

## You Wouldn't Download A Hedgehog

JD, this could be a risky question, but how do you feel about Sonic the Hedgehog? Keeping in mind this is a **family show**.

In 2011 we got the story of a sonic obsessive who's insatiable desire to chase the golden rings and "go fast" set on a path towards destruction and madness.

Today, we're talking about Sonic.exe, which is a creepypasta, and also the name of the starring entity.

The entity is also called Evil Sonic, X, Demonic Sonic, refers to itself as God, and possibly, will be getting name changed to Xenophanes.

There's a little more story with the last one, we'll get there.

But, let's start with the Creepypasta.

The story was originally posted on August 9th, 2011 by  
JC-the-Hyena

JC-the-Hyena was inspired to write this story by this edited screen capture of the title screen of the 1991 Sonic the Hedgehog game.

<https://i.kym-cdn.com/photos/images/newsfeed/000/650/537/fe8.png>

It shows Sonic doing his signature finger wag with the background edited to look like a sea of blood, and Sonic's eyes are completely black, save for the red pupils and blood dripping out of them.

So from this muse, JC-the-Hyena gave us the story of Tom.

Tom was a kid like any other, with a deep love of Sonic, especially the early Sonic games.

Tom had played them all, and was known by his friends as a bit of a Sonic buff, but he'd never played any hacked or glitched versions of the Sonic games.

One day, Tom got a surprise package in the mail from his friend Kyle while he was playing Sonic Unleashed.

In the package, Kyle had written:

*Tom,*

*I can't take it anymore, I had to get rid of this thing somehow before it was too late, and I was hoping you'd do it for me. I*

*can't do it, he's after me, and if you don't destroy this CD,  
he'll come after you too, he's too fast for me...*

*Please Tom, destroy this god-forsaken disc before he comes after  
you too, it's too late for me.*

*Destroy the disc, and you'll destroy him, but do it quick  
otherwise he'll catch you. Don't even play the game, it's what he  
wants, just destroy it.*

*Please...*

*Kyle*

So Tom examines the disc, it's a CD with the words SONIC.EXE in  
marker written in black marker.

Tom doesn't think that it looks like Kyle's writing and deduces  
that someone else must have given Kyle the disc.

But, seeing the name Sonic, Tom knows exactly what he has to  
do.

Play it.

Tom is hella juiced to get his Sonic on.

Tom gets it running and at first it looks like it's a port of the original 1991 Sonic game.

But when Tom hits start, there's a sudden flash and the image warps, the sky becomes black, the title emblem rusts, SEGA 1991 turns to SEGA 666, and the sea turns red with hyperrealistic blood.

Sonic also warps the the twisted, black eyed version of Sonic we all know and fear.

Tom bravely writes it off as a glitch, and sits through 10 seconds of a black screen.

When the screen comes back on, it's a similarly warped version of the character select screen from Sonic the Hedgehog 3.

But, even more than the blood red background, what freaks Tom out is that Sonic is missing from the select options.

Instead, Tom can pick from Tails, Knuckles, or Dr. Robotnik, Sonic's nemesis. How could this be?

Tom bravely continues on, selecting Tails.

Upon loading in to the classic Green Hill Zone, things seem almost normal, aside from the red palette swap and seemingly reversed music.

As Tom guides Tails forward, he notices that the level seems to be nothing but flat ground.

Tom continues along the flat ground for 5 minutes, and then the music begins to slow down, as does Tail's pace.

Gradually, the animals that Sonic is meant to protect begin appearing on screen, only, mutilated.

JC-the-Hyena gets into some Happy Tree Friends descriptions here I'm gonna leave out.

As Tails walks through the carnage, he looks shocked and horirfied.

But suddenly, Sonic appears on the screen and it seems that everything might be alright. Tails brightens up, but as he approaches Sonic, Sonic doesn't respond, he's just standing with his back to tails and his eyes closed.

But as Tails gets close, the sound of static begins to grow, and finally when Tails is a few pixels away, Sonic's eyes open, revealing black eyes with red pupils.

The screen goes black. And then Tom get's a direct message.

*Hello. Do you want to play with me?*

Tom is terrified, but decides to continue.

The screen now says Hide and Seek, and Tails is dropped into a world of flaming trees and terror.

Tails runs, but Sonic appears flying behind him.

Sonic's whole thing is going fast, and with the power of flight, Tails has no chance.

Sonic catches Tails as he cries on the ground.

The screen cuts to black and then the mesage is

*You're too slow, want to try again?*

Tom can't believe how this hacked game splits from Sonic canon.

