

TITLE: SONiC the Hedgehog into Dreams

WRITER: ALM

BASED ON: Sonic X-Treme (Sega of America for the Sega Saturn) and NiGHTS into Dreams (by Sonic Team for Sega Saturn)

DATE: 7.1.99

PART ONE: Gold Fever

"So, stranger, what brings a man like you to a town like this?" Tiara Boobowski says to Sonic the Hedgehog with a seductive wink as she passes him a tall cool glass of water.

"Ah, you know, the usual kind of thing," Sonic begins as he takes a sip and gulps it down. "Tired of the usual monsters, cyborgs, and robots. So, I figured I'd take on a new kind of horror." Sonic nods to Tiara. "Dating." He adds.

"Oh, you creep!" Tiara smacks Sonic on the shoulder and laughs. "So, how do you think you'll face such a gruesome, hideous beast?" Tiara moves closer to him, snuggling against his arm flirtatiously.

"Ah," Sonic angles his head back. "I dunno'. My usual wit and charm will do. What do you think?"

"I think you'll do just fine, Sonic." Tiara whispers to him.

Sonic smiles broadly and shakes the drink around in his hand, making the ice cubes swirl around and clank against each other. The condensation on the glass drips over his hand in a satisfying way. He sees the sun setting off in the distance, the light breeze blowing against him as it pushes along wispy purple-colored clouds against the pinkish sky. He hears the crickets chirping in the distance and the soft breathing of Tiara next to him here in this hammock on the front porch of her father's home. Sonic lets off a content sigh.

"Why can't the world always be like this?" Sonic thinks to himself as he feels sleep begin to over take him. He closes his eyes lazily and begins to snore softly. Tiara quickly reaches over him and grabs the perilously held glass from his hand and sets it down on the floor.

"Rest well, hero." She says to him as she kisses his eyelid. "You are so cool." She adds as she quietly walks off the porch, into the house.

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"DID YOU SEE THAT?!" Amy Rose shouts, sitting by the guest-bedroom window which looks down on the porch. "SHE KISSED HIM!!" She continues as she jumps off of the windowsill to the carpeted floor, where Miles 'Tails' Prower is on his knees, hunched over a pad of paper and doodling on it with some crayons.

"I didn't see anything." He mumbles, continuing to draw and not looking up at his enraged friend.

"Sonic is MY boyfriend!" Amy rants as she sits down grumpily on the carpet, her usually pink fur now beginning to glow a burning shade of red. She leans forward and picks up a crayon. "Here, lemme' draw ways that Tiara should die." She grumbles and begins to scribble on the pad, but the wax crayon melts in her hand.

Tails looks up at her, then back down at the smoldering puddle of wax pooled on his pad. "You must be ... a little upset about this, huh, Amy?"

"WHO DOES SHE THINK SHE IS?! SHE'S MAKING MOVES ON SONIC!!!"

"Yeah, because she's only a year or two younger than he is."

"WELL I'M EIGHT AND A HALF!"

Tails looks around nervously. "Look, Amy, I mean, Sonic's, like, famous and stuff. He could have any girl he wants ..." Tails pauses as he hears the loud grinding of Amy's teeth and her psychotic, menacing gaze aimed at him. "Uh ... well ... what I mean is that of all the people in the world, the only ones he keeps around him twenty-four seven are us two. Y'know? He only sees Tiara every now and then."

Amy continues to glare at Tails, and he feels the temperature in the room increase. "Whew, boy, y'know, it's hot in here. I ... uh ... I think I'm going to go and draw in the Professor's living room, or something. Yeah, that's the ticket!" He stammers as she quickly snatches up the pad (tearing off the piece with the now hardened splotch of wax) and a selection of crayons. He dashes out of the room and down the stairs in a cloud of dust.

Amy is left in the room alone. She stares at the doorway and groans. She walks back over to the window and looks down on Sonic. "He must be cold down there. Tiara didn't even get him a blanket or nothing. Hmph. Shows how much she cares about him. He could catch cold or something!" Amy says to herself in a huff as she walks over to one of the beds and rips off the comforter. She bundles it up sloppily under her arm and begins to go downstairs. On her way out of the room, she bumps into someone and falls backwards, the comforter flying over her like a net.

