

VIDEO GAME LAND

THE MANIAVERSE



BY: ANTHONY MARK MANIA

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Video Game Land: The Maniaverse
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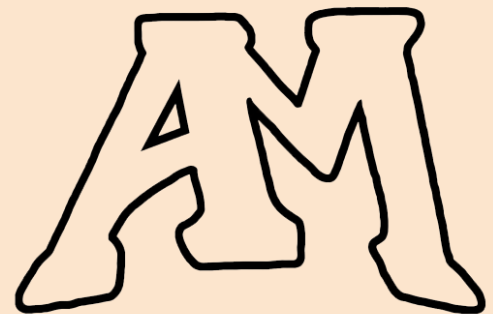
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Dedicated to my younger self. Without your creativity, imagination, and endless stories, none of this would have been possible. Thank you for reminding me to stay true to myself.

PROLOGUE — The Bell

There was nothing.

No sky.

No ground.

No sound.

Not darkness.

Not light.

Just... white.

An endless, silent white that stretched beyond comprehension, as if existence itself had been erased and replaced with something unfinished.

And in the center of it—

Something remained.

A bell.

It floated with no weight, no direction, no purpose. Its surface was smooth, metallic, with a black finish, a long crack engraved into it, and faintly reflective, yet dulled by time—as if it had witnessed things it was never meant to survive.

It did not ring.

It did not move.

It simply existed.

Alone.

For what could have been seconds... or centuries... nothing changed.

Until—

A sound.

Not loud.

Not sharp.

But wrong.

A faint... crackle.

A thin fracture crept along the surface of the crack in the bell. So small it almost didn't exist, like reality itself hesitated to acknowledge it.

Then another.

And another.

The fracture slowly spread, crawling across the bell like veins—uneven, unnatural, alive.

Still... no sound.

Still... no movement.

Until the light came.

At first, it was barely visible.

A dim glow leaking from within the fractures. Not white like the void around it.

Red.

Then purple, then blue, and then yellow all together.

Then something deeper... something that didn't belong to any color that should exist.

The light pulsed.

Once.

Twice.

And then—

The bell twitched.

Just slightly.

As if something inside it had woken up.

Far away—

Or perhaps not far at all—

Something else stirred.

A ripple in the white.

So faint it would have been invisible to anything that wasn't watching closely.

The ripple spread outward, distorting the nothingness around it. The white space bent unnaturally, like a surface being stretched too thin.

The bell cracked further.

This time—

It made a sound.

A low, hollow echo.

...ting...

The sound did not travel.

It did not fade.

It simply... stayed.

Hanging in existence like it had nowhere to go.

The fractures deepened.

The light inside grew stronger.

And with it—

Came something else.

Not a sound.

Not a shape.

A presence.

Ancient.

Restless.

Watching.

Waiting.

The bell rang again.

Louder.

TING.

The white space trembled.

Not violently.

Not suddenly.

But undeniably.

Like something had just knocked on the door of reality itself. The bell began to sway.

Not fast, but not slow.

Then—

It broke.

Not shattered.

Not exploded.

But opened.

The cracks split apart, peeling the bell from the inside out as if something unseen had forced its way through.

From within—

A tear.

A swirl.

Not in the bell.

But in everything.

A jagged, pulsing rift tore through the white space, bleeding red and purple light into the void.

The edges of the tear flickered, unstable, alive, shifting between shapes that refused to stay the same.

Through it—

Things could be seen.

For just a moment.

A flash.

A world of green hills and brick castles.

Gone.

Another flash.

A blue blur racing across endless fields.

Gone.

More flashes.

A civilization of ducks

A terrain filled with magic and creatures.

A world of candy and food.

A mountain in which Monsters were climbing it.

A hand reaching out—

The tear widened.

The white space began to crack with it.

Not breaking—

But unraveling.

Like a story being pulled apart.

And then—

Silence again.

For just a moment.

A single, still moment.

The bell hovered there.

Now broken.

Now open.

Now... awake.

And then—

Everything moved.

The tear expanded violently, ripping through the white void like it had been waiting for this moment.

The light surged outward.

The space twisted.

And across countless worlds—

Something began to pull.

Not gently.

Not slowly.

But all at once.

The Maniaverse—

Had awoken.



Chapter 1 — The Fight That Never Ends

The sky was red.

Not sunset red.

Not fire red.

The kind of red that didn't belong in any world anyone remembered.

Jagged mountains stretched across the horizon, sharp like broken glass, their edges glowing faintly purple as if the ground itself had been cracked open and stitched back together the wrong way. Pieces of land floated in the distance, some upside down, some sideways, some with parts of castles, caves, and buildings stuck into them like someone had taken different worlds and forced them into one. Every piece of matter in this land rippled and warped, appearances and textures constantly changing.

And standing in the middle of it all—

Super Mario, the Italian plumber. Wearing his famous blue overalls, red under shirt, white gloves, and red hat with the letter “M” embroidered onto it.

He looked around slowly, his hands on his hips, mustache twitching slightly.

“...Mama mia...”

His brother Luigi stood a few feet behind him, shaking.

“Mario... tell me this isn't what I think it is...”

Mario didn't answer right away.

Instead, he looked down at the ground, then at the sky, then at the strange broken mountains in the distance.

Then he sighed.

“Yes. I think it is.”

Luigi grabbed his head.

“NOT AGAIN!”

A blue blur shot past them.

“Outta the way!”



Sonic the Hedgehog skidded to a stop, turning around quickly.

“...Okay. Yep. I knew it. I knew it felt like one of those days again.”

Kirby, the cheerful pink puffball, bounced beside him.

“Poyo?”

Sonic crossed his arms.

“Let me guess. None of you know how you got here either.”

Mario shook his head.

“Nope.”

Luigi shook his head faster.

“Nope nope nope nope nope—”

A metallic clank sounded behind them.

They all turned.

Mr. Game & Watch stood there, flat as always, holding his hammer.

Mario squinted.

“...Game & Watch.”

Sonic groaned.

“Oh come on.”

Luigi pointed.

“I knew it! I knew it was him! It’s always him!”

Kirby puffed up angrily.

“Poyo!”

Mr. Game & Watch tilted his head.

Mario walked forward.



“You pulled us into Video Game Land again, didn’t you?”

No response.

Sonic stepped closer.

“Seriously, man. You gotta stop doing this. Every time we finally get back to our worlds, you drag us into another fight. Is this another Smash Bros attempt, or what?”

Luigi looked around nervously.

“...Why does it always look worse each time?”

Kirby nodded.

“Poyo...”

Mario folded his arms.

“Well? You gonna say something?”

Mr. Game & Watch didn’t move.

Didn’t blink.

Didn’t react.

Then slowly... he shook his head.

Everyone froze.

Sonic blinked.

“...Wait.”

Mario frowned.

“What do you mean no?”

Mr. Game & Watch pointed at himself.

Then shook his head again.

“I didn’t do this...”

Luigi's voice cracked.

"Are you sure you didn't...?"

Mr. Game & Watch shook his head one more time.

Silence.

A long silence.

The wind howled across the broken mountains.

Sonic looked around again, slower this time.

"...Okay. That's new."

Mario looked at the sky.

"...If this isn't Video Game Land..."

Luigi grabbed his arm.

"...Then where are we?"

Before anyone could answer—

A loud roar echoed across the battlefield.

Everyone turned.



A huge shadow dropped from the sky and slammed into the ground, shaking the entire area.

Dust flew everywhere.

When it cleared—

Bowser, the Koopa King, and adversary to Mario & Luigi stood there, cracking his knuckles.

"HAHAHAHA! Finally! I was wondering when this fight was gonna start!"

Mario groaned.

"Oh great..."

Bowser pointed at him.

“This time you’re not winning, plumber!”

Another figure landed beside him.

Ganondorf. The grotesque demon-like monster of the Zelda universe.

Then another.

Meta Knight, the dark and fierce warrior from Kirby’s universe, hovering in the air holding his sharp sword.

Kirby’s expression intensified.

Sonic smirked.

“Well... this part at least feels normal.”

Luigi backed up.

“No no no no no no no—”

Bowser roared.

“EVERYBODY FIGHT!!”

And just like that—

Chaos began.

Mario ran forward.

“Let’s go!”

Sonic dashed past him.

Kirby jumped into the air.

Ganondorf swung his sword.

Fireballs flew.

Spin attacks clashed.

Explosions echoed across the red sky.

It looked exactly like every other time.



Exactly like Video Game Land.

Exactly like Smash Bros.

Exactly like it always was.

But something felt wrong.

Very wrong.

Mr. Game & Watch stood still, watching the fight around him.

Not smiling.

Not moving.

Not reacting.

Just watching.

Then—

The ground shook.

Not from the fight.

Something else.

A deep rumble rolled through the battlefield, stronger than any attack.

Everyone stopped.

Mario looked around.

“...Did you feel that?”

Sonic frowned.

“...Yeah.”

The rumble grew louder.

The sky flickered.

The red clouds twisted unnaturally through the sky.

Luigi pointed upward.

“M-Mario...”

Everyone looked.

A crack.

Right in the air.

Purple light leaked from it.

Not like an attack.

Not like a portal.

Something bigger.

Something wrong.

The crack split wider.

Bowser looked over at Ganondorf and Meta Knight as the three of them shared a nod while the chaos ensued. With everyone distracted the three backed away and darted together into the distance, leaving the rest to deal with whatever was about to happen.

Wind blasted outward, knocking everyone back.

Kirby rolled across the ground.

Sonic slid backwards.

Mario shielded his face.

“What is that?!”

Mr. Game & Watch stared at the sky.

For the first time—

He looked confused.

The crack tore open.

Light exploded outward.



And from the center of it—

A figure emerged.

Boots touched the ground.

The light faded.

The battlefield went silent.

Mario lowered his hands.

Sonic squinted.

Luigi hid behind Mario.

Kirby blinked.

The figure stepped forward.

Light brown hair.

Red sunglasses, plaid jacket, and red pants.

Calm expression.

He looked around slowly... like he already knew something was wrong.

Mario whispered,

“...Who’s that?”

The man looked at the sky.

Then at the battlefield.

Then at all of them.

And finally said,

“...This isn’t my world.”

He looked straight at Mario.

“...And this definitely isn’t supposed to be happening.”



He paused.

Then said quietly—

“My powers... they’re gone.”

Silence.

Sonic raised an eyebrow.

“...Okay. Who are you?”

The man looked at him.

“...My name is Tim Tim.”

The sky cracked again.

And this time—

Everyone felt it.

Something bigger than Video Game Land was happening this time.



Chapter 2 — New Alliances

The sky did not settle.

It shifted.

After Tim Tim appeared, a brief silence followed his arrival, and the air itself began to ripple again—like something unseen was breathing beneath reality.

Mario was the first to step forward.

“Alright,” he said, steady but cautious, “start talking. Who are you?”

Tim Tim looked at him—not confused, not intimidated—but focused.

“I told you, my name is Tim Tim,” he said. “And wherever we are... we’re not supposed to be here.”

Sonic crossed his arms, tapping his foot.

“Yeah, we’ve heard that one before... Game & Watch pulls us into some weird arena, we fight, we go home. Rinse, repeat.”

Mr. Game & Watch stepped forward.

“I already assured you that this isn’t my doing this time... and this man before us is no video game character that I’ve ever seen before.”

That stopped everything.

Even Sonic.

Mario turned to him. “You’re sure?”

Game & Watch nodded slowly. “The air here feels different. Like a different dimension or something.”

Luigi swallowed hard. “Different dimension?!”

No one answered.

The ground beneath them gave a low hum.

Kirby looked up. “Poyo...?”

Then—

CRACK.

A thin tear split open in the air behind Tim Tim.

Everyone turned.

The tear widened—not violently, but unnaturally.

Something stepped through.

“Tim Tim?”

Tim Tim’s eyes widened slightly.

“Pig!”

A Pink Pig, with sunglasses, walking on all fours, then standing up to continue walking on two legs, looked around, immediately on guard. “Uhhh where are we Timmy? Is this a new pocket world you made or something?”

Before Tim Tim could answer, another man appeared from around the corner. This man had jeans on and a white shirt with the buttons undone to reveal his six-pack abs. He had blue eyes, however, one of his eyes was a much lighter blue than the other. “Finally, I found you guys, I was starting to worry a little. What’s going on with all this? And why isn’t my hair blue anymore?”

Pig smiled “Jim Wam! You’re here too buddy?”

Tim Tim nodded. “You got pulled too.”

Jim Wam looked around once, taking everything in. “This isn’t our world, is it?”

“No,” Tim Tim said quietly. “And that’s the problem.”

CRACK.

A flash of light—

Another figure emerged, glowing faintly.

An Angel Duck, all white, with a halo and wings, landing lightly beside the group, wings flaring slightly before settling, scanning the area cautiously.

Angel Duck’s expression shifted quickly from relief... to concern.

“I am one of the last Angel Ducks, and I am looking for the Devil... uh where am I?”

Sonic raised an eyebrow. “Okay, now we’ve got a duck from the heavens.”

Luigi took a step back. “My head is really starting to hurt, mama mia”

“Does anyone else want to show themselves?” Sonic annoyingly added

Just then a thin figure tumbled out awkwardly.

“Whoa—hey—!”

Mr. Tootsie Roll, a life sized, sentient Tootsie Roll, with curly hair and a hat, hit the ground and rolled once before popping up.

“...I meant to do that.”

Sonic smirked while face-palming. “Sure you did.”

Behind him, something slowly stepped through a fading tear.

Heavy. Stiff.

The famous Frankenstein monster... perhaps though a more innocent version of the creature in well-known media.

Luigi froze.

“...Nope.”

Frankenstein looked around blankly, then gave a small, confused grunt.

“Uh...”



Pig leaned slightly toward Tim Tim. “This is an interesting group of people.”

Tim Tim nodded.

“Interesting to say the least.”

“Does someone want to say something or are we all going to just stare at each other?” Sonic exclaimed

Mario patted Sonic on the back “Relax Sonic, let’s just stay calm and figure this out”

Before anyone could get the next word in, a familiar voice sounded from the mountain above, “Well, well... this looks like a fun gathering.”

Devil Duck, a pulsing red duck with black horns, landed from above with a smirk, red energy faintly flickering around him.

Behind him—

Satan Duck, a much bigger, and black duck with horns, descended slowly, his presence heavier, quieter, but far more powerful.

The air shifted just from him standing there.

Angel Duck tensed immediately.

“Devil Duck? Satan Duck? This isn’t good...”

Devil Pig stepped out next, a pig with horns, double or even triple the size of Pig.

Pig looked in awe, “Wow that pig is huge... maybe I should hit the gym more”.

Then—

A mechanical whirl.

“Ah, Sonic. Fancy seeing you here.”

Dr. Eggman, Sonic’s tall and curly-headed arch nemesis, floated forward in his machine, arms crossed.

Sonic groaned. “You’ve got to be kidding me.”

“I assure you, I am quite serious.” Eggman snickered back.

Another heavy step.

Dr. Wolf, arch nemesis of Tim Tim, covered in blue fur with his mechanical robotic legs.

His eyes locked onto Tim Tim instantly.

“...So,” he said slowly, “you’re here for our rematch Tim Tim?.”

Tim Tim didn’t flinch. “You never learn, do you.”

Mario stepped forward slightly. “Alright—that’s enough. Whoever you all are—”

“Oh, we know who you are,” Eggman interrupted, waving a hand. “We’ve already seen enough.”

That word hung.

We.

Jim Wam caught it.

“...You all seem acquainted... you guys have been here longer than us, haven’t you?”

Satan Duck smiled faintly.

“Much longer.”

Angel Duck stepped forward, wings tightening slightly.

“What are you doing here?”

Devil Duck chuckled. “Same thing as you. Looking.”

“For what?” Mario asked.

No answer.

Instead—

Satan Duck lifted a hand.

A pulse of energy formed—but flickered, and faded.

He paused.

