

Keeping Control

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Sparks has always been under 24/7 surveillance...and the watcher grows concerned that things may be compromised...(Metal and Sparks)

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1 - Concern

There was a room, monitors covering every surface, from wall to ceiling to floor.....they were all from cameras spread throughout the area....

A figure floated within the room, keeping off of the monitors and their screens. Crimson eyes watched them, shooting from one to the other to find their target. "Where is he..." A metallic rasp of a voice hissed as it moved from monitor to monitor.

"Damn it to hell- Wait....wait..." It calmed as its target appeared on the screen. A young hedgehog, fur the color of sapphires, his slicked down quills decorated with lightning bolts. He was chatting to another creature, whom looked similar in appearance, except for his arm and shinguards and the tips of his bangs, all of which were red. The one watching them from the room did not pay attention to what they were saying...it was more interested in the azure and green hedgehog....

"Sparks.....hmm hmm..." It chuckled, sitting comfortably in the air, its cloak over its legs like a blanket. He, as identified from his voice, smirked as he rested the weight of his head on his hands, leaning in to watch. Sparks, as the young creature was called, cried out as out of nowhere a cybernetic hedgehog tackled him to the floor, hugging him.

'*Sparky-chan! It is good to see you!*' He squealed, hugging the now color-changing Sparks even tighter.

'*Ai...Ai....choking....can't....breathe.....*' Sparks managed, and Ai quickly released him.

'*Sparky-kun, I'm soooo sorry! I didn't mean to! Are you okay?*' He asked as Sparks gasped for air and coughed.

'*Fine, just fine.....be careful with the hugs....*' Sparks managed himself up on his feet.

"Hmm...." A bladed finger slipped to rest on silver lips. "I do not like this...'Ai'...he acts too loving to others...." He murmured, his other hand slipping out from under his head and rested on his legs, tapping as he thought.

The more he watched Sparks throughout the day, the more he realized that Sparks would show off his more...flirty side, though most of the time it was joking...still, there was a bit of concern in those blood-red eyes that stared at the screens as Sparks moved. There was one thing that really seemed to get him alarmed, and that was the ring that decorated one of Sparks' fingers....

At one point, while Sparks was on his usual morning outing, a few girls had stopped him and asked as to how he got the ring.

His answer caused the metallic quills of the one watching him to bristle in anger....marriage....damn it to hell....

Thin fingers linked together, and once again they supported his head as he thought, black digital eyes narrowing in anger. He did not like this....it would mean Sparks was slowly seeming to lose memory of who he really belonged to....this was a most displeasing fact. A frown came to pass on his grey muzzle.

"Sparks...you should know better...." He murmured as he watched the screens.

His eyes closed. "It seems as if I have this most unfortunate circumstance at hand...." One ruby-red eye opened and looked blankly at the screens. Suddenly, an odd, almost villainous fanged smirk appeared. "Hmm hmm hmm....it seems then, I will have to retrieve my Sparks....which, if I am not mistaken, shall not be such a hard thing..."

One arm stretched out to the side, and his fingers outstretched and gave a dismissing wave like motion. Within an instant, the monitors were all black and the silence overwhelming.

He stretched his legs and snatched his cape's edge with his almost skeletal fingers. "Since, after all, I am his...'Metaru-chan'*..." With a quick whip of the black fabric, he had vanished without a trace.

Metaru-chan* - Sparks tends to call 'Metal Sonic' by this pet-name/nickname, 'Metaru-chan' instead of his normal name.

Tell me if you like it so far. *nods*

2 - Confrontation

Sparks had been sitting in his room, watching television in the black of night. He couldn't sleep....he was busy thinking....for awhile now, it felt like someone had been watching him...constantly. Now...there was nothing...that feeling gone.

It was a bit...unnerving, in Sparks' opinion.....he pushed himself up to stand, and glanced about before shrugging and exiting his room, leaving the door cracked.

In an instant, a cold, frightening aura came....a figure moved closer, and just before the blue hedgehog could turn to see-

Sparks shivered as cold silver fingers hovered near his neck, and the other set of them wrapped possessively around his waist. "Hello, Sparks..." A whisper breathed as the figure slipped closer, smirking evilly. "Remember me?"

"Metaru-chan?"

"Good to see you haven't forgotten about me...." The older creature said, his head slipping so he leaned over the other's shoulder. "I've been watching you for awhile, Sparks...and I am not pleased..."

