

The Prince and The Slave

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Sonic is prince to his mother's kingdom and He is highly respected among his people. Shadow is one of Sonic's many worker slaves. Shadow hates slavery more than anything in the world. Coming from two completely different lifestyles, how will they react whe

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1. Meeting Shadow

Sonic stood on the balcony of his room and looked down below. Several slaves were working in the fields picking corn. The young prince leaned on the railing and squinted at the slaves. All of them were men. The women and children never worked outdoors. They worked barebacked in the sun. Sonic sighed and made his way to his mother's chamber.

Other than slaves and servants, his mother was the only other one that lived in the castle with Sonic. His mother was a queen; he was the next heir to the throne. They owned over a hundred slaves in all. There was a building next to the castle that housed them all. Guards watched over them, to make sure no one tried to escape. Sonic never paid much mind to the slaves; they had just always been there. Mother? Sonic stepped into her room, where she was being fanned by two slaves. Yes, my son? I am going into town to shop for a new cape. Okay dear, take a few guards with you. There is a carriage out front. Yes mother. He kissed her forehead and left.

Upon entering the town many people stopped and gazed at the horse-drawn carriage that was carrying their prince. Many of them bowed their heads as he passed them. He waved kindly at them. Sonic spent the day shopping, most of what he bought was clothing items, he was never one to waste money, despite the fact he was the richest teenager in the kingdom. One of the guards purchased a small loaf of bread and gestured it Sonic, Here sir, you have not eaten today. Sonic took it with a smile, Thank you. He began to take a bite, but he saw something out of the corner of his eye. He turned to look; it was two children, a small girl and her younger brother. They were peeking from behind a wall. He smiled and approached them. They hid quickly from fear they had done something wrong. Its ok children, Sonic bent down to the little girl's level of height. She gulped, as he looked her in the eye. Here, Sonic offered the bread to the child, who took it with a wide smile. Thank you, mister! She jumped and threw her arms around him. Sonic's guards were startled and moved in, Sonic waved his hand to let them know it was okay. He hugged the girl back then stood, Now you two get a move on and share that with your family. The children laughed with glee and ran off down the alley.

When Sonic arrived home he ate a bountiful meal with his mother and went off to his room. He sat at his desk and read from philosophy books. The clock struck one and Sonic was beginning to feel hungry. He made his way to the kitchen and searched through the leftovers from dinner.

Unsatisfied with what he found, he decided to just get a glass of water. He turned the knob and filled his glass. He turned the faucet off and looked up. A flash went past the window that startled Sonic. He went through the backdoor to inspect what it was.

He walked around the side of the building; no one was out there except for a few guards. Sonic avoided the guards so he would not be questioned. All the slaves were asleep. He caught sight of the figure, it was sneaking through the field of corn. Sonic crept up, trying not to catch its attention. The creature he was following stopped and kneeled down. Sonic could see its dark figure in the moonlight. He tried to move closer to get a better look, in doing so he stepped on a branch causing it to break and the creature to stand and quickly look at Sonic. Piercing Ruby eyes gazed at Sonic. The figure seemed to be holding something in its arms. It took a few steps back, ready to run. Sonic swallowed and knew he needed to speak quickly, Its ok! I m not a guard! I just want to talk. What are you doing out here? Sonic stepped closer till the person he was talking to came into light. He was a black hedgehog with magnificent crimson streaks in his hair. There was a patch of soft white fur on his chest. What is your name? The figure spoke, You are the prince. Uhh, Yeah! I guess I am. He bowed slightly, and then stood back into an upright position. My name is Shadow, I am nothing but a lowlife slave. Sonic blinked, Okay& that s a start, what are you doing out here? Shadow looked down into the palm of his right hand. He lifted it to Sonic to reveal a baby rabbit. It was wounded, I found it earlier today whilst I was working in the fields. I bandaged it and left it here. I am out here now, because I was bringing it scraps from my meal earlier this evening. It is still young and can t live on its own. Sonic smiled, Its very cute, and that is very kind of you. Shadow seemed shocked at the prince s response. He half expected to be beaten. Sonic gestured with his hand, There is a stream that way, lets go over there and talk. They walked in silence. Shadow clutched the helpless animal to his warm chest.