Angel Duck narrowed his eyes. “Your power doesn’t work here properly... does it.”

Satan Duck’s expression darkened slightly.

“No.”

Tim Tim stepped forward.

“Mine doesn’t either.”

That was the moment it clicked.

Mario looked between them.

“...So this place weakens everyone?”

“Not weakens,” Jim Wam corrected. “Changes the rules of reality... my magical powers are different here too.”

Sonic cracked his knuckles. “Great. Love new rules.”

“Is that why we all look different and my skin keeps changing texture?” Pig questioned.

Eggman sighed. “As entertaining as these questions are, this isn’t why we’re here.”

Devil Duck looked around.

“...They don’t have them.”

Mario frowned. “Have what?”

Dr. Wolf scoffed. “Don’t play dumb.”

Pig stepped forward. “We’re not.”

A pause.

Then—

Without warning—

Devil Duck lunged.

Angel Duck met him instantly—light clashing with dark.

Sonic dashed forward—colliding with Eggman’s machine.

“Missed me?” Sonic remarked with a smirk.



“Unfortunately, no!” Eggman shouted with a laugh.

Mario charged with a fire ball—meeting Devil Pigs fire breath head-on. Their flames clashing furiously.

Frankenstein let out a low roar and stepped forward, swinging heavily at the air, not connecting with anyone.

Luigi ducked behind a rock.

“Yep—hiding here!”

Jim Wam engaged Dr. Wolf immediately.

“You shouldn’t be here; you died a long time ago.”

“Should I know you,” Wolf replied, striking fast.

“No, but I know you and your supercomputer shenanigans that almost killed me” exclaimed Jim Wam.

Tootsie Roll darted between feet, dodging chaos.

“I am way out of my league here!”

Tim Tim stood in the center—watching—calculating.

Everything felt off.

Slower.

Different.

Even the impacts didn’t feel right.

Angel Duck clashed with Devil Duck midair.

“You don’t belong here!” Devil Duck snarled.

“Neither do you!” Angel Duck fiercely replied.

Satan Duck raised a hand again—

A wave of power surged outward—

Then flickered again.



Unstable.

Sonic skidded back.

“Okay—yeah—this place is definitely messed up.”

Then—

Devil Duck landed, stepping back.

“...Enough.”

The villains pulled back.

Not defeated.

Not even tired.

Just... done.

Devil Duck looked around again.

“...They really don’t have them.”

Mario stepped forward. “You keep saying that—what don’t we have?”

A pause.

Then Dr. Wolf smirked.

“The stones.”

Silence.

Luigi blinked. “The... what?”

Tim Tim didn’t speak immediately.

Pig looked at him.

Jim Wam looked at him.

Then—

Tim Tim stepped forward.

“...That’s not good.”

Mario turned to him. “You know what they’re talking about?”

Tim Tim nodded slowly.

Pig crossed his arms. “Yeah... we do.”

Jim Wam looked at the others.

“They’re talking about the 8 orbs of our universe... also known as the 8 stones.”

Sonic frowned. “The what now?”

Before anyone could explain further—

Satan Duck turned away.

“Move.”

The villains began stepping back as another tear portal opened up.

Devil Duck glanced once more at Angel Duck.

“...Good luck” with a cackle.

Then they were gone.

The tear closed.

The battlefield went silent again.

No one moved.

Mario looked around at everyone.

“...Okay.”

He turned back to Tim Tim, Pig, and Jim Wam.

“You’re gonna start talking. Now.”

Tim Tim looked up at the fractured sky.

Then back at them. “...We don’t have much time.”



Chapter 3 — Legend of the Stones

The silence didn't last long.

It never did in a place like this.

The air still felt unstable—like it could tear open again at any second—but no one moved. Not yet.

They were all looking at the same three people.

Tim Tim.

Pig.

Jim Wam.

Mario stepped forward first, steady as ever, even if the situation clearly wasn't.

“...Start talking,” he said. “What power do these stones hold?”

Tim Tim didn't answer right away.

He looked up again—at the fractured sky, the faint glowing cracks that stretched across it like veins.

Then he looked back down.

“They're not supposed to be here.”

Sonic let out a short breath. “Yeah, we got that part. Care to explain the rest?”

Pig stepped forward slightly. “The stones are what hold our universe together.”

Jim Wam nodded. “They aren't just objects. Each one holds immense power—real power.”

Luigi raised his hand slightly. “...Like... how much power are we talking?”

Pig glanced at him.

“Enough to destroy or create everything.”

Luigi immediately lowered his hand. “Great. Awesome. Love that.”

Jim Wam tilted his head. “I actually merged with one of the stones... the Magic Stone. The stone was held in a sword, and once I merged with it, it turned my hair blue and gave me all its powers. But it is not within me anymore... it must be somewhere here with the others”.

Mario crossed his arms. “And you’re telling me those guys—” he gestured to where the villains had disappeared “—are looking for them?”

“It seems so,” Tim Tim said.

“Why?” Sonic asked.

Tim Tim’s expression darkened slightly.

“...Well in my reality, if someone collects them all, they can control reality itself.”

That landed.

Hard.

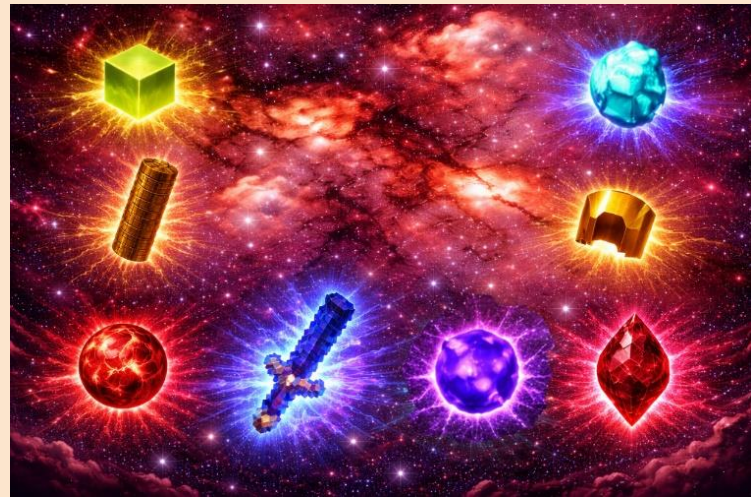
Even Sonic didn’t have a quick response to that.

Mr. Game & Watch spoke next.

“...That sounds familiar.”

Everyone turned to him.

He looked out across the battlefield.



“Powerful object. Brings fighters together. Creates conflict.”

Sonic pointed. “Okay yeah, that’s literally your whole thing.”

“This is different,” Game & Watch said calmly. “I don’t control this.”

Jim Wam stepped in.

“But how do we know that the stone's power even works here... Tim Tim you are a god in our universe... yet your powers seem to be gone.”

Tim Tim glared toward Jim Wam “We don’t know, but if they are looking for them, it must mean something. Besides, no one from that group would even know about the stones' existence... not even Dr. Wolf... which means there must be someone else orchestrating their search...”.

Mario looked between all of them. “You know who is controlling this?”

Tim Tim looked up at Mario “I’m not totally sure... but whoever is in charge of this has powers that even surpass mine”.

Everyone went silent.

Sonic stepped forward “So let me get this straight,” he said, pacing slightly. “We’ve got a bunch of reality-breaking rocks, villains from all our universes already teaming up, and we’re just standing here waiting for them to get ahead?”

Jim Wam responded immediately.

“We shouldn’t rush this.”

Sonic stopped. “We definitely should.”

“No,” Jim Wam said firmly. “If they already know more than we do, running in without a plan puts us at a disadvantage.”

Sonic smirked slightly. “Yeah? And standing still puts us behind.”

“That’s not what I said.” shouted Jim Wam

“It’s basically what you said.” Sonic responded sarcastically

Mario stepped between them.

“Enough.”

They both stopped—but neither backed down.

Mario looked at Jim Wam first.

“You’re right. We need a plan.”

Then he turned to Sonic.

“But Sonic’s right too. We can’t just wait.”

Sonic gave a small nod. “Finally.”

Jim Wam didn’t respond—but he didn’t argue either.

Luigi looked around nervously.

“...I don’t like this. None of this feels right.”



Frankenstein gave a low grunt beside him.

Luigi jumped. “Okay—especially that guy.”

Frankenstein blinked slowly, confused.

Mr. Tootsie Roll leaned over slightly.

“I think he likes you.”

“He does not like me!” Luigi exclaimed.

Angel Duck stepped forward, looking directly at Tim Tim.

“If those stones are here... then this isn’t random.”

Tim Tim nodded.

“It’s not.”

Pig crossed his arms.

“They’re being pulled here.”

“Or brought here,” Jim Wam added.

Mario looked at them. “By who?”

Tim Tim hesitated.

“...I don’t know.”

That answer didn’t sit well with anyone.

Especially Sonic.

“You’re a “god”, so you ‘know everything,’ right?” Sonic said. “Is that not your whole thing?”

Tim Tim looked at him.

“I know what’s possible,” he said. “Not what someone else is choosing to do... especially without my powers right now.”

Sonic held his gaze for a second.

Then looked away.

“...Fine.”

But he didn’t sound convinced.

Angel Duck looked toward where the villains had disappeared.

“They said they already checked here.”

Pig nodded. “Which means they’ve been moving.”

“Together,” Jim Wam added.

Mario exhaled slowly.

“...Then we’re already behind.”

That was the moment everything shifted.

From confusion...

To urgency.

“So, what do we do?” Luigi asked quietly.

No jokes this time.

No sarcasm.

Just a real question.

Tim Tim stepped forward.

“We find the stones first.”

Sonic cracked his knuckles. “Finally.”

Jim Wam shook his head slightly. “We don’t even know where to look.”

“We can figure it out,” Sonic said.

“No—we can’t just guess,” Jim Wam snapped.

“And we can’t just stand here!” Sonic fired back.

Mario stepped in again—but this time, the tension didn't disappear.

It stayed.

Stronger.

Pig spoke up.

“...We split.”

Everyone looked at him.

“That's a terrible idea,” Luigi said immediately.

“It's the only idea,” Pig replied.

Jim Wam nodded slowly.

“If the villains are already searching, they're covering more ground.”

Sonic smirked slightly. “So we cover more.”

Mario hesitated.

Splitting up wasn't ideal.

But neither was doing nothing.

Angel Duck looked at him.

“We're running out of time.”

Mario closed his eyes for a brief second.

Then opened them.

“...Alright.”

That was it.

Decision made.

“We split into groups,” Mario said. “Search different areas. If anyone finds a stone, we regroup.”

“And if we run into them?” Sonic asked.

Mario looked at him.

“Then we handle it.”

Angel Duck stepped forward.

“We need balance in each group. Strength and strategy.”

Pig nodded.

“And someone who knows the stones.”

Tim Tim looked around.

“Alright. We do this evenly.”

He started assigning.

“Myself, Angel Duck, and Tootsie... we’re one group.”

Angel Duck glanced at Tim Tim.

“Sounds good.”

Mr. Tootsie Roll looked around.

“...Okay but if something eats me, I’m blaming all of you.”

Tim Tim turned.

“Jim, Sonic, Kirby, Game & Watch... you’re together.”

Sonic grinned slightly.

“This should be fun.”

Jim Wam didn’t smile.

“We’ll see.”

Game & Watch folded his arms calmly.

Kirby bounced once.

“Poyo!”

Tim Tim looked toward the last group.

“Luigi, Frankenstein, and Pig... you’ll go with Mario.”

Luigi froze.

“...Why me.”

Mario rolled his eyes.

Frankenstein gave another low grunt.

Luigi sighed.

“...I knew this was gonna happen.”

Mario looked at everyone.

“If anyone finds a stone, don’t try to handle it alone.”

Pig nodded.

“Trust me. You don’t want to.”

Tim Tim added quietly,

“And if you see the villains... be careful.”

Sonic smirked.

“I’m always careful.”

Jim Wam looked at him.

“No. You’re fast.”

Sonic smirked.

“Same thing.”

The ground rumbled softly again.

Everyone felt it.

No one said anything.

They all knew.

Something else was moving in this world.

Something ahead of them.

Something watching.

Mario looked at the horizon.

“...Alright.”

He turned back to the others.

“Let’s move.”

The groups began to separate.

Not perfectly.

Not comfortably.

But they moved.

Tim Tim, Angel Duck and Mr. Tootsie Roll slowly made their way toward a cave carved into the side of a jagged mountain.

Jim Wam, Sonic, Kirby, and Game & Watch moved toward a broken structure far off in the distance—something that looked like part of a lab... or a fortress... or both.

Mario, Luigi, Pig, and Frankenstein headed toward a distant ridge where the land shifted from red stone to dark green hills.

Luigi stopped once and looked back.

“...This feels like a bad idea.”

Pig nodded.

“It definitely is.”

Frankenstein kept walking.

Luigi sighed.

“...Yep. Definitely.”

High above them—

where the sky cracked but never fully opened—

a faint glow flickered once.

Then faded.

As if something far away winked at them.

The three groups were now off, in separate directions. Allies stood beside strangers—

as trust was forced where it didn't yet exist—

one thing was already clear.

The villains weren't the only ones being tested.

The heroes were too.



Chapter 4 — Jr. Bowser's Play Room

The land grew stranger the farther each group walked.

Mario led the way for his group, stepping carefully over broken stone that didn't match the ground around it. Pieces of red rock faded into patches of bright green grass, which then suddenly turned into dark purple dirt that looked like it belonged in another world entirely.

Nothing connected the way it should have.

Luigi stayed close behind him.

"I don't like this place," he muttered for the fifth time. "It feels like... like everything got mixed together wrong."

Pig nodded slightly.

"That's because it did."

Frankenstein walked behind them, slow and heavy, his footsteps echoing louder than they should have in the empty air.

Mario kept his eyes forward.

"We just need to find the stones," he said. "Grab them before the villains do and regroup."

Pig looked at him.

"You don't just grab these things; they are filled with immense power that is hard to handle."

Mario glanced back.

"You got a better idea?"

"No," Pig said. "But I know how powerful they are."

Luigi swallowed.

"...Can we maybe find a less powerful stone first?"

No one answered.

The ground sloped upward, forming a jagged hill of cracked red rock. At the top of it, something rose out of the mist.

Mario stopped.

“...You see that?”

Luigi peeked around him.

“...Nope.”

“It’s right there.” Mario said as he pointed forward.

“I don’t wanna see it.” Luigi said while closing his eyes.

Pig stepped forward.

It looked like a castle.

But not quite.

The shape was familiar — tall towers, stone walls, banners hanging from the sides — but the colors were wrong. Parts of it looked like Bowser’s castle, parts of it looked like Peach’s, and parts of it looked like something built out of blocks and toys.

The front gate had a crooked wooden sign hanging above it.

Painted in messy letters:

JR. BOWSER’S PLAY ROOM

Luigi groaned.

“...Of course it is.”

Mario frowned.

“That’s not funny.”

Pig crossed his arms.

“It might be where the stone is.”



Frankenstein gave a low grunt, staring at the castle like it offended him.

Luigi looked at the sign again.

“...Why would Bowser Jr. have a playroom?”

Mario didn't answer.

He was looking at the doors.

Something about them felt wrong.

Like they were waiting to be opened.

They walked closer.

The closer they got, the stranger the place looked.

Blocks floated in the air.

Pieces of lava bubbled in pits that didn't connect to anything.

Broken toys sat scattered across the ground — toy hammers, fake shells, wooden swords, even old masks that looked like they belonged to enemies Mario had fought before.

Pig noticed first.

“...This place is powered by something.”

Mario looked at him.

“You can tell that?”

Pig nodded.

“Yeah. Feels like one of the stones.”

Luigi froze.

“...You're joking.”

Pig shook his head.

“No.”

Mario looked back at the castle.

“...Then this is the right place.”

Frankenstein stepped forward and pushed the door gates open with ease.

It creaked open slowly.

