**Knuckles vs. Thrash**

**Summary:** In this snippet from the unwritten Endangered Species Remake: Part 4, Knuckles and Thrash throw down in the Twilight Cage and learn they have more in common than they initially realized.

**PAGE ONE**

**Splash Page: A view of the TWILIGHT CAGE. Many rocks large and small litter the open space. The sky is dark blue with purple clouds of gaseous dust obscuring a starry backdrop, and in the far-off distance the KRON COLONY, ZOAH COLONY, N’RRGAL COLONY, VOXAI COLONIES BETA AND ALPHA, and NOCTURNE are all visible; they should be periodically seen in the background throughout the story (colony reference** [**here**](http://lastminutecontinue.com/wp-content/gallery/officialart/S/sonic-chronicles/2920NEW_SOE_FINAL_03.jpg)**, space background reference** [**here**](http://orig02.deviantart.net/9396/f/2015/294/0/1/worldmeld__beyond_the_veil_ideas_by_johnnyd2-d9dvlei.png)**). In the thick of it all we see KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA down on one foot, rubbing his head with disorientation. He is on a sizeable chunk of rock; not too small, but not large enough that it would be unfeasible for Thrash to punch it to pieces in the next page.**

**KNUCKLES**

Thrash...blast you. Where are we now?

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**PAGE TWO**

**PANEL ONE: We view THRASH THE DEVIL from below, from KNUCKLES’ line of sight. He stands on a very small floating rock above twirling his WARP RING on his index finger and grinning cockily at his nemesis.**

**THRASH**

This ‘ere’s the Twilight Cage. Courtesy of Finitevus’s notes. This’ll be a good dumping ground for the rest of your kind once I’m finished with you, don’cha think?

**PANEL TWO: This panel is divided into two images. On the left is a closeup shot of KNUCKLES’ face. His eyes are wide with realization. One the right is a sepia-toned flashback scene, showing DR. FINITEVUS pressing a WARP RING against the MASTER EMERALD, which glows as it transfers energy to the ring.**

**KNUCKLES (whispering)**

Wait...this is the place where the Brotherhood...so ***that’s***how Finitevus trapped them here...

**PANEL THREE: Most of the page is devoted to this large panel. We see Thrash falling from his perch and shattering the asteroid KNUCKLES was just standing on with a powerful punch, sending KNUCKLES flying into the air with a surprised expression. Please include one or two of the TWILIGHT CAGE colonies in the background.**

 **Sfx: CRAAACK**

**PAGE THREE**

**Note: PANELS ONE–THREE are arranged vertically on the left side of the page. The right side is devoted to a single vertical panel.**

**PANEL ONE: THRASH stands on one of the fragments of the large asteroid that he broke on the previous page and hurls a smaller fragment at the off-panel KNUCKLES.**

**THRASH**

Enough of this, mate! Give up and let justice take its course!

**PANEL TWO: A side view of KNUCKLES as he punches the rock thrown by THRASH into smithereens.**

**KNUCKLES**

There’s no “justice” in what you’re doing, Thrash. You’re just blindly seeking ***revenge*** for atrocities committed ***centuries*** ago. What do you think is going to happen once you’ve won? That things are magically going to make themselves right?

**PANEL THREE: Enraged, THRASH opens his mouth wide and unleashes his sonic roar directly at the reader.**

 **THRASH**

Y**-**You... SHUT UP! YOU’LL PAY! YOU’LL ALL PAY!

***RAAAAAGH!!!***

**PANEL FOUR: This is a very dynamic action panel. KNUCKLES hops a zig-zag pattern down the panel and into the foreground leaving afterimages across a field of small asteroids as THRASH’s sonic roar obliterates the rocks behind him.**

**PAGE FOUR**

**Note: please remember to include TWILIGHT CAGE colonies in the backgrounds.**

**PANEL ONE: THRASH hurls through space at KNUCKLES, who is kicking off from an asteroid to fly towards his foe. KNUCKLES’ face bears a regretful expression.**

 **KNUCKLES**

Thrash, I...I know what it’s like to be alone.

 **THRASH**

Don’t you DARE compare yourself to me, echidna scum! We are nothing alike!

 **PANEL TWO: KNUCKLES and THRASH have locked hands and push against one another whilst floating in space. KNUCKLES has a pleading expression while THRASH’s is still one of grim determination.**

**KNUCKLES**

That’s not true! We’re both nearly extinct! Neither of us wants to see our kind harmed!

