

Dark Shadow in the Mountains

Chapter One: Saved by My Crush

~By Riley Cheung

I woke up way before my family and decided not to tell anyone I was going for an early snowboard class. Little did I know that morning, I would be sitting beside one of my greatest heroes while dangling a hundred feet above a mountain canyon on a neon yellow chairlift. Little did I know my hero would be telling me his secrets while I looked down at jagged drifts of snow shaped like claws, huge boulders like giant fists, and a trail of cracked snowboards below.

Secretly, I ate breakfast and sneaked out. It was all worth it because I saw the last moments of sunrise—a vivid painting of indigo, scarlet, lemon yellow, and violet all swirling as the sun melted into the sky.

I rode down perfectly on my Amy snowboard and met my class. Later, while practicing jumps, I thought I saw a yellow Sonic ring fly in front of me, but when I blinked and rubbed my eyes, it was gone. I shrugged and continued to follow the instructor. At the end of the class, I took a forest shortcut, but the forest grew darker and blacker, and I panicked.

Then, a giant yellow Sonic ring popped out of nowhere, but it vanished like a fish swimming away. *How did it get here?*

After my class, I took a warm shower and tried to nap, but I couldn't fall asleep. I ended up playing Sonic on the GameCube. Then, suddenly, the game malfunctioned and giant, yellow rings began blasting out of the machine, bouncing around the room. I felt terrified and excited. I tried to catch them, but they disappeared. Finally, just as my fingers touched one, I felt a spark of lightning zip from the top of my head down to my toes. My fingers went numb, I felt dizzy, and I blacked out.

When I woke up, I saw my body was yellow and fuzzy. I had turned into my second favourite Sonic character, Tails! I rubbed my eyes and looked behind me to see my two yellow tails spinning like helicopter blades. *The ring must have transferred me!* I felt weird, amazed, and delighted. It was a dream come true. I spun my yellow tail into the air, doing tricks.

Then, suddenly, something fast came at me. It was Sonic with his blue fur, long spikes, and green eyes.

Then Sonic, with his orange mouth and that smirk I know so well, said, "Hi, Tails!"

I managed to squeak out, "Oh, hhhh-hhh-hi, Sonic—wait, how do you know my name?"

Then Sonic said one of the most amazing things I've ever heard, "I always wanted to bring you into my game because you are one of my favourite players. You can actually keep up with me in ice worlds!"

"Wow, thank you, Sonic!" I spun my tails high, and floated back down to the earth.

"I have a master plan to pull my favourite kids into the game so they can go on an epic adventure with me to stop Shadow from destroying the world!"

"Ummm, yes, please! We need as much help as we can get!"

"Do you know anyone from your snowboard class?!"

"Yes! I think you should choose Billy because he is amazing."

Sonic says, "Ok, then show me the way."

Then Sonic and I hopped through another yellow ring and went to another yellow ski lift, where I knew Billy was. When we got there, we saw him riding at full speed, doing a 360 and landing a somersault in the powder.

Sonic's face was in shock, and he said, "Wow, he's great."

Then Sonic threw up a ring in front of Billy just as he jumped. Billy went through it and suddenly transported to where Sonic and I were. He transformed to Knuckles!

I said, "Don't worry! This will be the best time of your life!"

Billy's face looked blank and paralyzed. Then he finally asked, "Where am I? Who are

you? Am I stuck like this forever? Why did you change me?"

Then Sonic explained, "Ok, ok. Here's the scoop. You are in a parallel world to the one you know, and I've turned you into Knuckles so that you can join us in our mission to stop Shadow from blasting the mountain to get the master emerald."

He said, "So you mean this might be the end of the world?"

In unison, Sonic and I said, "Yes!"

"I need to get my blue snowboard. I'll be right back." Sonic disappeared through a ring.

Knuckles said, "Get me back home right now. I don't want this!"

"It's okay, you don't have to worry," I said. "Sonic only lost his game once."

With a wrathful face, he shouted, "I don't want to go on the mission with you! I don't know why you're even here!" Knuckles shook in fury.

"Fine, I will give you some space."

As Knuckles flew past me on his board, he grabbed me and started to whip me around like a ball. I felt he would break my twin tails!

Then, the second-greatest moment of my life happened. The prettiest girl ever showed. My crush since I was little! She grabbed Knuckles by his quills and bashed him with her hammer, sending him flying like a like bird dropping out of the sky. He landed at the bottom of the mountain with a crash. Finally, you wouldn't believe it, but a black and red, evil-looking hedgehog scooped him up and flew off with him.

I stared at Amy in disbelief, "Shadow just took him! We're in trouble."

She said, "We *are* in trouble, but it's good to have a fighter like you on our side!"

I started blushing. I was embarrassed that she was the one saving me. I wish I could impress her.

"Try to keep up! Let's find Sonic." She said, smiling.

I would follow Amy anywhere in that pretty red dress.