Too slowly.

Like something wanted them to hear it.

Luigi whispered,

“We can still leave.”

Mario shook his head.

“If the villains already know about the stones, we can’t turn around now.”

Pig stared at him for a second.

Then nodded.

“...Alright.”

They stepped inside.

The inside looked even worse.

The floor was covered in giant-colored tiles, like a game board.

Walls were painted bright green and red, but the paint was cracked and peeling.

Huge toy blocks were stacked everywhere, some taller than the towers outside.

A wooden box sat in the middle of the room with the words:

TOYS

written on the side in messy letters.

Luigi looked around slowly.

“...This is the creepiest place I’ve ever seen.”

Frankenstein grunted in agreement.

Pig walked forward carefully.

“Stay sharp.”

Mario nodded.



“Everyone spread out. Look for anything strange.”

Luigi raised his hand.

“Everything here is strange.”

No one argued.

They moved slowly through the room.

Pig checked the walls.

Frankenstein lifted the toy box and looked inside.

Mario walked toward the back of the room, where a long hallway stretched into darkness.

He stopped.

“...You hear that?”

Luigi froze.

“...No.”

Mario held up a hand.

“Shh.”

The sound came again.

Faint.

Echoing.

A voice.

“...Mario...?”

Luigi’s eyes went wide.

“...No.”

Mario stepped forward.

“...Peach?”

Pig turned quickly.

“What?”

The voice came again.

Soft.

Weak.

“...Mario... help...”

Luigi grabbed Mario’s arm.

“That’s a trap. That’s definitely a trap. That is the most trap-sounding thing I’ve ever heard!”

Mario pulled away.

“It’s her.”

Pig shook his head.

“You don’t know that.”

“I know that voice.” Mario said determined

Frankenstein looked toward the hallway, confused but alert.

The voice came again.

“...Mario...”

Mario ran.

“Peach!”

Luigi groaned and chased after him.

“I knew this was gonna happen!”

Pig sighed and followed.

Frankenstein stomped behind them.

They reached the end of the hallway.

A large room opened up in front of them.

In the center of the room stood a lava pit.

Above it, hanging by chains, was a cage.

Inside the cage—

Princess Peach.

Her head was down, her hair covering her face.

Luigi gasped.

“...Oh no.”

Mario ran forward.

“Peach!”

Pig grabbed his arm.

“Wait.”

Mario pulled free.

“She needs help!”

Pig looked around the room.

“...Something’s wrong.”

The floor rumbled.

A low mechanical sound echoed through the walls.

Luigi froze.

“...That’s not good.”

Peach lifted her head slowly.

“...Mario...”

Mario stepped closer.



“I’m here!”

The lava pit beneath the cage began to glow faintly.

Pig’s eyes widened.

“Back up.”

Mario didn’t move.

“I said back up!”

Too late.

Metal walls dropped from the ceiling, covering the door to get out.

A loud, childish laugh echoed through the room.

“Hehehehehe!”

Mario turned.

“...Bowser Jr.”

The lights above flickered on.

On a high platform overlooking the room stood Bowser Jr, holding a round glowing object in his hand.

Beside him floated his henchman, Kamek.

Behind them—

Wario.

Waluigi.

Bowser Jr grinned.

“Took you long enough.”

Pig looked at the glow in Jr’s hand.

“...That’s the stone... the power stone.”

Kamek smiled.

“Oh yes.”

Bowser Jr laughed again.

“Welcome to my playroom.”

Peach suddenly froze.

Her body flickered.

Then twisted.

Then changed.

In her place stood a wooden dummy with a painted face.

Luigi screamed.

“I KNEW IT!”

Bowser Jr pointed down at them.

“Let’s play.”

The stone in his hand flared.

The entire room began to shake.

And metal traps started to come out of the wall. The “fun” was about to begin.



Chapter 5 — The Broken Lab

The farther Jim Wam's group traveled, the less the world felt like a battlefield and the more it felt like a machine that had been ripped apart and carelessly rebuilt.

The mountains behind them slowly gave way to rusted metal cliffs and broken platforms suspended over deep ravines glowing with faint purple light. Thick cables ran through the ground like roots. Some disappeared into the earth. Others rose into the air and connected to shattered towers in the distance. The red-and-purple sky reflected off bent sheets of steel and flickering screens that stood uselessly in the dirt, half buried like ruins from some future that had already died.

Sonic walked ahead of the others, hands behind his head, as if none of it bothered him.

"This place somehow looks worse than the last place," he said.

Jim Wam didn't look at him. His eyes were fixed straight ahead.

"It's close."

Sonic glanced back. "The stone?"

Jim Wam nodded.

He touched the corner of his left eye for just a second. The faint fragment of the Magic Stone that was ingrained in Jim's eye had been bothering him ever since they split off from the others. Not painful. Not exactly. More like pressure. Like something was pulling from inside his skull, trying to turn his face toward a specific direction.

Kirby bounced along at Sonic's side.

"Poyo!"

Mr. Game & Watch walked a few steps behind them, quieter than the others, his face unreadable.

Sonic looked around again. "So, this is your idea of a clue? Follow weird vibes into an ugly robot graveyard?"

"It's more than a vibe," Jim Wam replied.

Sonic smirked. "You sure? Because from where I'm standing, it looks like you're just dramatic."

Jim Wam finally stopped and turned around. "And from where I'm standing, it looks like you've never had to think before moving."

Kirby blinked.

Game & Watch sighed softly. “This again.”

Sonic grinned. “There it is. Was wondering how long it’d take.”

Jim Wam crossed his arms. “You think speed solves everything.”

“And you think thinking solves everything.”

“It solves more than charging straight into a trap.”

Sonic stepped closer. “Funny, because that strategy worked out pretty well for me in my world.”

Jim Wam didn’t back off. “This isn’t your world.”

For a second Sonic’s grin faded. Then it returned, thinner than before.

“Yeah,” he said. “It’s not yours either.”

The air between them tightened.

Kirby looked from one to the other. “Poyo...?”

Game & Watch stepped between them before it could go any further.

“We don’t have time for this.”

Jim Wam looked away first.

Sonic rolled his shoulders. “Fine by me.”

But neither of them sounded finished.

They kept walking.

The metal terrain sloped upward into a broad ridge, and when they reached the top, the structure finally came into full view.

It was enormous.

Part laboratory. Part fortress. Part factory.

A giant building of black steel and cracked glass rose from the ground like it had forced its way up from beneath the earth. One side of it looked rounded and sleek, like Eggman technology. Another side looked colder, more industrial—sharp angles, exposed pipes, platforms, and

observation windows stacked over one another. Near the very center was a tall cylindrical chamber glowing faintly blue from within, its light flashing in uneven pulses.

A half-broken sign hung over the front entrance.

Some of the letters were burnt out, but enough remained to read:

WOLF INDUSTRIES RESEARCH LAB

Sonic let out a short laugh.

“Oh, great. Egghead and Dr. Creepy Wolf dude opened up a lab. That’s not terrifying at all.”

Jim Wam’s expression darkened.

“I recognize this building.”

Game & Watch looked at him. “Is it Dr. Wolf’s?”

Jim Wam nodded once.

“He used labs like this before.”

Sonic cracked his knuckles. “Then good. Saves us the trouble of looking.”

Jim Wam turned to him sharply. “Don’t just run in.”

Sonic threw his arms out. “Why not? Giant evil lab. Bad guys inside. Seems pretty straightforward.”

“Because straightforward gets you killed,” Jim Wam assured back.

“And your version gets us stuck outside talking about it while they win.”



Game & Watch gave Sonic a flat look. “You enjoy being difficult.”

Sonic smirked. “Only when it’s easy.”

Kirby raised one stubby arm and pointed toward the building.

“Poyo!”

They all looked.

The front door—if it could still be called that—was already open.

A long corridor stretched into the building, dimly lit by red warning lights that pulsed like a heartbeat.

Jim Wam frowned.

“They want us inside.”

Sonic tilted his head. “Maybe they’re just polite.”

“No,” Jim Wam said. “They’re trying to bait us.”

“Still going in.” Sonic shrugged off.

Jim Wam stared at him for a second, then looked to Game & Watch.

Game & Watch folded his arms. “We go in. Carefully.”

Sonic pointed at himself. “That’s what I said.”

“Whatever,” Jim Wam muttered.

They entered anyway.

The air inside the lab was colder than outside. It smelled like smoke, oil, and something sharper beneath it—burnt wiring, maybe, or chemicals. Long cables ran overhead, some sparking. The walls were lined with cracked monitor screens. Some still flickered with static. Others showed fragments of maps, readouts, and surveillance images of places that clearly did not belong in the same world.

Mario’s castle.

A cave from somewhere else.

A grassy field.

A city skyline.

The world had been mapped. Studied.

That meant one thing.

“They’ve been here longer than us,” Jim Wam said quietly.

Sonic’s face hardened. “Yeah. We noticed.”

Game & Watch stopped in front of one of the broken screens.

On it was the image of Mr. Game & Watch’s bell.

Not clearly—just for a flicker—but enough.

His eyes narrowed.

Kirby looked up at him. “Poyo?”

Game & Watch didn’t answer.

They moved deeper into the facility.

The corridors forked and overlapped in ways that didn’t fully make sense. One hall opened into an observation room with shattered windows overlooking a lower chamber full of old mechanical arms. Another led to rows of broken test tubes, some still glowing faintly from within. One of them contained nothing but a silhouette burned into the glass, like something had once stood there for a very long time.

Jim Wam slowed.

His eye burned slightly.

He touched it again.

Sonic noticed. “It reacting?”

“Yes.” Jim Wam affirmed.

“To the Magic Stone?” Sonic questioned.

Jim Wam nodded.

Game & Watch looked around the room. “Then it’s here.”



The floor beneath them hummed.

Then the lights went out.

For one second, the entire lab went black.

Kirby gasped. “Poyo!”

Then red emergency lights snapped on all at once, washing everything in a dark crimson glow.

A voice came over the lab speakers.

Slow. Controlled. Familiar.

“Well. I was wondering when you’d arrive.”

Jim Wam’s jaw tightened.

“Dr. Wolf.”

A camera in the corner rotated toward them.

Wolf’s voice gave a soft, almost amused chuckle.

“It’s good to see you again, Jim.”

Sonic looked up at the speaker. “Yeah? Funny, I was just about to say the opposite.”

Another voice cut in immediately.

“Oh please. As if anyone asked you.”

Sonic groaned. “Eggman.”

A hidden panel in the far wall slid open with a hiss.

Dr. Eggman floated out in his machine, grinning smugly.

Beside another platform, Dr. Wolf emerged from the shadows, levitating, hands behind his back, expression calm and unreadable as ever.

Behind them, motionless at first, stood a third figure.

The Assassin; the former henchman to Mr. Game & Watch in Video Game Land.

Wrapped in pale cloth and shadowed from head to toe, he tilted his head slightly the moment he saw Game & Watch.

The room grew still.

Sonic pointed at Eggman. “Really? Him?”

Eggman spread his arms. “What can I say? Strange new universe, strange new alliances.”

Wolf’s eyes stayed on Jim Wam.

“You tracked the signal well. Better than I expected.”

Jim Wam stepped forward. “Where’s the stone?”

Wolf smiled faintly. “Straight to business. My supercomputer warned me that you’d be like this”

“Answer the question.” shouted Jim Wam

Eggman rolled his eyes. “Honestly, Jim, can’t you enjoy the reunion for even a second?”

Sonic stepped up beside him. “Nah, he’s right. Skip to the part where we wreck your stuff.”

Eggman sneered. “Still relying on speed to compensate for a complete lack of intellect, I see.”

Sonic grinned back. “Still relying on giant machines to compensate for literally everything, I see... cute.”

Game & Watch said nothing.

The Assassin looked at him and finally spoke.

His voice was rough and low.

“You left me for dead.”

Sonic blinked. “Okay, wow. Lotta history in this room.”

Game & Watch looked at the Assassin evenly. “You chose your side.”

The Assassin took a slow step forward. “You used me.”

Game & Watch’s expression didn’t change. “You were never under my control.”

“That’s not how I remember it.” the Assassin snapped back with.

Kirby looked around nervously. “Poyo...”

Jim Wam ignored the others. His eye was burning harder now.

The Magic Stone was here.

Close.

Somewhere in the lab.

Wolf noticed his reaction immediately.

“You can feel it, can’t you?”

Jim Wam stared at him.

Wolf smiled. “I find it so fascinating. That little fragment in your eye. Such a small piece of power, and yet it changed everything about you.”

Sonic glanced at Jim Wam. “You wanna tell me what he’s talking about?”

Jim Wam didn’t take his eyes off Wolf.

“Later.”

Wolf folded his hands behind his back again. “You don’t seem surprised I know.”

“You studied me.” Jim Wam said with a fierce stare.

“Knowledge is true power” snarled Dr. Wolf.

Sonic stepped forward. “Okay, enough creepy scientist talk. Where’s the stone?”

Eggman tapped the side of his machine. “Somewhere you’re not getting to.”

Sonic smirked. “Wanna bet?”

Eggman’s grin widened.

“Actually... yes.”

He pressed a button.

A loud metallic screech echoed from the upper level.

Panels split apart overhead.

Then something dropped from the darkness and landed hard between them, crouched low, metal claws digging into the floor.

Red eyes lit up.

Sonic's smile faded.

"...Metal Sonic."

The machine straightened slowly.

Eggman laughed. "You didn't think I'd come here unprepared, did you?"

Sonic stepped forward, his tone changing immediately. "He's mine."

Jim Wam didn't argue with him.

Wolf finally moved, descending from his platform with measured steps.

"And you," he said to Jim Wam, "are mine."

The Assassin looked at Game & Watch.

"No one interferes."

Game & Watch nodded once. "Agreed."



Kirby looked left, then right, then left again.

“Poyo?”

Sonic pointed without looking back. “Just help whoever needs it, little guy.”

Kirby puffed out his chest proudly.

“Poyo!”

For half a second, no one moved.

Then all at once—

Everything broke.

Sonic launched forward in a blur of blue, slamming into Metal Sonic so hard that both of them shot across the chamber and crashed through a row of monitors.

Eggman shouted, “Get him!”

Metal Sonic immediately recovered and rocketed back into the air, forcing Sonic to chase.

At the same moment, Jim Wam rushed Wolf.

Wolf moved less like a scientist and more like someone who had always been waiting to prove he was more than one. Wolf’s metal robot legs not only enhanced him physically but drove power into his body.

Their strikes met hard.

Jim Wam aimed low; Wolf blocked and twisted, driving him toward a steel table that shattered on impact.

Across the room, the Assassin and Game & Watch collided with far less noise but far more focus. It was not a fight built on rage or speed. It was surgical. Precise. Old. The assassin hurled small knives at Game & Watch, as he blocked them and flipped out of the way.

Kirby looked around once, eyes wide, then sprinted toward Sonic just in time to inhale a barrage of flying debris before it hit him. He swallowed, puffed up, and launched it all right back at Metal Sonic.

“Poyo!”

Metal Sonic took the hit and spun sideways through the air.

Sonic landed beside Kirby for a split second. “Heh. Nice one.”

Then he was gone again.

Jim Wam and Wolf crashed through another doorway into a lower chamber.

The room below was filled with glass cylinders and suspended machinery, all glowing faintly under the red lights. Jim Wam struck first, fast and controlled, but Wolf already seemed ready for everything he tried.

“Without your Magic Stone power you are nothing to me... my supercomputer has installed every martial arts style in the world into my brain,” Wolf exclaimed.

Jim Wam blocked a strike and forced him backward. “You forget I trained with a thousand-year-old martial arts master for years... I know a thing or two about fighting myself.”

Wolf smiled. “And you still can’t control those fragile emotions of yours.”

Up above, Sonic and Metal Sonic blurred through the chamber like two weapons trying to out-reflect each other. Eggman shouted directions from the back while staying just out of reach.