They reached the stream and sat on a large rock. The moonlight shined brightly in reflectance off the water. Shadow placed the sleeping rabbit beside the rock. So, how long have you been a slave here? Only thirteen days. I was recruited from a prison. You were in jail? For what? Shadow quickly pinned Sonic too the ground and put a knife to this throat. Murder. Sonic was wide-eyed and panted in fear. Shadow s evil smile reflected off the blade. Your guards are the dirtiest fuckers I ve ever met. Do you know what they do to your precious slaves? Sonic shook his head slightly. Shadow pressed the knife against his skin. Did you know, your slaves get beaten daily? Hell is probably better than this place. Sonic stuttered, I.. I Don t Speak! Right now, I hold your life in my hands, if I press down, you die, if I let go, you live. Do you want to live or die? I.. I want to live. Why? What is so great in your life that you need to live for? Sonic gulped. Answer me! I, I m going to become king. I will be a good ruler and if you let me live, I promise to do something about the guards and I won t say anything about this incident to anyone but if you kill me, you will be found out and hung in front of the entire kingdom. Shadow I mean you no harm, I& I m a nice guy. Shadow s maniacal smile disappeared. He got off Sonic and put the knife away. Sonic sighed with relief and walked towards Shadow, who was

now sitting on the rock, looking into the stream. Sonic's eyes scanned Shadow's body. He was badly beaten all over his back. Many of his wounds were deep. There was caked up blood on his hands and on some scars on his back. Even his legs looked beaten. Sonic took a seat next to the dark hedgehog. Shadow, I promise to make sure they stop. Humph, Shadow looked down towards the sleeping bunny. I'll take care of her too, if you want. Shadow looked into Sonic's emerald eyes. You'll take care of her? Sonic smiled, Yep! I know it would be hard for you to keep a pet. With the whole slave thing and all. Yeah well, I won't be your slave long. What? I can't stand it here, I think I'd rather die. I'm breaking out of it kills me. Shadow, don't leave. I'll do something to make it easier on you. Why do you care if you're missing one slave? You have tons! Sonic paused, I don't know. Yeah whatever, Shadow stood, I need to get back before they notice I'm missing. You take care of Rina. You named it? Yes Shadow walked off into the darkness. Sonic cradled the sleeping baby rabbit in his arms. Rina cuddled close to his chest. Sonic shuddered at the cold breeze. Come on Rina. Time to get home.

Sonic's mother was waiting for him as he walked through the door, Where have you been? I was so worried. Sonic showed her the small rabbit he was holding, Aww, its so adorable! She pet it softly and it yawned. Aww, how precious. Her name is Rina. Sonic handed her to his mother with a warm smile. This is just like when you were a child, always bringing home small animals but you have never brought home one this cute before. I think I'll let you keep this one. I think raising something would be good for you anyway. His mother called in one of the guards and instructed him to go purchase supplies for a baby rabbit. Mother? Yes, Sonic? Did you know the guards beat the slaves? Only when the slaves misbehave. Someone has to keep them in order. No mom, they beat them all the time. Not just when they act up. Really? I believe you, my Son. I will speak with the guards about this first thing in the morning but now, we both need to get some sleep. Can I keep Rina for the night? Sonic's mother smiled. Sure Mom! Sonic smiled, Have a goodnight.

Sonic lay in his bed and thought of the happenings that had occurred not so long ago. Why didn't I run away? I should tell someone about Shadow almost murdering me& but I don't want to. Why not? What makes him so special? Hmmm. Life is too complicated. Sonic then rolled over and fell into a deep slumber.

