

Sonic SatAm

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A new fic based on the old cartoon. With the new box set, I had to do something, and I've been wanting to do it anyway. So, no Floating Island, just the Freedom Fighters vs. Doctor R. Classic!

Provided by Fanart Central.

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1 - Episode 1

NOTE TO READERS: ANOTHER FIC? WHY IS THIS ONE DIFFERENT? IMAGINE A SONIC WORLD WITH THE ABSENCE OF THE FLOATING ISLAND AND ALL IT'S INHABITANTS. YOU'VE ENTERED THE WORLD OF THE OLD SONIC SATAM! THIS SERIES WILL BE MORE MILD THAN MY OTHER ONES.

-NG

"Yo, heavy metal heads! Wanna jam?" Sonic bounced off the SWATbot's head. It shot, forcing him to jump back. "Whoa! You guys are getting quicker!" Sonic raced between the trees, dodging the blasts. The SWATbots all followed Sonic, trying to catch him, shoot him, anything.

Sally peered up from behind the bush that concealed her. "Nicole, show the most direct route to Robotnik's main power factory!" she whispered urgently. "Processing...Image found Sally!" a female computer voice informed her. "Thank Nicole! Ready team?" Sally asked. "You bet your little 'ol tail Ahm ready sugah!" Bunnie said happily. "Oui, mon Princess, but please, zink of zee risks!" Antoine pleaded. "Hands in." Sally said, ignoring Antoine's comment. Down, up, fists with thumbs up. "Let's do it to it!" The Freedom Fighter slogan was uttered by Sally, before they rushed up to the wall. Bunnie threw a grappling hook up. She gave a hard, experimental tug, before motioning to the others to climb up.

One by one, Sonic destroyed the bots. A Sonic Spin took care of the last one. "Good riddance- huh?" Sonic looked across the pond, more SWATbots firing. "Uh-oh, better speed keed!" Sonic raced up to one of the mountains that dotted the Great Forest. He was careful to keep away from Knothole Village. Robotnik could never find out where the Freedom Fighters lived. He hit the mountain. "Oof! Dead end! Now what?" That answer came a large boulder, perched above him, came flying down, hitting the SWATbots. A figure peered down and gave a thumbs up before leaving. "Who was that?" Sonic wondered. "Figure it out later, I'd better juice to the others!"

Sally, Antoine, and Bunnie had their backs to the wall. "Any ideas?" Sally asked her two comrades. "Eef we give up, maybe they will let us live, oui?" Antoine said hopefully. "Well, as mah uncle used to say, ya'll can't just let yourself go. Gotta put up a fight!" "Right you are Bunnie!" Sonic ran in full speed, slicing the SWATbots in half with his quills. "You ready to jam on outta here?" Sonic asked, his foot tapping in impatience. Sally planted a small black box on the large metal box that held Robotnik's power source. She activated it by pushing a small red button. "Now we're ready!"

Tails waited anxiously for the others to return. He was eight years old, too young to fight in their eyes. Tails wanted nothing more than to be like his hero, Sonic. He saw them coming and ran out to greet them. "Sonic! Did you do it?" "You bet little bro!" Sonic treated Tails like a little brother. The other ran up, huffing and puffing behind Sonic. "Aunt Sally!" Tails exclaimed. "Oh, hi Tails!" She gave him the "funny kiss." (What's that, you ask. Kiss one cheek, kiss the other cheek, kiss the nose... .. What, I didn't invent it! -NG) Rotor came out from his workshop. "Hi gang, how'd it go?" he asked. Rotor, a walrus/ sea lion (Depends on who you ask), was the brain trust of Knothole. "You tell us Rotor. Is

Robotnik off-line?" Rotor checked his computer. "Part of Robotropolis is Sally." He answered. Sonic would usually have made some crack about finishing the job, but he had something on his mind. "Hey Sal, does Nicole have a list of all the species on Mobius?" Sally checked Nicole. "Sure Sonic...but why do you ask?" "Well, I had a little help earlier, and it's not someone we know." Sally looked surprised. "Tails, Rotor, did either of you leave Knothole while we were gone?" Both shook their heads. "I was by the pond." Tails said. "I was in my workshop the whole time, except for checking on Tails and making a snack."

"Did you get a good look at him Sonic?" Sally asked. "Not really. It looked like he was wearing a long coat or something, though." "That's not anyone we know...whoever it was, if you see it again, catch up and try to talk to it."

2 - Episode 2

“Ooo, why does zee princess always give me zees spooky missions? I am her guardian, no? Why must I zuff-air like ziss?” Antoine heard a noise and drew his sword. “I warn you, Mes Amis, I am armed!” The figure didn’t answer. Instead, whatever it was didn’t seem to hear Antoine, and instead destroyed the Roboticizer, which had been Antoine’s mission. Antoine ran back to Knothole in a panic.

“Princess, I ‘ave seen ze same as Sonic! Eet destroyed zee machine! Zut Alors, e’ didn’t even flinch when I drew my sword!” Sonic laughed. “Could that be because you don’t look like a threat ‘Twan?” “Take zat back, you blue-furred swine! You are always putting zee princess in danger!” “Moui? Not a chance Ant! I’m the fastest thing alive! I’m faster than sound, cooler than the other side of your pillow, I’m there and back before you even know I’m gone!” “And yet you continue to come back, no?” Antoine shot back. Sally and Bunnie said “Ahem!” in stereo. “When y’all are done, maybe you could give a little thought to just how this fella can help us! Ah do declare, your arguments make my ears frizz!” “Bunnie’s right. He could be an ally.” “Or an enemy.” Sonic pointed out. “Right. But we’ve got to know for sure. If he’s destroying Robotnik’s stuff, I’m willing to bet he doesn’t lack courage.” “Zat, or he ‘as a death wish.” Antoine murmured.

Rotor slammed his control panel. “Snively, why are those annoying freedom fighters getting through the city? Correct me if I’m wrong, but isn’t security YOUR job?” “Y-Yes master Robotnik. I-I have the video feed, sir.” “On screen.” Robotnik barked. “At 3 seconds, you see that fox-creature draw his sword. At 7 seconds, you see him run. At 10 seconds, you see the roboticizer destroyed.” Robotnik studied the screen. He pointed with one large finger. “Who, or what, is that?” he asked, pointing to a blurred part of the screen. “It’s not blue, so it can’t be that hedgehog! And it seems to be running slower...Enlarge it Now!” Cluck, Robotnik’s roboticized chicken, flew over to the console at hit the button before Snively could. “Hmm...very interesting...it would appear we have a new threat...”