“Left! No, your other left! Why do I have to do everything myself?”

Sonic skidded around a pillar. “You built a robot version of me and it still needs instructions? Sad.”

Eggman pointed furiously. “Destroy him!”

Game & Watch ducked beneath the Assassin’s blade and answered with a clean, brutal hit from his hammer, sending the masked figure sliding across the metal floor.

“You were always too dependent on anger,” Game & Watch said.

The Assassin rose again.

“And you were always too dependent on others.”

Their fight resumed immediately.

Kirby bounced between battles, helping wherever the line looked weakest. He blocked one of Wolf’s machines from activating, slammed a dropped wrench into one of Eggman’s drones, and nearly got sliced by the Assassin before Game & Watch shoved him clear.

“Stay back,” Game & Watch said.

Kirby blinked. “Poyo...”

Then the lights flickered.

Once.

Twice.

Everyone felt it.

Not a power surge.

Something else.

Jim Wam stopped mid-step.

His eye burned.

Hard.

Wolf saw the reaction and smiled.

Sonic landed, breathing harder now, Metal Sonic hovering across from him with both arms converting into weapons.

“What now?” Sonic muttered.

A low mechanical hum began somewhere deeper in the lab.

The floor vibrated.

Eggman slowly grinned.

“There it is.”

Jim Wam, who had now made it back to the main floor of the lab with Dr. Wolf, looked toward the far end of the chamber.

A sealed blast door was beginning to open.

Very slowly.

Cold mist rolled out from inside.

Behind the mist—

a shadow.

Tall.

Broad.

Still.

Wolf adjusted his vest.

“You really are too late.”

Jim Wam’s voice dropped.

“...It can’t be.”

The red lights stopped, as a blue light flared from the opening of the chamber.

The hum deepened.

And from within the chamber, something moved.

Although only a shadow was visible, in the figures hand was a glowing blue sword... the Magic Stone.



Chapter 6 — The Ruins of Time

The land changed again.

Where the battlefield had been broken stone and twisted metal, the cave that Tim Tim's group went through led them into a terrain of cracked white rock, worn smooth as if it had existed long before any of the other worlds were pulled into this one.

Tall pillars rose from the earth ahead of them, some standing straight, others broken in half, their tops floating in the air like gravity had forgotten how to work. Strange symbols glowed faintly along the stone, pulsing in slow, uneven rhythms that didn't match anything natural.

Tootsie stopped walking.

"...Okay, this place is definitely haunted."

Angel Duck didn't look back.

"It's not haunted."

Tim Tim spoke quietly.

"It's mystical."

Tootsie blinked.

"...That's worse."

They continued up the stone path, which twisted between the ruins like it had been carved by something that didn't care about straight lines. Pieces of broken staircases floated beside them, leading nowhere. Fragments of walls hung in the air, connected only by thin cracks of glowing light that flickered like lightning frozen in place.

Tootsie reached out and poked one of the floating stones.

It didn't move.

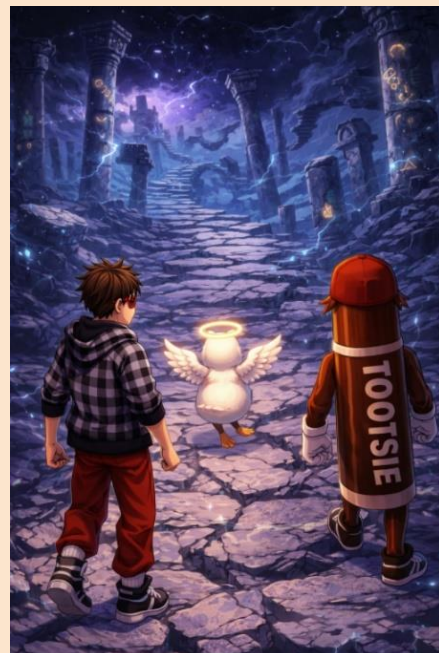
"...I don't like when rocks don't follow rules."

Tim Tim stopped.

His eyes narrowed slightly as he looked ahead.

Angel Duck noticed immediately.

"You feel something?"



Tim Tim nodded.

“Yes.”

Tootsie looked between them.

“...Feel what?”

“The stone,” Tim Tim said.

Tootsie groaned.

“Of course it’s the stone. It’s always the stone. Why can’t we look for something normal like a key or a sandwich or something?”

Tim Tim ignored him.

“It’s close.”

Angel Duck folded his wings slightly as they walked.

“This place... it doesn’t belong to one world.”

Tim Tim shook his head.

“No. It belongs to all of them.”

They reached the top of the path.

Ahead of them stood what looked like the remains of a temple, its roof long gone, its walls cracked open to the sky. A massive circular platform sat in the center of the ruins, covered in symbols carved deep into the stone.

Above the platform, suspended in the air, was a glowing shape.

Faint.

Red.

Flickering.

The Time Stone.

Tootsie’s eyes widened.

“...Okay. That one looks important.”

Angel Duck stepped forward slowly.

“It is.”

Tim Tim didn't move.

Something felt wrong.

Not the stone.

Something else.

Watching.

Waiting.

The air shifted.

A low wind moved through the ruins, even though the sky above was perfectly still.

Tootsie rubbed his arms.

“...You guys feel that?”

Angel Duck stopped.

“Yes.”

Tim Tim turned.

“They're here.”

A voice echoed across the temple.

“Well... well... well...”

Dark energy formed at the far end of the ruins, twisting together until three figures stepped out of the shadow.

Devil Duck cracked his knuckles.

“Took you long enough.” he cackled

Beside him, Satan Duck descended slowly, his wings folding behind him as his feet touched the ground. His presence alone made the air feel heavier.

And beside them—

Devil Pig.

Devil Duck looked at Angel Duck first.

“...Of course you’d be here.”

Angel Duck stepped forward.

“You don’t have to do this.”

Devil Duck smirked, but it wasn’t as confident as before.

“You always say that.”

Tootsie leaned toward Tim Tim.

“...Please tell me these guys aren’t also after the stone.”

Tim Tim didn’t answer.

His eyes were locked on Satan Duck.

The air trembled.

Satan Duck took a deep breath.

“My power is not... complete.”

Tim Tim spoke.

“Neither is mine.”

Devil Duck cackled.

“It doesn’t matter. We don’t need full power to beat you.”

Tootsie took one step back.

“I feel like we definitely need full power.”

Devil Duck looked at the floating stone.



“So that’s it.”

Angel Duck moved in front of it.

“You’re not taking it.”

Devil Duck hesitated for just a second.

Just long enough for Angel Duck to notice.

“You don’t have to follow him.” Angel Duck stated.

Satan Duck’s eyes shifted slightly.

Devil Duck didn’t look away from the stone.

“...Enough with the speeches.”

Angel Duck shook his head.

“You’re not like him.”

The ground beneath the temple began to glow.

The symbols around the platform lit up one by one, the same red light as the stone spreading across the cracks in the floor.

Tim Tim looked down.

“...It’s activating.”

Tootsie looked at his feet.

“...That sounds bad.”

The Time Stone flickered brighter.

The air twisted.

For a split second, the ruins around them changed.

Older.

Newer.

Broken.

Whole.

Then normal again.

Tim Tim's voice dropped.

"This place is unstable."

Satan Duck smiled faintly.

"Good."

He stepped forward.

"So are you."

Angel Duck raised his wings.

"Then come take it."

Devil Duck moved beside Satan Duck.

Devil Pig grinned.

Tootsie looked at Tim Tim.

"...So this is the part where we run, right?"

Tim Tim stepped forward instead.

"No, we fight."

The wind picked up.

The stone glowed brighter.

The ruins shook.

And the fight was about to begin.

Satan Duck moved first.

He lifted his hand, dark energy forming around his fingers as the air twisted toward Tim Tim.

Tim Tim raised his arm instinctively.

A pulse of light shot from his hand, colliding with the dark energy in the air between them.

The explosion of power sent cracks racing across the stone floor.

Tootsie ducked behind a broken pillar.

“OKAY— yeah— that’s too much power already!”

Satan Duck smirked faintly.

“This will be interesting.”

Tim Tim smiled back “This isn’t my first rodeo pal”.

Satan Duck rushed forward.

The ground shattered beneath his feet as he slammed into Tim Tim, the two of them crashing through one of the floating pillars, sending pieces of stone spinning through the air.

Angel Duck flew forward at the same time—

—and Devil Duck intercepted him.

Their wings collided in midair, feathers and sparks flying as the two were pushed backward across the temple.

Angel Duck locked eyes with him.

“You don’t have to fight me.”

Devil Duck gritted his teeth.

“You don’t get to say that to me.”

Angel Duck held his ground.

“You’re not meant to be like him.”

Devil Duck swung his arm, dark red energy slashing across the air.

“You made me this way.”

Angel Duck blocked the attack with a burst of light, the two forces clashing in the sky above the ruins.

Behind them, Devil Pig cracked his neck and looked around... spotting Mr. Tootsie Roll.

Tootsie froze.

"...Why do I feel like that means me."

Devil Pig charged, shooting flames out his mouth directly at Mr. Tootsie Roll.

Tootsie yelped and jumped sideways as the ground exploded where he had been standing.

"HEY! PERSONAL SPACE!"

Devil Pig shot flames again, smashing a chunk of the temple wall into pieces.

Tootsie ran in circles around a pillar.

"I am not built for this kind of cardio!"

He grabbed a loose stone and threw it.

It bounced off Devil Pig's head.

Devil Pig stopped. Slowly turned. And growled loudly

Tootsie smiled nervously.

"...I tried?"

Above them, the Time Stone flickered violently.

The air twisted.

For a moment—

everything froze.

Tim Tim and Satan Duck hung in midair.

Angel Duck and Devil Duck were locked in place.

Dust stopped falling.

Tootsie blinked.

"...Uh... guys?"



The world snapped back to normal, unfreezing everyone.

The ruins shook harder than before.

Cracks of glowing red light spread across the platform under the Time Stone.

Tim Tim looked up.

“It’s now or never”

Satan Duck looked at the stone.

“Indeed.”

He raised both hands—

—but the energy flickered again.

His expression changed.

“...This world is resisting my power.”

Tim Tim used the distraction to charge and uppercut Satan Duck hard, following with a spinning back kick to hurl him down into the rubble of the battlefield.

“It’s not resisting mine,” Tim Tim sarcastically responded back.

Devil Pig charged straight toward the platform.

Tootsie ran after him.

“Nope nope nope nope nope— not letting you get the shiny thing!”

He tripped on a broken step.

Fell forward.

Slid across the temple .

...and crashed directly into Devil Pig’s legs.

Both of them went down.



Angel Duck forced Devil Duck back with a burst of light, while Satan Duck staggered from Tim Tim's last attack, his power flickering again as the unstable air around the temple pulsed.

For the first time since the fight started, the heroes had the advantage.

Satan Duck looked around, breathing heavily.

"...This isn't good."

Angel Duck raised his wings, light gathering around him.

"It's over. Leave the stone and go."

Satan Duck's eyes narrowed, but before he could respond—

The ground shook once again.

Not from the fight.

From beneath the temple.

Everyone froze.

A loud cracking sound echoed through the ruins as the stone floor at the far end of the platform split open, chunks of rock lifting into the air as blue light poured out of the crack like smoke.

Tootsie jumped back.

"...Okay that is definitely not normal!"

A figure rose from the glowing opening, levitating upwards.

A glowing blue cow-like figure wearing a crooked crown stepped forward.

King Mooshroom.

He looked around at the chaos, then at the floating Time Stone above the platform.

"...Wow."

He chuckled.

"So this is what everyone's fighting over."

Devil Duck groaned.

“Oh come on. Him again?”

Tim Tim frowned.

“I’ve heard stories about you.”

King Mooshroom smirked.

“What can I say....”

Before anyone could react, he flew forward, jumping, then reaching up—and grabbing the Time Stone first.

The moment his hand touched it, the entire temple flashed red.

Time twisted.

Tim Tim tried to move—

—but his body slowed.

Angel Duck’s wings froze mid-motion.

Devil Duck’s attack hung in the air like it had been paused.

Tootsie blinked slowly.

“...Why... is... everything... moving... weird...”

King Mooshroom laughed, the Time Stone glowing in his hand as red energy wrapped around his arm.

“HAHA! Now THIS is power!”

He swung the stone in the air, and the world lurched again.

The heroes struggled to move, their movements slowed like they were trapped underwater.

Satan Duck growled.

“...You... dare... use... that...”

King Mooshroom grinned.

“Hey, I found it first.”



He pointed the glowing stone toward Tim Tim, turning Tim Tim into a younger version of himself, as he manipulated time.

“Let’s see how strong you are when time says no.”

Tim Tim forced himself forward one step, the air resisting him.

“This stone... doesn’t belong to you...”

King Mooshroom raised it again—

—but before he could use it—

A loud metallic clang echoed across the ruins.

Something slammed into King Mooshroom from the side, knocking him off his feet and sending the Time Stone flying out of his hand. As King Mooshroom landed hard on the ground, his skin turned back to the usual red and black color that Mooshrooms typically are.

The time distortion shattered instantly, as Tim Tim turned back to his normal age.

Everyone stumbled forward as the world snapped back to normal speed.

The Time Stone bounced across the platform and stopped near the edge of the ruins.

King Mooshroom rolled across the ground and looked up angrily.

“...What the—”

A heavy foot stepped onto the stone in front of him.

King Cow stood there, gold sword resting on his shoulder, his eyes locked on King Mooshroom.

“I leave you alone for five minutes...”

He kicked the Time Stone away from King Mooshroom and picked it up.

“...and you try to mess with time.”

King Mooshroom groaned.

“You again...”

King Cow pointed his sword toward him.

“You picked the wrong fight.”



Angel Duck landed beside Tim Tim.

Tim Tim caught his breath, staring at the stone in King Cow's hand.

"Be careful King Cow... that thing is unstable."

Devil Duck stepped back beside Satan Duck, watching carefully.

Satan Duck's eyes narrowed.

"...Ready for round 2?."

Tootsie looked around nervously.

"...Why does every round get worse?"

The wind howled through the broken temple.

Heroes on one side.

Villains on the other.

King Cow holding the Time Stone between them.

And the ruins trembling as if they were being held together by a thread.



Chapter 7 — Giga Bowser

Back in Jr. Bowser's Play Room, the floor dropped again.

Mario barely had time to jump as a square of stone beneath his feet suddenly vanished, revealing even more bubbling pits of lava below. He landed hard on a moving platform that began sliding across the massive room like a toy train track.

"Seriously?!" Luigi yelled, clinging to a swinging chain above the lava. "Who designs a room like this?!"

High above them, sitting on a ridiculous throne made of oversized toy blocks, Bowser Jr. kicked his feet happily.

"My playroom! That's who!"

He pointed his paintbrush dramatically.

"And you guys are losing!"

Around the room, massive gears turned, conveyor belts shifted, and mechanical cannons shaped like Koopa heads fired giant rubber balls that exploded into clouds of smoke when they hit the ground.

Kamek floated beside Bowser Jr., his wand glowing as the Power Stone hovered on top of a magical platform above the center of the room. Blue and purple lightning from the stone flowed into the machines around them, powering every mechanism.

Mario ducked another cannon shot.

"Pig! Luigi! Frankenstein! Any ideas?!"

Pig wiped soot off his face.

"Yeah! Don't get hit!"

Frankenstein grabbed a spinning metal bar as it swung toward him and ripped it out of the mechanism, sending gears flying across the room.

Luigi dropped beside them, panting.

"Okay! Good news! I found the off switch!"

Mario brightened.

"Where?!"

Luigi pointed up.

“...Right next to Bowser Jr.”

Mario sighed.

“Of course it is.”

Above them, Wario and Waluigi leaned against a control panel covered in glowing buttons.

Waluigi scratched his head.

“So uh... what does this one do?”

Wario shrugged.

“Press it.”

Waluigi slammed the button.