The next day the queen spoke with her guards and informed them to not use physical abuse on the slaves unless it was absolutely necessary. Hopefully, they would listen. Sonic strolled alongside the field and watched the workers. The heat outside was unbearable. Sonic walked until he found Shadow. Sonic leaned against the castle wall and watched him from afar. Shadow worked fast, he quickly pulled back his hand and put it in his mouth. One of the guards

approached him and spoke to him. Sonic was too far away to make out what they were saying. The guard gave Shadow a piece of cloth, which he used to wrap his hand. He must have gotten hurt. Sonic thought. Shadow then continued working. Sonic approached him hesitantly. Hey Shadow! Shadow looked up quickly. What do you want? You want to go somewhere, maybe the theater? What are you talking about? I want you to come with me and go somewhere. Fine, you are my master, I am your slave I do whatever you want me to. Shadow was only being so agreeable because many guards were watching him. First, we need to get you cleaned up! Sonic grabbed Shadow's wrist and pulled him towards the castle.

Upon entering Sonic spoke to several maids. I want you to give him a bath and new clothes. Make sure he is comfortable. He leaned into one of the maids and whispered, If you find any weapons on him, get rid of them and make sure the queen does not find out. Yes, Sir! They all said together. Shadow was completely confused as they whisked him away. He looked back at Sonic who smiled widely and waved.

First things first! Take your clothes off and get in the bath tub! The maid pointed at a huge wooden tub filled with warm water. Shadow tilted his head slightly. I said get in the tub! Several maids began tugging at his clothes. Hey Hey Hey! I don't just get naked in front of lots of people! By the time Shadow finished his sentence he was already nude and being pushed in the tub. The water splashed as he landed head first into it. Several maids began scrubbing him, Shadow winced in pain, as they scrubbed hard on his wounds. Caked up blood and dirt darkened the water. Shadow bit his bottom lip as one of the cuts on his back re-opened and began to bleed. Oh dear, you poor thing! Bring the bandages! The maids were kind to Shadow, despite the fact they were so demanding. Hun, when was the last time you were properly bathed? It must be horrible for you field workers. You are very lucky that the prince has taken a fancy to you. Shadow thought, Taken a fancy? Oh Yes. Do you think he brings every hard worked slave into the castle? Another maid commented, Oh heavens no! Shadow was still a bit confused with the whole situation happening around him, Why would he help me? I don't understand it either, sweetie. Especially since you are new here, you haven't even endured much. A few maids in the background squealed with excitement, Maybe the prince has a thing for this dark hedgehog! Shadow didn't understand what they meant, A thing? They giggled and playfully pushed one another. The maid that was washing Shadow's hair spoke, They mean, maybe Prince Sonic likes you as more than a friend. The maid beside her pushed her, Prince Sonic is to marry a woman and have children that will grow up and continue to rule over this land! Yes, but they can adopt! Shadow blushed at this conversation and sunk into the water. OOOO! HE'S BLUSHING! The others giggled blissfully. They pulled him out of the water and rinsed him. Shadow attempted to cover himself with his hands. Chill out boy, I've cleaned many men before you, it isn't as if I've never seen one before. As have the rest of these giggling morons.

Three maids took Shadow's measurements so they could make him clothes. Wow, you match the prince perfectly! That makes everything easy, we can just use some of Prince Sonic's patterns. They ran off to begin their task as Shadow was dried. They worked with amazing speed, within minutes they came in with a complete outfit for Shadow. The three maids took turns speaking Underwear. Undershirt. Put them on, then we will reveal your new outfit! Shadow did as he was told. Here it is! They held up a tan cotton blazer with a long-sleeved white shirt to go under it. The bottoms of the sleeves were puffy and buttoned at his wrists. The black slacks were dressy as well. The third maid held up a nice pair of brown dress shoes, Prince Sonic never wore these. We figured you could have them. They smiled and helped Shadow dress. The maid that had washed Shadow spoke up, now don't you look spiffy? Prince Sonic is waiting for you downstairs near the front entrance. A carriage is waiting for you two. Have fun! The maids giggled and bid Shadow goodbye as he left the room.

He descended the stairs, inspecting his surroundings, there was an elegant chandelier hanging from the ceiling, the stairs spiraled downward. He looked up. There were many floors to this castle. The atmosphere was very nice, pleasing to the eye. Shadow took the final step and walked around the corner, Sonic was waiting for him by the door as the maid had said. Sonic was also dressed nicely. You ready? Shadow nodded slightly and the two of them walked out and into their carriage.

