

GeneX - Christmas Specials

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All Christmas Specials go here.

In the very first GeneX Christmas Special, Copter doesn't seem to get Christmas. In fact, he seems annoyed by it! Can anyone get through to him?

In the second, Gemini is feeling homesick. Fortunately, a reindeer crash helps to distract from it.

Provided by Fanart Central.

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1 - Copter's First Noel

GeneX Christmas Special
Copter's First Noel

Note: Sonic the Hedgehog and related characters are (c) SEGA and Sonic Team. You knew that, right?

GeneX and related fanchars are (c) 2BIT (TheGreatGator), the author.

Note2: Making LOTS of extra spaces for FAC. Hope it makes the story readable with the site's current upload system :(

It was December once again. A particularly cold December to end a very hectic year for Sonic and his friends. Among other adventures, they'd had their first encounter with the GeneX Experiments. Then, a monstrous creature called Solenix appeared at Soleanna's Sun Festival. Fortunately, no major damage had occurred at any of these events, and the dangers were fading to the back of Sonic and his friends' memories. One particular day, Sonic the Hedgehog knocked at the door to Tails's Workshop, eager to talk about happier things. "Hey, Sonic! Come in! I'm getting ready to go!" Tails said, hurrying back inside to return to what he was busy with. His robotic puppy, SPOT, had opened a hatch on its back and was holding some bags for him. "Go, you say...? You've got plans...?" Sonic asked. Tails tried to stuff a wreath into one of the bags SPOT had on his back and glanced at Sonic. "Didn't you know already? Amy's throwing a Christmas Eve party this year! I'm helping out... She's been telling you about it since Halloween, Sonic, are you sure you don't remember?" he frowned. Sonic scratched his head. "Nope, doesn't ring a bell! Hey, I better drag Knuckles down, ya think? He shouldn't spend Christmas alone!" he said quickly, changing the subject. Tails looked thoughtful. "Um... Sonic? Do you think it'd be OK if I invited Copter?" he wondered, thinking about his clone who had helped them during the previous crisis. Sonic frowned. "I don't know... He's kinda grouchy and... He DID work for Eggman. It might be awkward." he pointed out. Tails grabbed a box of candy canes and stuffed it into the bag. "Well... Gee... You just described Knuckles." he pointed out. Sonic thought about it. "Hmmm... Yeah, guess you're right. Well, it IS Christmas. I guess if you can get him to come, we should all show him some of that Christmas spirit, too! I got the same challenge ahead of me gettin' Knuckles to come... By the way, can I borrow the Tornado to get up there?" he asked. Tails nodded. "Take the old one. You know you don't know anything about the transformation switches. I don't want you touching them by accident." he said. "I said I was sorry about the Tornado 2 a billion times!! Sheesh!!!" Sonic groaned.

In Station Square, Copter was experiencing the holiday season for the first time in his life. He wished he wasn't. Everywhere he walked, there were crowds of busy people. All through the month, they had been decorating, shopping, caroling, and nearly running him over with their cars! Today was a bitter cold day, and all he wished for was a warm place to rest. "Christmas this... Christmas that... What's all this nonsense? Is the world coming to an end? It's like Halloween... Only scarier." Copter muttered as he

trudged through the snowy sidewalks, which had been shoveled after the last snowstorm, but a light dusting of snow remained in most places. As he walked, he jumped when an inflatable Santa Claus suddenly popped up in front of him, someone choosing to inflate it NOW of all times. "Yaaaa!! It's Eggman!!" he yelped, "Errrr..." A nearby kid rolled his eyes at him. "It's Santa, stupid." he groaned. Copter kept moving. "Just want to get out of the cold..." he said, heading across the street as the light changed. It seemed to change back quicker than usual, and the cars started speeding by without regard for him! "Bwaaaaa!!! Walkin... Here!! Whoa!!" he yelled, flying out of the way as a truck with a toy store logo nearly hit him! "Merry Christmas!!" he heard someone shout nearby. He growled and flew to the other side of the street. "Just want out of the cold..." he growled. He looked around and noticed he was in front of a department store. "Oh, no, not AGAIN!!" he whimpered, this having happened to him numerous times this month. Crowds soon came rushing in and out of the door, pushing him back and forth before he could get away! "Hey!! Watch it!! Hey, kid, this isn't a petting zoo!!!" he yelled. To top off his frustrations, carolers started singing nearby. "Deck the halls with boughs of holly! Fa la la la la, la la la--" It was about all the "las" Copter could take. "CHAOS WHIRLWIND!!" He blew a chaotic wind through the area, knocking a few people and carolers over, and stopping everyone else in their tracks as they stared at him. "I... just... want to get out... of the cold!!" he panted, running off through the escape route he'd created. "Scrooge." One of the carolers grumbled.

Tails soon arrived at Amy's apartment in Central City. She was busy decorating for the party, so Tails emptied his bags onto a table. "The place looks nice, Amy." Tails smiled. Amy groaned. "Just nice!? C'mon, I wanna impress Sonic!! Quick, where should I hang this wreath!? Is... is there enough tinsel around? Ah! I know!! I gotta start getting the food ready!!" she gasped, rushing off to the kitchen! Tails sighed and answered the door as he heard a knock. "Don't open it!! I'm not ready yeeeeeet!!" Amy shouted. "It's just Cream." Tails said. Cream the rabbit was at the door wearing a green scarf and earmuffs, though they did little good for her long ears. "Is everything okay in there?" she asked. They heard a crash and Amy growled. "Behave or I'll knock the figs out of you, pudding!!" she yelled. "We're getting ready for the party." Tails explained. Cream nodded. "Oh, I'm sorry... I can come back when it starts." she said. Tails looked around and handed Cream some plates he was holding. "Could you maybe take over for me? I have something I've gotta do..." he said. Amy peered out and looked around. "You're right!! We don't have any mistletoe around here!! Go find some! And some holly! Lots of holly! And scented candles! I'll make a romantic corner for me and Sonic to sit together and--" As she started to talk about her romantic daydream, Tails and Cream stared blankly at each other. "Christmas isn't about scented candles..." Tails muttered. "AAAAHH!! My cookies are burning!! The whole party'll be ruined by burnt cookie smell!!" Amy yelped. "I think she's missing the point a little..." Cream sighed. Cheese fluttered over next to Cream and cuddled her. "We'll calm her down, Tails! You get going!" she said cheerfully. Tails nodded. "Thanks. I'm going to go find Copter!" he said, rushing off with SPOT. Cream watched them go curiously. "...Copter? Hmmm... Well, good luck, then!" she smiled.