A giant boxing glove on a spring shot out of the wall and punched Wario across the room.

Wario bounced off a spinning platform and fell into a pile of toy blocks.

“...Wrong one.”

Kamek waved his wand and the floor began shifting again.

Moving platforms spun around the room while sections of the ground flipped upside down like giant puzzle pieces.



Pig skidded across a conveyor belt.

“Mario! The stone’s powering everything!”

Mario looked up.

The Power Stone pulsed above them, glowing brighter every second.

“If we shut that down, the traps stop!”

Frankenstein stomped forward, dodging a cannonball.

“Then we take it.”

Bowser Jr.’s grin widened.

“Oh no you don’t!”

He swung his paintbrush and a giant metal cage dropped from the ceiling, trapping Pig and Luigi inside.

Luigi grabbed the bars.

“Oh come on!”

Pig kicked the door.

“This is cheating!”

Mario launched himself upward using a spring platform, landing on a rotating gear and sprinting toward the stone.

Kamek noticed immediately.

“Oh no you don’t, plumber!”

His wand flashed.

A wave of purple magic slammed into Mario mid-jump, knocking him backward into the spinning gears below.

Frankenstein roared and grabbed a giant toy hammer off the wall, hurling it like a missile.

Kamek barely dodged as the hammer smashed into the control panel beside him.

Sparks exploded everywhere.

Waluigi blinked.

“...That didn’t look good.”

Wario leaned over the broken panel.

“Ooo what’s this button do—”

He pressed it.

The entire room tilted sideways.



Everyone slid across the floor as lava sloshed violently in the pits below.

Mario grabbed a pipe sticking out of the wall.

“WARIO!”

Wario looked down.

“...Oops.”

Wario pressed the button again, rotating the room back to normal, as everyone regained their footing.

Suddenly the massive doors at the far end of the room, which were locked shut by metal walls, burst open.

A deep, furious roar shook the chamber.

Bowser stomped into the room.

Every trap stopped for a moment.

Bowser Jr.’s face lit up.

“Dad!”

Bowser looked around at the chaos — the broken traps, the smashed machines, the lava pits, and Mario and the others fighting their way through the room.

His eyes burned with rage.

“MARIO!”

Mario groaned.

“...Long time no see Bowser.”

Bowser Jr. pointed dramatically at the heroes.

“They’re trying to steal our Stone!”

Bowser looked up.

The glowing orb floated above the center of the room, still crackling with energy.

He smiled slowly.

“Oh... are they?”

Mario jumped down beside Pig and Luigi, as he flung a fire ball to break their cage open and free them.

“Guys... this just got worse.”

Bowser Jr. snapped his fingers.

“Get them, Dad!”

Bowser roared and charged forward, smashing through spinning platforms and traps alike. Mario and Frankenstein barely dodged as his claws slammed into the floor, cracking the floor beneath them.

Pig, using the limited powers he had in this world, launched an energy attack that exploded against Bowser’s shell.

It barely slowed him down.

Bowser Jr. laughed.

“Not so tough now, huh?!”

Mario clenched his fists.

“Everyone! Stop Bowser before he reaches the stone!”

But Bowser was already leaping upward.

He jumped high and grabbed the floating Power Stone with both hands.



For a moment, the room went silent.

Kamek shouted in panic.

“My lord! The stone is unstable!”

Bowser didn’t care.

He landed back down and stared at the glowing gem.

Then, with a wicked grin—

He drove the stone straight into his chest.

The Power Stone attached to his body.

For half a second... nothing happened.

Then the room exploded with light.

Bowser roared as cracks of molten energy spread across his shell. His body grew larger... and larger... until he towered over the entire playroom.

His claws grew like blades.

His horns doubled in size.

His eyes burned like fire.

He was now Giga Bowser.

Luigi’s jaw dropped.

“...Oh no.”

Mario took one step back.

“That’s new.”



Giga Bowser slammed his fist into the floor.

The entire room shook.

Mario, Luigi, Pig, and Frankenstein were thrown backward by the shockwave as the traps exploded and machines collapsed.

Giga Bowser roared again and unleashed blasts of red and blue fire that covered the entire chamber.

Pig rolled behind a broken platform.

“We can’t fight that!”

Mario gritted his teeth.

Bowser Jr. pumped his fist.

“YES!”

Kamek quickly waved his wand, opening a swirling portal behind them.

“It’s time to depart.”

Bowser Jr. jumped through first.

Kamek followed.

Giga Bowser stepped backward into the portal, his massive form barely fitting through as the swirling light began to close.

Mario lunged forward.

“Wait!”

But the portal snapped shut.

The playroom fell silent.

Smoke drifted through the broken chamber.

Luigi sat up slowly.

“...We lost.”

Mario stared at the empty space where Bowser had been.

“...Yeah.”

Pig brushed debris off his glasses.

“They have the Power Stone now.”

Frankenstein crossed his arms.

“Then we get it back.”

Luigi sighed.

“I really hope the other groups are doing better than we are.”

Across the room, Wario and Waluigi crawled out from under a pile of debris.

Waluigi dusted himself off.

“...So uh... we still got the control panel.”

Wario grinned.

“Ooo let’s press one more button.”

Luigi turned.

“NO—”

Too late.

Wario slammed the biggest glowing remaining button on the panel.

The broken machines sparked violently.

For a moment... nothing happened.

Then the air in front of the machine ripped open.

Not like a normal portal.

Like paper being torn.

A jagged green crack appeared in the air.

Something moved on the other side.

A strange echoing laugh drifted through the tear.

“...Heh heh heh...”

Mario froze.

“...What was that?”

Luigi slowly backed away.

“I don’t think we want to find out.”

The tear in reality quickly snapped shut.

Luigi turned back over to Waluigi and Wario, “If you two knuckleheads touch one more button, I will come up there AND STRANGLE YOU TWO!!! YOU HEAR ME?”

The room fell quiet again.

Pig stared at the empty air.

“...What do we do now?”

Mario looked toward the shattered doorway leading out of the play room.

“I don’t know”.

Far away in the Maniaverse, forces were already moving.

And the heroes had no idea what to do next...



Chapter 8 — The Secret Weapon

The lab lights flickered violently.

Sparks fell from the ceiling as the broken machines in the center of the room groaned and shook, metal panels bending outward as energy pulsed through the wires like lightning trapped inside the walls.

Jim Wam slowly lifted his head.

His eye began to glow faintly.

“...No...”

Sonic looked over at him.

“What now?”

Jim Wam didn’t answer.

He was staring at the center of the lab.

At the glowing doorway of the opened chamber.

Something inside the smoke moved.

Kirby tilted his head.

“Poyo...?”

Mr. Game & Watch shifted slightly, his flat shape flickering in the flashing light.

A low metallic sound echoed through the room.

A scraping.

A dragging.

Then—

A figure stepped out of the smoke.

Tall.

Damaged with scars, burns, and ragged gear.



But standing.

In his hand was a long blue sword, its blade glowing faintly as cracks of light ran through it. In the center of the blade, embedded near the guard, a crystal burned with bright blue energy.

The Magic Stone.

Jim Wam's eye flared.

"...Karto."

The figure stopped.

Slowly lifted his head.

Karto's eyes glowed the same color as the stone in the sword.

"...You're still alive." exclaimed Jim Wam.

Sonic crossed his arms.

"You know this guy?"

Jim Wam didn't look away.

Karto stepped forward,
the sword humming in his hand
as the stone inside it pulsed.

"You feel it, don't you?"

Jim Wam clenched his fist.

"...The Magic Stone."

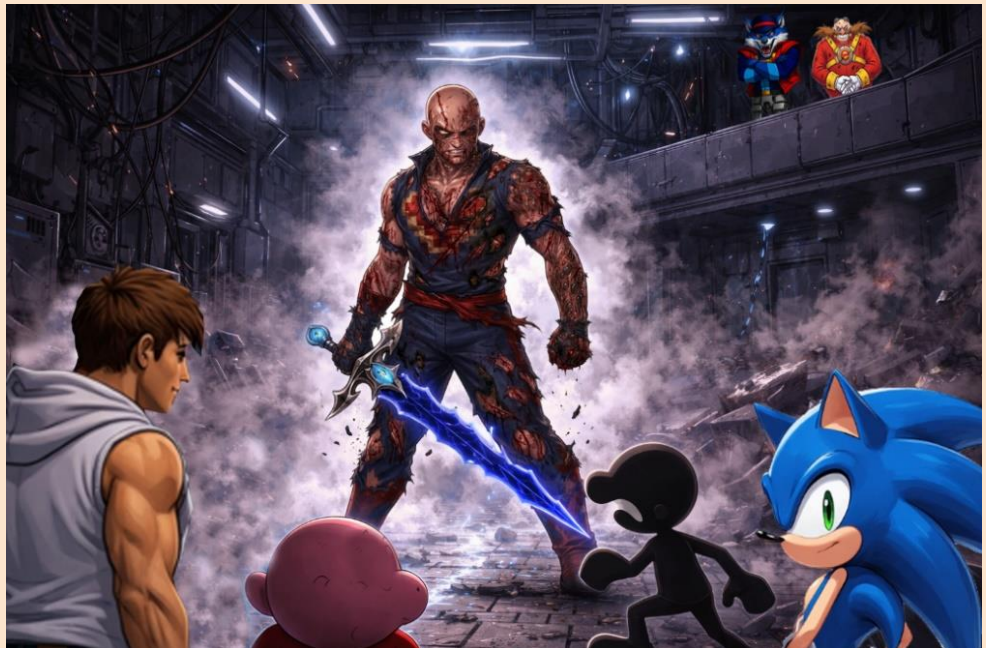
Kirby looked between them.

"Poyo?"

Dr. Wolf laughed.

"Oh yes... the Magic Stone."

Eggman grinned beside him.



“And thanks to it, our friend here is stronger than ever.”

Sonic frowned.

“Okay, seriously, what is that thing?”

Jim Wam’s voice dropped.

“That sword... has the stone inside it.”

He stared at Karto.

“The power of that stone created him... it is the catalyst of his power”

Karto smiled faintly.

“Correct.”

He lifted the sword slightly.

Blue energy crackled across the blade.

“I was born from it, and now I am reunited with it once again.”

The lab lights flickered harder.

Karto’s voice echoed through the room.

“I am reborn to my full power once again.”

Jim Wam’s eye burned brighter.

“I already defeated you”

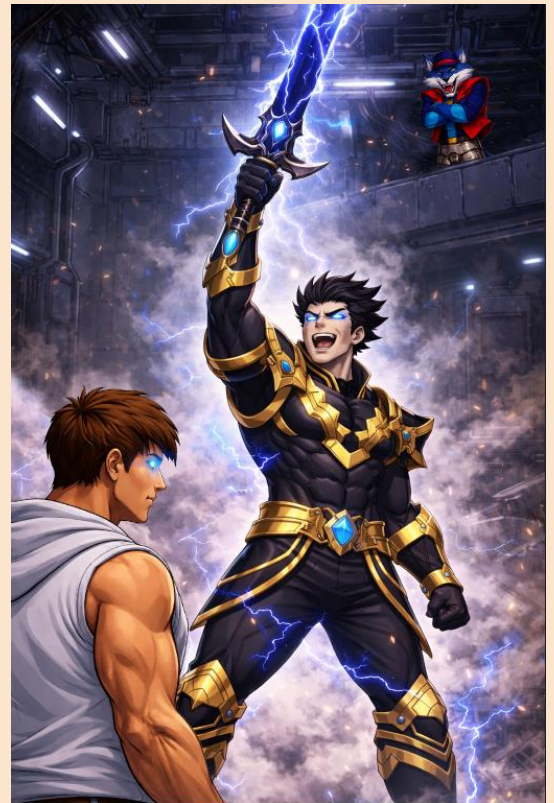
Karto tilted his head.

“You got me when my back was turned... not this time”

Karto squeezed the sword as he lifted it into the air, laughing manically as blue power surged through his body and he began to transform. Gold armor covered his body, as his hair grew back, and his scars disappeared.

Sonic cracked his knuckles.

“Cool backstory, but to be honest... I don’t really care.”



He stepped forward.

Jim Wam grabbed his arm.

“Don’t.”

Sonic frowned.

“What?”

Jim Wam kept staring at Karto.

“He’s stronger with that stone than all of us combined... and don’t forget, our powers are limited in this world, while the Magic Stone seems to be working fine.”

Karto moved.

In a blur.

He crossed the room instantly and slammed the sword into the floor in front of them, sending a shockwave through the lab that threw Sonic backward and knocked Kirby off his feet.

Metal tables flipped.

Screens shattered.

Game & Watch slid across the floor and hit the wall with a metallic clang.

Sonic pushed himself up.

“...Okay.”

He wiped his mouth.

“He’s stronger.”

Karto pulled the sword out of the ground.

The Magic Stone glowed brighter.

“You still have a piece of it.” Karto muttered as he pointed at Jim Wam’s eye.

“That’s why you can feel me.”

Sonic blinked.

“...A piece of what?”

Jim Wam didn't answer and stepped forward.

“I'm ending this.”

Sonic rolled his shoulders.

“Took you long enough.”

Jim Wam glanced at him.

“...Don't slow me down.”

Sonic smirked.

“Try to keep up.”

They charged together.

Karto swung the sword.

The blade clashed with Jim Wam's strike while Sonic spun around behind him, hitting him with a high-speed kick.

Karto slid backward one step.

Then smiled.

“Better.”

Kirby bounced forward, swinging his arms as he floated toward Karto, while Game & Watch lunged in with his hammer, flattening and snapping back as he struck.

Karto blocked both attacks with the sword.

The Magic Stone flared.

Energy exploded outward.

Dr. Wolf shouted.

“Yes! The stone is stabilizing him!”

Eggman pointed.

“Finish them!”

Metal Sonic landed back in front of Sonic.

“Target... Sonic.”

Sonic groaned.

“...Of course.”

Metal Sonic lunged.

Sonic dashed forward.

The two collided in a blur of sparks.



Behind them, the Assassin appeared again from the shadows, blades flashing as he attacked Mr. Game & Watch, the two silhouettes clashing silently as sparks flickered in the dark.

Kirby rolled across the floor and charged back toward Karto.

Jim Wam stood firm.

“You’re not taking that stone.”

Karto raised the sword.

“It was never yours.”

The Magic Stone blazed.

He slammed the blade into the ground again.

The shockwave blasted everyone backward.

Sonic hit the wall.

Kirby tumbled across the floor.

Game & Watch slid across the platform.

Jim Wam dropped to one knee, his eye glowing painfully.



Dr. Wolf, now standing next to Eggman, whispered something in his ear... and then motioned to Metal Sonic and the Assassin to stand back as Karto continued the assault on the heroes.

Karto walked forward slowly. The sword humming in his hand.

“You can’t win here.”

Sonic pushed himself up.

“...Maybe not alone.”

Jim Wam looked at him.

Sonic held out his hand.

“...You ready to stop arguing?”

Jim Wam stared at him.

Then nodded once.

“...Fine.”

They stood side by side.

Both facing Karto.

Sonic smirked.

“Now this feels right.” Sonic and Jim Wam both charged at Karto again. This time with Jim Wam going around Karto to hit him from behind while Sonic used his speed to strike from the front... effectively catching Karto off guard and striking him in the face, making him bleed from the mouth.

Karto lifted himself off the ground growing angrier by the second, as energy gathered and pulsed from him and the sword.

The lab shook violently... as Dr. Wolf had seemingly got a transmission from his phone.

Dr. Wolf shouted.

“Alright that is enough, they are ready, and we have the stone! Pull back!”

Eggman slammed a switch.

A portal opened behind them.

Karto grabbed the sword tightly, the Magic Stone glowing brighter than ever.



He looked at Jim Wam one last time.

“This isn’t over.”

Eggman jumped through the portal.

Dr. Wolf followed

Karto turned around and entered.

Metal Sonic vanished in a flash.

The Assassin leapt backward into the light.