This made it to eight pages&. Woo. If you like this story, I'll continue it. So leave a comment please. Comments make me happy inside! XD

2. An Outting

Sonic and Shadow road through the town silently. Shadow stared motionless out the window. He barely moved to breathe. Sonic faced forward but shifted his eyes to watch Shadow. He struggled for conversation, So& have you ever ridden in a carriage before? Shadow's voice was deep, No. Sonic smiled, Good! Then this is a new experience for you! Shadow said nothing. Sonic's sudden happiness faded away when he saw Shadow wasn't even slightly phased. The darker hedgehog continued to frown and gaze out the window. What are you thinking about? Sonic asked quickly, not thinking before he spoke. Shadow looked at him, then back out the window. Prince Sonic? Sonic's eyes brightened as Shadow took part in the conversation, Yes, Shadow? Why did you bring me here with you? I am nothing but a slave and to top it off I almost, He looked towards the coachman then back to Sonic, lowering his voice. I almost killed you, yet, you want to spend time with me? Is this some kind of joke? Are you planning to gain my trust then kill me in some horrible manner? Shadow narrowed his eyes, but Sonic remained as happy and kind as ever. I don't know what your talking about Shadow. He smiled, I have no intentions of harming you what-so-ever. I just thought we could be friends is all. Friends?! Why would you want to make friends with someone like me? Well because you're nice! Me, nice? Yeah. What planet are you from? Earth. That was a rhetorical question. Sonic tilted his head slightly and continued to smile. He seemed oblivious to Shadow's anger. Shadow sighed, deciding that the azure hedgehog wasn't worth wasting energy on. Sooooo, Shadow? Have you ever been to the theater before? No. Really? Today is full of new experiences for you isn't it? We are going to see a showing of Romeo and Juliet! It's a fantastic romance with plenty of action and death. Many theater-goers say it is a theatrical movement in history! Shadow looked at him blankly, obviously unimpressed. All theater is, is a bunch of people prancing around, usually in song, pretending to be someone their not. Well, yes, but sometimes it's nice to escape your own life and view the drama of another's. Shadow said nothing. Sonic chimed in once more, After the play we're going out for lunch and tea. Shadow shifted his eyes to look at Sonic in confusion. Shadow had never experienced luxuries of even the common man. Sonic just smiled at him, and then turned his attention out the window.

Shadow and the prince walked out of the theater side by side, escorted by four guards. So did you enjoy it? Shadow kept his eyes fixed on the ground ahead of him, It was okay, not the greatest thing in the world, though. It was a good experience for you though and don't try to tell me you hated it, I saw the expressions on your face as you were watching! I was trying not to fall asleep. Sonic laughed, He he! You liar. Anyway, it's food time and I'm starving!

At the restaurant the gazes of the other customers stared at the odd duo of hedgehogs, Is that the prince? A woman whispered. Yeah, but who is that scary guy with him? Her companion answered her. Meanwhile Shadow stared into the cup of tea that sat before him. Sonic drank and ate the food he had purchased. He looked at Shadow strangely, What's wrong with you? It's tea, drink it, it's not like it's going to kill you and eat something there is plenty. Shadow felt a cold stare coming from the guards around him and did as he was told. He sipped slowly from his cup then sat it down and picked up a breadstick. He took a small bite and chewed slowly. Sonic winked, Now isn't that better? Shadow growled under his breath and shot Sonic a piercing glance. However, Sonic continued to smile as if Shadow was being extremely kind. He waved his hand to gesture their waitress over to them, Bring me a bottle of your finest wine, if you would. She nodded, Yes sir, your highness, and trotted off to the wine cellar. Aren't you underage? Well, one of the many advantages and privileges of being a prince is that you

basically get to do just about anything and everything you want without anyone saying otherwise. Shadow swallowed a mouthful of tea; Spoiled brat Upon saying this one of the guards brought his sword to Shadow's throat. Shadow didn't move. He stared Sonic in the eyes as if to ask what he should do next. Sonic brushed it off as if it were nothing, Calm down, Charles, let him have his freedom of speech. I think people should be allowed to speak their mind. The guard grunted as he went back to his original position.

