SALLY'S VITAL COMPONENTS, THE ANSWER TO YOUR QUESTION IS A NICE, JUICY "YES"!

WELL, I HOPE EGGMAN'S GOT PLENTY O' ROOM IN 'IS JUNKYARD' 'CAUSE IF IT REALLY DOES MEAN GETTING SALLY BACK FOR SONIC, I'LL SEND THE FATIGUE WHOLE CHEP, NO-GOOD, OIL-DIPPING SCUMBUCKERS ARMY THERE IF NERVE TA'

HANG IN THERE, SALLY! WE'LL GETCHA BACK TA' NORMAL! I PROMISE!

IT VERY WELL SEEMS, THAT EGGMAN, HAS SIGNED HIS DEATH-WARRANT!



THE HUNT FOR SALLY'S BRAIN COMPONENT IS NOW OFFICIALLY ON! THE 'BOTS ARE NO MORE AND PROBABLY EVEN LESS COOPERATIVE THAN THEY HAD BEEN, WHEN WE WERE LOOKING FOR SALLY, HERSELF. WE MADE NUMEROUS INQUIRIES, BUT APPARENTLY, EVERY SINGLE 'BOT THAT WE ASKED WOULD SOONER BE SCARED, THAN SUCCUMB TO HOSTILE INTERROGATION. BY NOW, HOWEVER, EVERY SINGLE 'BOT IN THIS CITY, IS SCARED TO SCIMP OF US. FINALLY, THE 'BOTS, NOW REALIZE THAT WHATEVER EGGMAN COULD DO TO THEM, ONE-EYED BLACK AND I, TOGETHER, COULD DO NUMEROUS TIMES WORSE! EVEN SO, THE 'BOTS WE ASKED WERE EXTREMELY UNWILLING TO CRACK. SO, ONE-EYED BLACK AND I HAD TO BLAST NICE KICK PUNCH STARS AND BUST OURSELVES THROUGH TO THE 'BOTS



ALRIGHT, 'BOTS! YOU CAN EITHER ANSWER ME OR LAND ON THE SCRAP-HEAP WITH YOUR COMRADES!

WHERE'S THE DETENTION CENTER?!!!!



ALL OF THIS 'BOT-SMASHING BEGAN JUST SINGLE-DIGIT-SECONDS AFTER I SWALLOWED SALLY'S MECHANIZED BODY FROM EGGMAN. CARRIE N' I TELEPORTED TO THE EXACT TIME WE LAST LEFT THAT PLANE OF EXISTENCE. THAT WAY, I FIGURED, IF EGGMAN WANTED TO DESTROY SALLY'S TRUE LIFE-ESSENCE BEFORE CARRIE & I GOT TO IT, IN THEORY AT LEAST, BY THE TIME EGGMAN ISSUED SUCH AN ORDER, CARRIE N' I WOULD'VE ALREADY MADE OFF WITH THE GOODS, AND WOULD BE LONG GONE! AND BY THE TIME THE SWAT-BOTS WOULD BAT US OUT TA' EGGMAN, IT'D ALREADY BE TOO LATE FOR EGGMAN, TO PREVENT US, FROM BRINGING ONE OF THE BIGGEST THORNS IN THE SIDE OF HIS GOAL FOR WORLD DOMINATION BACK! UNLIKE WITH SALLY'S BODY, WE COULDN'T SCARE THE EXACT LOCATION OF SALLY'S TRUE BRAIN COMPONENT OUTTA THE LOCAL 'BOTS, BUT THEY WERE ABLE TO TELL US WHICH BUILDING IT WAS IN, AND THAT WAS CONSIDERED A REASONABLE START, AT LEAST FOR NOW, 'NYWAY!



YUP! THAT DEFINITELY LOOKS LIKE THE PLACE, ALRIGHT!

STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT WE SWITCH FOR TONIGHT, ONE-EYED BLACK. WHILE IT'S TRUE THAT IT WILL TAKE SEVERAL HOURS FOR EGGMAN TO SEND HIS WAY, WE ARE UP TO, WHEE! MIGHT NOT BE THE BEST SECOND OF THAT TIME, TO FIND SALLY'S TRUE BRAIN COMPONENT?

THEN, I SUGGEST WE NOT KEEP STALLING!

AND WHEN ONE-EYED BLACK AND CARRIE ARE INSIDE (A FEW SCARED SECURITY 'BOTS LATER OF COURSE)....



ALRIGHT!!! I KNOW SOMEBODY'S HERE!!!



COME OUT!
COME OUT!
WHEREVER
YOU ARE!



CARRIE! ACTIVATE BAT RADAR DISRUPTION PROGRAM!



WOOO WOOO WOOO WOOO

AAAAH HHH! SOMEBODY TURN
THAT RACKET OFF!!!!!!



ZZZ K

I SEE I GOTCHER LAINVED
ATTENTION, ROUGE!



!!???



SO, YER THE DJ WHO
PLAYED THAT WETTY
MUSIC, HUH?!



KEEP UP THE
ATTITUDE, AND I
COULD VERY EASILY
HAVE IT PUT ON
ONE! BUT ROCKIN'
'YOU TA' DEPTH
IS, INTERESTING,
MOST MY
OBJECTIVE
HERE!

SO WHAT
DOES BRING
YA' HERE,
CREEPY?!

TO PUT IT BLUNTLY, ROUGE,
I KINDA NEED YER HELP!

HMPH! AND
JUST WHAT
MAKES YA THINK
I'M GONNA HELP
A CREEPY OL'
'COON WITH A
REALLY BAD
TASTE IN MUSIC!?

I KNOW THAT YOU HAVE QUITE A
THING FOR JEWELRY, ROUGE!

SO, WHAT IF I DO? WHAT'S
IT TO YA', CREEPY!?

I BELIEVE THAT I CAN
SATISFY YER DESIRE
FOR SUCH, ROUGE!
IF YOU COOPERATE!

MMMM... FOR ME? YOU REALLY
SHOULDN'T HAVE, OL' 'COON!

NOT SO FAST,
ROUGE! THIS
KINDA THING
DUNNY COME
ON A SILVER
PLATTER, YA'
'NOW!

- GROAN- SHOULD'X KNOWN
THERE'D BE A CATCH!
ALRIGHT, OLD 'COON!
WHY'D YA' SAY?

I'M PLANNING TO FREE
A VERY IMPORTANT SOME-
ONE FROM EGGMAN'S EVIL
CONTROL AND INFLUENCE! I
ALREADY HAVE YER BODY, BUT IF I'M
GONNA BRING HER BACK, I'M GONNA NEED
HER "REAL" BODY, AS WELL!

YA' HNT IT DEAD ON THE NAIL, ROUGE! AND IF
YA' REALLY DO WANT THIS NICE, BIG ROCKIN'
MY HOT'LIL' HAND, YOU'LL AT LEAST HEAR
ME OUT!

I'KEEP TALKIN';
CREEPY! I'M
LISTENING!

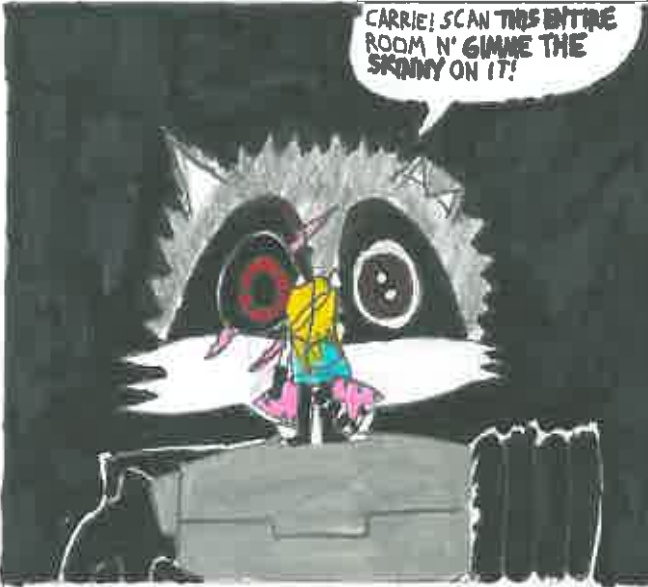
HMPH! I TAKE IT
THAT IT'S THAT BORN
BRAT, SALLY THATCHER,
LOOKIN' TA BRING BACK
I'NT IT?

END OF
PART II





CARRIE! SCAN THIS ENTIRE ROOM N' GIMME THE SKINNY ON IT!



TASK ACCEPTED! SCANNING IN PROGRESS ONE EYED BLACK!