"Oh! I'm sorry. I didn't see you." Tiara says in surprise as she bends over and helps Amy out from under the heavy blanket. "Why were you carrying this out? Is it dirty?" Tiara asks as she rolls up the quilt in her arms.

"No," Amy growls, still sprawled out on the carpet. "I was bringing it to Sonic."

"Oh," Tiara's eyes widen and she turns her head to look down the stairway. "That's such a nice thing! Yes, I think he'll like that. I'll bring it down, okay?" Tiara says, looking at Amy again and flashing her a big, friendly smile, her ponytail bouncing about. With that, Tiara begins to head down the stairs with the blanket in her arms.

Amy gets up and straightens out her skirt, then approaches the doorway and watches Tiara go down. "B-but," Amy begins but Tiara doesn't notice. Amy pulls her head back into the guest bedroom. "'That's such a nice thing.'" Amy mimics as she places her hands on her hips. "And that stupid fake big-toothed smile of hers. Huh. Makes me wretch." Amy says to herself, then scampers back to the window and looks out on the porch to see Tiara walk out and gently place the comforter on Sonic, still asleep.

"Oh, I knew it was bad for us to come here. We should be on Floating

Island or something fighting Robotnic! Not vacationing at the Professor's place. This bites." Amy folds her arms over her chest and pouts.

Tails continues to scribble playfully in his pad of paper, lying down on the floor of the living room. Professor Boobowski, Tiara's father and the guardian of the rings of order, wanders into the room.

"No, no. That isn't right. That can't be right. If the two quantities were to be organized on a counter-active balance ... hrrmmm." He babbles thoughtfully to himself, rubbing his chin. "Oh, hello there, uh, Butts?" He says after he accidentally walks into the little fox on the floor.

Miles looks up at the man and messes up his face. "No, it's 'Tails,' Professor."

"Oh yeah." He says dazedly, as if forgetfulness rather than ignorance caused his mistake. "Hey, Kid," the Professor says as he rudely taps the tip of his shoe against Tails' side. "Wanna' see something really neat?"

Tails looks around nervously. "Uh," he looms up at the Professor, who's beaming him a big, broad smile that is somehow disturbing. "Uhm ... sure. I would love to see something ... neat."

"Yeah, I thought you would. My daughter always got a kick out of them," the Professor says partly to himself. Then he straightens up suddenly and looks back down at Tails. "The Rings of Order, that is. I don't keep them here. This is just our home. I have a lab a bit of a distance away, I need to go there right now even though it's," the Professor examines a small round clock on the far wall. "Half-past six and it's already dark out. Darn. Shoulda' gone there earlier."

Tails gets to his feet and faces the Professor. "Sure, I'll come along! It sounds interesting. These things are really powerful, right?"

"Oh, yes, extraordinarily so, Tails. If they were to be disturbed, the energy released, the energy of order, would be incredible. I need to keep them all at precise distances from each other-order-otherwise that power would come out, and destroy reality as we know it."

"Oh, wow. That sounds pretty bad."

"Yes! But you shouldn't worry too much, the destruction would be so fast that you wouldn't feel a thing! We'd all be dead. We'd be more than dead, in fact. It would be like this entire universe never even existed! Now think about that, huh?" The Professor says, stooping down and patting Tails on the head.

Tails gives the Professor a blank look. He's not sure if he wants to cry from what he's heard. "Oh. Well, I guess I'd still like to see them Professor Boobowski." Tails finally says, fidgeting.

"Ah, that's a good lad." The Professor pulls away from Tails and looks around the room. "Mind if I ask a favor of you, Tails?"

"No, what?"

"Do you see that large pile of equipment in the corner over there?" The Professor indicates a part of the room behind Tails. "If you wouldn't mind carrying that, I'd very much appreciate it."

Tails turns around and sees the pile. It must weigh a ton! Tails groans and shakes his head miserably. "Me and my big mouth," he says under his breath as he sullenly lumbers over to the pile of technical equipment.