"What did I do?" Sparks said, his head backing away from the claws that were so close to his neck he could almost feel their freezing touch.

"Hmm..." The claws moved from Sparks' neck and grabbed one of Sparks' wrists in a vice-like grip, and pulled it up to eye level. "Perhaps you could explain this ring upon your finger?" He raised an eyebrow as he glanced over into Sparks' eyes. His gaze was like a shadow abyss....dark and cold and endless.

Sparks shivered. "I don't know....about the ring..."

"Ah....but Sparks...it seems too...expensive for a simple ring..." The android pulled his hand closer to examine it. "It seems special....are you sure that you do not know of how you came to gain such a thing...? Perhaps...a marriage?" He said, non-chalantly, looking at Sparks from the corner of his eyes. A small bead of sweat was visible, and the android smirked. "You're lying to me.."

"I-I did not m-mean to-"

"That is not what I heard...you did mean to...now tell me, Sparks...were you aware of how I was going to react to such a sight...?"

"No-"

"And did you think that perhaps your 'Metaru-chan' was not going to get a little pissy?"

"N-"

"That's right, because you don't think..." Metal frowned at him, and he snorted slightly before he removed the ring and crushed it, turning it into nothing but dust that he simply dropped onto the floor before his hand returned back to Sparks' neck. "Now listen very carefully Sparks....you are mine. Mine and mine alone....if I ever catch you with another ring...or anyone else....I will kill you." His claws stretched and slid across the blue fur covering Sparks' neck, and they could feel the slight trembling of their captive. "If you screw up one more time....I'd worry less about whoever the hell you see and worry more about when your death will be..." The silver fingers affectionately held the young hedgehogs' cheek.

"But...I will let you live...after all, I am patient enough to allow you another chance." The android whispered, resting his head on Sparks' shoulder. "Remember this...I am watching you....24...7..." He smirked and pulled away. "If you ever need of me, be it an emergency or need for attention, just call for me..."

Sparks looked over to find nobody there....he looked around, scanning his surroundings for some form of life...but found none.

"Metaru-chan..." He sighed. "Damn possessive bastard..." He said in a harsh whisper and returned to his room, locking the door behind him.

"Hmm hmm...such a rebellious boy....let's see if he actually listens...." Metal looked at the screen dubbed 'Sparks' Bedroom'. "No...I'm not going to kill him....just....have a bit of fun with him..." He told himself, nodding quietly. "It might keep him away from the others...."

"Who knows, maybe I can eliminate them completely from the problem if Sparks behaves...."

3 - Punishment

"So Metal broke your ring?" Sin asked, making sure he heard correctly.

"Yeah...he's a possessive bastard..." Sparks replied, frowning and crossing his arms. "He's always thought this way..."

"Why?" The look-a-like hedgehog inquired as he sat next to him.

"Well...I don't know....Metaru-chan is a very complicated person. He's possessive of what he has, he goes out and risks everything to get what he wants....not to mention he's a bit of a lunatic..."

"He's a psychopath. We all know this."

"Yeah, basically." Sparks sighed, resting his head on Sin's shoulder. "What am I going to do....? He threatened to kill me if he saw me with anyone else...and he said he was constantly watching me..."

"Well, fight him or something...." Sin replied, before pulling out an object and taking Sparks' hand. He placed the object on Sparks' finger. "There....Metal won't be able to break this one....and it creates a forcefield to protect you."

"Aww, thankies, Sin!" Sparks said happily, latching onto the other in a hug. "I thought my ring was gonna be 'poofed' forever."

Blood-red eyes watched with irritation deep in their gaze. Their owner snorted angrily. "Indestructible ring....damn it to hell...." His eyes narrowed as he thought. "It seems I'm going to have to 'lose' this ring of his...." His arms crossed as he sat there, hovering amongst the monitors. "And punish Sparks...nothing excruciatingly horrid...but just a little warning...."

A demented grin appeared on his facial features as he sat there in deep thought...awaiting for night to come and bless Sparks' house with shadows so that he may begin the punishment....

Daylight seemed to last little, for soon it was the time of darkness when nothing but the moon and stars illuminated the sky.

Sparks and Sin both slept peacefully, it seemed with nothing to fear.

But the shadowy mass that stood at the bedside said different. He glanced over at Sparks' hands, and caught sight of the ring. With a calm movement of the hand, the ring slid off the young hedgehog's finger and was caught in an instant. "Hmm..."