Sonic had flown up to Angel Island aboard the Tornado, and Knuckles the echidna watched as the plane circled around and landed near the Master Emerald shrine. "Oh, brother. Is it that time of year again already? I knew it was getting colder..." he grumbled. Sonic climbed up the steps of the Master Emerald shrine and waved to Knuckles. "Season's Greetings, Knuckles! You know why I'm here!" he said. Knuckles crossed his arms and leaned against the Master Emerald. "You're here to drag me down away

from my post for some silly holiday like you do every year. Why do you keep doing this!?" he groaned. Sonic grinned. "Come on, mister grouchy, you can't just sulk up here through Christmas. Have made for TV movies taught you nothi-- errr... Know what? Never mind..." he said, realizing Knuckles didn't own a TV. Knuckles sighed and shook his head. "I have my duty, Sonic. I can't just run off and leave the Master Emerald, even for a day! It's worse than ever now! I've got Rouge AND Punchy to contend with! As soon as I let my guard down, one of them will make off with the emerald! I have to be vigilant!" he said. Sonic tapped his foot in frustration. "Can't you take it with you?" he asked. "That defeats the purpose... If I could carry it around WITH me, do you think I would LIVE here!?" Knuckles snapped. Sonic sighed, but then snickered, grabbing Knuckles by the arm. "Well, that won't make a difference because it's Christmas! No thieves are gonna make off with the emerald on Christmas! They've got the Christmas spirit and they're gonna give you your vacation, fair and square, just like every year!" he said, dragging Knuckles along! "H-HEY!! Let me go!! I don't even LIKE Christmas!! You guys gave me too much eggnog last year and I woke up tied up in ribbons!! That wasn't funny!!!" he shouted. "It was when you realize you tied yourself up! Ha ha!" Sonic chuckled, "Now, come on! We're goin' to a Christmas Eve party!"

As Copter stomped grouchily through the busy city, he soon neared another department store. "Oh, geez, how many of these evil things are there!?" he groaned. Coming out of the doors, he noticed Rainbow the echidna, bundled up with a pink coat, red mittens, and a red scarf. She held the door for Punchy, who was carrying several heavy looking bags in his arms, and looked almost as aggravated as Copter. "Do we REALLY need all this stuff??" Punchy grumbled. Rainbow tilted her head. "Hmmm... Come to think of it, probably not. You should have said something before we paid for it, One!" she realized. Punchy's eyes widened. "Stupid, stupid, stupid..." he muttered to himself. Copter walked over and crossed his arms. "Punchy, Rainbow, not you too!" he groaned. Rainbow scratched her head. "Huh? Oh, hey Two! Merry Christmas!" she smiled. Copter sneered. "Punchy doesn't look so merry buried under all that junk!" he said. "She bought a log! What's a log for!?" he grumbled. "It's a Yule log..." Rainbow said. "Why do you let her drag you into this, Punchy?" Copter said. Punchy shrugged. Rainbow patted Copter on the back. "Aww, don't be so grumpy! It's gonna be the best Christmas ever! ...Because for the first time in years... I won't be spending it alone..." she sighed, turning around to wipe a tear from her eye. "R-rainbow...?" Punchy muttered. Suddenly, Rainbow turned around with a big grin. "Hey, Two! You should come over, too!!" she suggested. Copter backed away slowly. "Ahhh... I can see you're really excited... for some reason... but I'm not interested! I'd just as soon have Christmas leave me alone!" he grumbled, walking away. Punchy sighed. "Well, you seem to know something I don't, Rainbow, so I'll trust you on this... Could you please grab one of these bags, though??" he whimpered. "Ooops! Sorry, One!" Rainbow chuckled, grabbing for some bags. As Copter walked off, he heard a familiar voice singing. "Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way! Oh what fun it is to hide that I don't know words to songs, hey!" sang Gator, the strange blue haired man in the alligator suit, who was busy stringing lights on a random pine tree growing at a patch of green between buildings. "What are... You know what? Compared to everyone else, your insanity seems normal right now." Copter grumbled. Gator glanced down from the ladder he was working from. "I'm bringing holiday cheer to the city! This tree was looking all sad and lonely here, so I thought I'd brighten this spot up!" he explained. "...Where are you gonna plug those lights in? Not that we need MORE blinding lights in this city!" Copter grumbled. "Huh? Don't be silly, it's not blinding. It's for the kiddies! Hey, where AM I gonna plug it... Wh-WHOOOA!!!" Gator yelped, stumbling as he glanced around frantically for a place to plug the lights in. Copter flinched as Gator fell into the tree, becoming entangled in the lights! "Umm... Little help?" he

muttered as the lights suddenly flickered on! "Oh, right, I already took care of the power! Hey, Copter! Where ya goin?!" he mumbled as he watched Copter walk away. "Aww... He's got no Christmas spirit... Must have been through too many Halloween Specials."

Sonic and Knuckles had taken the train to Station Square, and as they walked off the train and wandered through the station, which was decorated with wreaths and garland, they came across another old "friend" who might have just hopped off another train. "Well, well, well, Knuckles! You've descended down from the North Pole! It MUST be Christmas!" Rouge the bat smirked. Knuckles groaned loudly. "What are YOU doing here!?" he whined. Sonic frowned. "Here we go again... Can't you two be nice for the holidays?" he sighed. Rouge smiled. "Sure. Why not? Knuckles left me the perfect gift... All unwrapped and... unguarded... Hehehe..." she snickered, starting to leave. Knuckles gasped and started after her. "YOU STAY AWAY FROM THE MASTER EMERALD, YOU THIEF!! See, Sonic!?! I told you!!!" Knuckles shouted. Sonic grabbed Knuckles by the arm. "Chiiiiill. I'll handle this." he said, zipping off in front of Rouge before she could get away! "Whoa! Um... Okay, blue. You got my attention." Rouge muttered, crossing her arms. Sonic crossed his arms as well. "You'd better behave yourself, Rouge... 'Cuz Santa is watching you." he said matter-of-factly. Rouge stared at him blankly for a second, and then started laughing. "AH HA HA HA!! Good one, Sonic! Ha ha ha ha!" As she walked off chuckling, Knuckles ran over growling. "Huh... You don't suppose she doesn't believe in Santa Claus?" Sonic muttered. "You idiot..." Knuckles growled.

Copter was still searching for a calm place to get out of the cold, but he seemed to find the opposite when he came across Amy. She was bundled up in a red coat and green earmuffs, and was frantic about something when she spotted Copter. "Aha!! Copter! You'll help me look, won't you!?" she shouted, grabbing him by the arm and dragging him towards a store. "Arrgh!! Hey!! Let go of me!! What's going on here!?!?" he shouted. Amy had an urgent expression on her face. "It's a serious situation! I'm on an emergency mistletoe hunt! Oh, and Cream thought my place needed a tree, so maybe we should go get one, I don't know. I brought a list of last minute stuff we could look for!!!" she said, showing off a surprisingly long scrap of paper covered in writing! Copter grinded his teeth and tried to pull away. "No, no... I'm not going INSIDE one of those death traps!! I want a place out of the cold, but not THERE!!" he yowled, lunging away from her and tumbling face first into a snow bank! "Omigosh!! Are you okay, Copter?! Did you slip?" Amy gasped, oblivious. Copter slowly climbed up, brushing snow off of himself. As he hopped out of the snow bank, SPOT scampered over to him! "Copter! There you are!" Tails was close behind. "Humph! There YOU are, Tails! Where have you been!?" Amy grumbled. "Um... Looking for Copter..." Tails said. Copter brushed some snow from his tails grouchily. "And what do YOU want with me??" he grumbled. Tails looked at him. "Hey, are you okay? Oh, um... I came to invite you to our Christmas Eve party!" he said. Copter twitched at the mere mention of Christmas. "Oh, did you now...? Christmas, eh?? What's so great about your all-important CHRISTMAS!?" he shouted. "C-copter...?" Tails whimpered. "I'll tell you what I see. I see blinding lights and clutter piling up all around the scenery, that you call 'decorations!' I see people running all around buying and buying and BUYING all sorts of junk that they don't really need!! Dangerous traffic, pushy citizens who knock you over and then yell 'Merry Christmas!!' What's merry about that!? I've had it up to here with this... Christmas! And I'm not going to have anything to do with it ANYMORE!!" he yelled, marching off as snow began to fall. As Tails and Amy watched him in bafflement, Sonic and Knuckles arrived on the scene. "Hey, guys. Merry