JUST A FEW SECONDS LATER...

ANALYSIS COMPLETE! IT SEEMS THAT THE RATE AT WHICH EGGMAN CAN MECHANIZE AND ENslave THE MORIAN POPULACE HAS BEEN GRAVELY UNDERESTIMATED! EGGMAN HAS, ALTOGETHER, ROBOTICIZED 2,769 MORIANS! AND THAT NUMBER GROWS EVER-GREATER, BY THE DARTING ASPECTED WILL BE LIKE LOOKING FOR A VERY SMALL NEEDLE, IN THE BIGGEST HAYSTACK THAT A GIANT CAN PRODUCE, IN A 90 ACRE FARM. HOWEVER, I FEEL THAT SHE SHOULD FIRST DISABLE ALL SECURITY AT ALL SOURCES TO AVOID DETECTION!



CARRIE! DISABLE AS MUCH OF THE SECURITY SYSTEM AS YOU CAN!

TASK ACCEPTED!



AFTER THE MAJORITY OF THE SECURITY SYSTEM IS DISABLED.....

BUT, OF COURSE IT IS AGAINST MY PROGRAMMING TO HOG ALL THE FUN FOR MYSELF! THERE IS A SURVEILLANCE CAMERA POINTED RIGHT AT US! UNLESS IT IS DEALT WITH IN THE NEXT FEW SECONDS I WILL RAT US OUT TO EGGMAN! I WILL LEAVE THAT CAMERA'S DESTRUCTION FOR YOU!



WILAM!

I'M ALL OVER IT, CARRIE!

♪ SHIVER MAH TIM-BEIG, ♪
♪ SHIVER MAH SAILS, ♪
♪ DEAD MEN TELL NO TALES!!! ♪



!?!?!? SIR! THE MAIN SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM IN THE MAXIMUM SECURITY DETENTION CENTER IS DOWN! AND I THINK I KNOW WHY! PERHAPS THE PIRATE...



NO CHANCE, SNIVELY! EVEN IF THAT BLIMPLESS BUCCANEER CAN STILL TELEPORT, THERE IS NO WAY THAT HE COULD'VE CAUGHT ONTO THE PRINCESS'S "BRAIN DAMAGE" THIS SOON! LET ALONE KNOW WHERE TO LOOK!



WELL, SNIVELY? IS OUR "LARGE N'N CHARGE" MASTER RIGHT ABOUT OUR "PIRATE FRIEND" NOT BEING THIS QUICK!?



WELL-GULP-ACTUALLY LIEN-DA-SHudder-I WOULD NOT PUT IT PAST HIM! THE PIRATE'S TECHNOLOGY IS HIGHLY ADVANCED! IT WOULD MAKE EVEN YOUR PEOPLE'S TECHNOLOGY LOOK LIKE A TINKER TOYS KIT!



HMPH! THE DOC'S RIGHT! YOU REALLY ARE BEING SERIOUSLY PARANOID, SNIVELY! NOBODY CAN MATCH THE TECHNOLOGICAL MIGHT OF THE LEGION! SPECIALLY NOT SOME CREEPY OLD 'COON WHO SAYS THAT 'E'S ACTUALLY FROM THE WORLD BEFORE MOBIUS!



IF THOSE TRULY ARE YOUR FEELINGS OF THE SITUATION AT-HAND, LIEN-DA, THEN, YOU ARE JUST AS FOOLISH, AND LOCO, AS MY "REAL" UNCLE!

MEANWHILE, BACK IN THE NOW
NIGHTMARE DETENTION
CENTER

HMMM... IT SEEMS THAT THESE
BOXES ARE CLEARLY MARKED:

MAYBE THIS WON'T BE SO HARD, AFTER ALL!

IT'S MY BELIEF THAT
EGG MAN DO IT THIS WAY
SO THAT WHEN THIS ROOM
IS FULL, HE WILL KNOW
WHICH BRAIN COMPONENT
TO DISPOSE OF TO ANNE
ROOM 1234567890

EXACTLY, HOW LONG IS
IT GONNA TAKE EGG-
BREATH TO FILL THIS
ENTIRE ROOM, CARRIE!?

AND AROUND AN HOUR, AND SEVERAL-DOZEN
EXAMINED BRAIN COMPONENTS LATER...

ONE-EYED BLACK I HAVE FOUND THE 36TH BRAIN
FIFTH LEVEL, THIRD SET OF SHELVES TO THE
LEFT COMING THROUGH THE MAIN ENTRANCE!

GREAT WORK
CARRIE!

ONE-EYED
BLACK I DO
BELIEVE YOU
WOY
MONTIATION

EXTRACTED FROM YOUR BODY; YOUR
IDENTITY BEING TAKEN, BEING 'RISE
NOW, AND MAY YOUR SPIRIT

AWAKEN!!!

UNLESS SOMETHING IS DONE, AND FASTER THAN SOUND, THE
ROOM WILL BE FULL IN ANOTHER TWO MONTHS AND 19
DAYS AND ACCORDING TO THE DATA THAT I'VE ABSTRACTED
FROM ROBOTROPOLIS' MAINFRAME SALLY HAS BEEN
CHOSEN TO BE THE FIRST ONE

THEN I GUESS IT'S A REALLY GOOD
THING THAT WE CAME HERE WHEN
WE DID!

I'M ALL OVER IT,
CARRIE!

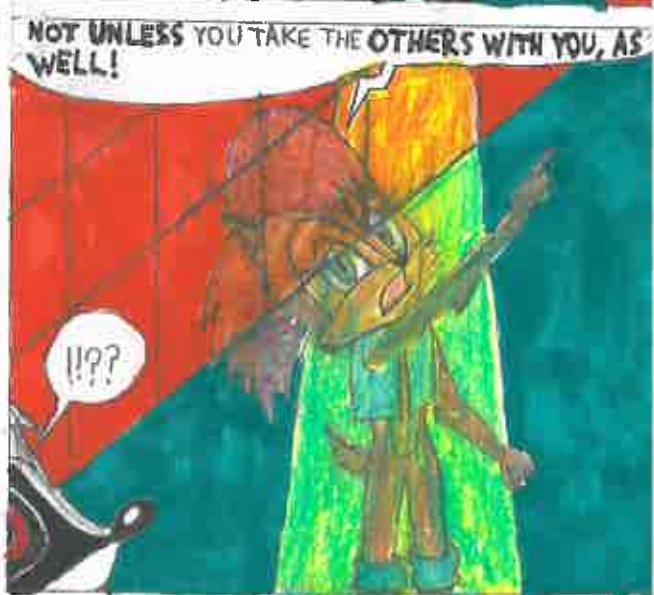
NOW LET'S JUST
HOPE THAT THIS
LIL' MAGIC TRICK
O' MINE WORKS
HERE!

AND SURE ENOUGH THE HOLLOWBANK "HOST" OF ONE OF
ONE-EYED BLACK'S MOST UNUSUAL OUT-OF-DIMENSION
PARTNER PRINCESS SALLY, APPEARED BEFORE THE RAGGED
SOFTWARE PIRATE

WHO AM I?
AND WHO..

THE ANSWER YOU
SEEK, SALLY, IS A LOT
EASIER TO OBTAIN
THAN YOU MIGHT THINK

!?



I SEE VERY WELL WHATCHER GETTING AT, SALLY!
AND, YOU WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED IN THE LEAST,
MY RELUCTANT PARTNER! YES! THE REST OF THESE
RE-AWAKENED ROBBIANS WILL BE COMING WITH! BUT,
UNDERSTAND, SALLY: YOU ARE STILL TO BE BROUGHT
BACK FIRST!



IS IT ALRIGHT
IF I ASK WHAT
THE GAME-
PLAN IS, ONE-
EYED BLACK!?

WITH YOUR MECHANIZATION BEING PROLONGED, I LOST
ENOUGH SELF-CONTROL TO RENOUNCE THE
NIGHTMARE/ACORN AGREEMENT, AND COME AT YOUR
ENEMIES FULL-SWING, LIKE I SHOULD'VE DONE AGES
AGO! FROM HERE ON OUT, SALLY, I'M ONLY GONNA STOP
POUNDING YER ENEMIES INTO NON-EXISTENCE UNTIL ON
THEY CHIDE THEIR BILWAYS, OR TWO: THEY'RE DUST!!