Soon, the android tucked it away to deal with it later and yanked Sparks out of the bed by his quills, muffling his cries with a hand. "Silence, Sparks...." He hissed in a harsh whisper. Crimson eyes glanced at Sin before he quietly dragged the young hedgehog out of and far from the room.

Finally, he removed his hand from the younger creature's mouth. "What the frack?!" Sparks managed, his claws trying to get the other to remove the painful grip on his quills. "Tch, tch, you should know better than to think I will remove my grip while you're clawing at me..." The older being grinned.

Sparks dropped his hands. "Please let go?" "Oh no....not yet, Sparky..." His claws shimmered in what little light there was in the room. "I came here for a reason, you know..."

"To kill me?" Sparks managed to whimper.

"I've decided not to kill you...yet...just...punish you." The claws stood at the far side of the teenager hedgegie's stomach.

"And it is only going to get worse, Sparks....until you either submit...or die...whichever comes first..."

And that is when the tips of the flaws dug in just enough and then moved across in an agonizingly slow pace...

4 - Kidnapping

Sparks gained another ring, courtesy of Sin. Indestructible, unable to be removed, alerts him whenever Metal is close, and shocks when touched by the android....

"Wow.....hopefully this one will keep Metaru away..."

"Doubtful...he seems intent on punishing and torturing you..." Sin told him. "But, I have muted his cameras and hacked into the system so I can keep an eye on him 24/7 too...See, he's on the television..."

"Cooo!"

There was silence.

Crimson eyes narrowed almost to slits as he glared at the monitors.

They had been muted.

The crimson pupils glowed like flames themselves as he screeched. "Son of a dog!" He clawed at the sides of his head in rage. In his moment of fury, lasers flew in random directions and destroyed several of his monitors. But as quickly as the moment came, it left, and he regained his composure.

"Hmm...." He muttered aloud, and thought to himself in silence.

'If my cameras are muted....then there's a good chance that the systems have been hacked so I'm kept under surveillance....this is bad....Sparks has another ring...but I do not know what abilities it has....its time I stop leaving Sparks there....'

The rest of the monitors that were not smoking and sparking were shut off, and he disappeared again, leaving the room to gather dust.

Sparks stayed awake that night, wondering if Metal would show. He sat in the living room, the lights off...staring into the darkness. Within a few more moments, the ring started to give the silent alarm...and Sparks rose his eyes. "Metaru..."

"So you knew that I was here...." The ruby eyes that shone through the darkness widened slightly in surprise before they returned to normal and he stepped closer. "How so?"

"This new ring has a few tricks of its own...." Sparks, for once, grinned in the presence of the android. It

somewhat irritated the older figure. "It can't be removed from my finger, so don't even try it...it can break either..."

Metal frowned for a moment before he grabbed Sparks-

Bzzzzzt.....

"Wrong move, Metaru-chan." Sparks said, watching as the android backed up, sparking slightly.

"D-Damn it....shocker..." The robot hissed as he shook it off. "Hmmp...you think you're safe, Sparks? " He said at Sparks' victorious smile. That smile vanished at the sight of a saber being drawn.

The sound of the saber cutting through flesh and bone only lasted a few seconds.

Metal grinned. "You said it could not be removed from your finger, and it seemed if I touched you I would've been shocked...so, what better way than to remove the very appendage that it was stuck on with something not of mine?"

His claws grabbed Sparks' ear and pulled him off the couch. "Hmm...don't even start crying, at least your fingers were one of the few things that was kept robotic...." He hissed. "Say goodbye, Sparks....because this is the last time you're going to be here."

"Like hell- mmmph mmph!" Sparks' voice was muffled once again by Metal's free hand. "Silence, Sparks...."

Metal left with Sparks, who was kicking and trying to scream the whole time until they disappeared to another, farther away base....

5 - Care

The harsh contact with the metal floor awoke Sparks' senses once more.

"Ow...damn....it..." He said sluggishly as he tried to push himself up, but he winced as he was kicked down to lay flat on the ground. His eyesight was blurred, but he made out blue and silver.

"M...Metaru....?"

"The affects of teleporting are hitting their worst....and the drugs are starting to kick in...." The cold, almost soulless voice of the creature next to him said. Sparks gave his best glare in the current condition he was in....but everything started spinning and he quickly closed his eyes, holding his head and groaning. "It wouldn't be wise to do anything for awhile, Sparks...."