**PANEL THREE: KNUCKLES punches at THRASH with renewed vigor as a single tear rolls down his cheek. THRASH, surprised at his words and sudden ferocity, holds up an arm to shield himself from the rapid barrage of blows.**

**KNUCKLES**

I’ve watched my people suffer under Eggman! Virtually wiped out or enslaved because of one madman’s lust for power! I watched as my father died to save me from myself, and spent months feeling like I could never face my family again!

**PANEL FOUR: KNUCKLES grabs THRASH by the arm. The TASMANIAN DEVIL reacts with surprise.**

**KNUCKLES**

I understand your desire to avenge your people. I know what it’s like to want revenge...

**PANEL FIVE: KNUCKLES hurls THRASH onto a large asteroid.**

**KNUCKLES**

But I will fight to the ***death*** to protect the ones I love. And I know you’re willing to do the same.

**PAGE FIVE**

**PANEL ONE: A wide shot of the two enemies. THRASH, not moving, looks up at KNUCKLES, who now stands over him.**

**KNUCKLES**

I can’t do anything about the past. What’s done is done. But wherever I can make amends, I will.

**PANEL TWO: THRASH gets up, holding his shoulder in pain.**

**THRASH**

It’s...\*ack\*...too late for that. It’s *long* past too late.

**PANEL THREE: KNUCKLES stares at THRASH with a puzzled look.**

 **KNUCKLES**

I don’t understand. Why are you devoting so much time to getting even with the echidnas when you could be looking for a cure?

**PANEL FOUR: THRASH is visibly upset now as he responds angrily. THRASH is oblivious to the fact that there are three NOCTURNE DECURIONS (reference** [**here**](http://vignette1.wikia.nocookie.net/sonic/images/3/3d/Nocturne-equites-sonic-chronicles.png/revision/latest?cb=20130116160833)**) visible in the distance, rapidly flying towards THRASH. The NOCTURNE colony is visible in the background; this is where the oncoming DECURIONS are approaching from.**

**THRASH**

There ***is*** no cure! They tampered with our genes! Turned most of us into mindless monsters and then abandoned us! You want to make amends, sure, fine! How very noble of you! Except it’s ***impossible*** to fix what’s already been done! The only thing left for me is revenge!

**PAGE SIX**

**PANEL ONE: We see THRASH from the back in the same pose as in the previous panel. KNUCKLES’s gaze is focused on the three invaders behind THRASH and points in their direction.**

 **KNUCKLES**

 Thrash! Behind you!

**PANEL TWO: A shot of THRASH’s face as he turns to look behind him. The NOCTURNE DECURIONS are charging and aiming their energy disc weapons at him.**

 **THRASH**

...Wuh?

**PANEL THREE: KNUCKLES shoves THRASH out of the way as energy blasts from the DECURIONS scorch the ground on which he was just standing.**

 **THRASH**

 Oof!

 **Sfx: KZZT**

**PANEL FOUR: We see a full-body view of the lead NOCTURNE DECURION. He holds one of his weapons aloft and it steams with energy from the shot he fired at THRASH. His two companions are behind him aiming their own weapons at the off-panel THRASH and KNUCKLES.**

 **DECURION**

Attention: you are trespassing in Nocturnus Clan territory. Surrender or face immediate annihilation!

**PANEL FIVE: THRASH holds his WARP RING as he dusts himself off, looks at the off-panel enemies. KNUCKLES stands beside him with his arms folded doing the same.**

 **THRASH**

Normally I’d be up for a tussle with the likes of you, but I’m ***not*** in the mood right now!

 **KNUCKLES**

 ***Hmph****.* Likewise.

**PAGE SEVEN**

**PANEL ONE: THRASH unleashes another sonic roar, this time at the DECURION soldiers. One of them is caught by the blast while the other two scatter.**

 **THRASH**

 ***RAAAAAGH!!!***

**PANEL TWO: THRASH activates his WARP RING which creates a gateway.**

 **Sfx: FWASH**

**PANEL THREE: THRASH dives through the ring, with KNUCKLES close behind. Energy blasts ring out around them as the DECURIONS try to hit them.**

 **Sfx: KZZT**

**PANEL FOUR: KNUCKLES just narrowly avoids a blast as he too jumps through the rapidly-shrinking ring.**

**PANEL FIVE: One quick DECURION snatches the ring just before it vanishes.**

**PANEL SIX: The DECURION holds the ring aloft with interest. NOCTURNE is visible in the background.**

 **DECURION**

Well, men, we may not have captured the invaders, but I know the Imperator would be very interested in this…...

**Caption**

To be continued!