UNDERSTAND, ONE-EYED BLACK: MY FATHER WILL NOT
BE VERY HAPPY WITH YOU! BUT AFTER ALL THE MISTAKES
THAT HE'S MADE, PAIRING ME UP WITH PATCH AMONG
THEM*, I VERY-WELL SEE THE RELEVENCY OF WHAT
YOU'RE PLANNING TO DO! VERY WELL, ONE-EYED
BLACK! DO WHATEVER YOU LIKE TO EGGMAN...



*->SEE 5TH #ISS FOR FULL DETAILS



!!??
....

...BUT PLEASE.



...GET
ME BACK TO
MY FRIENDS
FIRST!



PLANET

CONSIDER IT DONE "PRINCESS"

WITH THIS, AND WITH THE TELEPORTATION GUN IN RAPID-FIRE-MODE, ONE-EYED BLACK TELEPORTS EVERY SINGLE REVIVED BRAIN COMPONENT TO TCHQ, WHERE NOT EVEN EGGMAN'S MOST WELL-DESIGNED WEAPON CAN EVEN TOUCH THEM!

AL RIGHT, CARRIE! ROLL-CALL! LET'S SEE WHO-ALL WE GOT HERE!



BY MY CALCULATIONS, AND BY LAST-MINUTE COUNT, WE HAVE RESCUED THE BRAIN COMPONENTS OF A VERY STAGGERING, 69 VICTIMS OF THE ROBOTICIZER! IT WILL, HOWEVER, TAKE SOME TIME, TO LOCATE THE BODIES OF THESE TORTURE

SOULS! WITHOUT WHICH, WE CANNOT BRING THEM BACK



EGGMAN'S PROBABLY GONNA CATCH ONTO THIS ANY MINUTE NOW! WHAT I NEED, IS A WAY TA' FIND THESE SOULS' BODIES IN A HURRY, BEFORE EGGMAN EITHER HIDES THEM IN A PLACE I CAN'T REACH, OR WORSE-YET, DESTROYS THEM!



RING
RING
RING
RING
RING

INCOMING TRANSMISSION, ONE-EYED BLACK!

OH, BLACKIE!



DONT WORRY, ONE-EYE BLACK! I'LL GET IT!

!!??

-GROAN- I KNOW THAT VOICE, AND IT BETTER NOT BE!



TCHQ HERE! WE READ YOU! OVER!



END OF PART 100

WANTED!!!



Software Pirate, Freedom Fighter **ONE-EYED BLACK**
Wanted for: Extensive software piracy; Association
with Priority 1 Freedom Fighters; Destruction of
several devices vital to the cause of **EGGMAN**
EMPIRE; Liberation of Robins; AND possession of
ILLEGAL WEAPONRY

Reward: Lord Eggman of the Eggman Empire will
unconditionally pay **FIVE MILLION MOBILIUMS** for the
capture of this **NOTORIOUS ENGINE OF DESTRUCTION**

--**DEAD OR ALIVE**--

Approach with extreme caution - this deadly
ally of the Freedom Fighters is considered
ARMED TO THE TEETH, AND EXTREMELY
DANGEROUS!!! TERMINATE AT ALL COSTS!!!



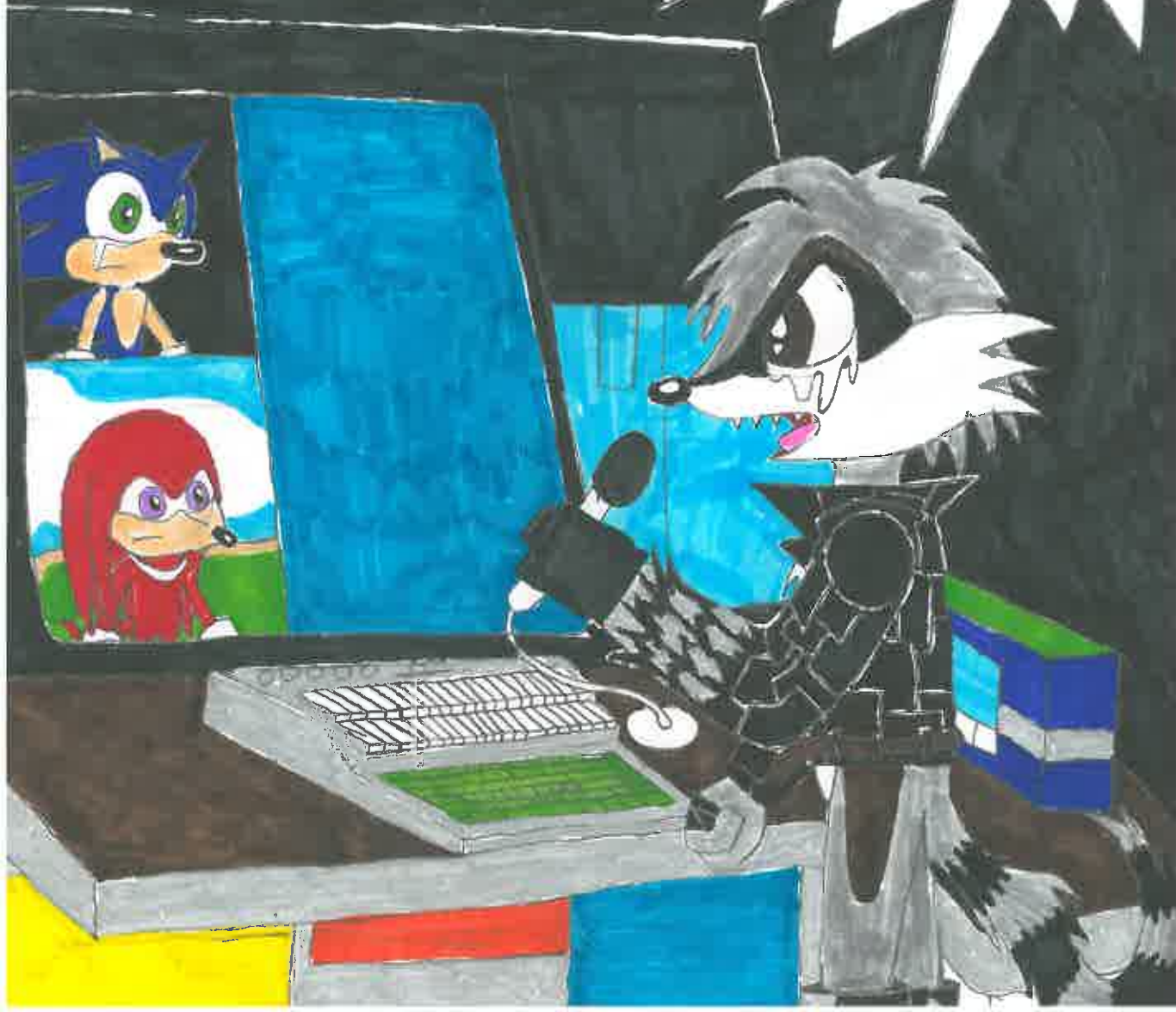
SONIC THE HEDGEHOG

CO-STARRING:
ONE-EYED BLACK
OF THE NIGHTMARE PLAINS

IN...
THE RETURN OF
PRINCESS
Sally

CHAPTER
II
INITIAL
CONTRA

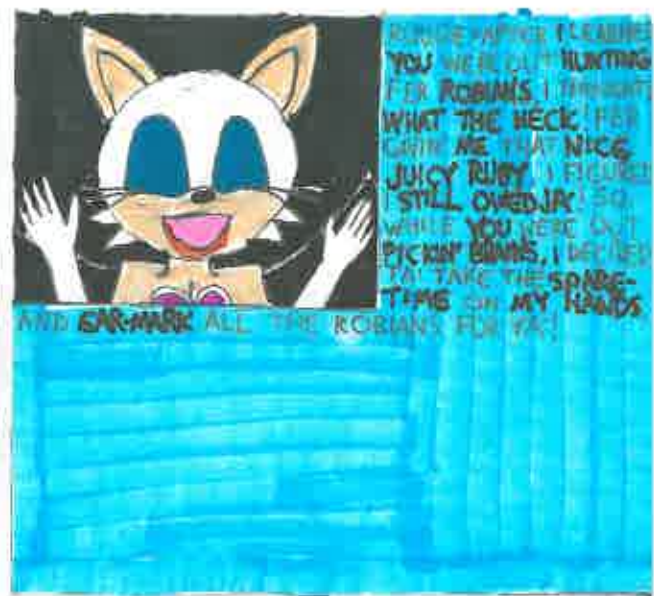
...AND SO DID I!!! SOME BIG
FAT GUY WITH A BIG ORANGE
MUSTACHE IS GONNA **DIE!!!**







GO AHEAD, ROUGE! WHADAYA GOT FOR US!?