Silver fingers grabbed Sparks by the scruff of his neck and dragged him, the young hedgehog limp as a ragdoll as the full effects of the drugs hit. "Where...are we...go...ing?"

"You are going to be spending most of the time in my quarters..bound and tied, until you have cracked....think of it as slavery until you have submitted." Sparks growled, barely a little rumble in his throat.

"You bastard..." He yelped as he contacted the floor for a second time, and he grunted in pain. He tried to pull himself up with his hands, but they were suddenly pulled out from under him. He hit the floor and was rolled over, the swift 'click' of cuffs heard and the feeling of cold metal wrapped around his wrists made him shiver unhappily.

Another click and shackles kept his legs together.

One more click and a collar hung on his neck.

Sparks pushed himself up, wobbling and trying to gnaw the cuffs off, growling angrily at the fact his movement was limited. He heard the older figure who kept him captive chuckle in amusement. "Sparks, those are titanium...you cannot break those with your teeth."

Chink....

Sparks pulled away, his tongue running over his fangs for a moment. Damn it, he broke one, splitting it in half. "Most unfortunate...." Metal said, tilting Sparks' head up and forcing the boy's mouth open with two of his fingers to see.

Sparks tried to snap at him, but the fingers would not budge so his jaws remained locked. "Silence, Sparks..." Metal hissed at him, and his free hand slipped in and gently pulled the remaining fang out from the mouth, earning just a faint yelp of pain from the hedgehog.

Metal removed his fingers, allowing Sparks to use his mouth once more. Sparks blinked, a little

confused...

"I can show care at times...when you are not being so hostile towards me." Sparks' sight sharpened, and he saw the metallic hedgehog sit in front of him on his knees, tilting his head cutely while he held the split piece of tooth....this was the same Metal that had dragged him here in the first place?

Metal looked about...and Sparks took the time to also. Metal had a room fit for royalty...rather amazing, in Sparks' opinion. But Metal regained his attention as he spoke once more. "You are free to do what you want, as long as you stay in my quarters....just...try not to break anything."

The shorter azure hedgehog stared at him like he was crazy. "I can do...whatever I want...?"

"As long as you stay here." Metal repeated.

"You're not going to torture me or anything?"

"No." The android said calmly, rising to his feet. "Now that you have been removed from everyone else....I have no reason to punish you." He moved over to a box, which held spare pieces and parts, and managed to dig through until finding an item. He returned to Sparks and began twisting it on to the bare joint where he had just moments before cut off the finger.

Within a moment, he pulled away, and Sparks flexed his hands. "You replaced it..." He said, a bit surprised. He looked at Metal. "You...are Metaru-chan, right? You don't...act like him..."

"There are moments where I have a darker personality...but it does not mean I am like that all the time....Now....try to get some sleep....I do not want to have an exhausted hedgehog on my hands tomorrow...."

Sparks sighed, seeing no point in arguing. Metal aided him in standing and watched him stumble into his bed. "Goodnight, Sparks..."

"Goodnight...Metaru-chan..." Sparks mumbled, soon curling into the comfort of the bed.

6 - Sleep

Amber eyes opened slowly....god, why must it be so dark here?.....He couldn't tell just how long he was asleep for....whether or not it was day or night....

He sighed, and soon realized something...he was in Metal's base...his quarters even...in his bed....and apparently, the android had no objections to sleeping with another, as he slumbered peacefully beside him. Sparks managed to scoot away from him a little, his muzzle tinged with pink.

'How long has he been there?!' He thought. He sat up, and looked around, yawning slightly.

'Huh...wonder if Metaru would mind if we got a few lights in here- Wait, what the hell am I thinking? I'm not staying here!....am I?'

At one point, Metal must've sensed Sparks' slight distress, for soon his ruby eyes were the light that illuminated the darkness. "Are you okay, Sparks? I can sense you are a little upset about something..." He inquired, a calmness in his...surprisingly quiet voice.

"I'm just...a little sad...I guess..." Metal could see Sparks' ears fold back with his nightvision. He managed a sigh and wrapped his arms around Sparks' waist and dragged him to rest in his lap.

"You miss your friends and family...I understand....but I'm not releasing you...it will take time to get used to...." Fingers slipped through Sparks' quills in a calming manner, and he rested his head on his shoulder. "You have only been asleep for a few hours....we should both try to get rest while we can..." He said.

"But I don't want to...."

