“Regrets”

Page One

Setting: Rouge is on another mission from G.U.N. to recover a Chaos Emerald that has just recently been located. However, she finds competition for the emerald in the form of Scourge and Fiona. Faced with her former business partner and rival, Rouge must rely on not only her wits, but her compassion in order to survive.

Panel 1: Rouge the Bat is trekking through Tropical Jungle, not far from Soleanna. The entire jungle is filled with overgrown trees and lush greenery, making navigating it quite difficult. Fortunately, the one doing the exploring is an expert treasure hunter.

1. Rouge: (thinking) According to the intel, it should be somewhere around this area… I guess I should be happy it’s not the green one.

Panel 2: Rouge unturns a small boulder, hoping to find something underneath but finding nothing.

2. Rouge: (thinking) We just got word that another Chaos Emerald has been spotted around this area. But the ones we don’t have are all supposed to still be in the Special Zone! (include a footnote to Sonic Universe Volume 1, the Shadow Saga) There’s always the possibility that it’s a trap, but leave it to the expert jewel hunter to take that risk.

Panel 3: Rouge looks back and notices a faint blue glow through a hollow tree stump.

3. Rouge: (thinking) Last time I didn’t get to keep the gem (include a footnote to Sonic Universe Volume 6, Treasure Team Tango), I won’t go through something like that… hello…

Panel 4: Rouge looks inside the stump, and sees the blue Chaos Emerald.

4. Rouge: Bingo! That was almost too easy.

Panel 5: A voice speaks from behind Rouge, surprising her.

5. ?: Took the words right out of my mouth, toots.

Title: Regrets

Credits:

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Panel 1: Full shot of Scourge the Hedgehog, accompanied by Fiona Fox. Scourge is holding out his hand gesturing Rouge to give him the emerald. The title and credits will be across the bottom of this panel.

1. Scourge: Good to see you’re still useful for finding emeralds for me, Rouge. (include a footnote to Sonic the Hedgehog #160) Now hand it over.

Panel 2: Rouge looks annoyed at this unexpected setback. She still tries to put on an unconcerned face, though.

2. Rouge: Well now, I wasn’t expecting to see you two again any time soon… if you’re looking to renew our partnership, I’m afraid I’m under new employment. But at least you already have the consolation prize.

Panel 3: Fiona tries to step up to Rouge furiously, but is stopped by Scourge.

3. Fiona: WHAT DID YOU CALL ME?!

4. Scourge: Calm down, babe. I’ve worked with her before, this is her trick. She gets inside your head and then makes off with the goods.

Panel 4: Fiona sheepishly backs off, while Rouge smugly points out Scourge’s hypocrisy.

5. Fiona: R-right… sorry, babe.

6. Rouge: And here we have a classic case of the pot calling the kettle black. You shouldn’t manipulate the poor girl, Scourge. I know better than anyone that she’s been through enough.

Panel 5: Scourge looks somewhat offended by this response, but still tries to keep his cool. Fiona also sides with her boyfriend.

7. Scourge: ‘Scuse me? My girl wanted some excitement in her life, and I gave it to her. She never was cut out to be a goody two-shoes. That’s not my fault.

8. Fiona: That’s right! I won’t be swayed by you or Sonic or anyone else! This is what I want!

Panel 6: A close-up of Rouge’s face, filled with both anger and pity.

9. Rouge: You really believe that, don’t you? You’re still as desperate as ever.

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Panel 1: Rouge glides towards Fiona and delivers a deadly drop kick, which Fiona barely dodges.

1. Rouge: Out of the way!

2. Fiona: Whoa!

Panel 2: Fiona tries to punch Rouge, but she jumps out of the way.

3. Fiona: I won’t let you get away with the treasure this time! Today I finally beat you!

4. Rouge: Beat ME? It’s good to have dreams, hon, but not delusions.

Panel 3: Rouge manages to kick Fiona in the face, sending her reeling backwards.

5. Rouge: Then again, I can hardly understand anything you do anymore. You dumped Sonic for THAT loser?

Panel 4: Fiona covers her nose with her hand, on the verge of tears.