ROUGE! AFTER I CALLED YOU WE'RE OUT HUNTING FOR ROBBIANS! I DON'T WANT WHAT THE HECK! FOR GIVING ME THAT NICCE JUICY RUBY! I FIGURED I STILL OWED JAC! SO WHILE YOU WERE OUT PICKING BEANS, I DECIDED TO TAKE THE SOME-THING ON MY HANDS AND SARK MARK ALL THE ROBBIANS FOR YAC!



HEH- IS THAT SO!?



HEHE- YOU ACCUSE ME O' LYIN' SALLY! IT'S THE TRUTH! AND IF Y'DON'T BELIEVE ME WHY DON'T YOU CHECK THAT COMPUTER I'M CONTACTIN' OL' CREEPY THOUGHT!



WELL, CARP!E!?



ROUGE IS TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT 80% OF ALL OF THE ROBBIANS WITHIN ROBOTROPOLIS. I HAVE BEEN TAGGED! AMONG THESE ROBBIANS ARE 5% OF THOSE WE ARE CURRENTLY AFTER!





THANKS, ROUGE! AND BE SURE TO LET ME, SALLY, AND OR CARRIE KNOW IF YA' COME ACROSS ANY MORE!



ROUGE > YEAH WHATEVER CREEPY!

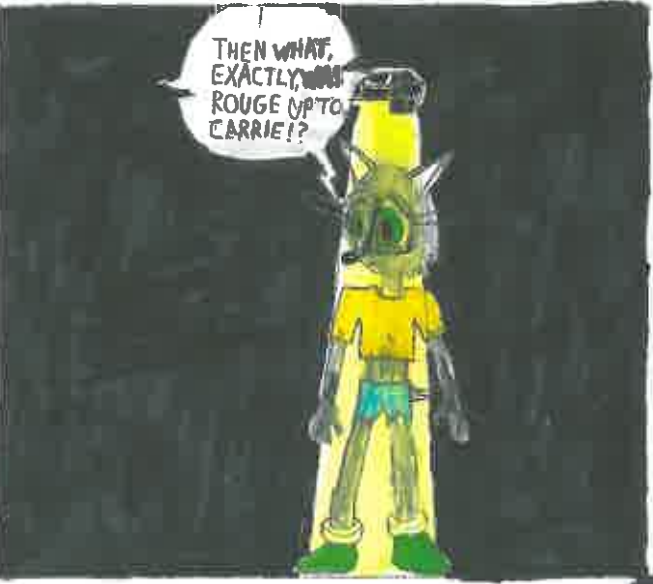
CARRIE > END OF TRANSMISSION!



CARRIE! I MUST KNOW! WAS ROUGE UP TO SOMETHING, OR WASN'T SHE!?



SOME DECEPTION WAS DETECTED, BUT ACCORDING TO MYSEN SOR, SHE HAS NO IMMEDIATE PLANS, TO RAY OUT IN ONE-EYED BLACK, TO EGGMAN!



THEN WHAT, EXACTLY, DID ROUGE UP TO CARRIE!?



ROUGE IS TRYING TO GET THE FULL WALK IN POTION LOWER VALLEY TO TELL AT LEAST SOMEBODY WHAT ONE-EYED BLACK IS UP TO! AND SHE VERY WELL UNDERSTANDS THAT THE ONLY WAY THAT SHE CAN DO JUST WHO NOT GET HER HAND SCRAWLED IS TO ASSIST ONE-EYED BLACK IN COMPLETING HIS GOALS!

ONE-EYED BLACK! BE **CAUTIOUS!** ACCORDING TO CARRIE, THE **ONLY** REASON THAT ROUGE IS HELPING US, IS TO GET YOU OUT OF THE CITY AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE, SO THAT SHE CAN FEEL FREE TO TELL THE NEXT BEING SHE SEES WHAT YOU'RE UP TO!



HMPH- I **SHOULD** KNOW THAT THAT WAS HER **ANGLE!** NOT TO WORRY, **THAT'S** SALLY!



MUCH TO ROUGE'S **SATISFACTION,** THIS SHOULD'NT TAKE TOO LONG!



JUST MINUTES LATER.....

...AND DON'T WORRY 'BOUT A THING! THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS N'I'LL GETCHA BACK TO NORMAL IN NO-TIME FLAT!



GO 'HEAD, SALLY!

LATEST ON THE SITUATION, ONE-EYED BLACK-ROUGE HAS NOW TAGGED ALL ROBANS IN ROBOTROPOLIS! CARRIE WILL SEND YOU THEIR COORDINATES RIGHT AWAY!



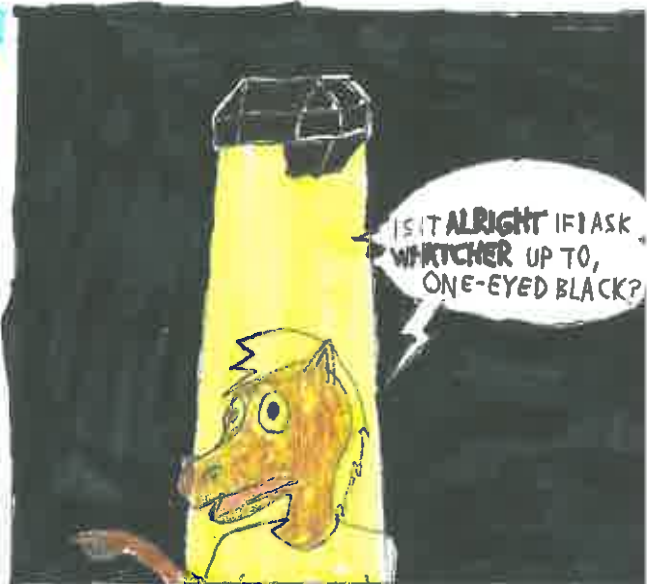
THE RETURN
OF PRINCESS
PART
VIII

A LITTLE MORE THAN HALF AN-
HOUR LATER.....
ALRIGHT, CARRIE! GET ME OUT
69 INCH-THICK CIRCUIT BOARDS!

CONSIDER IT DONE,
ONE-EYED BLACK!
AND I'LL EVEN THROW
IN A FEW EXTRAS
FOR GOOD MEASURES!



THANKS
CARRIE!



IS IT ALRIGHT IF I ASK
WHITCHER UP TO,
ONE-EYED BLACK?



YOU HAVE EVERY RIGHT IN THIS WORLD TO
ASK THAT QUESTION, AND IT WILL BE
ANSWERED! I TAKE IT, THAT BY NOW, AT
LEAST THE MAJORITY OF YOU GUYS
KNOW WHAT I DO WITH ROBBIANS!

WE ALL KNOW PERFECTLY
WELL WHATCHA DO WITH
'EM, BLACK! AND THERE ISN'T
SINGLE FREEDOM FIGHTER
THAT DOESN'T RESPECTCHA
FOR IT!

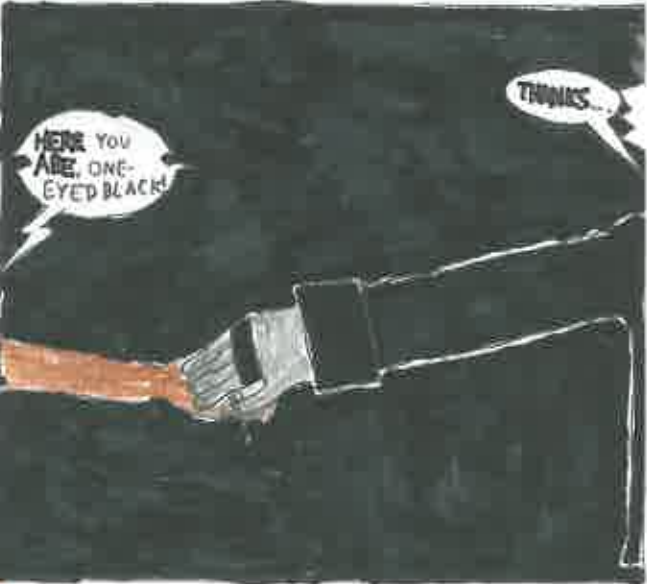


WELL, THAT MISSION HAS NOT CHANGED! I PLAN TO
CONSTRUCT 69 OF MY OWN, PERSONAL, FREE-
WILL RESTORATION CIRCUIT CARDS, AND
STICK ONE OF THEM, IN EACH OF YOU!