Christmas!" Sonic said. Amy turned around and smiled wide. "SONIC!!!" she shouted, tackling him to the ground and squeezing him tight! "YOOOWW!! Hey, take it easy, Amy!! It's snowing!!" Sonic shouted.

Despite Copter's behavior, Tails quickly decided to pursue him. "I can't leave him out in the snow. I have to make sure he'll be okay!" he thought. Unfortunately, the snowstorm rapidly worsened, becoming a blizzard. He could not follow Copter for very long, and SPOT hadn't followed him, so he ended up lost in the cold, unable to see more than a short distance in front of him! "I-I'd better find a place to... to stop... If I wander out into the street..." he murmured, sitting down to think for a moment.

Copter, being more used to life on the streets, had made it to a bridge, and was resting underneath, protected from the storm to a degree. It was still bitter cold, but some homeless people there had started a fire, and Copter kept warm by it, too. In a short while, the storm started to subside, and a police motorcycle passed by. Copter gulped, standing back a bit, but the officer hopped off the bike and approached the fire! "Evening, folks! Merry Christmas!" said Officer Razor the porcupine, who was carrying a shopping bag with him. "Seems the storm kept you guys under the bridge, didn't it? Well, I brought you a little leftovers from the food drive. Not as warm, but I did my best." he said. The homeless gathered around the fire gratefully accepted some cups of soup, noodles, small sandwiches, and whatever cans of drink Razor had in the bag. They warmed the food by the fire, and Copter watched from the corner curiously. Of course, Razor soon took notice of him. "I guess the storm chased you under here, too." he said. Copter growled, but Razor was smiling warmly, so rather than say anything, he just stared in puzzlement. "Why in the world are you freezing outside when you could probably be somewhere else on Christmas Eve?" Razor asked. Copter's eyes went wide. "Tonight is Christmas Eve?" he said, not having known until now, "Well... whatever... Why do you care, anyway?" he asked. Razor chuckled. "I guess... because I'm filled with the Christmas spirit. The spirit that drives us all to do better... To treat others kinder. To try to be nicer, if just for a little while." he said. Copter scoffed. "Christmas spirit? The spirit I've seen surrounding Christmas has seemed quite different." he said. Razor nodded. "Maybe you've been looking at it the wrong way. The Christmas spirit brings people together. I'm sure there's someone out there who'd even like to spend the holiday with you." he said. Copter frowned sadly, thinking about Tails and how he'd talked to him. Suddenly, he realized something. "Tails... He might have followed me through the storm! I have to look for him!" he gasped.

Razor hopped on to his motorcycle, and Copter hopped on behind him. They took off through the streets lightly covered with snow, careful not to slip as they kept an eye out for any sign of Tails. "I came this way... If Tails was following me, he might have gotten lost in the storm!" Copter said. "Surely he had the sense to go indoors when it got bad!" Razor replied, "Then again, he wouldn't leave you out to freeze on Christmas Eve..." he realized. Copter groaned. "Okay, okay, I get it!!" he whined. They soon spotted a pair of tails poking out of a large pile of snow! "Oh, geez... No!" Copter yelped. The motorcycle skidded to a halt nearby, and they rushed over, working fast to try to dig him out! "Aaaah!! S-so cold!!" Copter whimpered, the cold of the snow easily getting through his gloves. Still, he dug and brushed the snow away until Tails's head poked out, coughing up snow as he emerged. "I... can't... move... Frozen to the floor..." Tails whimpered. "I'm so sorry, Tails! We'll get you out!" Copter cried. Razor scratched his head.

"You're lucky the storm wasn't any longer or you'd be finished." he said. Just then, SPOT scampered over, followed by Sonic and Knuckles! "Good grief! Tails is frozen!" Knuckles gasped. SPOT fired a small heat laser from its mouth, which rapidly melted much of the remaining snow, and started to warm Tails up in the process. "Thanks, SPOT..." Tails sighed. "Whew... We got worried when you didn't come back, Tails. Glad to see you weren't frozen solid." Sonic said. Razor tilted his head. "Who says he wasn't?" he muttered. Copter sighed. "This was all my fault... I let my temper get too out of control... and the one person who really wasn't bothering me got hurt. I should go..." he said, turning to leave. Sonic cleared his throat loudly. "Yo, Copter... After all that, you're not leaving? We've got a party to go to, and Tails almost killed himself to invite you!" he said. Copter turned around. "Tails, how do you feel?" he asked. "G-get me inside... And I'm sure I'll... d-defrost..." he stammered. Copter nodded. "Then I'll see you to your party." he smiled.

They soon arrived at Amy's apartment, and as they all made their way in, Tails hesitated at the door. "Coming in, Copter?" he asked. Copter sighed. "I guess I'll come in... out of the cold." he said. Tails sat down with some hot chocolate and a blanket to warm up while the party got underway without him. Copter stood nearby and watched everyone, not really sure about joining in himself. Amy's place was decorated with all sorts of knick knacks and tinsel and holly, and of course, mistletoe. Amy was busy trying to chase Sonic so they'd be standing under her mistletoe, but he knew precisely what she was doing and was keeping on his toes. "Ummm... Why don't we try some of your Christmas cookies, Amy?" he suggested. "No, no! I burned them! Come over here, Sonic!!" she protested. Knuckles found that Rouge had come to the party. "Huh?? Wait, if you're here... Then you didn't... Whew... what a relief!" Knuckles sighed. "Now, why would I miss this? I hear you're the life of the party once you've had enough eggnog!" Rouge grinned. Knuckles frowned. "All right!! Who told her!?" he yelled. Cream and Cheese were laughing and playing with SPOT, and Copter soon found himself cracking a slight smile watching everyone. Tails was warmed up now and stood up. "Feeling better, Copter?" he asked. "Huh? Me? I'm the one who should be asking that!" he said. Tails shook his head. "You seemed upset earlier." he said. Copter nodded. "I've never seen Christmas before. I don't really understand it." he said. Tails smiled. "It's all right. Christmas is a time to celebrate peace, love and kindness. That's all you really need to know. That's the spirit of Christmas right there. You don't really have to do anything special. Just spending time with people you care about is a good way to celebrate. That's why I invited you. You're our friend Copter." he smiled. Copter looked at him and nodded slowly. "Th-thank you..." he said. "Merry Christmas, Copter." Tails grinned. Copter smiled back a little. "Merry Christmas..." he replied.