Sonic was on a routine patrol when it finally happened. He saw the mysterious whatever-it-was fighting a group of Swatbots. He raced over to help. Within Seconds, they had all been destroyed, leaving him to face the whatever-it-was. Suddenly, the figure’s foot slashed out, hitting a stirring Swatbot, forcing it’s shot to miss Sonic. The figure used a wooden poll to hit the gun away, and then buried the staff into it’s head. “Whoa! Nice moves amigo! So...how about you come with me and meet my group?” The figure studied Sonic, before speaking. “I’d like that.” He said, his tone giving away nothing. “Follow me!”

“You brought him here?!” Sally exclaimed. “Relax, your royal worry wart! He’s cool!” “And just how do you know he’s “Cool”?” Sally shot back. “Anyone who destroys Robuttnik’s stuff on a regular basis can’t be anything but Sal!” Sally shook her head. “Well, let’s start by finding out just who...and what he is. TAILS!” Tails was walking around the stranger curiously. The stranger made no move except for watching back. Sally grabbed him. “So, just who and what are you?” asked Sally. The stranger put his hand to his face and gave a tug. “Sorry, forgot I was wearing this.” He held a black mask in his hand. “Nicole, analyze.” Sally said. “Processing...He’s a Human Sally.” Sally gasped. “You’re the same species as Robotnik!” He shook his head. “No. I’m human, he’s evil. I have a heart.” Bunnie had a question. “So how come ya’ll where that big ‘ol mask sugah?” The human turned his gaze toward her. “That would go with my story. Which isn’t pretty, nor short.” “Hey, we’ve got time!” Sonic exclaimed,

pulling up chairs for everyone in a matter of seconds. The human didn't look surprised at Sonic's speed. "Let's start with your name..." Sally began.

3 - Episode 3

“Okay. You’re a human. Your name is Ekyt. You’re eighteen years old.” Ekyt nodded at Princess Sally’s words. “He’s way past cool Sal! He took out ten SWATbots by himself! We could use a guy like him!” Sally put a hand to her head in exasperation. “Look, how about we give you a test? Sonic’s Uncle Chuck needs to go into Robotropolis. Why don’t you escort him?” Ekyt nodded again. “Alright. Good luck then.” Ekyt left with Uncle Chuck.

“Dontcha think y’all were just a little harsh on him?” Bunnie asked. “I don’t mean to be Bunnie, but who knows who we can trust? I’ve had Nicole trace his whereabouts.” “Sal, you’re way too critical. Aren’t you always saying we need the help?” “Help we can trust Sonic. It’s not the human thing, if that’s what you’re thinking. He wears a long coat and a mask, and barely talks. Isn’t that a little suspicious to you?” “So he’s quiet, big deal! You’re always saying we could use some peace and quiet, here’s your chance.” Sonic tapped his foot impatiently. “Boys.” Sally mumbled.

“So you’ve met my nephew?” Chuck asked. “Yes. He’s very nice. The Princess, she doesn’t trust me.” Ekyt answered. “She has to be cautious. These are hard times.” “I want to help.” Uncle Chuck nodded in sympathy. “When I was first roboticized, she didn’t trust me. Give her time. And- look over there!” Ekyt and Chuck hit the dirt. “SWATbots! And that’s a roboticizer.” “Right. You stay here. I’m going to create a distraction, you go ahead and blend in. Hopefully I can rescue that...whatever it is...that they’ve got their metal paws on.”

“He’s heading into...the robotication room? And he’s holding someone! I knew it!” Sally exclaimed. “Sonic, you go, head him off.” Sonic sped off.

“You know, that’s not nice.” Ekyt commented. The SWATbots turned. “It-is-him. Get-him!” “Tsk Tsk Tsk, hospitable as always.” Ekyt dodged them and grabbed the...whatever. “Hold on tight.” He said. “I can run, thanks.” A girl’s voice hit him. “Follow me. I know a safe place.” He said. “Lead the way.” Ekyt used his staff like a pole vault and kicked one ‘bot, using that as a springboard to another. Sonic came running up. “I knew it! Sal was wrong!” “Sonic, can you get her out of here? These things can’t keep up with you.” “Right- but what about you?” “I’ll live.” “If you say so. Hang on!” Sonic zipped off with the girl, leaving Ekyt to run for it himself against the SWATbots...

4 - Episode 4

Ekyt tossed his coat back. Surrender-now-and-the-Doctor-will-be-charitable-in-victory. A SWATBOT declared. Really? Ekyt said with mock wonder in his voice. Since he's never won, how would he know? But I'll tell you what, give me time to think it over. Ekyt threw his staff as a distraction before attacking, aiming low on one SWATBOT. He hit its knees (that hurt) and toppled it into the other one. Ekyt ran off.

ROBOTNIK was watching on the monitor. Snively! How did that human escape my clutches? I really don't know sir. Snively answered meekly. ROBOTNIK pounded his console, then stopped suddenly. He smiled nastily. Perhaps we should approach him in friendship Snively. After all, we're all humans here.

Sonic put the girl down. Thanks for the lift. She said. Knothole village. Hmm. She said. Sonic, I- now who is THIS? Sally exclaimed/questioned. She was about to be roboticized, that Ekyt-dude rescued her. Where is he now? Sally asked. Present. Ekyt said from the corner. Nicole, scan. Scanning Sally&Data match: echidna: A long believed extinct species. I'm Linda, if that's what you're wondering. The girl echidna said, a little sarcasm in her voice. You okay? Ekyt asked. I could've handled myself, thank! she snarled at him, giving him a shove. Ekyt looked mildly surprised. Whoa now, that's not nice at all sugah! Bunnie exclaimed. Come with me, I'll introduce you all around.