6. Fiona: S-shut up… I tried to be a Freedom Fighter. It didn’t work out. Don’t act like you know everything about me!

Panel 5: Rouge folds her arms and smugly retorts.

7. Rouge: If there’s one thing I know about Sonic, it’s that he treats women with respect. Now that you’re dating his opposite, what did you think was gonna happen?

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Panel 1: Now furious, Fiona charges towards Rouge, who remains unconcerned.

1. Fiona: I said SHUT UP!

Panel 2: Fiona desperately tries to kick Rouge, but she easily avoids it.

2. Fiona: You can’t begin to imagine what I’ve put myself through for him! I assembled a whole team to break him out of prison! And I got myself arrested to save him!

Panel 3: Fiona tries to punch Rouge, but Rouge catches her fist.

3. Fiona: I wouldn’t do all that if I didn’t love him! And he loves me!

Panel 4: Still holding onto Fiona’s fist, Rouge asks a question that hits her like a ton of bricks.

4. Rouge: And where exactly is this perfect gentleman right now in your time of need?

Panel 5: Fiona takes her eyes off of Rouge and looks back in the direction where Scourge is.

Panel 6: Scourge is seen standing against a tree, making no effort to intervene in the fight. He is clearly amused by what he’s watching.

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Panel 1: Fiona yells over at Scourge while he stays lounging against the tree.

1. Fiona: Babe?! What are you doing?! I need some help over here!

2. Scourge: Don’t sweat it, Fi. I’m just enjoying the show.

Panel 2: Fiona is taken aback by this statement, and Rouge uses the distraction to kick her in the stomach.

3. Fiona: “Show”? This isn’t-ooopf!

Panel 3: Now defeated, Fiona lay on the ground while Rouge shifts her attention to Scourge.

4. Rouge: I thought she’d never shut up. Now then, one more to go…

Panel 4: Scourge gets into a fighting position, finally ready to get serious.

5. Scourge: You sure you want to do this, bat-broad? You of all people should know better than to mess with me.

Panel 5: Rouge tightens her gloves, concerned but still determined.

6. Rouge: I don’t let anybody get in the way of me and my jewels. Especially not a lowlife thug like you!

Panel 6: Before Rouge can react, Scourge dashes up at super speed and elbows her in the stomach.

7. Scourge: Fine! Don’t say I didn’t warn you!

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Panels 1-3: Scourge begins to mercilessly beat down on Rouge, similar to how he defeated Locke when he first mutated via the Master Emerald. First he kicks her across the face, then punches her in the stomach, and finally spin-dashes her into the ground.

Panel 4: Scourge stands over the defeated Rouge, noting the familiar situation.

1. Scourge: Huh… déjà vu.

Panel 5: Scourge digs the emerald out of the tree trunk, looking proud of his accomplishment.

2. Scourge: Haha! And to the victor goes the spoils! Just you wait, Sonic. Pretty soon we’re gonna settle things once and for all… and I’ll make sure to bring all your friends along for the ride!

Panel 6: Scourge is seen grabbing Fiona’s unconscious body while holding the emerald up in the air, swirling with Chaos Energy.

3. Scourge: Chaos Control!

Panel 7: Scourge and Fiona warp away in a blinding flash of Chaos Energy, leaving behind an unconscious Rouge.

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Panel 1: Rouge slowly gets up, still in a lot of pain.

1. Rouge: \*cough\* Drat… I let another one get away.

Panel 2: Rouge dusts herself off, thinking about what just happened.

2. Rouge: \*thinking\* This is bad… if Scourge is hunting emeralds, he’ll eventually come after the two that we have right now. And G.U.N. headquarters is still reeling from the last attack. (include a footnote to Sonic Universe Volume 10, Scrambled)

Panel 3: Rouge flies off into the air, heading back to the base.

3. Rouge: \*thinking\* I’ve got to report back immediately and let them know what’s happening. I’m sure Sonic would want to hear that his evil twin and ex are on the loose, too. I will give them this, though…

Panel 4: A shot of Scourge and a now-awake Fiona in a completely different forest. Scourge is still admiring the emerald, paying no attention to Fiona, who is noticeably upset and disturbed.

Rouge: \*caption box\* …Those two idiots deserve each other.