Some time later, at the underground ruins below Station Square, Rainbow heard a knock at her door! Rushing to open it, she found Copter there! He stood shyly, waving at her. "Merry Christmas... Can I come in?" he asked. Rainbow smiled wide. "You decided to spend Christmas with us after all!!!" she cheered, jumping over and giving Copter a big hug! "OK! OK! You can let me go, Rainbow!" Copter grunted. "Hey, One! Two's here!" Rainbow shouted, leading Copter inside. He found Punchy sitting next to a pine tree, looking somewhat tired. "Oh, hey, Copter. Merry...something..." he muttered. Rainbow stood next to the tree proudly. "See? Look what me and One did! Decorated it ourselves!" she smiled. Copter looked at the sparkling Christmas tree, lit up with lights, though Copter was unsure where they were plugged in, and smiled to himself. Punchy chuckled. "Almost killed myself hanging ornaments near the top. She's crazy..." he grumbled. Copter laughed. "You should have called me. I could have flown

up." he said. Rainbow smiled. "One did a great job! Santy will love it!" she said. Copter nodded. "Sure... Um... Santy?" he muttered. Punchy growled. "Bah! Humbug!" he grumbled. "Aw, don't be like that, One." Rainbow said. Copter smirked. "Don't worry Rainbow. I'm sure Punchy will have plenty of Christmas spirit... after a good night's sleep." he said.

It was indeed a happy holiday for many. Though not everyone was surrounded by large groups of friends and loved ones, even the likes of Shadow found company, gazing at the lit up streets on Christmas Eve from a high rooftop with Omega by his side. None could be sure if either of them understood what the holiday season was about, but for whatever reason, they had found each other at this time regardless. Elsewhere, Razor had returned home to his younger brother, Tommy, and they were putting out a plate of cookies near a small Christmas tree before Tommy would go off to bed. They each placed a single present under the tree, smiling at each other. Their gifts were small, but they were quite happy with what they had, and to be together. On a street corner elsewhere, a familiar mustached man in a red suit was ringing a bell. His usual red suit was replaced with a Santa Claus suit, and his moustache was hidden, though poorly, by a false white beard. "Hoo ho ho ho! Happy Holidays!" Dr. Eggman could be heard saying as small children passed by, waving happily to him. He smiled back at them, his usual devilish demeanor greatly softened by the holiday season. Far from the city, aboard Shadow Arcangel, even Bucky the rat was celebrating the holidays. However, he was teaching Vortex the chameleon about his own traditions, lighting a menorah for the current day of Hanukkah. However, as he was finishing lighting it, Crash the rhino and Zipp the hornet started coming through the door, carrying in a pine tree! "What'sss that for??" Vortex gasped as Bucky rolled his eyes. "We were out in the city! We gotta try this Christmas thing!" Zipp said. "Looks like fun!" Crash added. Bucky scratched his head. "How did you get that thing UP here???" he murmured. Christmas would pass quickly, however, so Bucky decided to let them have their fun and resume his teachings before Hanukkah was over. It's not every year that the two holidays coincide, anyway. Each holiday was enjoyed in its own, special way, as it should be. Let us hope that your holidays are special, and filled with happiness, joy and love as well.

Happy Holidays, everyone!
And a Happy New Year!

2 - Quest to the North Pole

Sonic GeneX Christmas Special
Quest to the North Pole

Note: Sonic the Hedgehog and related characters are (c) SEGA and Sonic Team. You knew that, right?
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Snow was falling, lights were strewn all around the city, and despite the cold, people were out and about with a busy hustle that could only mean one thing; The holidays were right around the corner once again. Even Darkegg Fortress was getting festively decorated by Rainbow the Echidna, with some grudging help from Punchy. During all of this, there was Gemini the Fennec, sitting in the base's control room with the chair facing the corner, a wistful sigh escaping her lips. Rainbow was busy hanging tinsel garland around the control console, while Copter the Fox watched, shaking his head. "We...don't need to decorate every room..." he mumbled. "We come in here often enough, so I'm decking these walls, Two!" Rainbow declared. Gemini didn't look at them. She was lost in thought. "How long now since I last saw home? ...Will I ever return? COULD I ever return? Sometimes I think going back in time was a mistake..." she thought. Copter glanced at her, and could see she was thinking quite hard. "What's wrong? I honestly expected you to be up there with Rainbow, covering the place with balls of holly and gray apparel..." he mumbled. "Whaaat? And they say I come up with weird names for things!" Rainbow said in response to Copter's ignorance. Gemini got up and started to walk away. "Leave me be... I...I'm not in the mood..." she sighed. Punchy frowned. "How come I couldn't get out of this by sayin' that?" he mumbled. Gemini quickly made her way outside, not even wanting to have the decorations around her at the moment. She sat on the snow-covered beach and looked out at the ocean. Before long, however, the silence was broken by something plummeting onto the beach from the sky, accompanied by a freaked-out scream! Gemini scrambled to her feet, looking around to find a small crater in the snow. Sprawled out within it was a brown furred creature with antlers on its head... a reindeer!

Copter had come to check on Gemini, and by the time the reindeer started to come around, Punchy and Rainbow had joined them. "Hey... How'd you wind up here, pal?" Copter asked calmly, kneeling down and, with Gemini's help, lifting him to his feet. "H-huh? Here? Wh-where is here...? I can't... Something...important... Can't...remember..." he groaned. Rainbow gasped. "You must be one of Santy Claus' reindeer!" she yelled. Punchy stared at her. "First...why doesn't Santa get a dumb nickname like Tubby? Second... There's no Santa you goof." he said. While the echidnas started arguing, Gemini looked at the reindeer carefully. There was a striking resemblance to her lost friend, Timothy, the very reason she'd gone to the past in the first place. "...Tim..." she mumbled, "Guys, we have to help this poor fella!" she insisted. The reindeer rubbed his head and nodded. "Yeah... I'm pretty sure I gotta get back to Santa... Oh! I remembered my name! Holy night! Oh, I'm Booster!" he said, shaking Copter's hand excitedly. "Errr... Booster? Never heard of ya. You sure you're alright?" he mumbled. Booster nodded. "Yeah! Well, not sure I have it in me to fly right now... Can you take me back to the North Pole? I can't remember why I left, but maybe something will jog my memory on the way!" he said cheerfully. Copter glanced at Gemini, who nodded insistently. "If the Hurricane has the gas for this trip, I will dress as an elf

for a week. Fine, let's go!" he groaned, prompting Gemini to hug him. "Thanks! You're a good guy!" she said. Booster hugged them both as well. "Yeah! Group hug!" he cheered. Punchy backed away slowly. "Bah, humbug. I'm staying put." he said.