Metal gave an exhausted sigh, his battery low. "Then I'll make you fall asleep...because if memory serves, you still have a sensitive spot..."

"Don't even think-" Sparks was cut off as silver fingers slid up to his ears and started to gently rub them. Within an instant, the young hedgehog began purring deeply, his body going limp as a ragdoll once more, and he fell back to rest on Metal as the android continued his ministrations.

Metal had found a long time ago that rubbing Sparks' ears had the same effect on a big cat cub being picked up by the scruff of its neck. It sent a flood of endorphins that calmed Sparks and, if done long enough, would make him sleep. That was what Metal was aiming for.

Sparks blushed darkly, purring in content as he laid there. "Feeling sleepy yet?" Metal said, looking at him.

"Shut...up..." Sparks managed, though sleep was overtaking him. Metal grinned and silently continued until Sparks managed away from him and crawled beside him and laid down. Metal managed himself down and turned so he rested on his side. As his eyes dimmed and his eyes closed, he felt something

slip close to him.

He glanced down to find Sparks cuddling and nuzzling against him. 'It's the flood of endorphins...' He thought, and slipped his arms around Sparks, finally managing to get the other to sleep.

'I should do the ear thing more often...'

"Sparks?..." Sin asked, walking through the house. "Sparks?! Where are you?" He called, though hearing nothing but the sound of crickets in response.

"Where did you-" Sin stopped at the sight of a bit of blood, and a finger...he cringed at the sight. "Damn it to hell...."

7 - Cleaning

Metaru was comfy....even though he was all robotic....

"I dun wanna get out of bed..." He managed tiredly, basically clinging to Metal to prevent him from moving. Metal sighed, rubbing his eye with one hand while he poked the other on the head slightly.

"Sparks, ground rule time. One, I know you are intelligent and can speak normally. Please do so...Two, we can't sleep all day....now come on, off....off off...."

"Aw, but Metaru-chan..." Sparks murmured, reluctantly releasing him....at that moment, he accidentally reached the edge of the bed and....

Thump.

"Ow!"

A chuckle of amusement was heard, and Sparks pushed himself up and glared. "Shut up..." The young hedgehog grumbled, managing onto four legs and stretching cat-like before he rose to normal stance. By the time he had done that, the android was already up and finishing making the bed.

"You really are slow." Metal commented, and Sparks snorted in anger. "At any rate, I have orders for you while I am...working, I suppose you could say."

Sparks' green ears perked. "Orders?" He asked, making sure he heard correctly.

"Yes...you are still a...slave, servant....whichever." Metal waved it off, and continued. "You are to clean all of my quarters....that means dusting, cleaning, waxing....et cetera...."

"Aww, man..." Sparks said, looking around. God, that was going to take. for. ever. "Can I at least get some form of lights in here?"

"Don't you have nightvision?"

"No..."

Metal moved out of Sparks' limited sight range and shuffled through some things, and soon light illuminated the room. "Is that better?" Sparks was asked. Sparks gave a nod, happy that he could actually -see- now.

"Two more thing though..." He mentioned, and Metal tilted his head and raised an eyebrow.

"What else?"

"One, where is the cleaning stuff...and Two, how am I supposed to do anything with these?" Sparks held up the hand-cuffs. Metal supposed it would be very....difficult to clean with said items limiting your reach. He took Sparks' cuff chain and somehow managed to increase the length of it so it wouldn't be as much of a problem.

"And cleaning supplies are in the closet.....now, is that all?"

"Yes, Metaru-chan...I can actually work now." Sparks replied, and slipped over to the closet that was mentioned. "See you later, Metaru-chan!" He said happily.

Metal, a little stunned to see him in such a state, simply bowed his head in a nod and left, locking the door behind him.

"That was a tad....strange." He murmured to himself...he shook his head and walked away to whatever buisness he needed to attend to.

-Meanwhile-

Sin had managed to find the location of the base Metal had inhabited recently but he found, in sore disappointment, that it had been deserted.

"Damn that android...when I find him I'll...." He trailed off as he looked about the base for any clues as to where he could have gone...

-Hours later, back at the base with Metal and Sparks-

Sparks flopped down in a chair, exhausted. "So much...cleaning...ow..." He rubbed his arms sorely. "Metaru-chan really has way too much crap....it's nice....but it's still too much crap..." He muttered, managing to stand long enough to toss the supplies back into the closet before he returned to sitting in a chair.