The waitress returned with the wine and two delicate glasses. Here you are my prince. She opened the bottle and poured red wine into their glasses. Not too much, I don't want to be wasted in front of my mother, plus it is still early in the day. The same goes for him, he nodded his head towards Shadow, I don't think it would be polite to take home a drunk to see my mother. She filled them half way and closed the bottle, leaving it on the table; beside it she placed the bill. Sonic drank his quickly and wiped his mouth with the back of his hand. Shadow finished shortly after Sonic and placed his glass on the table, next to his teacup. Strange as it seemed, Shadow had better table manners than the prince himself.

Sonic stood, leaving money for the bill and a rather large tip on the table. Shadow followed him as he walked back out to the carriage alongside the guards. The rest of the afternoon was spent site seeing. Shadow enjoyed it, although he pretended not to care. They arrived back at the castle late into the evening, as the sun was setting. As Sonic walked towards the front door Shadow began walking around to the back. Sonic stopped him, Where do you think you're going? Shadow turned around, It's sundown, and time for the slaves to head in for the night.

Today you are not a slave, you're coming with me. He walked up to Shadow and took his hand in his. He pulled him along into the castle. He took Shadow up two flights of stairs and down a long hallway. He flung open a door; This is my room, and yours, for now at least. Make yourself at home! Get comfortable, relax, we aren't having a big feast or anything tonight, it'll just be you, me and my mother so there is no need to get all fancy. Speaking of which, you chill here for a while, take a nap or something I need to go talk with my mom. Sonic shut the door leaving Shadow alone in his incredibly large room. Shadow examined his surroundings. The prince's room was huge. The walls of the room were light blue, and the floor was a light colored hardwood. It was fully decorated with fine paintings and rare plants, everything matched beautifully. There was a king sized bed, the sheets and comforter were clean and white. Shadow stood over it, not sure if he should touch them from fear of dirtying them. He quickly located an armchair next to a bookcase. The chair matched the color of the walls. Shadow sat and crossed his arms as he leaned back and to the side, closing his eyes.

Meanwhile Sonic hurried to his mother's quarters. He slipped into her room to find her seated on her bed reading from a book. She lifted her reading glasses as she took note of her son's entrance. Hello son, is something bothering you? No mother, I just need to speak with you.

Take a seat, she patted the bed beside her. Sonic climbed onto her huge bed and bit his lip. He took a deep breath and started to speak, Well, I made a friend and we spent the day enjoying the arts and scenery of the kingdom. So tonight I invited him to stay here in the castle with us. I guess I just want your approval. You should have told me sooner so I could have had a meal prepared for him. I think it's great that you made a friend, honey. She leaned over and kissed his forehead. Will he be sleeping in your room this evening? Sonic thought, I guess so. She smiled warmly, It will be just like one of those sleepovers you always wanted as a child. Sonic scratched the back of his head, Heh heh, I suppose so. And where is your friend right now? Oh, he is in my room taking a nap, I think I might join him actually. Today has been very long and tiring. Well, I will have a small dinner prepared and I look forward to meeting your friend later this evening. I'll have the guards retrieve you when it is ready. Ok, mother, with that he left her room.

Shadow was startled and rose from his light slumber as Sonic opened the door. Why are you in

a chair? I promise there aren't any bugs or diseases in my bed. Shadow rubbed his eye and cocked his ear to the side; Sonic couldn't help but smile at this action. He kicked off his shoes and climbed into bed, Come on, I know that chair isn't comfortable. Shadow walked over to the bed, took off his shoes and slid under the covers next to Sonic who yawned cutely, Nap time! Shadow continued to stare at him, long after his eyes were closed. He sighed, Why are you doing this? His voice trailed off into a mumble, I'm nothing but a meaningless lowlife in society.