Tom continues, refusing to accept the loss of tails.

Until on the character select screen, Tails is no longer selectable, instead, he's at the top of the screen, frozen in terror with black bleeding eyes.

Tom chooses Knuckles, and the level loads as YOU CAN'T RUN.

This time, after running, Knuckles is forced into some form of boss fight against Sonic.

But, it's impossible, Sonic can teleport, he's everywhere and nowhere.

Finally, Knuckles collapses, defeated.

Sonic pounces.

Cut to black.

*So many souls to play with, so little time... would you agree?*

Tom turns the game off.

He tries to sleep, but is haunted by what he's seen and his inability to save Tails or Knuckles.

He finally gets to sleep and dreams of being chased by Sonic, who warns him that he will be joining Tails, Knuckles and his friend Kyle soon.

Tom wakes up, and knows what he must do.

Continue playing.

Tom chooses the final option, Dr. Robotnik.

As Dr. Robotnik walks down a blood-stained hall, red static begins to fill the screen. As Dr. Robotnik reaches Sonic, the screen is completely covered in static for 15 seconds before flashing to black.

Then, suddenly, Sonic appears in close up, his red pupils appear to stare directly at Tom and he smiles, revealing an impossible wide mouth filled with sharp teeth.

The screen cuts to black again.

And then three words.

*I am God.*



Static again, the screen flickers showing Sonic's face again.

Then the words

*Ready for Round 2, Tom?*

Tom hears a laugh behind him.

He loads the game and this time all the characters are blocked out.

Then the computer shuts itself off.

Eventually, Tom is able get the computer back on.

But then he hears a voice behind him

*Try to keep this interesting for me, Tom.*

Tom turns around and sees that one of his many, many Sonic plushies is sitting there staring at him with blood coming out of its eyes.

That's it, that's the end. Even though the story is supposedly told by Tom.

It's garnered some criticism, such as this comment from bigballsboy:

*If i saw the plushy i would just burst into laught like i did while reading this, the throw it out my window. Easy.*

But, despite receiving such criticism, the story grew in popularity.

About a year later, a user named MY5TCrimson released a playable version of Sonic.exe on the indie-game site GameJolt.

Then on May 5th, 2013, the story hit the big time when Pewdiepie posted a playthrough.

10 years later, as we record in 2023 that playthrough has 11 million views, for reference that's nearly half of the average listens for an episode of I Scream You Meme.

There are also over 31 thousand images tagged under Sonic.exe on Deviantart.

This was obviously a huge boost to the game and the creepypasta. In a lot of ways, this was the peak for Sonic.exe.

MY5TCrimson followed it up with a game called Sally.exe, which was based on another creepypasta featuring Sonic, but it was revealed that Sally.exe was pretty blatant plagiarism of an earlier video simply called SONIC [all caps].

JC-the-Hyena did a JK Rowling and tried to follow up the success of the story by writing after the fact to explain the nature of the character.

Here's a quote explaining the origins of Sonic.exe

*Many of you fans speculated that he was God, Satan or a rly powerful demon from Hell, and all your interpretations of my creation have amused and entertained me. But I can assure you that Sonic.exe is none of those things. In fact, he isn't even a creation of God or the Devil. He is an entirely different entity, one that created itself.*

*See, the creature that is Sonic.exe was created in the void, in a gab between dimensions, making him a non-existent outsider in our universe. This creature was born out of pure dark matter in this void, and at the time he had no real namesake nor did he have an actual describable body, it was only until he learned about OUR world that he actually started getting a body. He learned about Sonic the Hedgehog, and was right there and then a big fan of the series and it's character, ESPECIALLY it's character, Sonic.*

In some ways I think this was meant to deflect from comparisons to the creepypasta Ben Drowned, which JD covered in episode 4 of ISYM, Don't Fear the Player, Fear the Game.

Ben Drowned was a haunted cartridge, whereas JC-the-Hyena wanted to make it clear that Sonic.Exe was an entity who existed outside of the CD and game.

Then, on January 14th, 2014, JC-the-Hyena released a blog post announcing that the administrators of the Creepypasta Wiki had decided to remove the Sonic.exe entry from the Wiki.

JC-the-Hyena did not take this move lightly. I'm just gonna read his... manifesto:

*I deeply regret to inform you all that I received some bad news.*

*The Admins of the Creepypasta wiki have finally decided to delete Sonic.exe offa the wiki, on the grounds that it was "badly written" and "had too many cliches" and "was a bad example of what should be a creepypasta".*

*BULL.*

FRIGGIN.

HORSE SHIT.