"Tired just from a little cleaning?" The sudden voice made him jump, and laughter ensued from the other. He snorted.

"Wish you would stop doing that..." Sparks murmured.

"Not my fault you can't notice me...but I suppose it would take time to get used to seeing me..." Metal grinned before looking about. "You did an excellent job." He commented.

"Really?" Sparks said, ears perking as he leaned forward.

"Although you did miss one thing..."

"What?"

Metal glanced at Sparks. "Yourself." He pointed. "The one who cleans always gets a tad...dirty." He nudged his head towards a door, which Sparks assumed was the bathroom.

"You don't have....cameras or anything in there, do you?" Sparks said, a tad uneasy..seeing as he had been watched at all times before.

"I assure you, I have no cameras here....remember, this is my residence...kind of idiotic to place cameras in the very area you live, hmm?" The robot replied, knowing he was correct. "Also..." Metal moved closer, and Sparks flinched as his hands moved.

Clink.

Chink.

Sparks glanced down to find the cuffs and shackles gone completely. "The collar is waterproof, so it shouldn't be much trouble." Metal simply said, placing the objects on a table. "Now, go go..." He ushered.

"Fine, fine, I'm going...." Sparks rolled his eyes as he turned and left for the bathroom. "Why do you need a bathroom?"

"I had the intention of bringing you here...and life-forms require such...rooms."

"Good point..." Sparks said, before slipping into the room and closing the door behind him.

"Let's hope he doesn't kill himself..." Metal sighed, before turning his attention to one of his many books.

8 - Wonder

Sparks sunk into the water till nothing was above the surface. He stared up through the water in silence, listening. He had increased lung capacity, so staying submerged underwater for long periods of time wasn't hard. He took the time to think...let his mind wonder of questions....

'Do you wish to leave this place' A voice in his head asked.

'No....not really....'

'You seem comfortable with Metal..'

'Yeah...'

'And he seems to show care for you...but what of Sin? Don't you wish to return to him...?'

'I...don't know...'

Sparks frowned slightly. It was a bit upsetting, almost, to think that he kind of...didn't want to return to Sin. ...

'My head hurts...' He pushed himself up so he broke through the water's surface and sighed.

"No more thinking..." He murmured, splashing water on his face before he managed out of the tub. He slid onto all fours and shook himself off from head to tail. After uncorking the tub he walked out and crawled up into bed next to Metal, who was....surprisingly, reading.

"I didn't know you read..." Sparks commented as carefully removed one of Metal's shoulderplates and placed it to the side, happily resting his head on the others shoulder. "So whatcha reading?" Amber eyes followed the text in the book, a little curious as to what the contents of the book were.

Crimson eyes glanced over at the boy, watching for his reaction. His muzzle was tinged dark pink, and Metal closed the book. "Perhaps I should stop you from reading before we have issues, hmm?"

"You read that stuff?!" Sparks asked, staring at him like he was crazy. Metal gave a simple nod. "God, you're a pervert." Sparks murmured, and was pushed over to fall on the bed.

"Hush...like you're any better." The older creature pointed out.

Sparks snorted and twisted around, and soon tackled the other. "Shut up!"

Metal managed to throw Sparks off of him and pinned him to the bed with one hand. "Hello there." He smirked, revealing silver-white fangs. "Are you done now?" He asked, raising an eyebrow.

"You started it..." Sparks said, grumbling. Metal leaned in closer. "I started it?" He frowned slightly. "Yep." The boy answered, before he tilted his head and managed to give Metal a quick peck on the nose. It dazed the other long enough for the blue and green hedgehog to slip out from his grasp. He giggled as the android shook his head.

"Cheater." Metal said under his breath.

"I am not!" Sparks stuck his tongue out at him before he noticed the lights were dimming and eventually everything was pitch-black. "What happened to the lights?"

"They are timed." Metal replied simply, placing his book on the nightstand next to the bed. He pulled Sparks onto his lap once more. "I'm not dealing with you waking up in the middle of the night again." He answered Sparks' unspoken question, and his fingers started to carefully rub the green and gold ears.

Sparks purred in content, turning around so he could look up at Metal while the flood of endorphins started to hit. His arms snaked around the metal torso and pulled him closer into a hug, and he nuzzled the blue painted chassis happily. "I luurve you, Metaru-chan..."