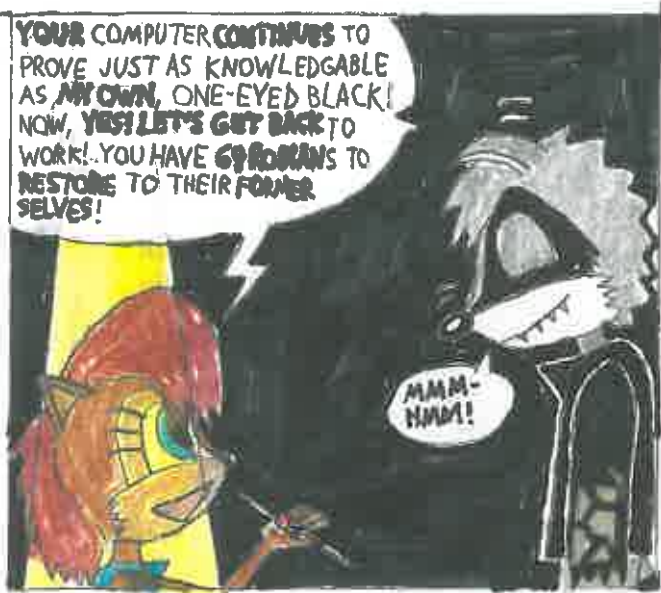
AND JUST MINUTES AFTER THE WORK COMMENCES.....

CARRIE! HAND ME ANOTHER
RESISTOR-THREE BANDS NEEDED:
ONE GREEN, ONE PURPLE, AND
THE OTHER BLACK!



HERE YOU
ARE, ONE-
EYED BLACK!

THANKS...



YOUR COMPUTER CONTINUES TO PROVE JUST AS KNOWLEDGABLE AS MY OWN, ONE-EYED BLACK! NOW, YES! LET'S GET BACK TO WORK! YOU HAVE 69 ROBOTS TO RESTORE TO THEIR FORMER SELVES!

MMM-NMM!



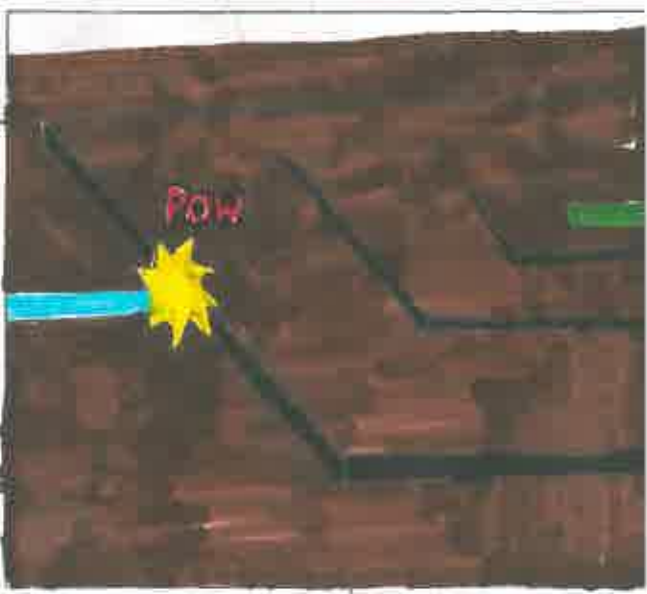
ALRIGHT! THAT SHOULD DO IT! THIS CIRCUIT CARD'S OFFICIALLY READY TA' ROCK N' ROLL!



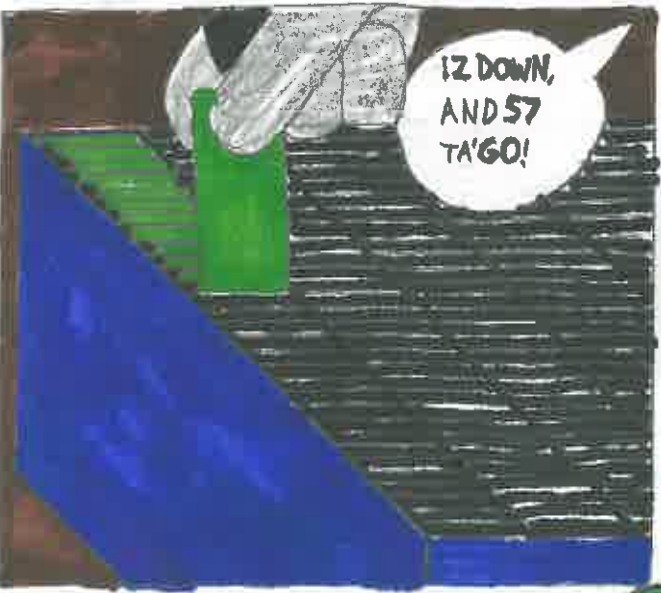
ALRIGHT, CARRIE! THAT SHOULD DO IT FER THIS ONE! NOW INITIATE SHRINK SEQUENCE!

SHRINK!

INITIATING SHRINK SEQUENCE NOW, ONE-EYED BLACK! TARGET: NEWLY COMPLETED CIRCUIT CARD SHRINKING TO 1/24 ORIGINAL SIZE!



POW!



IZ DOWN, AND 57 TA'GO!



MEANWHILE.....

MMM... I GOT PLANS FOR YOU, GORGIOUS! AND AS SOON AS THAT CREEPY PIRATE LETS ME OFF THE HOOK, YOU KNOW THEY'LL HAPPEN!

?!?



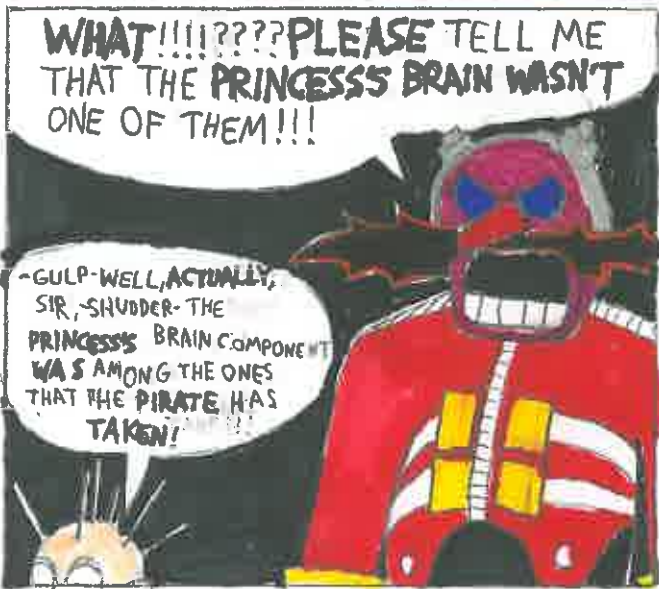
WADDAYA WANT NOW, CREEPY!?

JUST CALLED TA' LETCHA NOW THAT DID WHAT I CAME TA' DO, AND YOU CAN TELL ANYONE YA' WANT WHAT I'M UP TO! NOT THAT IT'S GONNA DO EGGMAN 'NY GOOD!

AND WHEN ROUGE'S REPORT IS FINALLY POSTED.....

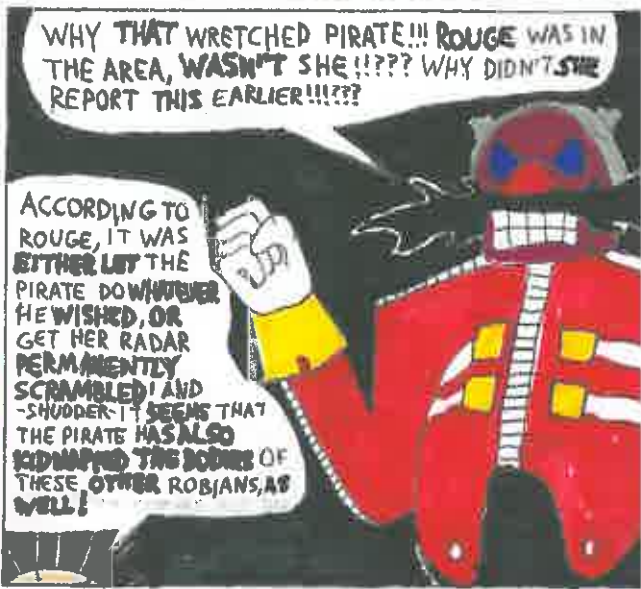


!!!!!!????? SIR! I'M AFRAID I HVE SOME VERY BAD NEWS! IT SEEMS THAT THE PIRATE HAS INFILTRATED THE MAXIMUM SECURITY DETENTION CENTER, AND HAS STOLEN THE BRAIN COMPONENTS OF 69 ROBBIANS!