"Nonsense, my boy! Why, when I was your age, I always loved to give my father a helping hand in his research! You are about to enter," he leans over towards Tails and places his right hand on Tails' shoulder as he waves his left arm out dramatically. "The fascinating world of science! Aren't you excited?"

Tails nods his head unenthusiastically. "Thrilled," He moans and then bends over and grabs some heavy cylinders filled with wires. "What are these things?"

"Why, they're bundles of wires! Be careful with those, I might do something with them ... someday. Amazing, isn't it?"

Tails rolls his eyes as he wedges the bundles under his arms. "Oh, yes, totally amazed, Professor. Totally." He replies dully, humoring the Professor. "Hey, Amy, any chance of you helping me out with this?" Tails looks around the room, and sees Amy standing in front of a window, looking at Sonic, still asleep on the porch.

"No, I'm staying here. Someone needs to keep an eye on Sonic."

"Well, Tiara is here." Tails says, then clasps his hands over his mouth, dropping the bundle.

Amy turns her head and glares at Tails.

"Well, you see, what I meant is that ... uh ..."

"Oh, no, it's, what, eight o'clock, now? Tiara's going to be busy washing her hair for the next half-hour or so." The Professor chimes in.

Amy nods her head. "See, Tails? That girl is so unreliable."

"She's reliable to take care of her hair." The Professor comments under his breath.

"Yes, well, you two go off and have fun at the lab. I'll keep an eye on Sonic," Amy says curtly as she shoves them out the door. "Don't worry, everything will be alright." She slams the door behind them.

Tails and the Professor blink at each other, bewildered.

"She has a crush on Sonic." Tails says to the professor, his voice slightly strained as he struggles to keep the bundles under his arms.

Professor Boobowski rubs his chin a moment, as if considering the statement as he would a universe altering formula. "Yes, I suppose she does. I think Tiara does, too, come to think of it." His eyes widen

and he points at Tails. "Say, you don't think that this might be the cause of some sort of rivalry between those two, do you?"

Tails's mouth is agape. Then, stifling a laugh, Tails shakes his head slowly. "No ... no I don't think so, Professor."

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Tiara is toweling her hair dry as she emerges from the steaming bathroom. "Ah, nothing like a nice hot shower," she sighs contently as she strolls into the kitchen.

Tiara sees Sonic sitting at the table with Amy Rose. Amy has a big glass of milk in front of her and she's swinging her legs back and forth as she talks to Sonic excitedly. "Sonic!" Tiara squeaks in surprise. The conversation ends abruptly and the two look up at her. Sonic has a broad smile, and Amy shows an annoyed grimace. "I ... didn't think that you'd be awake already!"

Amy chortles: "You were in the shower for <I>ninety</I> minutes, Tiara."

"I only woke up a half hour ago. I've been talking with Amy."

"Where's my father and ... the fox?"

Sonic raises an eyebrow in surprise.

"They're in your father's lab, Tiara," Amy responds, then takes a big gulp of her milk. After swallowing it down she says to Sonic: "He had some work to do there and suckered Tails into being his pack mule." She and Sonic share a friendly giggle at Tails's expense.

"I don't think you've ever seen the Rings of Order, have you, Sonic?"

"No, I was supposed to one time. But the tour got canceled." Tiara and Amy shrug at each other. "I guess, with Tails and the Professor already there, we may as well go, too. What do you think, Amy?"

Amy flashes Tiara a mean-spirited grin. "I'd love to go with you two."

"Great!" Tiara exclaims with somewhat faux enthusiasm. "Let's me get dressed, I promise I'll be ready in ... half an hour ... max!" She says as she backs out of the room and then runs up the stairs to her bedroom.

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Sonic, Amy, and Tiara arrive at the laboratory in Amy's roadster later that night. Even though she's usually very strict about driving her own vehicle, Amy of course let Sonic drive this time so that he would not be afforded to chance to be occupied with Tiara.

"Wow, that thing drives pretty well," Sonic comments as he leaps out from the driver's side.

"Thanks, Sonic. Tails and I have worked a lot on that this ol' thing. I'm glad you got the chance the drive it! How were you back there, Tiara?" Amy asks as she peeks over the seat to see Tiara, pouting in the back seat.