After she left with Bunnie, Sally turned to Ekyt. I'm sorry I doubted you. She said. Don't worry about it. I get it a lot. It barely even registers anymore. Ekyt said. He turned to walk away. At Sally's nod, Sonic zipped ahead. Whoa, time out! Where are you headed? I've gotta live somewhere. I'm tired of running around, not living anywhere. Ekyt responded. Stay here! You're one of us! No I'm not. I'm human, and& And what? Big Deal! Antoine is here, and we're not sure what he is! Sonic said, laughing. I am a fox, zee noblest of all creatures! You are zee blue-furred, ow you say?&meatball? That's Meatball Twan.

Sally and Tails were sitting by the power ring pond, waiting for another ring. Aunt Sally, how come that girl was mean to Ekyt? Tails asked. Sally smiled at his innocence. Well Tails, she doesn't seem to know what to think. Give her time Speaking of time, it's bed time. Awww! Sally gave him the Funny kiss - left cheek, right cheek, nose. Tails giggled and headed to bed.

Sonic slowed to a walk. You said you had a family Ekyt&if ya aren't comfortable here, why not go back? Ekyt paused. I don't know what's become of them since I left. Some managed to escape to another planet. I&never knew what happened after. Sonic felt pretty bad. I know what it's like, bud. Count your blessings Sonic. Ekyt said suddenly. What do ya mean? You have Tails, almost a brother, Sally, and a good group of friends. Things I never had. Things I can't hope to have. I'm an outcast. No matter what good I do, people will find other reasons not to like me, or trust me. I've been backstabbed more than once. Trust is something earned, as is respect. I have neither, I deserve neither. Sonic thought for a second. The Freedom Fighter's are outcasts too! We're maybe ten in a planet of robots! I'm the only hedgehog, Sally's the last Squirrel&Chipmunk&both thing, Tails is the only two-tailed Fox, and Bunnie's a cyborg. Compared to us, you're almost normal. Ekyt wanted to agree. I don't want to ruin your way of life. Ruin? You kidding? ROBOTNIK did that, and you can help undo it! Whaddaya say pal? Freedom Fighter? Ekyt paused. Then stuck out his fist. Freedom Fighter.

Ah do declare girl, y all ve stayed beautiful. I ll feel better once I was off that human slime. Linda said angrily. What is y all don t like about him sugah? Humans are the problem here. Not robots, the humans that created them. He s no different. Shoog, he s fightin against them! How do you know? I don t trust him. Linda said stubborn. Well, why don t you get some rest? Sally came in. Linda, I have a quick question: Do you plan on staying here? Linda looked at her strangely. That s hardly my decision. No. We need the help, you re welcome here, and you don t seem to like Robotnik. Plus, there are only two girls here! Bunnie and I are the one s with brains! We could always use another woman s intuition.

Sonic ran up, Ekylt in two. Whoa, I heard that! I ve got a brain! Sally laughed. You? You don t use it. The two always bantered this way. Everyone, except them, could see they were a couple. Linda got up from the bed and walked over to Ekylt. I m sorry about the hard time I gave you earlier. Ekylt didn t answer. He was waiting for the other shoe to drop, which it did. But I don t take back what I said. You can t be trusted. Ekylt finally said something in his defense. Really? I m so glad I saved your life, then. I don t know what your deal is, but I m not going anywhere, and I m guessing you aren t either. You can hate my guts, as long as you can work with me. We have a deal? Ekylt said. Everyone was surprised by his tone. You bet. I d shake your hand, but I don t want to catch the stupid bug that seems to have taken up residence in your mind. I never believed in cooties, but I do believe in ticks, and right now, you re tickin me off! Sally restrained Linda, while Sonic got between them. You two have some serious issues! We ll work it out in the morning!

5 - Episode 5

Sally looked over at the pacing echidna. "Hey Linda...It seems like you know that guy..." Linda looked up. "Yeah, I know him. I wish I didn't." "What happened?" Sally asked. "You don't want to know." "Ah declare, you've got a little ol' story, and ah wanna hear it. Go on Linda girl." Linda sighed, looking around the hut...

"Yo, pal, you know that girl or something?" Sonic asked Ekyt. "Yeah. I know her. It's been a while..." "Well, now's the time to talk partner!" With a sigh, Ekyt began. "It was about a year ago. Robotnik had captured about thirty rebels. He interrogated them, and roboticized them. I heard about it and fought my way in. When I got inside, there were only three rebels left. One was Paul, the other was Mari, both echidnas, and Linda. I grabbed them one by one, and we ran out through an air vent. When we got outside, there were SWATbots around us. Paul and Mari asked me to get their daughter to safety. I didn't want to leave them, but they forced me. The SWATbots took them...Linda ran away as soon as we were out of site..."

"And that jerk left my parents to rot! He pulled me away. I ran from him. I wanted to kill him for he did..." Linda finished her story. "Hmm..." Sally walked outside to the power ring pond.

"Whoa...Gimme a time out bro. Tails, why don't you get acquainted with him? I'll be back before ya even know I'm gone!"

"Yo Sal, you hear that?" "I can't believe he dragged her away!" Sally exclaimed. "What? He just told me her parents forced him!" Sonic shot back. "One of them is lying...but which one?" Sally asked. "Only one way to find out..." Sonic whistled in a high-pitch, calling for Dulcy the dragon.

"Dulce, which one of them is lying?" Ekyt and Linda both told their stories. "The echidna is lying Sonic." "I didn't know!" Linda exclaimed. "My parents never told me that they ORDERED him to take me and go!" "They didn't?" Ekyt said incredulously. "They must have been asking me, and forgot to tell you...Or didn't have time..." "They are both telling the truth now Princess." "Thanks Dulcy. Okay, you two obviously have had your problems. Tomorrow is a big raid on Robotropolis. I need to know you two can work together. Can you do it?" Ekyt and Linda nodded, staring each other down. "Good. Let's do it to it!"

6 - Episode 6

"Listen pal, this hedgehog knows his fashion, and you've gotta ditch the coat." Ekyt nodded. "Alright. T-shirt...Hmm, long pants...not gonna work bro." "No?" "No way, Robotnik's bots can grab a hold of that, not to mention all the plants. Chill here, I'll see if Rotor can cook up some gear for ya!"