As you can see I am FURIOUS with the fact that my masterpiece, which has won the hearts of millions and has made a massive impact on the internet, is being brought down by a bunch of jealous, arrogant, **[REDACTED]** FURRY-HATERS.

BUT.

That does not mean I am just going to sit down and take this lightly.

NOOOOOOPE NOPE NOPE NOPE.

They have been messing with the bull, and now they've called out the horns!

Listen everyone, I need your help with this. We are at WAR here. I want every Sonic.exe fan who is reading this to get the word out! I want you to tell every other Sonic.exe fan out there, every fanatic, every artist, every follower of my creation about this. Tell your friends who are also Sonic.exe fans if they have to! Tell them we have to keep the spirit of Sonic.exe alive!

*Make more fanart, make more videos, block the haters, praise Sonic.exe like you never have before, build websites dedicated to his greatness, whatever you gotta do to keep him alive and strong, JUST DO IT.*

*The deletion of Sonic.exe from the wiki is but a minor cut on our flower of greatness, my friends! And that cut has done nothing but further the spreading, and we are the pollen of this flower! We need to prepare for our victory over the Haters! The Haters need to BLEED for their crimes!!*

*Rejoice, my fellow Sonic.exe Fans! Our glorious little Hellspawn shall have the laugh yet!*

*THIS will be his ultimate victory!*

*The absolute subjugation...*

*OF THE INTERNET ITSELF!!!!*

Following the declaration of war, JC-the-Hyena then started blocking anyone who criticized him.

JC-the-Hyena later apologized for his reaction to the removal of the story.

He's since rewritten the story and gotten an updated version posted on the Creepypasta Wiki, where Sonic.exe is explicitly an eldritch entity.

But that rewrite came out in 2017, and since then, there's been some developments.

JD, strap in, and let me put a big allegedly right here for what comes next.

This is a message that JC-the-Hyena allegedly sent on Discord, posted to Twitter by the user who was allegedly messaging them:

*"Oh? XD Yer 14 and you wanted to have sex with a 26 year old magical Hyena who has a macrophilia fetish? XD"*

It goes on from there in a role play type of way. Macrophilia is a giant fetish, and the gist of the fantasy is that JC-the-Hyena is crushing a 14 year old under his giant ass. Allegedly.

After the thread showing this discussion was posted, another accuser said that JC-the-Hyena had sent them porn when they were 13 years old.

So there's an alleged pattern of behavior, and this was enough for ASTRANOMICONX, who is frequently listed as the new owner of Sonic.exe, to completely cut ties with JC-the-Hyena in July, 2021.

It also prompted a name change for future approved appearances of the bloody eyed sonic, Xenophanes.

It seems like so far, this change can be seen in a mod for the rhythm game Friday Night Funkin', where players compete against Xenophanes in a rap battle.

But, the question remains, how successful will this rebrand be?

Sonic.exe is pretty deeply ingrained in internet lore.

As much as JC-the-Hyena may have gotten an ego on him about his creation, he's not totally wrong in that millions of people have been exposed to the character.

And now that we're covering it, what, a couple million more are going to know about Sonic.exe?

I really didn't expect this to be the first topic that deals directly with cancel culture, but here we are.



There's still tons of videos and posts being made, explaining the lore, explaining Sonic.exe's powers and abilities, but it's not until you get deep in the fandoms that you see any real discussions about JC and the need to change the character.

I'm not sure where it's going to go.

There's definitely a move to change the character and distance it from the original creator, but, this is the internet we're talking about.

I found the *Exe Oracle Wiki*, which only has two topic pages, one of which is about Sonic Exe parenteticals (JC the Hyena). The page was created in November 2022.

The page opens with this paragraph:

*"Sonic.EXE, or X (not to be confused with Lord X) is the original character (not to be confused with Xenophanes) created by JC the Hyena. While ASTRANOCOMICONX now owns Sonic.exe, we have chosen to keep him and Xenophanes separate."*

The page also features several depictions of Sonic.exe created by  
JC the Hyena.

It's a small page, on a small wiki, but from the page's history, there have been three editors who are deep into the Sonic OC fandom making changes and updates for months.

If I had to bet on how the schism develops, I think that Sonic.exe will remain the standard name for casual Sonic enjoyers. But I think that the ever expanding world of Sonic OC's will make room for Xenophanes.

In closing, I would like to invite you, JD, and all our listeners to Google your name, followed by + the hedgehog.

### **References**

ASTRANOMICONX on Twitter: "please refer to the tweet below for more info. spread the word. let it be known.  
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