Shadow woke to find several maids around him. They were smiling giddily with clothes in their hands. They snatched Shadow from his bed and dressed him. Sonic walked out of the bathroom, fixing the collar of his shirt, Now don't you look spiffy? The maids were tugging and pulling at Shadow, trying to get his outfit perfect. Sonic laughed at Shadow's facial expressions as they did so, Be in the dining room in about ten minutes okay? Haha! See you then. Sonic waved his hand and left the room. The maids squealed, EEEE That's so cute! They spun Shadow around, So what's it like being with the prince? Shadow raised an eyebrow. Don't act like you don't know, cutie! The maids took turns talking, Hehe! The prince and the slave! What a romance story! Shadow blushed. Aww, He's blushing! The maid grabbed his cheeks and touched her nose to his. One of the other maids pushed her out of the way, Don't pester him. Poor boy is probably so confused with all your giggling nonsense. This was the same maid that had bathed Shadow and washed his hair earlier that day. So tell us, what did you two go out and do all day?! Shadow swallowed and spoke softly, We, um, went to a play and site seeing.

Aww. How sweet. What a nice little date. Shadow coughed as though he was choking on his own saliva. Da&Date?! Well yeah, I guess. Maybe, we just think it's kind of odd that prince Sonic took you out just randomly. Yeah there had to be some sort of attraction. The maid finished grooming his hair and pushed him forward slightly, Alright now boy, don't be nervous and keep your word straight. Remember you're going to be eating dinner with the queen. You need to make a good impression. Also, don't worry about all the things these little idiots have been saying. As Shadow walked out the door he could hear all the other maids shouting at the fact they had been called idiots. He smirked at their stupidity and made his way down the stairs.

Wow it's done. Sarah really wanted another chapter to this one, it's cute I guess right? I'll be getting Internet back the day after tomorrow& it is currently like three thirty in the morning and I'm tired. I hope you enjoyed yourselves. Leave comments and tell me how wonderful this story makes you feel and I will update faster. Really I will, when people like my stuff, it's like inspiration to do more and like& it makes people feel happy.

3. Home

This chapter was long awaited I know. I literally haven't worked on this story in a year and a half. Hopefully my writing skills have improved since then (I believe they have) There was a high demand for me to continue this one, leave me comments and maybe I'll write more =D Just show me I'm putting my time into this for a reason! Thank you to all my dedicated readers, if it weren't for you, none of this would even be here. Thanks for all the support!

Chapter 3

Shadow found his way to the dining room. Sonic's mother headed the table, Sonic sat beside her. She looked a little surprised as Sonic waved the dark hedgehog over. She spoke, "Please take a seat young man." Shadow sat across from Sonic, to the left of the queen. "Now boy, might I ask your name?" Shadow spoke softly, but clearly. "My name is Shadow." "Well my name is Queen Alana. It is my pleasure to meet you, Shadow. Alright then boys, let us say grace." The three of them joined hands as Sonic's mother spoke, "Thank you lord for our health and for providing us with such wealth and happiness. Also, we thank you for bringing Shadow here with us this evening and for this meal we are about to consume. Amen." Shadow and Sonic followed and stated together, "Amen."