WHAT!!!!???? PLEASE TELL ME THAT THE PRINCESS'S BRAIN WASN'T ONE OF THEM!!!

-GULP-WELL, ACTUALLY, SIR, SHUDDER- THE PRINCESS'S BRAIN COMPONENT WAS AMONG THE ONES THAT THE PIRATE HAS TAKEN!



WHY THAT WRETCHED PIRATE!!! ROUGE WAS IN THE AREA, WASN'T SHE!!!!?? WHY DIDN'T SHE REPORT THIS EARLIER!!!!???

ACCORDING TO ROUGE, IT WAS EITHER LET THE PIRATE DOWN WHERE HE WISHED, OR GET HER RADAR PERMANENTLY SCRAMBLED! AND -SHUDDER- IT SEEMS THAT THE PIRATE HAS ALSO KIDNAPPED THE BODIES OF THESE OTHER ROBBIANS, AS WELL!



GRRRRR..... ALRIGHT, ONE-EYED BLACK! YOU WANT TO PLAY ROUGH, THEN, WE'LL PLAY ROUGH!!! SNIVELY!!!



YES, SIR!?

READY OUR MOST DANGEROUS 'BOTS AVAILABLE!! DO BELIEVE 'COON SEASON HAS JUST OPENED!

END OF PART II



HEH-TAKE-OUT SOMEBODY FROM THE WORLD BEFORE MOBIUS? THAT SHOULDN'T EVEN BE A CAKE-WALK!

-SHUDDER- I WOULD NOT BE SO SURE IF I WERE YOU, LIEN-DA!-SHUDDER- I KNOW THE PIRATE PERSONALLY! TAKING HIM OUT-SHUDDER WILL NOT BE NEAR AS EASY, -SHUDDER- AS YOU MIGHT THINK!



LATER...

THE NIGHTMARE PIRATES' BASE SHOULD BE SOMEWHERE IN THIS AREA! AND UNLESS I MISS MY GUESS, WHICH I RARELY DO, THEIR FORTRESS WAS LEFT SURFACE!

YU! THAT DEFINITELY LOOKS LIKE THE PLACE, ALRIGHT! ARE YOU SURE HIS TECHNOLOGY WAS ADVANCED, SNIVELY!?



LOOKS PRETTY-DARN PRIMITIVE TA' ME!

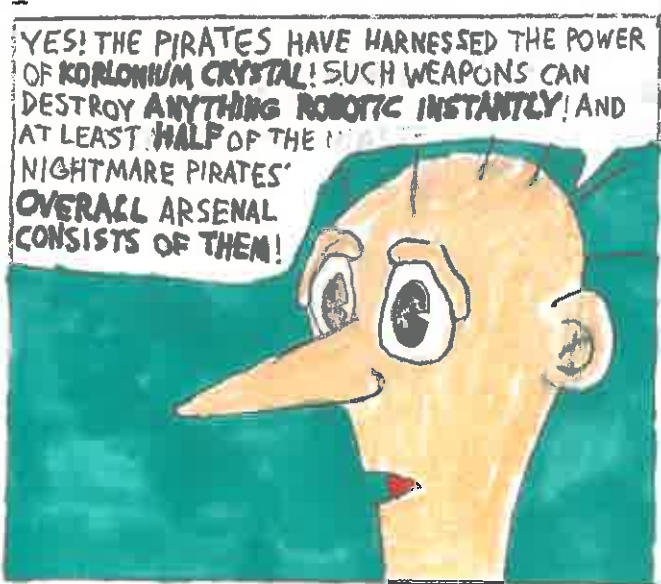
I ASSURE YOU, LIEN-DA! APPEARANCES CAN BE VERY DECEIVING!

HMPH! I STILL DON'T THINK THE OL' COON'S GONNA BE MUCH OF A CHALLENGE! ALRIGHT, YOU BOLT-BRAINS! LET'S GO IN THERE N' GET THAT PIRATE!

BUT USE EXTREME CAUTION! THE PIRATES' KORLONIUM WEAPONS HAVE BEEN LEFT AROUND!



"KORLONIUM"!?!



YES! THE PIRATES HAVE HARNESSSED THE POWER OF KORLONIUM CRYSTAL! SUCH WEAPONS CAN DESTROY ANYTHING ROBOTIC INSTANTLY! AND AT LEAST HALF OF THE NIGHTMARE PIRATES' OVERALL ARSENAL CONSISTS OF THEM!



ALRIGHT, SNIVELY! NOW, I'M WORRIED!

YOU HEARD THE SHRIMP! USE EXTREME CAUTION! BUT DON'T COME BACK HERE UNTIL YA' SEARCH THE ENTIRE FORTRESS!

BUT ONCE THE 'BOTS HAVE SEARCHED A GOOD 68% OF THE FORTRESS...

IT SEEMS THAT, EXCEPT FOR THE MAGAZINES WHICH HAVE BEEN STOCKED TO CAPACITY THE FORTRESS SEEMS TO BE COMPLETELY EMPTY!



WHEN THE 'BOTS FIND THEIR WAY INTO THE FORT'S COMPUTER ROOM...

CAEMBE! ACTIVATE YOUR ENTITY AND PUT YOUR HAND IN THE AIR! THIS IS A RAID AND THERE IS NOTHING YOUR MASTERS CAN DO!



WHEN THE RAID IS COMPLETED..



ALL WE FOUND WERE ON AUTO PILOT, NOTHER THE CAPTURED ROBOTS, NOR THE NIGHTMARE PIRATES WERE ANYWHERE IN SIGHT AND AS FOR THE COMPUTER...



ALL WE FOUND WAS THIS!



HEH-HEH-HEH! SO, THE NIGHTMARE PIRATES WANT TO BARGAIN, DO THEY??







-CHUCKLE- I NEVER WOULD'VE THOUGHT THAT ANYONE BUT SONIC COULD EVER MAKE EGGMAN THAT MAD!

I THINK THAT YOU AND THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS ARE GOING TO MAKE AN EXCELLENT TEAM, ONE-EYED BLACK!



I STILL STATE MY DISAPPROVAL OF YOU COMING BACK TO OUR WORLD ALONE, ONE-EYED BLACK! BUT, AT THE SAME TIME, I UNDERSTAND WHERE YOU'RE COMING FROM! AND HOPEFULLY, SOMEDAY, AND HOPEFULLY SOMEDAY SOON, YOUR FRIENDS WILL FOLLOW!



THERE! THAT'S THE LAST ONE! CARRIE! SHRINK THIS DOWN TA' SIZE! AND WHILE YER AT IT, PREPARE ENOUGH FOOD, MEDICAL SUPPLIES AND RECREATIONAL STUFF TO LAST YOU N' ME AT LEAST A YEAR-OR-SO WHILE WITHIN 33RD CENTURY MOBIUS!

LASTO ACCEPTED



??!!



I GUESS ~~STROUD~~ SAID SOMETHING ABOUT THIS EARLIER: UNTIL 'ALL OF YER FOES ARE DEFEATED, AND DUST AND EXCEPT FOR A YEARLY, TWO-WEEK HIATUS THAT I GOTTA TAKE NO MATTER WHAT WORLD I CALL "HOME", I AM NOT PLANNING TO LEAVE YOU GUYS LONG-TERM, AGNH!



SOON AFTERWARDS...

ONE-EYED BLACK: THE POWER-DRAIN OF THE ROBOTS IS NEARLY COMPLETE

ABOUT 5 MINUTES AND STILL COUNTING DOWN!

ALRIGHTY THEN! HOW LONG BEFORE THE DRAIN IS COMPLETE?

AFTER THE POWER-
DRAIN OF THE ROBBIANS
IS FINALLY COMPLETE...

ALRIGHT, YOU GUYS! HERE'S THE GAME-PLAN:
UNFORTUNATELY, I DON'T HAVE EVERYTHING I
NEED TO BRING YOU GUYS BACK ALL THE WAY
ON MY OWN! AND BESIDES: I THINK THAT THE
PLEASURE OF GETTING YOU BACK, SHOULD BE
ENJOYED BY THOSE WHO'VE MISSED YOU, TO
ITS FULLEST!

SO, JUST HOW
ARE YOU
PLANNING TO
GO ABOUT THIS,
ONE-EYED
BLACK!?