As the Hurricane took off with Copter, Gemini and Booster, Punchy and Rainbow waved, wishing them good luck. Then, Rainbow rubbed her chin thoughtfully. "You know, this'd be a great time to get my Christmas shopping done! C'mon, One!" she said, grabbing his arm. "Shopping?? With what money!?" he stammered. "I'm sure Two won't mind if I borrow his card!" Rainbow giggled. From a mile out, Copter shuddered in the cockpit of the plane. "I have a bad feeling about this trip..." he grumbled. Before Punchy knew it, he was in Station Square with Rainbow, bundled up and looking quite grouchy. "Okay, let's get this over with..." he grumbled. "That's the spirit, One..." Rainbow muttered, obviously not paying attention much. Suddenly, Amy and Blaze ran over to them. "Well, well, Rainbow! Crawled out of your cave for the holidays?" Amy smirked. "I don't live in a cave anymore!" Rainbow protested. Blaze smirked at Punchy. "I like your winter outfit. Cute." she teased. "On your way..." he growled. Just then, Violet the echidna ran up as well. "Oooh! Sis!" she shouted, hugging Rainbow as she arrived. "Are you going shopping? I was just going to pick out a gift for a certain special someone..." she said giddily. "Not as special as my Sonic!" Amy teased. Punchy sighed. "Great. You all go together... I'd just be a third wheel..." he mumbled. "Don't be silly, One! We'll all go!" Rainbow decided. Blaze nodded, giving Punchy a catty smirk. "And of course, a GENTLEMAN would carry the bags..." she said, making Punchy sweat. "H-help me... I shoulda went with Copter..." he whimpered, realizing he'd been roped into something he'd enjoy even less than a trip to the North Pole.

Heading north, the Hurricane passed over a jungle once known for its truly massive trees. Loggers had taken most of the original giant trees, but the story had a happy ending, as now pine trees had been planted in their place, and were growing tall and strong. "So many Christmas trees! Reminds me of home!" Booster said, smiling as he enjoyed the view from the plane's wing. "They're not there for Christmas... Hey, what's that??" Copter babbled. Ahead was one of the original giant trees. Atop it, a high-tech building was perched. Robots were patrolling around the premises, and as the plane neared, several Egg Flapper robots took flight to chase them! "Copter! It's Eggman's Tree Fort!" Gemini realized, remembering that she'd been here before. "Eggman DOES have a Tree Fort?? I thought Punchy was making that up before..." Copter stammered, "Well, you got the magic! Zap those bots!" he suggested. Booster looked a bit nervous. "Wait, fight them? That's naughty list talk! Why would you do that?" he whimpered, only to yelp as the Egg Flappers fired at them, forcing Copter to turn the plane out of the way. "Is it okay if they started it?!" Copter growled. Gemini gripped her wand and waved it toward the robots. "Anti-Gravna!!" she shouted, hurling a white light at the Egg Flapper in the center. It seemed unaffected, but the other robots were suddenly drawn to it as though it had become the center of gravity, and as they struck each other, they exploded! "...Quit showing off." Copter grumbled. Meanwhile, at the fort, the Egg Pawn guards had set up a dangerous-looking cannon, and were aiming it at the plane. "Crud! Where'd they get that!?" Copter yelped, trying to steer away only to find the cannon was tracking him. Before it could shoot, though, a familiar blue blur sped up the side of the tree, and swiftly tore through the robots and the cannon, destroying them! "What the? ...Nah, that couldn't be..." Copter muttered. "It's Sonic!! Oooh! Hey, Sonic!!" Booster shouted, waving excitedly. Copter smacked his forehead as the Tornado came up beside the Hurricane, piloted by Tails. "Hey, Copter! What're you doing out here?" the fox asked. Sonic turned away from the Tree Fort and waved back at the group. "You on the trail of Eggman, too?" he asked, "Seems he can't even be bothered to take the holidays off!" Copter looked profoundly annoyed, but Gemini just shrugged as he glanced at her. "More the merrier."

she said. Booster was excitedly calling out to Sonic. "Yo! Hey, Sonic! Can I get your autograph? The other reindeer are gonna be SO jealous!" he said giddily.

Watching them through a monitor within a frosty, ice covered fortress, was Dr. Eggman. He was dressed extra warmly in a fluffy red coat, looking almost like Santa Claus were it not for his wild moustache standing in place of a white beard. "I see you when you're running, I know when you're in that plane; You cannot stop my scheme this time and to try it is insane!" the doctor sang, chuckling. He turned around to find his minions, Orbot, Cubot and Char the Chao playing around with some dolls and toys in the corner. "Haha! This is the funnest plan ever! Can we steal a sled now?" Char giggled. "Ooh! And some ice skates!" Cubot added excitedly. Eggman glared at them in annoyance. "Swiping toys was just a recon assignment you dunces! Orbot, why aren't you uploading the data you gathered on Santa's castle!?" he growled. Orbot looked over at the doctor apologetically. "Sorry, boss... I guess I got wrapped up in this Christmas stuff... I'll get right on it!" he said, rolling on his way over to Eggman's computer. "Make it snappy! We need to take over the North Pole for my latest plot for world conquest to succeed!" he shouted. "Why? Are you gonna bribe everyone with toys?" Cubot asked. Eggman stroked his moustache while grinning. "I wouldn't expect you dolts to understand, but Santa's workshop actually makes a strategic base to launch an attack from. Think about it. That chubby old guy somehow makes it all around the world in the space of just one measly night! If I can harness his secret, imagine if I could duplicate it! I could send my armies on a global attack and claim rulership of the while world...all by Christmas morning!" he explained with glee. Char looked up nervously. "W-we still get toys, right?" the Chao asked. Eggman turned to his monitor with a sinister chuckle. "If my plan works out, Char, we get ALL the toys! Hehehehe... Err... Hooo ho ho ho ho ho!!!" he said, laughing in a manner meant to mock jolly old Saint Nick.

It seemed to take forever, but the two biplanes soon reached cooler climates, the snow falling thicker and covering more of the landscape as they pressed onward. Booster hummed cheerfully as the ride northward continued, but Copter was shivering as he piloted the plane, and Gemini had a melancholy expression as she looked down at the scenery as it passed by. Booster soon noticed the glumness of his companions. "Hey, what's wrong? Are you sad?" he asked. Copter grunted. "I'm freezin' my tails off, you clod!" he snapped. Gemini sighed. "Huh? Oh, I... I'm just homesick, I guess..." she explained. Copter glanced back at her briefly. "Homesick? Say... you've never mentioned your home before. Maybe we should pop over there on the way back." he suggested. Gemini frowned. "We'll do no such thing. Drop it." she growled. Booster glanced between them and smiled a little. "Heeey, know what'd warm our hearts up nice?" he asked. "If you say singing, I'll-" Copter started to say, only to have his fears realized. "Singing!" Booster said enthusiastically. "Here we come a-wassailing among the leaves so green! Here we come a wandering, so fair to be seen!" Booster started singing, as Copter groaned and Gemini giggled softly in spite of her sadness. Meanwhile, a beeping was coming from the back seat of the Tornado. "What's that?" Sonic asked. SPOT, the robo-puppy, poked its head up from the seat. "I brought SPOT along to scan for Eggman activity! What's his screen say, Sonic?" Tails asked. Sonic had to squint to read SPOT's screen from his position on the wing across from the seat. "He's picking up some sort of... tempura signal??" he mumbled. Tails shook his head. "Temporal signal. It must be coming from Santa's Workshop! To deliver presents to kids all around the world in a single night, Santa Claus must need something similar to Chaos Control!" Tails hypothesized. He and Sonic grinned as Gemini joined Booster in singing. "Love and joy come to you, and to you your wassail too! And God bless you and send you a haaappy new year! And God send you a happy new year!" As they sang, Copter clutched the

wheel of the Hurricane furiously. "Stop that infernal waffle song or I'll crash us!!" he snarled.