Linda was perfectly attired. "I never knew..." she muttered for the hundredth time. "It's okay Linda. No one knew." Sally said. "Sally girl's right dahlin. Now why don't y'all get suited up?" Linda shrugged on her black vest. It was similar to Sally's. "Nicole, show schematics of Robotropolis." "C'mon sugah, Ah'll take you to meet the others."

Rotor was working on a pair of shoes and a set of shorts for this new guy. "Seems decent enough Antoine." Rotor commented. "Decent? Zee, ow you say, Doorbell?" "That's "dumbbell" Antoine." "Oui, oui, zat doorbell iz nozhing but trouble for us, mes ami." Bunnie opened the door. "Howdy guys, this here's Linda. She's joinin' up with us." "Hey, nice to meet you, I'm Rotor." "Ello, I am Antoine, Royal guard...Sacre bleu cheese!" Antoine just noticed the beauty of the girl. "Oh, pardon my manners, mah crepe frommage!" Antoine said, kissing her hand.

That accent...And he was a gentlemen! Linda felt herself falling for Antoine.

Sonic raced back with the shoes ad pants. "Try these on bud." Ekyt did. "What's special about the shoes Sonic?" "anti-gravity option, just like mine. And the treads are custom-made for this Mobius soil! Ready to Cruise and Bruise?" "Ready and Steady." Ekyt answered, looking forward to the mission, he had a lot of steam to blow off.

"Hey, y'all ready for the raid?" "Are we ready? Do Chili Dogs rock? Does Antoine stink?" Bunnie laughed. "All right sugah, Ah read ya! How 'bout you Ekyt." Ekyt looked up, his eyes meeting hers. "R-Ready." Ekyt stuttered. "If y'all pardon me..."

"Sally! Sally girl, where are you?" Bunnie yelled. "What is it Bunnie?" Sally answered hastily. "Ah'm not sure, but when I saw that new kid Mah heart was all light and ah do declare, I 'bout floated!" Sally reached for her portable computer, Nicole. "Nicole, check symptoms." "Processing Sally...One data entry qualifies Sally." Sally pushed a button. "Love, Sally." "Oh my..." Sally said, a hand to her mouth. "Mah stars..."

"Sonic, that was Bunnie, right?" Ekyt asked. "Right-o man. Don't think I didn't see the look bro! THAT was love!" "I just met her!" Ekyt said dismissively. "Love? Blegh!" Tails commented. "Someday you won't think that way big guy." Sonic told him.

"Snively!" Robotnik thundered. "Yes sir." Snively answered. "Where is that troublesome prisoner?" "I have him here, sir. Shall I bring him in?" At Robotnik's nod, Snively ordered the SWATbots to bring in the prisoner. "You'll get nothing out of me Robotnik." "Oh, old boy, I'm sure you're loyal...but I have...ways of making people talk." "Curse your black heart Robotnik." "Sir Charles, you wound me..."

“Sonic!” Sally pointed, handing him the binoculars. “What? They’ve got Uncle Chuck! Step aside, it’s time for the Jail Break Jam! Up, Over, and GOOOONE!” Sonic zipped off. “Oh no, he forgot his backpack. Someone’s got to take it to him!” Ekyt volunteered. “Good riddance.” Linda muttered. “Oui, he is zee pest.” Bunnie whipped around. “Would y’all put a cork in it?”

7 - Episode 7

Ekyt leapt over the pipes, running after Sonic.

“No way Robotnik! Time to go, Unc! Let’s Jui- Oh man!” “Sonic what’s the matter?” “I don’t have a power ring!” Sonic moaned. “Incoming!” Ekyt called, throwing the ring. “Thanks ma man! Juice and Jam time! Hang on Unc!” Uncle Chuck grabbed on. Ekyt handed Chuck a slip of paper, with “Sally” written on it. “Okay lord lard, it’s you and me! Come and get some!” Ekyt ran into Robotropolis.

“Orders, sir?” Snively asked. “The hedgehog is gone! Pursue the human! All units, go!”

“Great job Sonic. Wait, where’s Ekyt?” “Here Sally.” Chuck handed her the paper. “He’s creating a diversion. We’ve got to hit the buzzbomber plant while we’ve got the chance!” “Ah’ll go after him Sugah! He’ll need the help, he doesn’t know Robotropolis like us!” “Go ahead Bunnie, meet at the Junkyard! Let’s do it to it!”

Ekyt ran across the corridors. He jumped and knocked his heels together, getting the anti-gravity function going. He waited for the swatbots. “So, you decided to give up?” Snively taunted. “No.” Ekyt jumped over them.

Sonic raced ahead with the charges, planting them. “Nicole, prepare to detonate on my command!” Sally told her. “We’re good to go Sal.” “Not yet. Bunnie and Ekyt haven’t gotten out yet.” “And Antoine and I still have to shut down the generator to the plant.” Linda said.

Ekyt backed into the corner. “Okay, let’s finish this easy human. We’re all humans here. Why don’t you join us?” Robotnik taunted. “Because I hate you.” Ekyt said simply. “Fine. Swatbots, get ready to-what?” Bunnie flipped him over. “C’mon Sugah! We’ve gotta get the hip-hop outta here!” Bunnie and Ekyt ran out.

“We are being all set, ma cherie!” “Thanks Antoine, let’s book!” “Book? Which one?” “Let’s get out of here.” “Oh, oui! We are, ow you say, juicing!”

“Nicole, detonate!” Sally exclaimed. The factory blew sky-high. “Yes! Mission successful! Let’s get back to Knothole!”

“...And let’s welcome out two newest members, Ekyt and Linda!” The small group cheered. Linda stepped on Ekyt’s foot. “Witch.” He muttered. “Excuse me?!” She said. “You heard me!” “Break it up!” Sally ordered. “Sorry Sally. I got a little hurt back there. My foot, to be exact. I shouldnt’ve lost my temper.” Linda stepped on it again. “Will you cool it!” Sonic exclaimed.

“Sonic, how did the mission go?” Tails asked eagerly. “I’ll tell you in the morning little bro.” “Aw, how ‘bout making it my bedtime story?” “Hmm. All right. You drive a hard bargain little buddy.” “Aunt Sally says I can charm anyone.” Tails said proudly.