The portal snapped shut.

Silence filled the lab.



Smoke drifted through the broken machines.

Sonic sat down against the wall.

“...Man... I hate losing.”

Kirby flopped onto the floor.

“Poyo...”

Game & Watch stood still, staring at the empty space.

Jim Wam looked at his hands.

Then at his glowing eye.

“They have the Magic Stone now.”

Sonic sighed.

“...Yeah.”

He looked toward the shattered doorway.

“And I’ve got a bad feeling that there’s much more to come.”

Chapter 9 — Hope is Lost

Back at the temple ruins, everyone was at a standstill as King Cow held the Time Stone.

The stone began to pulse as King Cow tightened his grip on the orb.

A low hum filled the air.

The red light extended up his arm.

“...This thing doesn’t like being held.”

Tim Tim stepped forward.

“Relax your mind. Just—”

The world slowed.

Dust froze in the air.

The wind stopped mid-gust.

Everyone’s movements dragged.

King Cow looked around.

“...What in the—”

King Mooshroom lunged.

He slammed himself into King Cow’s arm, knocking the Time Stone loose.

The moment the stone left King Cow’s hand—

Time snapped forward again.

The crystal levitated in the air.

King Mooshroom grabbed it.

“I got it this time!”

The ruins flickered.

For a split second, everything rewound.



King Cow stumbled backward to where he had been before.

Angel Duck's wings snapped back into place.

Tootsie blinked.

"...Did we just go backwards?!"

King Mooshroom laughed as the stone glowed in his hand.

"Oh this is GOOD."

He raised the stone.

The sky above the temple cracked open like glass, flashes of different moments flickering across it—broken ruins, whole ruins, ruins covered in fire, ruins covered in snow.

Tim Tim's eyes widened.

"The stone's ripping time apart!"

Devil Pig charged with a roar.

He slammed into King Mooshroom, knocking the crystal out of his hand again.

The stone slid across the temple once more.

This time Angel Duck got to it first and picked it up.

The glow changed instantly.

The air calmed.

The cracks in the sky slowed.

Time steadied.

Angel Duck looked at the stone in his hand.

"...This power isn't meant for any of us."

Devil Duck landed in front of him.

"Then give it to me."

Angel Duck shook his head.

“You don’t want this.”

Devil Duck hesitated.

For just a second.

Angel Duck lowered his voice.

“You don’t have to keep doing this.”

Devil Duck looked away.

Satan Duck’s voice cut through the air.

“I am over your shenanigans you stupid Angel Duck.”

He stepped forward.

“Give me the stone.”

Angel Duck tightened his grip.

“No.”

Satan Duck raised his hand.

Dark energy gathered—

Angel Duck threw the stone.

Tim Tim caught it.

The moment the crystal touched his hand—

The world vanished.

White.

Silent.

Tim Tim stood alone.

No ruins.

No battle.



No sky.

Just endless white space.

In front of him, something floated.

A bell.

Cracked.

Glowing.

A flash—

A computer screen.

Hands typing.

Words appearing.

Worlds forming.

Worlds disappearing.

Mario.

Angel Duck.

Jim Wam.

Pig.

All fading.

Then returning.

Then fading again.

Tim Tim's own hands on the keyboard.

The bell breaking.

Everything turning white.

The vision shattered.

Tim Tim gasped as the battle snapped back around him.

He staggered.

Angel Duck grabbed his shoulder.

“What did you see?”

Tim Tim shook his head slowly.

“...Something we’re not supposed to know yet.”

Satan Duck lunged.

Tim Tim raised the stone.

Time warped again.

The ruins flickered between moments.

Everyone moved at once—

King Cow struck Mooshroom.

Angel Duck pushed Devil Duck back.

Devil Pig crashed into a pillar.

Satan Duck stumbled.

For the first time—

The heroes had the advantage.

Mr. Tootsie Roll looked around.

“...We’re winning?!”

Tim Tim stepped forward, holding the stone tightly.

“Let’s end this now!”

Angel Duck raised his wings.

King Cow lifted his sword.



Satan Duck growled.

“No, this is not supposed to be happening.”

Devil Duck rushed forward... and as he did, Mr. Tootsie Roll did too

Tim Tim turned—

“Tootsie, stay back—”

Tootsie ran forward anyway.

“I got it! I got it!”

He slipped on a loose piece of stone and rolled forward.

His foot kicked Tim Tim’s arm, and the crystal flew out of Tim Tim’s hand.

It bounced across the floor.

Hit the platform.

Flashed.

Time shattered.

The ruins flickered between past and future.

Everyone froze for a split second again.



Satan Duck moved first, racing towards the stone and grabbing it.

The glow turned dark red and green, and the sky cracked open above them.

Angel Duck shouted.

“No!”

Satan Duck stepped backward, the air twisting around him.

“You’ve lost.”

Devil Pig grabbed King Mooshroom and pulled him back.

Devil Duck hesitated.

He looked at Angel Duck.

For a moment... he almost stayed.

Satan Duck's voice cut through the noise.

"Now."

Devil Duck clenched his fists.

Then stepped back.

A portal ripped open behind them.

Satan Duck held the Time Stone up as the wind roared through the ruins.

"We'll be seeing you again."

They vanished into the light.

The portal snapped shut.

Silence.

The temple stopped shaking.

The sky steadied.

Only the broken ruins remained.

Mr. Tootsie Roll slowly sat down.

"...I think that one was my fault."

No one answered.

Tim Tim stared at the empty space where the portal had been.

"They have the time stone now, and who knows how many others they have"

King Cow lowered his sword.

"That means this fight just got a lot bigger."

Angel Duck looked at Tim Tim.



“...What did you see?”

Tim Tim didn't answer right away.

He looked up at the cracked sky.

Then spoke quietly.

“...I'm not sure... but I think it might have been the end.”

The wind moved through the ruins again.

Far away, something was waiting.

And the Maniaverse was getting closer to breaking.



Chapter 10 — The Throne in the Void

In an isolated part of the Maniaverse, darkness stretched endlessly in every direction.

Floating pieces of broken stone drifted slowly through the air. Far below, nothing existed but a swirling black void, cracked with faint lines of red and purple light that pulsed with a dark aura.

At the center of the emptiness stood a ruined castle.

Its towers were broken.

Its walls were cracked.

Its throne room was open to the sky, the ceiling torn away as if something far too powerful had forced its way inside long ago.

Inside the throne room, shadows moved.



One by one, portals began to open.

The first tore through the air in a flash of orange fire.

Bowser stepped out, his claws scraping against the stone floor as the Power Stone remained embedded in his chest. Bowser Jr. jumped down behind him, followed by Kamek floating silently at his side.

Bowser looked around the broken hall.

“...This place better be worth it.”

Another portal opened behind them.

Metal sparks flew as Eggman stepped through, adjusting his glasses while Dr. Wolf followed beside him. Metal Sonic landed with a metallic clang behind them, its red eyes glowing as it scanned the room.

Eggman smirked.

“Well... this doesn’t look friendly.”

A blue aura split open in the air at the end of the portal.

Karto stepped out slowly, the blue sword in his hand humming as the Magic Stone embedded in its blade pulsed faintly. Behind him, black smoke followed as the Assassin slipped silently taking his place near the wall without a word.

Another portal ripped open.

Satan Duck descended from the darkness, wings spread wide with the glowing red Time Stone gripped tight in his hand. Devil Duck and Devil Pig landed beside him. Devil Duck looked around carefully, his expression unreadable.

“...So this is where he resides.”

A rumbling sound echoed through the chamber as another section of the air split open.

King Mooshroom stumbled through, brushing dust off his crown.

“Alright... whoever dragged me here better have a good reason.”

Behind him, more shapes stood in the shadows.

Meta Knight.

Ganondorf.

Herobrine.

King Creeper.

Ender King.

Tom Tom.

The Goose King and Goose Queen.



Other villains from different worlds, different battles, different stories.

All of them gathered.

All of them silent.

All of them waiting.

At the far end of the throne room, a massive stone platform rose above the floor.

And on it...

Sat the throne.

For a moment, it looked empty.

Then the shadows behind it shifted.

A towering figure stepped forward slowly, his form barely visible in the dim light as cracks of glowing energy ran across his body like veins of fire beneath stone.

The air itself seemed to bend around him.

Every villain in the room felt it.

Power.

Ancient.

Heavy.

Godly.

The mighty Godactus.

The most powerful villain of the Tim Tim Universe.

No one spoke at first.

Even Bowser stayed quiet.

Godactus looked down at them all, his glowing eyes moving from one to another.

“...You have all done well.”



His voice echoed through the broken castle like thunder rolling across mountains.

Eggman folded his arms.

“You’re the one who called us here.”

Godactus nodded slowly.

“Yes.”

Kamek floated forward slightly.

“We gathered the stones, just as we were told.”

Satan Duck lifted his hand, the Time Stone glowing faintly in his grasp.

Karto raised his sword.

The Magic Stone pulsed inside the blade.

Bowser reached into his chest and pulled out the glowing stone that burned with raw energy.

The Power Stone.

Godactus watched them carefully.

Then he lifted one hand.

The five other stones rose into the air beside him, floating slowly around the throne, each one glowing with a different color.

The villains stared.

Dr. Eggman blinked.

“...Wait a second.”

“You already had the others?!”

Godactus said nothing for a moment.

Then began to move.

The throne cracked beneath his feet as he stepped down from the platform.

“The stones were never meant to be separate.”

He walked slowly toward them.

“They belong together.”

Wolf narrowed his eyes.

“And what exactly happens when they are?”

Godactus stopped in the center of the room.

All eight stones floated in the air around him now, circling slowly like planets around a star.

Power filled the throne room.

The walls trembled.

The void outside the castle flickered.

“When the stones are united... power becomes one.”

Karto tightened his fist.

“...And that power belongs to us.”

Godactus looked at him.

For a moment, his glowing eyes burned brighter.

“Yes.”

His voice lowered.

“It will.”

Bowser grinned.

“Then let’s stop talking and use them already.”

Godactus raised his hand slightly.

“Not yet.”

The stones stopped moving.



The air grew still again.

“There is one more step.”

Satan Duck tilted his head.

“What step?”

Godactus turned away from them, looking out into the endless void beyond the broken walls.

“This world is unstable.”

Cracks of light flickered across the sky.

“It needs to be stabilized, or else this power will destroy it, and all of us.”

He turned back toward them.

“When the time comes... I will call on all of you again.”

Eggman frowned.

“So what, we just wait?”

Godactus nodded.

“Yes.”

Bowser snorted.

“I don’t like waiting.”

Godactus’s eyes glowed brighter.

“You will.”

Silence filled the room.

One by one, the villains began to step back toward the portals that had brought them there.

Bowser grabbed Bowser Jr. by the shoulder.

“Fine. But next time we take the power and destroy Mario.”

Eggman turned, waving his hand.

“Don’t keep us waiting too long.”

Karto said nothing, only watching Godactus for a moment before stepping into the shadows.

Satan Duck opened a dark portal, Devil Duck hesitating for half a second before following him through.

King Mooshroom jumped into his portal last.

Soon, the throne room was empty.

Completely silent.

Only the broken castle remained.

And Godactus.

The eight stones floated slowly in the air around him.

Their light reflected across the cracked floor.

Godactus raised his hand.

The stones moved closer.

Closer.

Circling him. His voice echoed quietly in the empty throne room.

“...This time...”

The stones began to spin faster.

“...I will not lose control.”

The light grew brighter.

“...This world... and all worlds will belong to me.”

The castle trembled.

The void outside split with a faint crack of white light.

Godactus looked toward it and smiled.

Chapter 11 — A Flicker in the Sky

The mountain countryside and grass-filled landscape was quiet for the first time since the Maniaverse had opened.

The red and purple sky hung low above the broken land, clouds drifting slowly over the jagged mountains and shattered ruins that stretched in every direction.

One by one, the heroes gathered in the center of a cracked plateau.

No one spoke at first.

Mr. Game & Watch stood with his arms crossed, staring at the sky.

Sonic paced back and forth.

Jim Wam leaned against a broken pillar, his glowing eye dim but steady.

Kirby sat on a rock, quietly watching everyone.

Tim Tim, Angel Duck, and Mr. Tootsie Roll walked up from one side of the plateau, while Mario, Luigi, Frankenstein, and Pig climbed up from the other.

King Cow landed heavily behind them, sword resting on his shoulder.

Several of the others immediately turned.

Luigi blinked.

“...Uh... who’s the cow?”

King Cow raised an eyebrow.

“King Cow.”

Sonic looked him up and down.

“...Okay, but like... king of what?”

“The Cow Kingdom.”

Exclaimed King Cow.

Frankenstein nodded once.

“Fair.”



Sonic smirked.

“I leave for five minutes, and you guys pick up a farm animal.”

King Cow pointed the sword slightly toward him.

“I helped save their lives.”

Sonic shrugged.

“Cool. Still weird.”

Jim Wam sighed.

“Can we focus?”

Everyone went quiet again.

Mario finally spoke.

“They got all the stones.”

Pig nodded slowly.

“All eight most likely.”



Tim Tim looked up at the sky.

“And we don’t even know what they’re planning with them.”

Angel Duck folded his wings.

“Whatever it is... it’s not small.”

Luigi rubbed the back of his neck.

“So what now? We just... wait for them to come back and destroy everything?”

Frankenstein crossed his arms.

“We fight.”

Sonic stopped pacing.

“Yeah. I like that plan.”

Jim Wam looked at him.

“We don’t even know where they are.”

Sonic smirked.

“Then we find them, the same way we just found the stones.”

Jim Wam smirked back slightly.

“...Try to keep up this time.”

Sonic chuckled.

“No promises.”

Mr. Tootsie Roll sat down on the ground.

“I vote for the plan where we don’t almost die again.”

Pig sighed.

“That would be nice.”

Mario stayed quiet, staring at the ground.

Mr. Game & Watch stood nearby, silent as always, still staring at the sky, his flat shape barely moving in the wind.

Mario slowly looked up at him.

“...Hey.”

Game & Watch tilted his head.

Mario walked closer.

“There’s something I forgot to ask you.”

Everyone looked over.

Mario crossed his arms.

“In Video Game Land... last time... all this started because of that bell of yours.”

Game & Watch didn't move.

Mario continued.

"You said the bell disappeared after I broke it."

Game & Watch nodded once.

Mario looked around at the others.

"...What if this is happening because of it again?"

The group went quiet.

Pig blinked.

"The bell?"

Angel Duck frowned.

"Wait... what bell?"

Sonic looked at Mario.

"I kinda remember something about a bell the last time this happened, wanna explain that one?"

Mario pointed at Game & Watch.

"He had this magic bell. It could pull people from different video games into one world, mess with reality, all that stuff."

Mr. Tootsie Roll groaned.

"Of course there's a magic bell. Why wouldn't there be a magic bell."

Tim Tim looked at Game & Watch.

"...Where is it now?"

Game & Watch shrugged.

"It disappeared when Mario rang and cracked it. We were all sent back to our homes and the bell was gone."

Luigi blinked.

“...That doesn't help.”

Mr. Tootsie Roll groaned.

“Well that's great, of course there's a bell right on top of that mountain, but the one we need disappeared...”

Everyone suddenly turned towards Tootsie, as if they had just seen a ghost.

“Hold up Chocolate man, let's take it back a couple steps... what did you just say?” Sonic exclaimed.

Tootsie looked annoyed now, “No need to be rude Hedgehog man, I'm just saying that it's a cruel joke that there is a glowing bell right up there when the one we need is gone.” Mr. Tootsie Roll pointed up as he said that. Far away, past the broken plains, a tall dark mountain rose into the sky, its peak disappearing into the clouds.

Everyone's heads turned again. For a second, no one noticed anything.

At the very top of the mountain, something faint flickered.

A small white light.

Blinking.

Cracked.

Tim Tim's eyes widened slightly.

“...No way.”

Angel Duck stared at it.

“Is that it?”