Back in Station Square, Punchy found himself waiting in a checkout line, holding a heavy shopping basket full of junk. Rainbow and the others had ditched him there to look at clothes, and the look on his face could only be read as "Bah, humbug." Waiting in front of him was young Tommy the porcupine, holding a pink hat in his hands. Behind Punchy were two grumpy looking human guys, one behind a shopping cart while the other clutched a pack of cigarettes urgently. They'd been ranting about their mutual distaste for the holidays, and were now going on about Christmas songs. "Gah, but the one I really can't stand, y'know, is that song 'Christmas Shoes.' It's so disgustingly preachy..." the guy with the cigarettes said. "Never gave it much thought myself. Kinda morbid, I guess. I mean, kid's mom is gonna die. Pair 'a shoes isn't gonna stop that." the guy with the cart grunted. Punchy shrugged. He'd never even heard this song before. The chatter seemed to bother Tommy, though; He clutched the hat tighter and clenched his teeth, trying to resist saying anything. "Since the kid's gonna be homeless, maybe the guy in the song should do everyone a favor and put him out of his misery, that way we don't have to hear his whining singing!" the guy with the cigarettes laughed. Punchy rolled his eyes. "Shut up... No one makes you listen to a song..." he grumbled. The unpleasant guy shrugged, and soon Tommy came to the register. However, after counting his money, the cashier looked at him grouchy. "You're short, kid." he said. Tommy shook his head. "Nuh-uh! It's on sale!" he protested. "Sale ended yesterday." the cashier grumbled. Tommy froze. "B-but... I... I gotta get this for my mom..." he sniffled. Punchy looked at him with concern. "Hey, what's up? Can't you come back with the money?" he asked. Tommy started to cry, shaking his head. "Mom's been in the hospital for a long time... I sorta took her for granted, I guess... But the doctor called this morning. Her time is almost up. She might...any moment!" he sniffled, utterly distraught, "I was gonna give her one last Christmas present tonight! What if... What if she dies before I get it to her!?" he stammered. Punchy's expression softened, and he leaned down to Tommy's level. "Look, kid... Seems to me...the most important Christmas gift your mom could possibly get tonight is you." he said. The cashier glared down at them from his counter. "Guys, we gotta keep the line moving..." he grumbled. Punchy stood up and shot him a dirty look. "Hey! Can't you see we're having a moment here! Alright, here, I'll cover the difference for the kid's hat, and you can start ringing up this garbage, you stone-hearted punk!" he shouted, thrusting the money and the shopping basket in the cashier's face! Amy and Rainbow showed up at that moment. "What's all the yelling, One?" Rainbow asked. "Is this jerk trying to pull the old 'the sale ended yesterday' scam again??" Amy added. As they glanced at the cashier, they could see him sweating. "I-I'll add the difference as store credit!" he babbled. Punchy growled. "You'd better, you bastard!" he shouted. Tommy smiled as the cashier handed the hat to him, and gave Punchy a hug, surprising him. "You were right, Punchy... It's more important that I see my mom than having a gift for her... Thanks for everything!" he said before hurrying on his way. Punchy sighed and smiled a little as he watched him go, but glanced back in confusion as he heard sniffing behind him. The guy with the cart was sobbing. "I should c-call my mom, too!" he bawled, making his friend with the cigarettes groan. "We're still not playin' Christmas music on the way home!" he grunted.

As the planes landed, arriving at the North Pole, they found Santa's castle workshop under siege. Egg Fighters were ramming the gate with what appeared to be a massive candy cane. The robots themselves were dressed up to look like elves, a disguise that clearly had fooled no one. "Figures. Eggman wants to take over Santa's workshop." Tails sighed. "Probably outta spite for always bein' on the naughty list!" Sonic added. Copter and Gemini joined them on the icy ground, shivering but raising

their fists in preparation to fight anyway. "I don't care what Eggman's up to... I want in where it's warmer!!" Copter growled. "Anything jogging your memory, Booster?" Gemini asked. Booster hopped into the air and started to fly in a circle around the planes. "Well, I'm rested enough to get in the air... but no, don't remember... I'm sorry, I really wish I could. I feel like I'm forgetting something terribly important!" he whimpered. Sonic shrugged. "We'll just wreck these elf-bots, then!" he smirked. A couple snowballs in front of them burst open suddenly, startling the group and revealing Orbot and Cubot! "Ha! We got the drop on you!" Cubot shouted. "Good plan, buddy! Um... now what?" Orbot asked. Everyone groaned and simply ran past the small robots, heading right for the Egg Fighters. "Boo! ...Aw, they weren't scared at all!" Cubot whined. "I take it back; terrible plan." Orbot sighed. As the robots banged on the gate, a familiar voice called from within. "For the last time, we're not interested in cable where you have to dig underground to hook it up! Go away!" Copter raised an eyebrow as he heard the voice. "Gator?? What're you doing in there??" he stammered. "I works here! Great vacation time!" he replied through the gate. During the distraction, Sonic got the attention of the Egg Fighters, wrecking several of them swiftly with a few homing attacks. One of their elf hats went flying and landed on Tails' head. "Very funny, Sonic! You did that on purpose!" he shouted before taking off the hat and dropping it on SPOT. "I am not amused, either." read the text on the robot's monitor. Gemini waved her wand, eager to help in the fight. "Poppration!" she called, sending firework-type blasts from her wand to quickly wreck the hands of the Egg Fighters that were trying to fight on without their bodies. "That seems like overkill. Guess they don't need us foxes..." Copter sighed, glancing at Tails, who shrugged with a grin at his words.

Dr. Eggman arrived in his Egg Mobile as Sonic and Gemini took out the robots. Char was with him. "Aw, Sonic wrecked our helpers!" Char grumbled, drawing the attention of the group toward Eggman. "Sorry, doc, you can't be Santa... you're TOO overweight!" Sonic snickered. The doctor growled, but composed himself quickly. "Oh, but I'll be a better Santa... I've got a gift for everyone and not just the nice... A gift of robots, taking the world by storm all in one night!" he grinned. Copter shuddered at the thought. "Can we return it in advance, then?" he muttered. "Don't be that way; I brought something especially for you! Happy Holidays!" Eggman chuckled, pressing a switch on his Egg Mobile to call forth his latest minion. A massive robot suddenly burst forth from beneath the snow across from the gate! It resembled a snowman with a big top hat, robotic arms, jagged metal teeth and a big red moustache just like Eggman's. "We've taken to calling him Frosty the Eggman! What do you think?" the doctor smirked. "I've never seen a scary snowman before..." Tails remarked. "Think it'll melt if I set it on fire?" Gemini asked. Booster watched this from the air and gasped. "You twisted a beloved holiday figure into something...mean! How could you!?" he shouted. Eggman glanced at him excitedly. "Ah, that reindeer is back! Go get him, Frosty!" he ordered, prompting the metal snowman to turn in Booster's direction. "Yikes! Um... help!!" he stammered. "Watch the door, guys, I got this!" Sonic said, rushing off to get Frosty's attention. "Watch the door? Why? The robots are gone, except for that thing..." Copter muttered. "Blastrotall!!" Gemini shouted, firing bolts from her wand to frighten off Orbot and Cubot as they tried to sneak by. "You forgot a couple!" she noted. Tails glanced at SPOT's monitor nervously. "They're the least of our worries... Eggman has reinforcements coming!" he warned. Frosty, meanwhile, was blowing frigid air at Booster, likely intending to freeze him solid, while his robot arms were scooping boulders of snow and hurling them at Sonic! "Whoa! I'd better find a weak spot on this thing before we all catch frostbite from it!" Sonic grunted, dashing to and fro to evade the giant snowballs.