“Thanks for the save Bunnie.” Ekyt told her. “No problem sugah.” She said. “Someday we’ll topple Robotnik’s empire, just like you toppled him.” Bunnie laughed. “Well, with the brave hearts we’ve got, Ah have no doubt ah’ll get mah old body back!” “You’re beautiful either way.” Ekyt said. “Oh, that’s real smooth! I’m sorry Bunnie, I just don’t know what to say or do here!” “It’s okay sugah, ah understand. Ya’ll better get some rest.” “No, I have guard duty.”

“Thanks for the help Antoine.” “Eet is being my pleasure Linda.” “The pleasure is mine.” “Zat ‘uman...you two do not rub zee right way, non?” “No. He could have saved my parents, and he didn’t.” “I would be outrag-ed!” “I am. Well, I’d better get some rest. Goodnight Antoine.”

8 - Episode 8

Ekyt laid by the waterfall, carefully hiding himself in the shadows. He felt naked without his coat, but Sonic knew more than he did about living here. The white shirt and red-and-blue shorts were comfortable, as were those new shoes, also blue and red. That anti-gravity function was helpful. He turned himself over on the grass, so he was on his back, staring up. He was staring up the snout of an angry Antoine.

“You will de-ue-I wiss me! For ze ‘onor of zee girl, leenda!” Antoine snarled. “What?! First of all, that’s no girl, that’s a witch! Second of all...” “A wee-tch? Zut alors, zat...zat eesn’t true?” “Of course not Antoine!” Linda was glaring at Ekyt. “I call ‘em like I see ‘em.” Ekyt said back. “It was Antoine’s idea to duel. I was against it, but now I think I’d enjoy it.” Antoine drew his sword. Ekyt jumped backward onto a log, snapping off a branch. Rotor was modifying his staff, so this would have to do.

“Whoa whoa whoa, cool it guys!” Sonic raced around Knothole, waking the others up. “Ma Stahs, what in Heaven’s nahme are they doin’?” Sally shook her head. “I’m not sure Bunnie...Oh My...They’re dueling!” “What! Get the hip-hop outta here! We don’t do that anymore!” Bunnie exclaimed. Antoine slashed at Ekyt. “Apparently, they do! Let’s go!”

“You’re nuts! You attack me in the middle of the night, and now I’m supposed to not fight back?!” Ekyt said, dodging another swipe. “I must make you suffair for zee dear girl’s ‘orrib-ley losses!” Bunnie’s arms grabbed them both. “Okay, I don’t know what’s happened here, but we’re going to talk this out. Antoine, you first. Come with me. You too Linda.” “Oui, my princess, at once!” “Sure thing.”

Ekyt snapped the twig over his knee. “Bro, I’ve got the feeling that you were as surprised as I was.” Sonic said. “No kidding! I’m assuming guard duty isn’t always like this?” “Ant takes things to the extreme a lot. Don’t take it personally.” “Don’t worry about it.” Ekyt’s tone was calm, but it was clear he was uncomfortable. “C’mon Sugah, let’s take a quick walk...”

“...And that is why I did it, Princess! For zee onor! For zat ‘retched ‘oodlum, ee is, ow you say... a barb?” “That’s a “boob” Antoine. Attacking someone in the middle of the night is a sure way to get hurt...or worse. I don’t want to hear about this again. And Linda, I understand. I really do. But I don’t blame Sonic for what happened to my father...Let the past rest...”

“Thanks Bunnie. It means a lot that you and Sonic, and Tails too, accept me. I know I’m really not wanted. But respect is something earned. And I’ll earn it.” “Now your talkin’ sugah! We’d better shuffle on back to Knothole, the Princess’ll want to hear your side of the story.”

“He attacked me. I didn’t hit him, I didn’t try to. I just dodged and blocked. And, I know this girl hates me, and I understand why. But I have enough regret to deal with.” Sally looked at him curiously. “Please, continue.” “I haven’t slept decently in since that incident happened. I’ve been working so hard to fix things...It’s never enough Sally. I deserve to be roboticized, I know it, and I’ve been reminded of it by them every day.” “It’s not going to happen again. We’re a team here. And I’ve been less than friendly myself. But that’s going to change. Because we need all the help we can get, and you’re the

man for the job.” Sally got up. “That, and Bunnie would pine if you left!” “Sally-girl, I do declah, ya’ll shouldn’t be sayin’ that! Pardon me Sugah!” Bunnie ran laughing after Sally. Sonic jumped up in the window. “And they say boys are weird...Are the human girls like this?” Sonic asked. Ekyt stifled a laugh. “Interesting question. They usually hate me on site because I’m different. Where I come from, the “bad” girls like the “good” guys, and the “good guys” Like the “bad girls.” I still don’t get that one!”

9 - Episode 9

Ekyt knew Bunnie wasn't in love with him. He was happy to have her on his side though. It meant a lot...more than anyone could know... As least they had cleared that up before she broke his heart. A girl like her had other options, most better than a scrawny human kid.

"Later, bot brains! Huh? M-M-Muttski? Is that you?" Sonic was face to face with his dog. Except his dog had been roboticized. "I thought I'd never see you again! C'mere boy!" Muttski snapped at Sonic. "That's it! I need backup! I'm not leaving you again!" Sonic hit the radio in his backpack.

"Sal! Come in Sal!" Sonic's voice said over the radio. "Go ahead Sonic, I read you!" "I've found Muttski! I need help bringing him back!" "Forget it Sonic!" "No! I can't leave him again Sal!" Sally understood that Robotnik had caused them all pain, so maybe that explained her answer. "I'll send someone."

"There is being no-way!" Antoine yelled. "I couldn't catch Muttski..." Rotor said sadly. "I don't know Robotropolis well enough, and Sally is too important to risk, and Bunnie is patrolling!" Linda finished. "That leaves me." Ekyt said, grinning slightly. "I'll do it. Tell Sonic to hold on, I'll find him." Tails flew up. "Wait, take this with you! Sonic might need it..." Tails handed Ekyt a power ring. He tucked it into his pocket. "Thanks. I'll be back." "Please, don't depress us!" Linda yelled after him.