Mario stepped forward.

“The bell.”

Luigi blinked.

“You're kidding.”

Mr. Game & Watch nodded.

“Yup that's it... but it didn't used to glow like that.”



Pig looked at Tim Tim.

“The stones are powerful... but not powerful enough to bring us all here... that might be the real force we need.”

Sonic crossed his arms.

“So what, we just climb a mountain now?”

Jim Wam shook his head.

“We don’t all go.”

Everyone looked at him.

He stepped forward.

“We split up.”

Mario frowned.

“Again?”

Jim Wam nodded.

“The villains have the stones. They’re not just sitting around. Someone needs to find them before they make their next move.”

Sonic smirked.

“Guess that’s us.”

Jim Wam looked at him.

“...Guess so.”

King Cow stepped forward.

“I’ll go with you.”

Sonic shrugged.

“Sure. Why not. We got a cow, a hedgehog, and a glowing eye guy. Sounds like a team.”

Kirby raised his hand.

“Poyo!”

Luigi sighed.

“I’m not going up another mountain.”

Tootsie pointed at the bell.

“I am DEFINITELY not going up there.”

Pig looked at Tim Tim.

“You are.”

Tim Tim nodded slowly.

“Absolutely.”

Angel Duck stepped beside him.

“So am I.”

Mario looked at the mountain again.

“...That bell started this mess. I’m coming too.”

All eyes turned to Mr. Game & Watch.

He didn’t hesitate.

He simply started walking toward the mountain.

Tootsie pointed.

“...Well I guess that answers that.”

Jim Wam looked at Tim Tim.

“You sure about this?”

Tim Tim nodded.

“I need to see that bell.”

Jim Wam smirked slightly.

“Then we’ll handle the villains.”

Sonic cracked his knuckles.

“Try not to break reality while we’re gone.”

Tim Tim gave a small smile.

“No promises.”

The group split apart.

Sonic, Jim Wam, King Cow, Kirby, Luigi, Frankenstein, and Mr. Tootsie Roll headed toward the broken plains.

Tim Tim, Angel Duck, Pig, Mario, and Mr. Game & Watch walked toward the mountain.

High above them, the cracked bell flickered faintly at the peak.

The wind howled across the battlefield.

The Maniaverse was dividing again.

And this time...

Both paths were leading straight toward the end.



Chapter 12 — The Door in Oblivion

The mountain was taller than it looked from the bottom.

The ground became steeper the higher they climbed, the red stone slowly turning dark, almost black, as if the rock itself had been burned by whatever power sat at the top. The wind howled around them, carrying pieces of dust and fragments of broken terrain that floated in the air longer than they should have.

No one spoke much as they climbed.

Mario walked in front, arms crossed, eyes locked on the peak.

Pig followed beside Tim Tim, glancing up every few seconds.

Angel Duck flew low instead of walking, his wings barely moving, as if the air itself felt heavier here.

Mr. Game & Watch walked silently behind them, his flat shape flickering slightly with every step.

Tim Tim was the only one who didn't look at the mountain.

He was staring at the sky.

"... I can feel its power," he said quietly.

Pig looked at him.

"Is it really more powerful than the stones?"

Tim Tim looked at Pig.

"I'm not sure yet..."

They reached the final ridge.

And stopped.

At the top of the mountain, sitting alone on a cracked circle of stone, was the bell.

It was larger than before.

Much larger.



The metal was split with glowing cracks that ran from top to bottom, light pouring out from inside like something was trying to escape. The air around it warped and twisted, pieces of the sky flickering in and out of existence behind it.

A low humming sound echoed across the peak.

Mario stared.

“...That’s it.”

Mr. Game & Watch tilted his head, then slowly pointed at the bell.

He looked at Mario.

“You had to crack it, didn’t you?”

Mario sighed.

“You told me to hit it if I wanted to stop your evil plans!”

Game & Watch crossed his arms.

“You couldn’t just ring it. You had to smash and crack it.”

Mario shook his head.

“You know, I’ve never asked either... how did you even get the bell in the first place”.

Game & Watch looked up.

“To be honest I don’t even know... it just appeared one day.”

Pig rubbed his face.

“The mysteries never end.”

Angel Duck stepped closer to the bell, wings folding slowly.

“The energy coming from this thing...”

Tim Tim walked forward, eyes locked on the cracks.

“This thing is more than just a magical bell... it’s a facilitator of energy”

The light inside the bell flickered harder, different colors mixing within the cracks.

Mario stepped back.

“...Yeah, that’s not normal.”

Pig looked at Tim Tim.

“So what do we do?”

Tim Tim didn’t answer.

He raised one hand slowly, closing his eyes.

The air around him began to shimmer faintly, small sparks of energy forming around his fingers.

Mario blinked.

“I thought you said your powers didn’t work here.”

Tim Tim kept his eyes closed.

“They don’t.”

The sparks grew brighter.

“The Bell is energizing my powers.”

The light from the bell reacted instantly.

The cracks glowed brighter, the humming turning into a sharp ringing sound that echoed across the mountain.

The air split open in front of them.

A glowing rift opened in the crack of the bell, swirling slowly like a doorway made of light and space.

Pig stared.

“...You did that?”

Tim Tim opened his eyes.

“No.”

He looked at the bell.



“It wanted this.”

Angel Duck nodded.

“Then we go.”

Mario took one step forward, then stopped.

“...If we walk through that... we don't know where we're going.”

Mr. Game & Watch walked past him without hesitation and jumped straight into the portal.

Mario blinked.

“...Okay then.”

Pig sighed.

“Well... no turning back now.”

One by one, they stepped through.

The mountain disappeared.

The sky disappeared.

The world disappeared.

Everything turned white.

Not bright white.

Not glowing white.

Just empty.

Oblivion.

They stood in nothing.

No ground.

No sky.

No sound.



Then suddenly—

The floor appeared under their feet.

Mario looked down.

“...Okay... that’s weird.”

Pig turned in a slow circle.

“There’s nothing here...”

Angel Duck looked forward.

“...Not nothing.”

A door stood in the distance.

Just a normal door.

Wooden.

Closed.

No walls.

No building.

Just the door.

Tim Tim stared at it.

“...We’re supposed to go there.”

Mario sighed.

“Of course we are.”

They walked toward it slowly.

Every step echoed even though there was nothing around them.

Pig reached the door first.

“...Should we knock?”



Mario shrugged.

“Sure. Why not.”

Pig knocked.

No answer.

Tim Tim reached past him and turned the handle.

The door opened, slowly, with a slight screech.

Inside was a small office.

Shelves full of books and papers. Filing cabinets. Diplomas framed on the wall.

And in the back of the room, centered, was a desk facing the door. A computer sat on the desk.

And facing the door, facing the heroes, was someone typing.

A young man sat in the chair, staring at the screen, fingers moving across the keyboard like nothing unusual was happening at all.

He didn't look up.

“...Hold on,” he said calmly.

“...Almost done with this line.”

Mario blinked.

“...What.”

Pig stared.

“...Who is that?”



The man pressed one last key, leaned back in his chair, and finally looked up.

He looked at all of them like he had been expecting them.

“Oh. Hey.”

Silence.

Mario pointed.

“...Who are you?”

The man shrugged.

“My name is Anthony... Anthony Mania.”

Tim Tim stepped forward slowly.

His eyes widened.

“...Anthony...”

Everyone looked at him.

Pig blinked.

“You know him?”

Tim Tim didn't look away.

“...I feel like I do.”

Anthony smiled slightly.

“Figured you would.”



Mr. Game & Watch stared at Anthony hard, eyes opened wide, as if he too knew him.

Angel Duck folded his wings.

“...Where are we.”

Anthony spun his chair around once, then stopped.

“My office.”

Mario looked around.

“...Your office is in... nothing?”

Anthony nodded.

“Pretty much.”

Pig rubbed his head.

“...Okay I’m officially confused.”

Anthony leaned forward onto the desk.

“You’re in the Maniaverse.”

Everyone went quiet.

Mario frowned.

“The what?”

Anthony nodded toward the door behind them.

“All your worlds. All your stories. All your timelines.”

He tapped the desk lightly.

“They all connect here.”

Tim Tim nodded slowly.

“...The Maniaverse...”

Anthony continued.

“That bell connects your worlds. You guys already know the stones come from Tim Tim and Pig’s universe. Seems like you picked up on that some of your powers don’t work right outside your own story and that matter keeps changing too... any other questions?”

He looked at Mario.

“That’s why everything feels off to you guys... sorry about that,” Anthony laughed off.

Mario crossed his arms.

“...So, this is your fault.”

Anthony laughed.

“Technically? Yeah.”

Pig pointed at the door.

“Then can you fix it, and help us?”

Anthony shook his head.

“It doesn’t work like that.”

Angel Duck stepped forward.

“Something else is happening.”

Anthony nodded.

“Yeah.”

Tim Tim looked at him.

“...Godactus.”

Anthony’s eyes moved towards him.

“...Ah you remember now.”

Tim Tim nodded slowly.

“He’s the one using the stones... He’s the only one that could be.”

Pig looked at Tim Tim.

“Wait, you fought him before, right?”

Tim Tim didn’t take his eyes off Anthony.

“He tried to fuse with God... and he succeeded. It took me and all the other guardians of the stones in my universe to defeat him”

Mario blinked.

“...He WHAT.”

Anthony leaned back in the chair.

“And now he wants the Maniaverse.”

Silence filled the room.

Angel Duck spoke softly.

“...Well can you stop him?”

Anthony smiled slightly.

“That part’s up to you.”

Pig frowned.

“But if you’re the writer, can’t you just... fix it?”

Anthony chuckled.

“I could.”

He leaned forward again.

“But that wouldn’t be your story... or an exciting one for that matter.”

Mario crossed his arms.

“So what, we just go fight him and hope it works?”

Anthony shrugged.

“Usually works.”

Pig groaned.

“That’s not comforting.”

Anthony smirked.

“Don’t worry.”

He looked at all of them.

“I always make the good guys win.” Anthony reinstated with a laugh.

Mario blinked.

“...That better be true.”

Anthony nodded toward the door.

“You should go... your friends are going to need your help”

Angel Duck turned.

“The bell, will it send us back?”

Anthony nodded.

“Yup.”

Pig started toward the door.

Mario followed.

Game & Watch walked out without looking back.

Angel Duck paused, then nodded once at Anthony before leaving.

Tim Tim started to follow.

Anthony spoke.

“Tim Tim.”

He stopped.

The others disappeared through the door.

The office went quiet.

Tim Tim turned slowly.



Anthony stood up from the chair. For a moment, neither of them spoke.

Anthony looked at him carefully.

“You feel it, don’t you.”

Tim Tim nodded.

“...Yeah.”

Anthony folded his arms.

“You always were the one closest to the story.”

Tim Tim looked confused.

“What do you mean?”

Anthony smiled faintly.

“When everything breaks...”

He pointed toward the door.

“...someone has to finish writing it.”

Tim Tim’s eyes narrowed slightly.

“...Me?”

Anthony didn’t answer.

He just walked back to the desk and sat down.

Started typing again.

“You’ll know when it’s time.”

The room began to fade.

The white space returned.

Tim Tim stood alone for a moment.

Then the bell appeared again in front of him.

Cracked.

Glowing.

Waiting.

He stepped through.

The mountain returned.

The wind howled.

Mario looked back at him.



“You good?”

Tim Tim stared at the bell one last time.

“...Yeah.”

The bell flickered.

Just once.

Then with light surging through it the bell started to morph shape. The massive, cracked bell that had towered over them only moments ago was shrinking, the glowing fractures along its surface dimming as the metal folded inward like the power inside it was being pulled away. The bell continued to shrink until it was no bigger than a basketball... then smaller... then small enough to hold in both hands, just as it had been when Mr. Game & Watch once used it.

For a moment, no one moved.

Mario looked up at the bell.

“...Did it just get smaller?”

Pig blinked.

“...Wait.”

They all stepped closer.

Angel Duck narrowed his eyes.

“The energy is fading...”



It hovered for a second, ringing softly — not loud, not powerful — just a quiet chime that echoed strangely in the air.

Tim Tim reached out slowly.

The bell drifted toward him.

No one stopped him.

It settled into his hands like it belonged there.

He stared at it for a moment, the faint glow reflecting in his eyes.

“...It’s different now.”

Pig leaned closer.

“Is that good or bad?”

Tim Tim didn’t answer right away.

He turned the bell over once, then slipped it carefully into his pocket.

“We’re going to need it.”

Mario looked toward the battlefield in the distance.

“...Then let’s hope we’re not too late.”

Far above them, the clouds shifted again for just a second.

Almost like something was watching.

The sky went still.



Chapter 13 — Distorted Perfection

The sky above the dark, broken, fortress in the void did not move.

No wind.

No clouds.

No sound.

The air itself felt frozen, like the world was holding its breath.

Inside the throne room, the villains waited.

Bowser stood near the front, arms crossed, fire flickering in his mouth as he stared up at the broken ceiling.

Eggman adjusted his glasses, tapping his foot impatiently.

Dr. Wolf sat beside him, glaring at King Mooshroom as oil slowly dripped from his robotic legs.

Meta Knight leaned against a cracked pillar, eyes glowing in the darkness.

King Creeper and the Ender King stood behind him, whispering to each other.

Ganondorf paced in circles.

The Goose King and Goose Queen sat on opposite sides of the room, watching silently.

Karto stood completely still, eyes closed.

The Assassin leaned against the wall, sharpening his blade slowly, as black shadows glowed from him.

Satan Duck stood near the throne.

Devil Duck stood beside him, arms crossed, looking annoyed more than anything else.



“...So we got the stones... and now what?” Bowser said.

Eggman smirked.

“We were told we would rule the Maniaverse.”

Dr. Wolf nodded.

“That was the agreement.”

King Mooshroom laughed quietly.

“As long as I get my power, I don’t care what happens to the rest of you.”

Devil Duck rolled his eyes.

“Yeah, yeah. Everybody wants power. Big surprise.”

The room suddenly grew colder.

A low hum filled the air.

Every stone in the room began to glow at once.

The villains looked up.

At the far end of the throne room, the darkness split open.

Godactus stepped forward.

He moved slowly, his presence made the hair on the back of everyone's neck stand up, and his footsteps felt like they each weighed more than the castle itself.

His eyes glowed faintly as he looked over the room.

“...It is time.”

The villains straightened.

Even Bowser didn’t speak.

Godactus raised one hand.

All eight stones floated into the air at once, spinning slowly around him.

The blue sword that encapsulated the Magic Stone pulsed brighter than the rest.

Godactus smiled.

“...Everything is ready.”

Bowser frowned.

“Ready for what.”

Godactus turned toward them.

“For the next evolution.”

Eggman narrowed his eyes.

“You said we would rule.”

Godactus nodded slowly.

“You will.”

He raised his hand again.

The stones began to circle faster.

The Magic Stone Sword floated in front of him, glowing bright blue. The other seven stones began to orbit the Sword.

“...Come closer.”

The villains hesitated.

Herobrine stepped forward first.

“What are you doing?”

Godactus smiled.

“Giving you all what you wanted.”

One by one, the villains moved closer.

Bowser.

Bowser Jr.

Kamek.



[illegible][illegible][illegible]

“We are going to be filled with everlasting power,” Godactus reaffirmed.

The villains reached out slowly, each placing a hand on The Magic Stone sword.

The air began to shake.

Devil Duck frowned.

“...Hey.”

No one listened.

Godactus looked down at the sword.

“...Power... multiplied.”

The room began to rumble.

Devil Duck stepped back.

“...Something’s not right.”

Godactus’ voice dropped lower.

“...Power... controlled.”

The stones flared brighter.

Devil Duck’s eyes widened.

He took another step back.

Godactus whispered, barely loud enough to hear.

“...unlimited... perfection.”

Devil Duck froze.

Godactus continued, still looking at the sword.

“You all wanted power... and power you will give... to me.”