Frosty's top hat popped open at the top, and missiles started firing from it, homing in on Sonic as he fled the snowman robot's assault. A stray missile turned to head toward Booster, and Sonic wasted no time in leaping up to knock him out of the way with a quick homing attack! The reindeer tumbled to the

ground, his head getting stuck in the snow. "Ooof! By jingle, that smarts..." his muffled voice grumbled. A small, shiny red object fell into the snow as well, seeming to come from Booster's person. As he pulled his head out of the icy ground, he spotted the shiny object and gasped. "Wha!! I remember!!" he stammered. "Remember what??" Sonic said as he slid back and forth on some ice, trying to dodge the snow boulders tossed by Frosty. "This emerald piece! I left the North Pole to keep it from Eggman! It's part of the Christmas Emerald; the very power source that lets Santa speed across the world in one night!" Booster said hastily. Eggman smirked upon hearing this. "Glad you remembered! Robots, forget the gate! Grab that reindeer and his bauble!" the doctor ordered. Gemini sighed with relief as the horde of incoming robots turned away from the gate. "And stay out!" she shouted. "Hey, come back here you cowards!!" Copter yelled, shaking his fist at them. Sonic glanced from Frosty to the robot horde to Booster. "I think even I might have trouble protecting you by myself, Dancer. Fly to safety!" he suggested. Booster held the piece of the Christmas Emerald tightly and nodded. "Er, name's Booster, Sonic..." he said, standing tall and staring down the incoming robots, "And I'm through running! You've taught me that sometimes you gotta be brave and fight for what's right... even though fighting is wrong!" he announced. Sonic scratched his head and shrugged, sidestepping one of Frosty's missiles. "Well, errr... be careful?" he said. The fragment in Booster's hand started to glow, and he began to move at incredible speed! "Dash away, dash away, dash away all!" he cried, crashing through the robots with his antlers as he sped through the area far too fast for them to keep up with! "Hey! Chaos Control is cheating! Well, I'll just have to wreck this snowman just as fast!" Sonic smirked, dashing over to Frosty and running up the side of the huge robot before leaping inside his top hat! "S-sonic!! What are you-?!" Tails gasped, covering his eyes. Frosty seemed to jolt back and forth as something rattled around inside him at high speed. "...I hate that hedgehog..." Eggman grumbled as Sonic burst through the robot's chest in a spin dash, and Frosty exploded seconds later! Booster had taken out the robot horde as well, leaving just Eggman, Orbot, Cubot and Char. "So... does this mean no more toys?" Cubot asked. The heroes turned to Eggman, all glaring, and he backed away slowly. "N-now, where's your Christmas spirit?" he babbled. "Um, I just remembered, I got cookies in the oven!" Char stammered, flying off while Orbot and Cubot followed. Eggman didn't get off so easy, as Sonic and Booster charged his Egg Mobile and sent it flying into the distance! "You guys are on my list for next yeeeeaaaar!!" Eggman shouted as he soared away.

With Eggman defeated, the castle gate opened, and grateful elves and reindeer rushed out to meet Sonic and the others! Several elves hoisted them into the air and carried them inside, much to Copter's surprise. "H-hey! Put us down you creepy little gnomes!!" he stammered. Gator was just beyond the gate holding a clipboard. "Hey! No one called break time, you lazy kids!" he babbled, "...Aw, heck!" he shrugged, tossing his clipboard away and joining the celebrating group in heading for Santa's toy workshop. It was a huge, highly advanced looking workshop, filled with every toy-creating device imaginable. At the center was old Saint Nick himself, supervising construction of a few last minute gifts for Christmas. "Boss! Booster came back! And he brought help!" announced one of the elves. Santa Claus turned around, his twinkling eyes and full white beard unmistakable. Booster stood at the back looking a bit sheepish, and Santa stepped over to him as the elves dropped Sonic and the others. "Woo, this place looks like what Eggman might've built if he weren't evil..." Sonic mused. Booster handed Santa the fragment of the Christmas Emerald, and he turned it over in his hand. "It was reckless of you to take this away, Booster..." he began, "...But your heart was true, and everything turned out alright. Ho ho! Why the long face? We should be celebrating!" he smiled, pulling out a red and green emerald from inside his coat and returning the missing piece to it, "Oh, but that Eggman fellow held things up a bit! Elves, prep our friends' biplanes for the journey home! And let's finish our preparations! Christmas is nearly here! Ho ho ho ho!" he said with a jolly, excited voice, eager to proceed with business as usual.

now that the threat of Eggman had passed. The elves and reindeer went to work, singing carols as they went, and Sonic and Tails decided to help a bit in the meantime, Tails building some toy robot dogs that kind of resembled SPOT while Sonic ran about wrapping gifts at lightning speed! "This is kinda fun! We should do this again sometime!" Sonic chuckled. "What do you think, SPOT?" Tails asked. "Imposter! I cannot be replaced!" the robo-puppy's monitor read. Gemini was using some magic to help speed up a batch of cookies in the nearby kitchen, while Copter made himself busy prepping the next batch using cookie cutters. She smiled. "Well, I may not be able to go home, but turns out, it can be just as good spending Christmas with you..." she said, glancing at Copter, who was unwittingly standing under some mistletoe. Gemini blushed, thinking about calling attention to it, when suddenly a female reindeer pranced over to him and planted a kiss on his cheek! "Augh! W-what in the???" he stammered. "Can't leave a cutie standing under the mistletoe without a kiss!" she winked. "Vixen! Cut it out!" shouted Booster from outside the kitchen. As the evening was winding down, the heroes started to gather back at the gate, Tails walking up beside a red-nosed reindeer. "So, they used to laugh and call you names, too, huh? Well, I'm glad that's stopped." the reindeer said. Tails nodded. "Yeah... If anyone did tease me, Sonic'd have my back anyway!" he smiled. Santa and Booster met the group at the gate. "Your planes are gassed up and ready! ...Thank you, guys... Especially you, Gemini. If you hadn't found me, I don't know where I'd be." Booster said. She smiled and nodded. "Merry Christmas, Booster." she said. Santa waved as the gate opened. "I'll see you all Christmas Eve night! Though...you won't see me! The Christmas Emerald gets me moving pretty fast, ho ho!" he said. Sonic smirked. "Well, if there's anyone I wouldn't mind outrunning me, I guess it's you. Merry Christmas, guys!" he waved, prompting the entire workshop to cheerfully bid them farewell at once.