Ekyt zipped toward Robotropolis, Linda's words still ringing in his ears. He spotted Sonic and snuck up behind Muttski. He wrestled the dog to the ground, forcing one of the power rings into its mouth. Muttski laid down for Sonic. "Thanks man!" Swatbots were aiming their weapons at Ekyt and Sonic. Ekyt kicked up a cloud of dust. "Go! I'll keep the 'bot's busy!" Ekyt dashed forward, hitting one of the swatbots with his staff. After the destruction of a few of them, Ekyt found himself surrounded. "Drop-your-weapon-freedom-fighter." Ekyt looked around for a way out. He didn't see any. He dropped his staff and sank to his knees, his hands behind his back. "Bring-him-to-the-Doctor." The lead swatbot commanded.

Sonic hit the pile of hay at the bottom of the slide to Knothole Village. "Quick, we've got to make sure he stays on our side!" Uncle Chuck looked at Muttski. "I've got just the idea...But I'll need two power rings, which means twenty-four hours. We should keep him contained for now, just in case.

Ekyt marched along the corridor, taking mental pictures of everything. He was pushed roughly inside. "Sir! We-have-captured-a-freedom-fighter!" Robotnik spun around in his chair to face Ekyt. "Excellent work 100214! You and 20042 stay, keep your weapons on him, the rest of you, go and search where you found him." Robotnik walked around Ekyt. "So, you're the one who I observed destroying my robots. Well, well, well, we should be on the same side it seems." "I missed that part." Ekyt replied indifferently. "Well, you have your choice. Join me, or be roboticized." Ekyt closed his eyes. "You're going to have to roboticize me. I'd never join you of my own free will." "Brave words...very brave...yes, you'll serve me well. Roboticize him!"

10 - Episode 10

“C’mon Unc, times-a-wastin’!” Sonic tapped his foot impatiently. “Take it easy Sonny, I’ve almost got it...there! Put that on Muttski!” “Allow me Chuckie!” Bunnie held Muttski as he growled and snarled. “Easy boy, I’m not gonna hurt you...” Sonic slipped the collar on. Muttski shook for a moment, then straightened out, tail thumping the ground, tongue out. “Muttski! Oh man, I missed you! C’mere boy!” Muttski gratefully licked Sonic. Rotor tapped his chin. “Hey, where’d Ekyt go?” Sonic slapped his head. “Oh man! I forgot! He told me to go, he’d take care of the SWATbots!” “NOW you tell us? Sonic, he could be roboticized by now!” “What a pity.” Linda muttered flatly. “Per’aps it is for the best, nes pas? Could we reely trust zee species of Robotnik?” “Stuff it Ant!” Sonic, Bunnie, and Sally said as one.

Ekyt stood motionless as the robots strapped him in. “Last chance to join me of your own free will.” Robotnik said menacingly. “No. I’ll take this upright, like a man. I hope you choke on the oil that runs through your veins. I hope your metallic heart bursts at the seams. And I hope your stomach outgrows your legs, so when the Freedom Fighters get you, you have nowhere to run.” “GRR! Roboticize him!” The glass case descended, encasing Ekyt. The electricity began to hum...

“I’ve gotta juice!” Sonic declared. “Sonic, be careful.” “Ah’m coming too! Heaven knows that this is a tall order.” “You’re just going because you’re hot for him.” Linda muttered. Bunnie tackled her. “Ya’ll better start talkin’ nicer, or ah’ll...” “Bunnie! I’ll deal with her, you go with Sonic.” “If ya’ll say so Sally-girl. Let’s go sugah-hog!” “Right! Hold on Bunnie! Time to juice and cut it loose!”

The roboticization process ended. Ekyt lifted an arm. It was...flesh? Robotnik seemed to have noticed too. “Snively! What went wrong?!” Snively gulped and tapped at the computer console. “It seems his human features stop him from being roboticized, sir.” Robotnik pounded on the glass. Ekyt formed a quick plan. As Robotnik’s fist came down, Ekyt’s foot flashed up, hitting the same spot. The glass cracked. Ekyt rammed his shoulder into it. The glass broke. Ekyt scrambled out. “GET HIM! GET HIM! I WANT THAT HEDGE- ,er ,HUMAN!!!” Ekyt ran for it, dodging the SWATbots. He used one as a springboard into the ventilation shafts. He was so tired... No, he had to keep going. But his legs wouldn’t obey his brain... It looked like the roboticization had an adverse effect on his body.

“Bunnie, can you open that cover?” “Sure thing!” Bunnie tore the hinges off. “Right. We’ve gotta hurry! No telling what Robotnik has done to him by now...”

Ekyt crawled on his elbows and knees. If he was going to die, it wasn’t going to be in some stupid air duct. He planned to take out Robotropolis with him. Then he heard the tell-tale WHOOSH! That signaled Sonic’s arrival.

Sonic met Ekyt in the duct. “Whoa, bro, you’re not metal!” “No. But something happened. My energy is sapped everytime I move.” “C’mon, let’s go back to Knothole.” “No! I’m going to take out half of Robotropolis. I’m worthless as a fighter.” Ekyt moved for the air duct’s vent. “Bunnie, stop him!” Bunnie’s mechanical arm grabbed Ekyt. “Ah’m sorry sugah, but ah can’t let you do that.” “Let me go. I’ve felt guilty every day for what happened with Linda’s parents. I can make it right.” “Not if you get lost in the process! Uncle Chuck and Rotor can fix you!” “C’mon, ya’ll can do it.” “What’s the point?”

Besides, I'd be more valuable taking out this place." That wasn't what Ekyt really meant to say. It wasn't far from the truth, he knew that though. "He's delirious. We're going to have to use force!" Sonic grabbed his power ring. "That's it! Sonic, put the ring on him like a collar. It worked for Muttski!" Bunny exclaimed. "Rad idea Bunny!" The ring slid over Ekyt's neck. He shook his head, like someone had dumped a bucket of ice on him. "Thanks! Let's get out of here!"

Bunny held onto Sonic as they raced away. Ekyt kept up. "It must be the power ring. Only you can trigger it's powers, right? You somehow channeled it into me!" Ekyt ran with them. He spotted a camera belonging to Robotnik. "Here's to you regime, lord lard!" Ekyt ran up and kicked the orb, sending it spinning. Snively hurled over the side of the computer. "Blast them! Mark my words! They'll pay!" Robotnik yelled.