Crimson eyes stared at the creature, a bit...taken aback by his statement. He excused it, however, on the 'happy' feeling that flooded Sparks' body, and exhaustion. "Sparks, why don't you get some sleep?" He asked, patting his head softly.

"Fine...." Sparks yawned, and immediately snuggled up to the android, giggling slightly before he started to sleep. Metal stared at him, trying to figure out if he should remove the young hedgehog who clung to him. He sighed.

"Might as well leave him be..." He managed to lay down, Sparks laying above him, and the android glanced at him.

'This is going to be a looong night...'

-Meanwhile-

"God, how many bases does that damn robot have?" Sin growled, crossing off another one on his long list.

"This is going to take forever to find Sparks....If I even actually manage to find him...."

9 - Staying

(After thinking a loooooong time, I eventually decided that Sparks should stay with Metal...I used the 'seniority of pairing' tie breaker....and the fact this is a Sparks and Metal story....not a Sin and Sparks story....)

In the darkness of night...a figure appeared beside the bed. 'Hmm hmm...found you...'

Claws slipped under metal plating and started hacking into the android. "A little revenge for taking Sparks..."

Sparks felt something was wrong...

His eyes shot open and he managed quickly out of the bed then shook Metal. "Metaru...Metaru? I have a feeling something is wrong."

Red eyes opened and Sparks watched as Metal's body twitched and spasmed uncontrollably, buzzing and sparking while code started writing themselves on the digital screens. "Metaru, what's wrong?!" The young creature said in alarm.

"He's been hacked, Sparks....he'll be like for awhile." Sparks turned to see Sin standing there, happy and cheery. "But don't worry about him...come on, let's go home." He grabbed Sparks' arm and tugged on it, about to drag him away...

But Sparks quickly tugged and pulled his arm away, snorting. "No."

Sin froze and turned to look at Sparks. "What do you mean, 'no'? You need to get far away from that bastard before he hurts you!"

"He hasn't hurt me for awhile, Sin...when I was moved away from you...from everyone...he stopped. He's actually been very kind to me..."

"But he's still hurt you! And what about these?!" Sin grabbed the cuff chains and pulled them. "He's keeping you prisoner!"

"I don't care!" The blue and green hedgehog snapped, yanking the chains away. "Just go away, Sin!" He yelled. "You've done enough damage here!" He went to Metal, one set of fingers plugging into him to fix what he could.

"He's warped your mind, Sparks....I'm taking you back whether you like it or not....even if it means killing that damnable android." Sparks saw Sin charge at the android, his claws ready to rip the robot to shreds. Sparks unplugged his fingers and....

Crack....splat....

Sin smirked for a moment before he stopped..

Golden fur that cascaded down a blue creature's abdomen was coated in blood, with claws going through his stomach and out the other side...but not close enough to even touch the android.

Sparks stood there, blood managing past his lips to drip down his chin. "Nobody...will ever...hurt Metal...not even you, Sin..." His eyes dropped into a pupiless green as he pulled Sin away so only two gaping holes were left. "I'd sooner burn in hell for eternity than let you kill him." He snarled, baring lengthening fangs as he threw Sin across the room with little effort.

Sin hit the wall, wincing at the contact of metal and concrete. "Now leave before I get really pissed with you, Sin." Sparks threatened as he moved closer. "Or I'll kick your @\$@ out."

Sin chuckled. "What are you going to do to me?"

Black fur replaced blue as another voice spoke. "Sparks isn't the one you should be worried about!" A flash of white and...

Sin was back in his home...

Sparks' blue fur returned and he coughed, hacking up blood but waving it off without a care. He was more concerned on the robot...he replugged his fingers and held his abdomen painfully while he worked on returning Metal to normal.

He trembled as he finished and used the android as support for his trembling body. He looked up to see crimson eyes staring confusedly at the place around him for a moment before what just happened caught up with him. "Sparks!" He said, looking down at the bleeding hedgehog.

Sparks remained silent for a moment before he grabbed the antennae that jutted from either one of Metal's cheeks and forced his head down into a sweet kiss....well, as sweet as it gets with a robot...

"Payment for saving your @\$@....now...medic...." Sparks managed before his legs finally gave out, metal arms managing to catch him before he face planted onto the floor. Metal sighed and managed the hedgehog into his arms. "You lifeforms and your organs and your bleeding..."

"I'm going to have to clean again....dammit...." Sparks whined childishly, earning an amused shake of the head from the older figure.

"Shut up, Sparks."