STEP 1: I GETHER BRAIN COMPONENTS BACK IN THEIR PROPER
BODIES; STEP 2: I TELEPORT EVERYONE PRESENT FOR NEW
ROBOTROPOLIS; STEP 3: WITH SOME HELP FROM THE FREEDOM
FIGHTERS THAT REMAIN, I RESTORE EVERYBODY'S FREE-WILL,
AND HOPEFULLY, ALL THE WAY BACK TO BEING CREATURES OF
FLESH-AND-BLOOD! STEP 4: I PUT EVERYONE OF GOOD-HEART
THROUGH SOME VERY INTENSE COMBAT TRAINING, WHICH WILL
ONLY CEASE, WHEN EVEN THE MOST DITZY WARRIOR, CAN SCRAP
EVERYTHING MADE O' METAL ON THE BLOCK! THIS TRAINING
WILL INCLUDE ALLLOTMENT OF WEAPONS WHICH I SHOULD'VE
GIVEN TO YER FRIENDS A LONG TIME AGO, SALLY! AND FINALLY
STEP 5: WE DESTROY EGGMAN, AND EVERY BADDIE IN-
BETWEEN US, AND HIM!

BUT JUST BEFORE ONE-EYED BLACK READING THE
BRAIN COMPONENTS FOR RE-INSTALLMENT.....

ONE-EYED BLACK! AGAIN: I AM
VERY GRATEFUL FOR WHAT
YOU'RE DOING HERE! BUT
THERE IS STILL SOMETHING THAT
I HAVE TO ASK YOU!

FIRE AWAY, SALLY!
WHAT'S ON YER
MIND!?

SONIC ALWAYS
LIKED YOUR PLANS,
ONE-EYED BLACK,
AND NOW, I'M STARTING
TO SEE WHY!

I WAS SUCH AN UNCOMFORTABLE ALLY FOR YOU, ONE-EYED BLACK!
WE TREATED EACH OTHER NO BETTER THAN SONIC AND
KNUCKLES TREATED EACH OTHER FOR THE LONGEST TIME!
WHY ARE YOU GOING TO SUCH LENGTHS JUST TO RESCUE
ME!

LOOK, SALLY: EVER SINCE I LEARNED OF YOUR EXISTENCE,
I TOOK NOTE OF HOW CLOSE YOU WERE TO SONIC! I REALLY
DON'T THINK THAT HE WAS HAPPIER BEING ANY GIRL'S
BOYFRIEND BUT YOURS! YOU WERE ALWAYS SONIC'S MOST
PRIZED TREASURE, SALLY! AND AFTER I FOUND OUT THAT
EGGMAN HAD DOG-LOCKED YOU TO THE DARKSIDE?! YOU
KNOW VERY WELL: I HAD TO COME BACK!

ONE-EYED BLACK! I FEEL IT BEST THAT WE TELL OUR FRIENDS WHAT YOU ARE UP TO! IF THIS OPERATION IS KEPT SECRET ALL AROUND, I FEEL THAT THERE WILL BE DIER CONSEQUENCES ONCE WE ENTER NEW MOBOTROPOLIS!



AGREED! I, TOO, FEEL IT IS BEST THAT OUR FRIENDS KNOW ABOUT THIS OPERATION BEFORE YOU BRING US HOME, ONE-EYED BLACK!



WELL, YOU KNOW WHAT I SAY TO THAT?! I SAY: WHAT YOU GUYS'RE GETTING AT IS NOT A HALF-BAD IDEA! CARRIE! PATCH ME THROUGH TA' ALL FREQUENCIES AVAILABLE TO BOTH THE CHAOTIX, AND THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS!



JUST SINGLE-DIGIT-SECONDS! LATER....



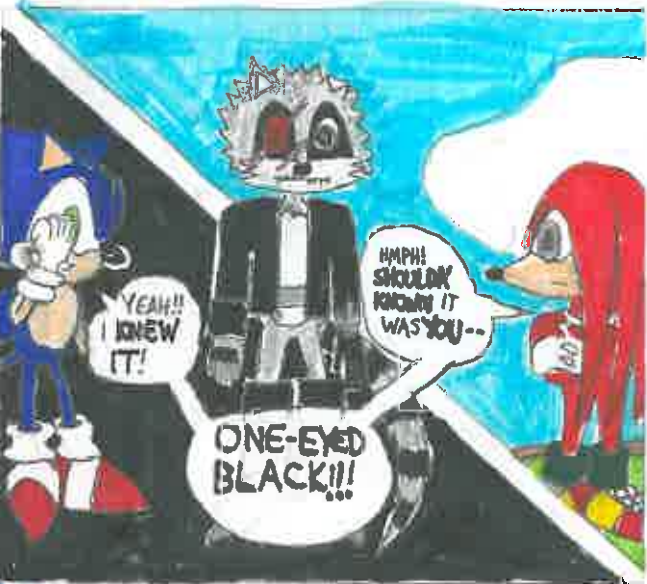
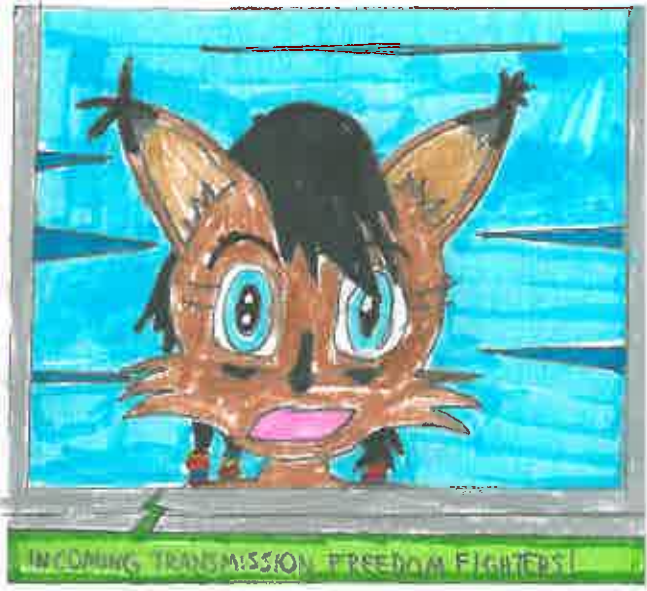
WHAT IS IT, GIRL! WERE YA' FINALLY ABLE TA' GET A FIX ON THAT WHITE CREEP, FINITEVUS?!



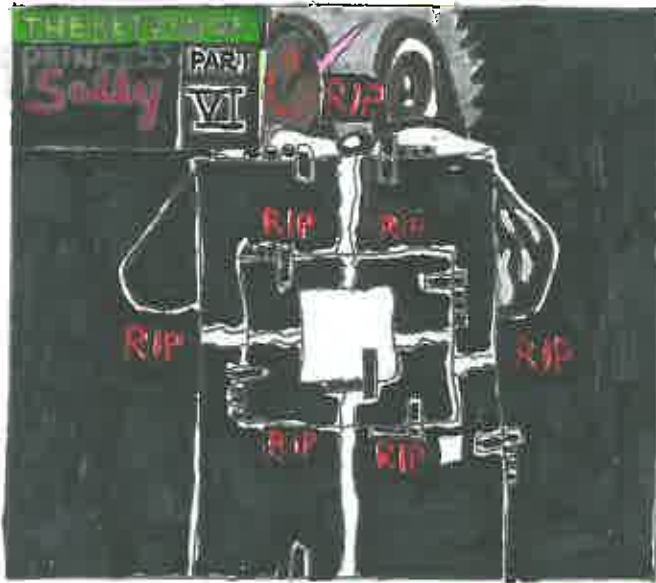
NOT SURE! BUT 'E SAYS 'E'S AN OL' PAL O' SONIC'S HE SAYS 'E HAS A MESSAGE FOR US! HE SAYS IT'S ABOUT BOTH US, AND THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS GETTIN' 'IS HELP N' FULL SUPPORT!



MEANWHILE, AT FREEDOM HQ, AND AT ABOUT THE SAME TIME...







ANYONE WANNA THINK I'M KIDDING? GOT SOME IN-BETWEEN NEWS FOR YA': I'M NOT!!!



I SAW PERFECTLY WELL WHAT THAT OVERWEIGHT CREEP DID TA' SALLY!!! AND IN CASE ANYONE'S WONDERING: YEH! WHAT HAPPENED TA' SALLY WAS THE VERY LAST STRAW IN THE ENTIRE RESTAURANT!



AFTER REALIZING THAT SALLY WAS GONNA BE ON THE DARK SIDE LONG-TERM, I DECIDED: I'M NOT GONNA TAKE THIS SITTING DOWN ANY LONGER!