"Oh, just fine." Tiara answers sharply, then-in a haughty gesture-turns her head.

Sonic opens the doors for the ladies and lets them out. He looks around. "Oh! That must be your father's truck right there, right, Tiara?"

Tiara looks around, it takes her a moment to see the vehicle that Sonic is pointing to (it is quite dark, after all). She gasps in shock and then begins to look around frantically. "No it isn't, Sonic! That's not my father's car!" She says breathlessly. She dashes towards the main door and bangs on it desperately. "This door shouldn't be locked!" She turns to Sonic. "Something's very wrong here, Sonic! We have got to get inside!"

"Allow me," Amy says smugly as she waves Sonic and Tiara aside. She pulls her massive hammer from the pocket of her skirt and hefts it in her hands as she eyes the door sadistically. "HURKA!" She shouts as she swings the massive mallet about and then bangs it into the door. It buckles like a tin can and falls in. The heavy clang echoes down the now open hallway. Amy rests the head of the hammer on the ground and leans on the handle. "Easy as pie," She comments arrogantly.

"Thanks Amy," Sonic says as he runs down the hall in a blur. Tiara follows him as she tells Amy to stay outside and ambush anyone who tries to leave.

"The chamber of the Rings of Order ought to be down this passage here!" Tiara calls out to the fast-moving blue streak that is Sonic. The blur instantly changes direction and smashes through a door into the chamber. It takes Tiara a few moments to catch up. Exhausted, she shuffles into the room, panting.

"Oh no." Tiara says weakly as she sees Sonic in a standoff with a band of thieves in the Chamber of the Rings of Order. Tails and the Professor are tied up and gagged in a corner of the room.

"KNACK!" Sonic yells. "I thought you only stole Chaos Emeralds you dirty weasel!"

"Oh, tsk tsk. Such a derogatory remark from so great a hero! There's no need for such language." Knack chides as he as he uses hand gestures to order his underlings to begin loading up the Rings of Order into big bags they had brought along.

"NO!" Tiara shrieks. "You can't move those! If you do, it could be disastrous for the whole universe!"

Knack eyes her closely. "Yeah, yeah, yeah. Like I'm gonna' believe that one." He snaps his fingers. "Boys, if any of you see the hedgehog or," he takes another long look at Tiara. "The hotty make a move, do something just plain awful to their two buddies in the corner, there."

Sonic looks around tensely. "Knack! You don't know what you're getting yourself into!" Then he mutters under his breath: "Heck, I don't even know what you're getting yourself into."

One of Knack's cohorts grabs at one of the rings. It begins to emit a

piercing ring as he pulls it out of alignment from the other ones. He winces in pain as the ringing grows louder. Disturbed by the noise, he then shoves it back into place.

"Boss! I don't think they're trying to trick us!"

"Ah, shaddup you dolt!" Knack snaps at him. He heads towards the thief and shoves him aside. "Let me take care of this you amateur." Knack cracks his knuckles and snags the ring. Then, smiling triumphantly, he jerks the ring out of its holding place.

To Be Continued ...

TITLE: SONiC the Hedgehog into Dreams (Part Two) - His Dream Denied

BASED ON: Sonic X-Treme (Sega of America for the Sega Saturn)

and NiGHTS into Dreams (by Sonic Team for Sega Saturn)

WRITER: ALM

DATE: 9.15.1999

Tumbling. Falling. Floating. Swimming.

Tiara feels a hundred different sensations as a blinding light floods the chamber that holds the sacred Rings of Order. She raises her arm up to shield her eyes, but feels a heavy resistance, as if the air was instantly turned to a vast fluid ocean. Tiara struggles against the thick liquid around her. She opens her eyes to see what has happened, but is surprised to see that there is nothing beyond her. In confusion, she looks down, only to see that her body is no longer there.

"Complete darkness," Tiara thinks to herself as she touches her hand to her face. "Where did that light go? It never faded," Tiara looks around herself dumbly, still flailing her limbs about in an attempt to swim in this unseen ocean that envelops her. "I don't feel wet, or cold, I can breathe!" her mind races. Tiara braces herself and then lets out a great yell: "SONIC!"

There's no sound, nor is there a rush of water into her mouth.