The meal began, Shadow thought. "This is what they consider a small meal? This is three nights worth of food that the slaves receive. They truly live like kings." Sonic was optimistic as usual, "Mother, we saw a showing of the classic Romeo and Juliette today." She smiled, "It's been quite a while since they played that in the theaters. I suppose it created such a stir; they decided to bring it back. It is truly a beautiful play." Sonic nodded, "I agree, lots of action scenes too. What did you think of it Shadow?" Shadow paused for a moment. He was a bit afraid to speak freely in front of the queen. He uttered a few words, "It was... nice." The Queen replied, "You don't get out all that often, do you Shadow?" He gulped as he pulled down his sleeve. A cut was starting to bleed through the bandage on his arm. It was deep; from a lashing that had occurred early that morning. The bleeding was bad; it was beginning to show through his clothing. "Umm no, actually; it's really rare for me to get the chance to go anywhere or do anything." She showed pity, "Oh I'm sorry, we'll so long as you and the prince make good friends, I'm sure you'll be seeing more of the kingdom." Shadow nodded nervously as he sipped from his glass. Sonic belched loudly and laughed. His mother scolded him, "Sonic, that is not how a young prince should act. You need to learn better manners. I made a point to put you through classes to learn to be proper when you were just a boy. Don't tell me you have forgotten everything you learned." Sonic stood and kissed his mother on the forehead, "Chill out Mom. It's not like we're at some fancy ball or anything, it's just us. Don't be so uptight." "Sonic, we have a guest tonight." Sonic laughed in reply and pulled Shadow's chair out for him to stand. "I'm sure he doesn't mind Mom. Now, we'll be going up to my room for the rest of the evening. Dinner was great, thanks." She smiled, "You boys behave yourself." Shadow felt the need to make a comment to her as they were leaving, "Thank you for having me this evening, your highness." She waved him off, "Think nothing of it, it was my pleasure. It's so nice seeing my son making friends." Shadow then hurried off after Sonic who was trotting up the stairs.

"The Queen doesn't know I'm a slave.... Does she?" Sonic smirked at

Shadow's remark, "I didn't feel I really had to put in that detail. She doesn't have to know." Shadow was irritated, "But she will find out... you know she will." "Yes, but hopefully, at that point... she'll love you too much to care." Shadow stopped in the hallway, "You intend on keeping me here?" Sonic stopped as well and looked back at him, "Well, maybe... but you make it sound so much worse when you say it." "I'm not a pet." "I'm not saying you are." "You can't keep a person as a pet." "What do you call slaves then? Isn't being a pet better than being a slave? And I don't think of you as a pet by the way." Shadow's face grew angry, "You can't keep me here... I'll escape." Sonic rolled his eyes, "Can you just relax? We're just having fun for the evening. You act like I'm holding you hostage." "You are." "I, being a slave... Am like a hostage. I have to do whatever you say." Sonic was beginning to grow irritated as well, "Well do you want me to treat you as a slave? I've been treating you as a FRIEND all day! Not once have I forced manual labor on you, I've only been offering you the finer things in life..." Shadow's eyes were bright and deadly, "I want my freedom." Sonic shook his head, "Look, I'm only a prince. I cannot grant you freedom, that's the Queen's job in this household. I know this is all weird for you and stuff... but can we just not fight or try to worry about anything? Can we just have fun?" Shadow looked away from him, "I know not the meaning of that word... fun."

Shadow gracefully sat on the bed while Sonic rummaged through his closet. He giggled as he did so; the dark hedgehog rolled his eyes at him. Sonic finally emerged from the dark closet, he kept his hands behind his back. With a smirk he asked, "When was the last time you got drunk?" Shadow raised an eyebrow, "Far too long..." "Well then..." Sonic revealed a large bottle of wine, "Care to party?" Shadow was a bit shocked, "Steal that from your mommy?" Sonic plopped on the bed next to him and popped the cork from the opening. "I stole it from the kitchen; if that counts. But then, is it really stealing when I live here as well?" "Technically yes, considering you are currently living off of your mother." Sonic brought the bottle to his lips and drank. "Whatever." He then handed it to Shadow who looked at it questioningly. Sonic smiled, "I'm not trying to drug you." "Yeah, you're just trying to get me drunk." The two of them took turns passing the bottle back and forth until they spoke freely. Sonic's speech was a bit slurred, "So... what's it really like being a slave?" Shadow leaned back and put his hand on his forehead, "Horrible; lots of hard labor and beatings, its hell." "Well duh... you told me that already." Shadow finished the last of the wine. "Yeah but you're just a goody-goody little dog that lives with his mommy and gets catered to twenty-four-seven. You've never had a rough life." Sonic laid back, "Yeah well... I've still got lots of stress around here. There are lots of pressures that come with the whole 'prince' thing. I have to present myself all proper and shoot to people... and learn to be a good leader. And someday, the fate of this entire kingdom will rest in my hands. And what if I mess up? If something ever goes wrong, it'll be all my fault." Shadow rolled his head to look at his blue acquaintance, "We all mess up sometimes. Some of us mess up more often than others... at least you've done a pretty good job in life thus far. Hell... I'm about the same age as you, and look how much I've already fucked up my life. It's all over for me... but it's all just beginning for you. I'll die young... and you'll die old." Sonic reached out his hand to touch Shadow's face, Shadow jumped backwards quickly, causing him to fall to the floor. Sonic began to laugh, "What the bloody hell was that? I wasn't going to hurt you! You're crazy! It's cold down there come back up here you crazy black, red, dog." Shadow stood, "Who the frack are you calling a dog you little slut!?" Sonic argued back, "Who the hell are you calling a slut? You don't know me!" "And you don't own me!" Sonic smirked, "Well technically... I do." Shadow put up his fists, "Want to fight about it?" Sonic began to laugh loudly, "Nooo you're crazy! I make