They slid into the hay. "Aw. He's alright." Linda observed. Ekyt reached his breaking point. "Listen, I did what I could. I don't see you risking your little pink neck! So lay off!" His voice wasn't the only one. "Ah deklah, Ah'm sick of hearin' you rip into him!" Bunny snarled. Sally jumped between them. "Ekyt, Sonic briefed me. Go to Rotor's lab. Bunny, stop kicking! Linda, enough with the comments!"

"You seem to be fine. Just keep that ring on for a day." Rotor told Ekyt. "Thanks." He looked downcast. "Aw, cheer up buddy. I know!" Rotor handed him his staff. "I'm done modifying it. I magnetized one end, and loaded it with iron ore. That'll take out any SWATbots, no problem!" Ekyt gave it an experimental swing. "Thanks Rotor." He still sounded downcast. "What's the matter?" Uncle Chuck asked. "It's that echidna girl. She reminds me of what happened to her parents. I see why she hates me. But it's starting to get to me. I snapped back at her, and I shouldn't have. I made my bed, I should lay in it." Chuck put a hand on his shoulder. "Robotnik made that bed, you shouldn't have to lay in it. You saved her life, that's one more person left to fight. You could have saved no one and even lost yourself." Ekyt understood the logic. "I'll feel better once things get cleared up. I should apologize anyway."

"Pardon me." Ekyt said. Antoine drew his sword. "You wish furthair 'arm to er? You weel 'aff to go through me!" "Chill out. I'm here to apologize. I shouldn't have said anything back." "You're right." Linda told him. "You messed up, and you know it. And you'll mess up again. Too bad you didn't get roboticized." Ekyt turned away, walking crisply. His path took him to the pond. Bunny had guard duty tonight. "Want company?" Ekyt asked her. "Sure! I figured you would be tired after all that happened today." He gazed at the star-lined sky. "Thanks...for standing up for me. It means a lot." The man behind the mask didn't have the usual rigid voice. This one was more light, heart-felt. "Well, Ya'll got a raw deal." Bunny looked skyward too. "Clear night. The pollution hasn't reached here yet. Hope it stays that way." Ekyt's reply was obviously not his real thinking. "It wasn't your fault. Her parents an' all." Bunny told him. "Yeah. You can't help all of the people all of the time." "Ya'll can't have the world on your shoulders either. Don't you worry none 'bout her. She'll come around. Ya'll got your charms." "Anyone would be happy to call you a friend Bunny." Bunny suddenly looked apologetic. "Ah'm sorry these feelins didn't turn out to be love. You'll meet the right girl, ah'm sure." Ekyt laughed, pulling his mask off. "Not likely. The humans don't like me either. It's not just echidnas. I'm not the type that's easy to get along with, I guess." Bunny kissed him on the cheek. "You'll figure it out some day and...mah stahs! You're redder than mah uncle's tomatoes!" Ekyt felt his face. "Sorry about that. Just my first..." "First kiss? A cute lil' thing like you?" "Yeah. Although the cute part might be disputed." "You'll find your place honey." Ekyt turned his gaze skyward again. "I hope so Bunny. Oh well. Goodnight."

11 - Episode 11

Sonic's family was re-united. Sally was genuinely happy for them, it gave her hope that she'd find her father some day. Antoine was happy with Linda. Rotor and Bunnie had taken to keeping Ekyt company, because he was always alone otherwise. Linda still took shots at him. He didn't respond anymore.

"Hey, c'mon, it's just a dumb girl!" Rotor told Ekyt. "Uh, present company an exception." He added hastily to Bunnie. "No offense taken Sugah, ah know what ya'll meant." She turned to Ekyt. "Ya'll should talk to Sally. She's a really nice girl, easy to talk to. She always has her hair in a bunch over Sonic, ah do declah, that girl..." "The last thing she needs is my problems on her mind." Ekyt said. He had a way of ending conversations like that. It wasn't always intentional. "She'd want to know man." Rotor assured him.

Knock knock. "Come in." Sally answered. "Princess, do you have a moment?" Ekyt asked. "Sure." Sally said amiably. "What, you want to ruin her life now too?" Linda snarled. "You know the story as well as I do Linda. I'm not going to apologize again, you already know how I feel about it." Ekyt said flatly. "Please, just give us a few minutes." Turning to Ekyt, Sally spoke again. "What's up?"

Ekyt: Princess, I know I haven't earned any trust yet...

Sally: I think you have. I don't have guards escorting you around. You can always come to me.

Ekyt: Thank you. I'd like your permission to go on a solo mission to Robotropolis. A recon mission.

Sally: It's dangerous...

Ekyt: I know. But it's something I have to do. Besides, I'm not affected by robotication. I'm out best chance to learn more, at the least risk. It's a safe bet that she wouldn't miss me... (Referring to Linda)

Sally: (Putting her hand on his shoulder) Just give her time. Bunnie, Rotor, Tails, and Sonic all seem to like you. You have friends here. But if this is really what you feel you need to do...

Ekyt: (bows his head) I do Princess...

Sally: Please, call me Sally. The only royalty out here is Mother Nature. You have my permission...on ONE condition...

Ekyt: Name it, your maje- Sally.

Sally: Take Nicole (Her computer, roughly the size of a pocket calculator) and use her to help.

Ekyt: Agreed. Sally...Is there any way I could...be something else?

Sally: What do you mean?

Ekyt: I don't want to be human...

Sally: Put that out of your mind. If you weren't human, you'd have been roboticized.

Ekyt: Maybe it's a better fate than MY curse...

Sally: I'll have Rotor and Uncle Chuck look into it...But think about it first...

Ekyt: I will. Thank you. I'll leave right now, and I'll be back tomorrow, at 0600.

Sally: Best of luck.