"I'm dead!" Tiara panics.

"Tiara," she hears Sonic's voice echoing around her. It's so familiar and settling. She outstretches her arms desperately and feels a gentle touch, a lover gently caressing her fingers.

"Sonic! Sonic! I'm so scared! What happened!?"

"You fell down, Tiara. It's nothing to get so panicky about," There's a light chuckle in Sonics voice as he takes her hand and helps her up. Tiara strains her eyes to see him, but she can not. There is only the surrounding darkness.

"I told you she wouldn't be able to maneuver that thing," Amy Rose chides, standing behind Tiara. "What'd you call that, Tails?"

"A jet engine powered skateboard ... simple enough," Tails replies coolly.

"I hope I didn't break it, Tails," Tiara says to him with genuine concern for his invention. Then, her mind races as she thinks to herself: "I'm outside. I know it. The sun feels so warm on me. And the breeze! My eyes are open! Why can't I see anything at all!? Why is it so dark!! Did the light blind me?" Tiara sways absentmindedly and falls forward into Sonic's arms. He catches her and holds her close.

"You took a harder crash there than I thought, you going to be okay, Tiara?"

"Oh, yeah, Sonic. I'll be fine. I just need to lie down a bit."

She can't see him, but she can tell that Sonic is looking her over, worried.

"I'll be okay, Sonic, really," she reassures him.

"Okay. Okay. You sit over her," he walks her over somewhere and sits her down. Tiara feels her back press against the trunk of a tree. The shade of its leaves is cool over her.

"Thank you, Sonic."

"I'm going to help Tails with his jet engine thing, okay? You just stay here," Tiara hears him take a few steps and then stop. "Tiara?"

Tiara angles her head up and looks in his direction. "Yes?"

"I love you."

Tiara blushes and covers her cheeks with her hands. "I ... love you too, Sonic," she replies, mildly embarrassed.

Sonic walks back to Amy and Tails and continues playing with them. Tiara leans back against the tree and breathes deeply. She wonders why she can't see anything, or how she came to this place. She also notices for the first time that her actions are not entirely consistent with her personality. It's like she's living someone else's life ... or someone else's idea of her own life.

Her thinking is interrupted by the wail of a crying baby.

Tiara quickly turns her head in the direction of the noise. Tiara sees a small blue hedgehog wrapped up in blankets shining through the darkness. His little hands are balled up and he's crying loudly, kicking his feet around. Tiara smiles at him and picks up the newborn. She holds him close.

"How come I can see you, little guy?" She pats his back gently and hugs the baby. His crying stops and he begins to coo merrily. "Oh, you're a happy little guy after all, huh?" She pulls him away from her and looks over the baby, a broad, proud smile on her face. "Oh, you're such a little darling, my dear little baby Mach."

Tiara gasps. "My ... baby?" Mach giggles and drools on himself. Looking at him, Tiara sees the world begin to expand around her. She can see the tree she's sitting next to, the shade on the green grass, the blue sky and white clouds. She sees her husband, Sonic the Hedgehog, playing with his adopted children, Amy Rose and Miles "Tails" Prower on a perfect day in Emerald Hills. And Tiara definitely sees Mach T. Hedgehog, her son with Sonic the Hedgehog.

"No, this is impossible," she says to herself dryly as she studies the baby's face. "I was never pregnant. How did I get here?" Tiara turns her head. "Sonic!" She calls out. Sonic looks at her, surprised at the urgency in her voice. "Sonic, I'm not supposed to be here!"

Just then, the universe around her begins to crack and shatter violently and a torrent of water rushes by her. She's swept away by it and takes a fall. She hits the ground with a thud.

"Well, we got those two out of the Ideya capture," Nap says as he pokes Tiara in the ribs with a stick. Tiara coughs and spits up some fluid. "She's alright, it seems. This one, though," Nap points to Sonic the Hedgehog, also drenched and sprawled out on the ground beneath a torn-open Ideya capture in Splash Gardens. "He doesn't seem as lively."

"Weird," Snuze comments as he flutters his wings and floats over to Sonic. "I never heard of an Ideya capture capturing people before," he squints his eyes. "Or ... hedgehogs ... either. And especially two at once! That must've been really bizarre for them."