love, not war!" Shadow joined in laughter, "See, I told you that you were a slut!" Sonic pulled Shadow down onto the bed, "You're just hating on me because everyone wants to sleep with a prince." Shadow pushed him off, "Yeah right, what woman doesn't want to be with a murderer?" Sonic paused for a moment and thought, "You know, that is pretty awesome... it's like a dangerous thrill. So how many people have you been with, anyway?" Shadow attempted to count with his fingers, "Umm... one... seven... more than ten... a lot?" Sonic laughed, "And you call me a slut." Shadow playfully punched Sonic in the shoulder, "You are a slut you little whore... how many people have you been with?" Sonic smirked and buried his face in the covers, "Less than fifteen, more than twelve. I'm not really sure. Somewhere around there, I was just really drunk at this party one night. And it's all kind of a blur." Shadow was amazed, "Really? You completely go against the 'good boy, prince' stereotype. How the hell do you get away with partying like that without having reporters all over your @\$\$ all the time? Don't they like expose you for being a whore and getting messed up all the time?" Sonic got comfortable under the sheets, "Well they would, if they knew I went out and party... but I sneak out, no one knows. Wear a disguise and shoot, lie about who I am. I have to try and live somewhat of a normal life. You know?" Shadow then joined him under the sheets, "That's amazing... that's kind of what I have to do. Well it's like what I had to do... back when I was running from the police and shoot. Before they caught me, threw me in jail and then brought me here. But it's the craziest thing. When all of that was going on, I never imagined that I'd wind up getting drunk with the prince in his damn bedroom!" Sonic kicked him lightly, "Yeah well I wasn't expecting to make friends with a slave!" Shadow paused, his voice fell flat, "Friends?" Sonic yawned, "Yeah... kind of, I guess." Shadow eyes locked with Sonic's. "I don't make friends. I've never had a friend. I don't need one." Their gaze didn't separate, "Yeah right, everyone needs friends. It would be a lonely life without them." Shadow's eyes glowed with a warm red fire, "You don't have many friends... do you?" Sonic smiled, "To be honest, no... It's always been hard for me to get close to anyone because of my status in society. Like... a prince is to be obeyed and respected... not to joke with and spend time with. It hasn't been easy, growing up like that. But then, I guess it wasn't easy for you either. Where did you grow up at?" Shadow's voice harbored hatred, "I don't open up to people like that... I don't know what you're plotting, or what you're trying to get out of me. But whatever you're trying to do... it's not going to work." Sonic looked confused, "What the hell are you talking about; I'm not trying to get anything out of you man... seriously." Shadow accused him, "Then tell me, why? Why did you randomly choose me to go on an outing with you today? Why out of all those other slaves, did you choose me? After I threatened to kill you... how could you possibly want... to spend time with me? Are you insane?" Sonic's tone fell more serious, "Well... I guess I am a little insane. And I do tend to make quick and rash decisions all the time. I never really plan things out... which is probably not a good thing, considering I'm going to be looking after so many people one day. But I really don't know yet... there just seemed to be something about you. Something I just... want to know more about. And maybe, I'll figure out what that something is..."