In spite of the long distance, the group still got back home in time for the annual holiday party, held at Amy's apartment once again. Copter and Gemini joined them, and they were surprised to see Punchy, Rainbow and Violet getting along with Amy, Blaze, Cream and Marine as well. "It's a season of miracles. Punchy's a party guy now." Copter chuckled. "More so than Knuckles, anyway!" Punchy grinned, glancing at his doppelganger as he tried to evade Rouge in the crowd. Later on in the party, everyone exchanged gifts. Cream and Tails exchanged boxes first. "Good thing I picked up something in advance! All the excitement would've made it tough to shop!" Tails chuckled. Cream opened her package to find a warm-looking scarf. Tails took it and wrapped it around her carefully, pinning her ears behind it, too. "This should keep you very snug this winter!" he smiled. Cream felt her ears, smiling. "Thanks, Tails! That's so thoughtful!" she giggled. Meanwhile, Rainbow had given Punchy a hang glider. "You always complain about how you can't glide, One." she said. He shrugged and chuckled softly. It wasn't practical like how Knuckles could glide, but it was the thought that counted. Blaze and Marine simply gave each other coconuts from Southern Island. "...I think we may have missed the point of this..." Blaze muttered. "No drama! Fact is, it's just what I wanted!" Marine smirked. Eventually, Sonic was cornered by Amy. "Well, I searched all over the stores, Sonic! But I found the PERFECT gift for you!" she said, thrusting a box into the nervous hedgehog's hands. "Err, but, uh..." he stammered. "Go on! Open it! Quick!" she said excitedly, jumping up and down. Sonic hesitantly started to rip the paper, and raised an eyebrow as he found white strips of tape. "Huh???" he muttered. "Sports tape! I mean, you're always running... It'd probably be good for you!" she said enthusiastically. Sonic frowned. He'd been fine without putting silly tape on himself so far, he wasn't about to start using it now. "OK! Now what'd you get me?" Amy asked. Sonic backed away nervously. "You see... here's the thing... I kinda went on a trip to the North Pole, see..." he began. Moments later, he was chased out of Amy's apartment, her hammer hot on his trail! "You... YOU JERK!! How could you forget to get me ANYTHING?? Not even a dumb card?!" she shouted. "You know, it's not technically Christmas yet! I still have a little time! AMY!! Cut it out!!" Sonic yelped, fleeing in a panic.

Christmas Eve night found everyone awaiting Christmas morn in their own ways. Knuckles, as usual, was lying peacefully beside the Master Emerald. Someone thought it funny to string red lights around the emerald, but their warm glow actually relaxed him as he tried to sleep. A stocking was hung from the side of the altar, and as Knuckles dozed off, a gloved hand reached in, leaving a bag of grapes inside. "Keep up the good work, guardian..." a jolly voice whispered before departing.

Guard the gargoyle was working security at the Hopebringer Center than night, his only company a collection of criminals, and also Spy, who was fast asleep in his seat. The gargoyle sighed looking at him, and stepped out for a moment, returning with a blanket for his snoozing companion. "Grrr... If he asks later... Santa gave it to him..." he muttered to himself.

Shadow the hedgehog found himself returning to the Space Colony ARK memorial, dusting the snow off the grave monument and looking for a familiar name. He heard footsteps, and turned to find Rouge and Omega approaching him. "I calculated an 80% probability that you would be here." Omega stated. "What do you want?" Shadow grunted. Rouge stepped over and offered him a cup of hot chocolate. "Just keep being you, Shadow... that's all..." she sighed, smiling.

Kosmo the morph was led into a church by Carrie the mirage. "Why are we here? I don't feel very welcome..." he murmured. "Nonsense..." said a male fennec wearing a priest's outfit, "Everyone is welcome." he smiled. Kosmo squinted. "I think I know him..." he muttered. "Never mind!" Carrie said, "Take a seat! The music's beautiful!" she said. As they sat and listened to a choir sing Silent Night, Kosmo nodded. "You know...it is beautiful..." he said softly.

Silver the hedgehog was sitting on a bench in the city, gazing up at the stars. Beside him was Blaze. "Sometimes... I feel like I've known you all my life... Strange, huh?" he said, glancing at her briefly. Blaze chuckled. "Fancy that... I feel like I've known you for two lives." she chuckled. "Huh?? What do you mean?" Silver asked. Blaze got up to leave. "Nothing. I gotta head back to my world. Merry Christmas, Silver..." she said as she left. Silver waved, looking contemplative. "Two... Oh, well, she IS a cat..." he sighed.

Bucky the rat sat in his lab, his fully lit menorah reminding him of his Hanukkah traditions and the family he hadn't seen in decades. Soon, Lucky the cat, Zipp the hornet, Vortex the chameleon, Crash the rhino and Whisk the divine all marched into the room holding song lyrics. "Hark, the Herald Angels sing! Glory to the newborn king! Peace on Earth and--" they started singing only for Bucky to cover his ears. "Gaaaah! Now Lucky and Whisk have been seduced by the commercial side, too!?" he growled. "Hey, that'sss not fair, bosss, we did your holiday, too!" Vortex pointed out. "Dreidel, dreidel, dreidel! I made it out of clay!" Whisk started to sing, making everyone but Vortex and Bucky groan. "Hey! Sssshe hasss a lovely voice!" Vortex hissed. "Better than yours, anyway!" Zipp teased, leading to a loud discussion that made Bucky sigh grouchily. "Well, we're officially a family..." he muttered.

By Christmas Eve, Sonic had defused the Amy situation, and was able to rest under the stars on a rooftop in Station Square. A sleigh pulled by a team of reindeer zoomed by overhead, and Sonic leapt to his feet. "Hey... spotted you! Let's race to the next house!" he grinned, speeding off with a chuckle.

It was late that night when Copter crept into the control room of Darkegg Fortress, finding it difficult to sleep. He smiled at the colorful decorations that had been set up inside, realizing that Rainbow was right to have them put there. Glancing around, he spotted Gemini in a chair across from the holographic image of the Chaos Emeralds, a decor choice by Eggman that was still in place. Gemini was fast asleep, it seemed, and Copter noticed that she was sitting under some mistletoe Rainbow had hung up. He looked at her with a blush, and stepped over, gently giving her a peck on the cheek. "Can't leave such a

cutie under the mistletoe...without a kiss..." he whispered as he turned and walked away, a small smile on his face. "...Merry Christmas, Gemini..." he said quietly before leaving. As he left the room, Gemini stirred sleepily. "Merry Christmas, Copter..." she murmured, not even fully waking before she drifted back to sleep...

Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night!
The End!

"...RAINBOW!! You racked up over 800 rings worth of debt on my credit card?!?!" Christmas morning was interesting, too.

Happy Holidays, readers!