"Who ... who are you?" Tiara asks weakly as she lunges forward to cough up some more fluid.

"I'm Nap!" One Nightopian says proudly as he jabs his thumb in his chest.

"And I'm Snuze," the other adds, bowing politely to Tiara.

"Pleasure to meet you two," Tiara says as she sits down and slumps over, rubbing her throat with her right hand. She winces a moment and then begins looking around herself, shocked. "Where am I?! Where's Sonic?! What ARE you two?!" Panicked, she gets to her feet, but is still disoriented from her encounter with the Ideya Capture and stumbles forward, landing beside Sonic, face first. She grumbles, then pushes herself up and leans over Sonic. "C'mon, wake up, Sonic!" She shouts as she

slaps the side of his face. "C'mon! Get up!"

Sonic groans painfully. "I'm okay, Tiara. Cool down, all right? Geez," he sits up and smiles at her. His eyes wander around and he sees the two watching Nightopians. "What's with the halos? We dead or something?"

Sonic says, pointing at them. Then he reaches up and begins feeling around his head curiously to determine if he has a halo too. "Or maybe some other dimension, or something ... " he mutters.

"Well, these two gentle ... men?" Tiara shrugs as she indicates the two Nightopians. "Are Nap and Snuze."

Each smiles happily as she points to them while saying their names. "And we are in ...?" Tiara looks at them with a befuddled expression to cue them for an answer.

"In Nightopia," Nap answers curtly. "What you would call a 'Dreamland.' This is the place where the ethereal of peoples' imaginations is made real."

Tiara gasps. Sonic looks at her inquisitively. "Sonic, this is some other kind of ... dimension. Remember,

Knack was trying to steal the Rings of Order! When he disrupted their placement the ordered separation of realities that they maintain was broken-hopefully only for a moment-and we must have been drawn in here!"

Sonic stares at her blankly.

"Well, it makes sense to me, anyway." Tiara says under her breath. She turns to Nap and Snuze: "Have either of you heard of anyone else from our dimension coming here?"

"Well, there's Elliot and Claris." Snuze thinks aloud as he nibbles on his lower lip. "But they haven't been here for a long time."

"Oh, wait!" Nap blurts out. "What about that other furry guy that Siesta told us about this morning?"

Snuze stares at Nap for a while. "Yeah, the weasely looking one! Hey, he wouldn't happen to be a friend of yours, would he?" Nap turns to Sonic and Tiara.

"That thieving, no good scoundrel." Tiara mumbles to herself, turning to Sonic.

"Knack is here too?" Sonic steps towards the Nightopians. "You can't trust him! He's a thief, and it's because of a heist he tried to pull that we're stuck here! We have to get to him before he tries anything funny!"

"Ooh, that sounds urgent," Nap thinks aloud. "We'll take you there, c'mon, follow us. There's a quick way to where he is-in Stick Canyon-from here. Right through that underwater cave over there." He says as he grabs Tiara by the hand and begins pulling her towards a small beach.

"We'll just dive in and be there in a moment."

Tiara gasps. "I'm not exactly the best swimmer in the world ... I mean, I'm killer in a swimsuit and all, but-!"

Her words are cut off as Nap and Snuze snag her by the wrists and pull her into a pool of water, barely giving her enough time to take in a deep breath of air and hold it.

Sonic saunters up to the pool and stands at the edge of the water for a moment and looks in, trying to see

Tiara or her guides in its depths. After a moment he gives up. "Well, time for a swim." He says as he does a little stretching-which is also abruptly ended when Nap bursts out of the water, grabs Sonic and drags him in.

With their cheeks puffed and hands covering their mouths, Tiara and Sonic are swept through a series of underwater tunnels, lead by Nap and Snuze. The fast current moves them along so fast that the rushing water disorients the two hedgehogs.

Suddenly, the current changes and the group swirls around in a circle, like the current had been bottled up.

Sonic opens his eyes and makes out his surroundings as he spins about.

"A giant fishbowl? That's insane!" He thinks to himself.