I ADMIT IT, SONIC! I WAS A WIMP! ALL 'CAUSE I WANTED TA' SAVE THE BAD GUYS FER YOU, KNUCKLES, AND TAILS!



BUT NOW, I'VE SEEN THE LIGHT! EGGMAN'S GOTTA BE STOPPED! AND I DON'T CARE 'NYMORE WHO TAKES 'IM DOWN, OR HOW! AND I KNOW HOW BIG AN "OUCH" THAT SALLY'S MECHANIZATION WAS ON YOU ALL!



EVEN THOSE OF GOOD-HEART WHO ONLY REMOTELY KNEW SALLY FELT A GREAT DEAL O' HURT N' BURN AND SO DID!!!! REST ASSURED FREEDOM FIGHTERS AND CHAOTIX: SOME BIG FAT GUY WITH A BIG ORANGE MUSTACHE IS GONNA DIE!!!





A FEW YEARS BACK, A GROUP OF RENEGADES SIDED WITH THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS! THESE RENEGADES WERE, IN FACT, SOME OF SALLY'S DAD'S MOST NOTORIOUS ALLIES! THEY CALLED THEMSELVES "THE NIGHTMARE PIRATES"! AND THE 'COON WHO CALLED ON US JUST NOW, WAS THEIR LEADER!





AFTER ALL OF THE CHAOTIX
WEAR THE WHOLE STORY.....

WHOA! DIDN'T KNOW THE OL' COON THOUGHT THAT
HIGHLY 'BOUT 'ER! IN FACT, I THOUGHT THEY HATED
EACH UDDER!



IT APPEARS THAT WHAT WAS GOING ON BETWEEN
THE PIRATE AND THE PRINCESS, WAS NOT AT ALL
UNLIKE WHAT WAS GOING ON BETWEEN SONIC
AND KNUCKLES! AS IN: NOT SEEING EYE-TO-EYE
AND DEEPLY ANNOYING EACH OTHER BECAUSE OF
DIFFERENCE IN OPINION!



IT'S A LITTLE LATE FOR ONE-EYED BLACK TA!
WANNA BURY THE HATCHET WITH SALLY!

BUT AVENGE THE
PRINCESS BY DRAWIN' N'
QUARTER O' EGGMAN
ARNE! I'M PRETTY SURE
THAT THE COON CAN
PROBLY DO THAT MUCH,
AT LEAST!



WILD! SOUNDS LIKE THIS GUY COULD WIN THE WAR
WITH EGGMAN FOR SONIC IN PRETTY-WELL-NO
TIME-FLAT!



AND THAT'S NOT EVEN THE TIP O' THE ICEBERG, 'SU!
THIS BLOKE ' POSSESSED TECHNOLOGY SO ADVANCED,
THAT 'IS INVENTIONS'D MAKE EVEN THE DARK LEGION'S
MOST ADVANCED GADGETS LOOK LIKE SOMETHIN'
YOU'D MAKE OUTTA TINKER TOYS!



-GASP- TECHNOLOGY
SUPERIOR TO THE
LEGIONS!!!!!!?????
I DIDN'T THINK
THAT THAT WAS
POSSIBLE!!!

WELL, GIVEN THAT THIS GUY'S FROM
ANOTHER DIMENSION, NOTHING
SURPRISES ME 'BOUT HIM ANYMORE!



"ANOTHER
DIMENSION"!!?

AND A WHOLE 'NOTHER TIME-FRAME, IF MY CLAN WAS SHOWN THE TRUTH ABOUT HIM AND HIS MEN! WHENEVER EVEN ONE OF THE NIGHTMARE PIRATES WAS ON THE BATTLEFIELD, WHOEVER THEY WERE FACING, WOULD SUFFER HUMILIATION FAR WORSE THAN EVEN THE SLOWEST DEER! AND NOW, IT SEEMS THAT THE PRINCESS'S MECHANIZATION HAS PUSHED THEIR LEADER OFF THE DEEP END! AND HE IS VERY UNLIKELY TO CEASE FIRE UNTIL EGGMAN, IS NO MORE!



COME TO THINK OF IT, I GUESS I, MYSELF, CAN KINDA SEE WHERE THIS GUY'S GOTTA BE COMING FROM! BUT WHAT, EXACTLY IS THIS "ONE-EYED BLACK" GUY GONNA DO TO "HELP US"!?



*-> JULIE-SU HERSELF, GOT OFF TO A PRETTY ROCKY START WHEN SHE FIRST JOINED FORCES WITH KNUCKLES WAY-BACK-WHEN IN KTE #4

MY FEELINGS ARE: HE HAS PROBABLY ALREADY MADE HIS FIRST MOVE! AND MY SUGGESTION IS: THAT WE RAID EGGMAN'S DATABASE, AND FIND OUT WHAT OUR GOOD "FRIEND", THE PIRATE, HAS BEEN UP TO LATELY!



ALRIGHTY THEN! LET'S SEE WHAT KINDA DAMAGE THAT THIS NO-HOT-AIR 'COON HAS DONE SO FAR!



JULIE-SU! MONITOR ALL AIRWAVES GOIN' IN, AND OUTTA ROBOTROPOLIS; AND LET US KNOW WHETHER OR NOT THE PIRATE'S ALREADY PAID EGGMAN A VISIT!



ROGER, KNUCKLES!

JUST SECONDS LATER.....

I'M GETTING SOMETHING ALREADY, YOU GUYS! IT'S HEAVILY CODED, BUT I CAN READ IT! AND... WHOA! SOUNDS LIKE THE 'COON'S REALLY BEEN BUSY!



!!!???
...
WELL, WHAT'D E DO, GIRL!?

HE'S KIDNAPPED 69 ROBINS
FROM EGGMAN'S FACTORIES N'
SIEGE-LINES! HE'S ALSO STOLEN
ALL THE BRAIN COMPONENTS
FOR 'EM FROM THE MAXIMUM
SECURITY DETENTION CENTER!
-GASP-AND GET THIS, YOU GUYS:

THE PRINCESS
WAS ONE OF
'EM!!!



GET IN-TOUCH WITH SONIC IMMEDIATELY! I KNOW HE'S
GONNA LOVE TO HEAR ABOUT THIS!



I'M ALL OVER IT, KNUCKLES!
JULIE-SU CALLING FREEDOM
FIGHTERS! DO YOU READ ME?
OVER!



INCOMING TRANSMISSION
FREEDOM FIGHTERS!

MAH! MAH! AN'T WE THE
POPULAR 'UNS TA' DAY!?

I REPORT:
JULIE-SU
CALLING
FREEDOM
FIGHTERS!
OVER!



WE READJA, SUGAR-SU! Y'ALL
SAOUND REALLY EXCITED! WHAT
THE HOO-HAW'S GOMP ON OVAN
THEAH!?

MESSAGE FOR SONIC,
BUNNIE! IS HE THERE!?



GROAN-YEAH! I'M HERE, 'SU! WHADDYA WANT!?

SONIC! URGENT! CONCERNS
YOUR PLANS TO GET
SALLY BACK!

YA' MEAN KNUX
FINALLY GOT 'IS
HEART N' BRAIN
BACK!?





SHE MEANS, SONIC, THATCHER GOOD BUDDY, THE PIRATE HAS JUST KIDNAPPED SALLY FROM EGGMAN!!!



NO WAY!!! 'BLACK'S GOT SAL!!!!???

YES WAY, SONIC! AND IT LOOKS LIKE 'E ALSO KIDNAPPED 68 OTHER ROBOTICIZER VICTIMS, ALONG WITH 'ER WHILE 'E WAS AT IT!



!?! IT IS!?!? WHY!!!!???

HEH-BESTNEWS I HEARD IN A LONG TIME KNUX!



'PARENTLY, KNUCKLE-HEAD, YOU AIN'T GOT THE SLIGHTEST CLUE 'BOUT WHAT OL' 'BLACK DOES WITH ROBBIANS!



GO AHEAD N' ENLIGHTEN ME, SONIC! WHAT DOES THAT CREEPY, OVERLY-SELF-TORTURED 'COON DO WITH "ROBIANS"!!!!???



HE BRINGS 'EM BACK, KNUX! AS IN: SBES. WHAT 'E CAN DO TO RESTORE 'EM BACK TO THEIR OLD SELVES! AND I'M TALKIN' PERMANENTLY!!!

END OF PART 22



THREE BAD GUYS
ELIMINATED AS
THREATS, ANY ONE
OF THESE SICKOS
COULD BE NEXT!