Ekyt met a SWATbot on the way to Robotropolis. With the past events weighing on his mind, Ekyt walked up to the SWATbot. "Scrap." He muttered. His newly reinforced staff bashed the robot. A surveillance bot flew by. Ekyt dove into a pile of scrap until it flew over. "Nicole?" "Yes?" "Please display Robotropolis map, sector Alpha-10." "Processing...I'm sorry, no data exists." "Hmm...Nicole, can you take in the surroundings, create a map? Sally could use this..." Nicole did just that. "Map of Robotropolis estimated completed: 40%." "Thank you."

"Yo Sal!" The telltale sonicboom told of Sonic's arrival. "Yes Sonic?" "What's this I hear about him getting a solo mission?" "Sonic...you're jealous!" she said, smiling. "Moui? Jealous? No way! Jealousy is past uncool, and if there's one thing I'm not, it uncool. What's he up to?" "Reconnaissance." "Reconi-what?" Sally sighed. "Looking around, finding stuff." "Okay, just say so!" Sally put a hand to her head.

"Nicole, show sewer line to the control center please." "Map displayed." A holographic, 3D map popped out in front of Ekyt. He traced a path. "Nicole, please display command center." A red dot flashed. "What's the quickest route?" Ekyt asked. A blue line showed the way. "Thanks Nicole." Ekyt climbed up a maintenance shaft and made his way to the command center.

"Snively!" Robotnik boomed. "Yes, sir?" "Are the plans for the 'master race' ready?" "Yes sir! I have the working prototype here!" Ekyt lay in the duct. "Nicole, tape this!" he hissed to her. "It's an autonomous, portable roboticizer. In other words, it will act on its own, roboticizing as it moves." "Excellent. Snively, I think we have our first test subject." The duct suddenly gave way. Ekyt crashed to the floor.

"Sally-girl, ah think Ah'm the reason he all but bolted!" Bunnie started. "Bunnie, he..." "Ah told him Ah wasn't in love with him! Ah broke his little-ole' heart!" "Bunnie, please, just..." "Ah'm going after him, taint nothin' that'll stop me!" "BUNNIE! HE'S ON A MISSION!" Sally yelled. "Mah stahs...and I just said..." Sally sat down next to her. "Even if it isn't love, you're a friend to him. He was in here earlier, and that means more to him than you can understand."

"It's him again! You're almost as annoying as that hedgehog!" "Blow it out your ear `Buttnik!" Ekyt retorted. "Amusing...Get him!" The roboticizer looked like a TV monitor (From the old Sonic games- NG). It formed a gun at one end. Ekyt ran for it. "ALL SWATBOTS, PURSUE INTRUDER, SECTOR ALPHA-1!"

Sonic walked toward Tails. "Okay little bro, where am I?" A blindfolded Tails pointed at Sonic. "Great job little guy!" "Will I be a Freedom Fighter soon Sonic?" Tails asked hopefully. "At this rate, you'll be one in no time!" "Wow! I can't wait! I gonna get mean old Robotnik!" He jumped in the air, his Tails spinning. "I think you're ready to go on a mission with me. Tell ya what, I'll talk to Sal. You go get to bed, okay?" "Okay Sonic."

It was 5:00 am. Ekyt ran for it, knowing he had an hour left to get back to Knothole. CLANG! He hit a SWATBOT. Another took its place. Then another. Then another. And so on. Ekyt was surrounded. He sized up the situation. The portable roboticizer jumped and landed in the center. Ekyt dug his staff into the ground and vaulted over the SWATBOTS. "Fire!" Snively commanded. The beam from the roboticizer hit Ekyt in the back, turning his gracefully leap into a fall. He landed hard. He held out his hand. It weird. It looked okay. He felt under his mask. What he felt made his blood run cold. He got up and turned, furious. He batted the roboticizer with his staff, sending it flying into three of the SWATBOTS. He jumped forward, kicking one SWATBOT with a dropkick. He rolled over once he hit the ground and swept his staff out. That knocked down the last SWATBOT. He grabbed Snively. Picking him up by his shirt, Ekyt snarled "I'll make you pay for what that did to me." He lifted up his mask. Snively gasped with horror. Ekyt threw him backwards. "If you ever cross my path again, I'd suggest you run. Or beg for mercy, you might get lucky." Ekyt tugged his mask (It's a hard plastic mask, not a ski mask -NG) back down over his face, his rage burning inside him.

"Halt! Who is to be going thair?" Antoine called. He was on guard duty. "Me." Ekyt answered. Antoine, still smarting over their duel, called back. "I am being so sorry. I cannot let you pass, you are not welcome heeere." "I'd move Antoine." Ekyt said, his voice carrying anger that made Antoine shiver. "We 'ave move-ed. Eef you were really part of zee Freedom Fighters, you would 'ave known of zee plans, mes amis!" Ekyt, his fuse short after the roboticizer, shoved Antoine into the pond. "Next time, move!" He marched toward Sally's hut.

"Come in!" Sally called. It was six am sharp. "Ekyt! Did it go well?" "Yes Sally." Ekyt answered stiffly. Too stiffly. "Nicole, display events for the last twenty minutes. "Princess, that isn't..." Sally's eyes grew with horror. "I'm so sorry Ekyt." She said. "It's my own fault. I got information on what got me, and mapped out part of Robotropolis." "Let me see the wound." "You don't want too..." "Bunnie, if you please." "Ah'm sorry about this sugah..." Bunnie held his arms behind his back as Sally lifted his mask. "My God...I've never seen anything like this." Ekyt stopped struggling. Bunnie sat down hard, shocked. Ekyt felt his face. A burn under his right eye. He didn't get the fuss. He was just mad that he was burned. It mattered to Bunnie and Sally apparently. Sally looked okay. "I never should have let you go on that mission..." "For the gain, it was worth it." Ekyt told her firmly. "I doesn't matter what I look like." He looked at his other hand. A cut in the center of the back of his hand dripped blood. Ekyt made a big move (well, for him). He hugged Bunnie. "Are you okay?" "Sugah, it's YOU that should be upset..." "I'm fine. I'll heal." Bunnie wiped a tear away. "Ah'm sorry. It' just, ya'll have such a raw deal..." "Then that makes two of us." Ekyt stated. "Someday, you'll be deroboticized. The burn will heal..." "Ekyt..." "You're beautiful, even roboticized!" Ekyt said hastily, and it was the truth. "No...I mean, the burn is gone!"

TO BE CONTINUED...