There's a heavy splash of water and then Sonic, Tiara, and the two Nightopians find themselves contained in the massive underwater glass fishbowl with a giant problem: Gulpo!

Furiously, Gulpo charges at the group. They manage to swim out of his way as he smashes against the wall of the fishbowl. Gulpo shakes his head a moment and begins to turn around. Sonic looks at Tiara and notices that she is looking weak.

"We need to get some air!" Sonic thinks to himself. He lets his body drop to the bottom of the bowl and looks up at Tiara. He sees her swimming up to the top of the bowl, where Gulpo dropped in. But it seems to be blocked off by ice. Sonic sees her desperately pound on the covering, and realizes that he doesn't have too much time to spare. The two Nighopians are over at the other side of the bowl (they apparently don't need to breathe) and are distracting Gulpo by sticking their tongues out at him. Gulpo growls and begins to move towards them full speed. Sonic smiles as he realizes his opening. He ducks down tucks himself into a ball. He begins spinning around madly, building up steam. When he thinks Gulpo has passed overhead, Sonic let's go.

He spin-dashes with amazing speed along the inside of the bowl. He zips up along the wall and circles it,

blowing past Gulpo and the two Nightopians. Then moves up the side, towards the top of the bowl. Tiara

frantically swims away from the ice just before Sonic smashes through it!

Sonic soars into the air and hangs a moment, then comes crashing down into a hill of snow just away from the frozen lake. "That goodness for the soft landing," Sonic says to himself as he takes a deep breath. He shakes his head and brushes some snow off of his legs. He runs over to the edge of the lake and sees Tiara trying to climb out of the hole Sonic punched through the ice.

"SONIC!" She screams as she's pulled back down.

Sonic dashes over the ice to the breach and looks down. He takes a deep breath and dives back in.

Sinking, he sees the two Nightopians grabbing the giant's fishes fins and attempting to wrestle it around, and Tiara is caught in the monster's mouth, struggling to keep it from closing its massive jaws. Sonic swims to the wall of the bowl and runs down the side, across the bottom, and back up until he's in line with the big fish. With the speed he'd built up, Sonic launches himself off of the glass towards the fish. His fists thrust out, Sonic forcefully knocks Gulpo in the side of the head. The beast drops Tiara from its mouth and reels around, dazed. The Nightopians let go of the fish's fins and dive down to snag Tiara.

Sonic watches them take her up the surface and out of the fishbowl. Noticing that Gulpo has recovered from the punch he landed, Sonic begins to move up to the surface too. He climbs out of the hole and onto the ice. Sonic sees Tiara resting on the snow-covered hill that he'd landed on, and the two Nightopians are flying out to Sonic, at the middle of the frozen lake. Sonic starts walking across the icy surface towards the edge of the lake.

Then the ice begins trembling!

Sonic looks behind himself and sees Gulpo breaking through the surface and barreling for him, smashing up the ice as he moves. Sonic begins running across the frozen lake, feeling the ice is breaking just inches behind him as the mammoth fish goes right for him!

"Gotta' get off this lake!" Sonic says to himself, huffing and puffing as he runs away from the angered fish.

He looks up, and sees that the two Nighopians have stopped flying towards him. "Lotta' help those two are," Sonic thinks to himself, annoyed. He sees the two hovering in the air, looking at the sky behind Sonic. "What's going on," Sonic wonders.

At that, he feels two arms wrap around his waist, and Sonic is lifted off the ground. He turns his head and sees a smiling mime dressed in purple ferrying him off of the lake. "Uhm, hi," Sonic stammers to his savior.

The mime just nods in acknowledgement and then drops him off in the

snow next to Tiara. Before Sonic can
thank him, the purple mime zips back to the lake and into the water
with Gulpo. Sonic sees splashes of waters
and loud noises, followed by a blight glow and an explosion
erupting from the lake. A moment later, the mime
flies back out and floats over to Sonic and Tiara, fully recovered
from the ordeal.

The mime bows politely to Sonic and Tiara.

"Oh, he's so pleasant," Tiara comments.

Nap and Snuze stand on either side of the mime and, proud smiles on
their faces, introduce him to Sonic and

Tiara: "This is NiGHTS, the champion of Nightopia."