Devil Duck’s eyes shifted.

He quickly stepped behind one of the broken pillars, out of sight.



Blue light exploded across the room. The villains roared in anguish.

Energy shot through every stone at once, linking them together in a web of light.

The Magic Stone burned brighter than all of them.

The castle shook violently.

The stones fired beams of energy into the air.

The villains tried to pull away.

They couldn't.

Their bodies began to glow.

Their shapes stretched.

Twisted.

Pulled toward Godactus, with nothing they could do now to stop it.

Bowser roared.

Eggman shouted.

Satan Duck closed his eyes.

The light grew blinding.

Their forms slammed into Godactus one by one, their power pouring into him like fuel into a fire.

The throne room exploded with light.

The castle split apart.

The ground rumbled as tiles flew up into the air.

As the light burst, darkness followed.

Then stopped.

Silence.

Where Godactus had once stood... something else had replaced him.

His body stretched taller, wider, heavier, yet nothing about him looked unstable. Pieces of every villain could be seen within him — Bowser's horns curving from his head, Karto's red glowing eyes flickering beneath his own, metal plating from Metal Sonic fused into his armor, dark feathers from Satan Duck forming wings behind his back, claws, scales, machinery, shadow, and armor all locked together into one form. But nothing looked random or broken. Every piece fit perfectly, as if it had always belonged there.

He still looked like Godactus... only greater. As if every villain had been built into him instead of fusing with him, their power sealed inside his body while his control remained untouched.

He stood where the castle had been, towering over the ruins, the eight stones orbiting around him.

His form was terrifying to look at — too unnatural to be human, too complete to be a monster.

Hideous.

Distorted.

Perfect.

Not a fusion.

An evolution.

His voice shook the air.

“...I am complete.”

The ground trembled under his feet as he stepped forward.

Outside the ruins, Devil Duck watched from behind the broken wall, eyes wide.

“...You've got to be kidding me.”

He turned and ran.

Behind him, the fused Godactus stepped out of the collapsing castle.

The sky above the Maniaverse cracked open.

His eyes glowed brighter.

“...Now...”

He looked toward the battlefield in the distance.

“...I destroy the rest... and start anew.”



Chapter 14 — The Arrival

Sonic stood near the edge of the plateau, arms crossed, staring toward the mountains.

Jim Wam stood beside him, his glowing eye dim but steady.

King Cow rested his sword on his shoulder, watching the sky.

Luigi paced back and forth.

Frankenstein sat on a chunk of rock, unmoving.

Tootsie sat on the ground, knees pulled up, muttering to himself.

Kirby rolled a small pebble back and forth with his foot.

No one was talking.

Finally, Sonic sighed.

“They should’ve been back by now.”

Jim Wam didn’t look at him.

“They’ll come.”

Sonic smirked.

“You always this confident?”

Jim Wam glanced over.

“I always assume the worst. That way I’m ready.”

King Cow nodded.

“Smart.”

Luigi stopped pacing.

“You think something happened to them?”

Frankenstein shrugged.

“Something always happens.”



Tootsie groaned.

“Great. Love that answer.”

Suddenly, footsteps could be heard

Kirby looked up.

“Poyo?”

Over the horizon and in the distance, Tim Tim, Mario, Pig, Angel Duck, and Mr. Game & Watch had returned.

Luigi jumped.

“There they are!”

Sonic turned.

“Took you long enough.”

Mario brushed dust off his gloves.

“You wouldn’t believe where we just were.”

Tootsie stood up.

“...Did you guys die?”

Pig shook his head.

“No. But we met someone who could’ve made that happen if he wanted to.”

Jim Wam stepped forward.

“What happened?”

Tim Tim looked at all of them.

“We have the bell.”

Everyone went quiet.

Luigi blinked.

“What do you mean you have it? I don’t see it... and that thing was taller than the Empire State Building.”

Mario nodded.

“Well, it shrunk back to normal size, but we have the bell.”

Mr. Game & Watch crossed his arms and nodded once.

Sonic frowned.

“...Okay, so we have the bell... and that means what exactly?”

Tim Tim took a slow breath.

“There’s something bigger going on than just the stones from my universe or this bell and Video Game Land.”

King Cow narrowed his eyes.

“Bigger how.”

Pig answered.

“The Maniaverse.”

Frankenstein tilted his head.

“...The what?”

Tim Tim looked around at all of them.

“All our worlds... all our stories... they’re connected. The bell connects them. The stones obviously come from my universe, but they can exist here too.”

Luigi blinked.

“...You lost me already.”

Mario pointed at Tim Tim.

“Trust me, I didn’t get it either.”

Jim Wam folded his arms.

“Who told you this.”

Tim Tim hesitated.

“...Anthony.”

Sonic raised an eyebrow.

“...Who?”

Pig shook his head.

“Doesn’t matter. He knows everything.”

Angel Duck nodded.

“He said the Maniaverse isn’t breaking... it’s changing.”

King Cow frowned.

“That doesn’t sound good.”

Tim Tim looked at the ground for a second, then back up.

“There’s more.”

Everyone watched him.

He spoke slower this time.

“...Godactus.”

The name alone made the air feel colder.

Jim Wam’s eye flickered brighter.

“You’re sure?”

Tim Tim nodded.

“He has the stones.”

Pig added,

“All of them.”

Mario crossed his arms.

“And he’s not just collecting them.”

Tim Tim looked at Sonic, then Jim Wam.

“He’s going to use them to fuse.”

Silence.

Sonic blinked.

“...He’s going to what.”

Tim Tim spoke carefully.

“The Magic Stone can fuse together anyone who touches it at the same time, creating a single being that multiplies their powers while merging their personalities into one consciousness.”

Jim Wam’s expression darkened.

“...But if all eight stones are used together with the Magic Stone...”

Tim Tim nodded.

“He doesn’t just combine.”

Pig finished the sentence.

“He steals the multiplied power and remains in full control...”

Luigi swallowed.

“...That sounds bad.”

Frankenstein nodded.

“That sounds very bad.”

King Cow tightened his grip on his sword.

“So, we stop him.”

Tim Tim shook his head slowly.

“If he already has all the stones...”

Sonic cracked his knuckles.

“Then we hit him before he uses them... or better yet, we warn the other villains of his plan”.

Jim Wam looked at him.

“You don’t understand. If he’s already started—”

The ground shook.

Everyone froze.

A low rumble rolled across the plateau.

The sky above them flickered, darkness filling the area, the red clouds turning into a dark purple.

Pig looked up.

“...We might have been too late”

Another tremor.

Stronger.

Tim Tim reached into his pocket instinctively.

The bell inside it began to glow faintly, the metal vibrating in his hand.

He pulled it out slowly.

The small, cracked bell flickered with white light.

Angel Duck stared at it.

Mario looked at the sky.

“...He’s coming.”

A deep sound echoed across the Maniaverse.

Not thunder.

Not wind.

Footsteps.



Heavy.

Slow.

Each step made the ground tremble.

Sonic turned toward the horizon.

“...What are we getting ourselves into here?”

Jim Wam’s eye burned brighter.

“...The strongest being in the Maniaverse.”

Another step.

The sky split open above the far side of the battlefield, a massive crack tearing across the clouds.

Darkness poured through the tear.

A shape moved behind it.

Huge.

The ground shook again as something landed beyond the ruins.

Dust exploded into the air.

Tootsie grabbed Tim Tim’s arm.

“...Tell me that’s not him.”

Tim Tim stared at the horizon.

His face went pale.

The dust slowly cleared.

A towering figure stepped forward from the broken sky, his body glowing with cracks of every color, eight stones orbiting around him like planets.

Horns.

Wings.

Armor.

Metal.

Shadow.

All fused into one perfect shape.

Godactus.

His voice rolled across the battlefield like an earthquake, echoing with the bass of infinite speakers.

“...So... this is where the rest of you are.”

No one moved.

No one spoke.

Sonic slowly stepped forward, fists clenched.

“...Yeah.”

He smirked.

“...Guess we found him.”

Jim Wam stepped beside him.

“This isn’t going to be easy.”

Tim Tim held the bell tightly in his hand, staring up at the monster.

“...It was never supposed to be.”

Godactus took one more step forward.

The Maniaverse trembled.

And the final battle began.

Chapter 15 — The Wrath of Godactus

The ground shook with every step Godactus took.

Dust rolled across the battlefield as the giant fused monster moved forward, his shadow swallowing the broken plateau where the heroes stood. The eight stones circled around him slowly, glowing profusely, their light reflecting across the cracks in his armor and the twisted shapes fused into his body.

Mario clenched his fists.

“...Okay.”

He looked at the others.

“Plan?”

Sonic smirked.

“Yeah.”

He stepped forward.

“We hit him until he stops moving.”

Jim Wam folded his arms.

“That’s not a plan.”

Sonic glanced at him.

“You got any other ideas Jimmy boy?.”

Tim Tim held the bell tightly in his hand, staring up at the monster.

“...He’s much stronger than ever before.”

Pig swallowed.

“Is it possible to surpass god level?.”

Godactus stopped walking.

He looked down at them, his glowing eyes narrowing slightly.

“Who wants to die first?”



His voice shook the air like thunder.

King Cow stepped forward, raising his sword.

“I don’t think you’re going to have any takers.”

Godactus tilted his head.

“...How unfortunate, I guess I will have to choose myself.”

He lifted one hand.

The ground split open in front of them, a wave of force throwing everyone backward.

Luigi rolled across the dirt.

Tootsie slammed into a broken pipe.

Kirby bounced once and landed on his feet.

Sonic slid to a stop, grinning.

“...Okay, that one hurt.”

Jim Wam stood up slowly.

“We need to attack together.”

Angel Duck spread his wings.

“Now.”

Mario pointed forward.

“GO!”

They charged at once.

Sonic ran first, a blue blur streaking across the ground.

He jumped, spinning into a kick aimed at Godactus’s leg.

The impact made a loud crack—

—but Godactus didn’t move.



He looked down.

“...You’re a fast one.”

He flicked his foot.

Sonic went flying across the battlefield.

Jim Wam jumped into the air next,
firing a blast of energy from his hand,
the beam slamming into Godactus’s chest.

The light exploded outward.

Smoke filled the air.

When it cleared...

Godactus was still standing, unscathed.

He brushed dust off his armor.



“Flashy... but weak.” As he shot beams from eyes back towards Jim Wam, flinging Jim to the ground.

King Cow rushed in, with his gold sword, slashing across Godactus’s ankle.

The blade sparked but barely cut.

Godactus lifted his leg and stomped.

The ground exploded, throwing King Cow backward.

Pig threw an energy bomb that burst against Godactus’s side, flashes of light popping across his armor.

Angel Duck flew upward, firing beams of light from his hands.

Kirby inhaled a chunk of broken stone and launched it like a cannonball.

Mario jumped, throwing fireballs as fast as he could.

Everything hit at once.

Smoke.

Light.

Explosions.

For a moment, the battlefield disappeared in dust.

Then the dust cleared.

Godactus stood there.

Still unmoved and unharmed.

He laughed.

“...Is this all you have to offer?

I wanted at least a challenge before I decimated you.”

Tim Tim looked down at the bell in his hand.

The cracks along its surface flickered faintly.

“...Maybe not.”

He raised it slightly.

The bell glowed.

A pulse of white light shot through his arm, racing across his body.

His eyes widened.

“...I feel it.”

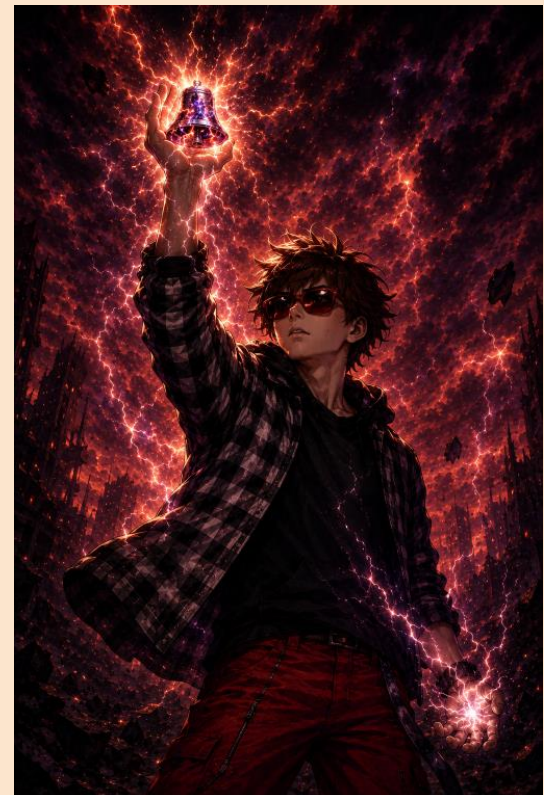
Energy gathered in his hands without him trying.

He pulled them back instinctively.

Light formed between his palms.

Pig blinked.

“Tim Tim—”



Tim Tim pushed forward.

“KAME....HAME....HAAAAAAAAA!”

A beam of pure energy shot forward; the most power Tim Tim had since he got into the Maniaverse, blasting into Godactus’s chest in a massive explosion.

The shockwave knocked everyone back.

The smoke cleared slowly.

Godactus had slid back one step.

One step.

He looked down at his chest, then back at Tim Tim.

“I figured you’d put up a fight Tim Tim... but I know you can do better than that.”

Tim Tim stared at the bell.

“...It’s the bell... it brought some of my power back.”

Sonic ran back over, shaking dust off.

“You figured that out quick.”

Tim Tim tossed him the bell.

“Try it!”

Sonic caught it.

The bell flashed.

Golden light exploded around him.

His quills turned upward, glowing bright yellow.

The air around him shook.

Sonic grinned.

“Oh yeah... Here comes Super Sonic”



He flew forward in a streak of gold, slamming into Godactus over and over, moving too fast to see.

Punch.

Kick.

Spin.

Flash.

Godactus raised one arm, blocking the next hit, then grabbed Sonic out of the air and threw him across the battlefield.

Super Sonic rolled across the ground, still glowing.

“...Okay, he’s really strong.”

Angel Duck grabbed the bell next.

His body turned blue.

His wings flared outward, his pupils erased,
glowing with bright energy, his body surrounded in a pale blue aura.



He rose into the air, both hands glowing, and angry.

“LIGHT BURST!”

A wave of pure light crashed into Godactus, forcing him back another step.

Jim Wam caught the bell as it fell.

His eyes flashed brighter.

“...Let’s see if I can pull this off.”

The bell pulsed.

He raised his hand toward the sky.

Far away, the blue sword — the Magic Stone — ripped free from Godactus’s orbit for a split second and flew toward him. Jim Wam’s connection to the stone, along with the power of the bell, willed it to him.

The sword flew straight into Jim Wam, not piercing him, but fusing into his body as it was meant to be.

The moment the sword disappeared into his body, his hair flashed light blue, energy surging around his body.

Sonic smirked.

“Oh great, now you’re glowing too.”

Jim Wam looked at him.

“I’m back to my true form... hopefully my true power is back too”

They both charged together.

Sonic slammed into Godactus’s side while Jim Wam drove his glowing body forward, striking the monster’s armor with a blast of blue light.

Godactus slid back again.

He looked down at them.

“...Better.”

Jim Wam turned around, finding Mario and throwing the bell to him next.

As Mario caught the bell, the aura around him turned bright red, orange, and gold.

He instantly jumped high, spinning as flames surrounded him, flashing across his body.

“FINALE FIRE!”

A massive two-streamed beam blast of fire unleashed from Mario, and crashed into Godactus’s chest, pushing him back several steps as the ground cracked under his feet.

Everyone landed, breathing hard.

Pig turned toward the group.

“It’s working!”

Tootsie pointed.



“We got him!”

Game & Watch smiled as the tides seemed to be turning.

Godactus stood still.

Smoke drifted off his armor.

Then he straightened.

The stones around him flared brighter.

“...You think some fancy attacks will change the outcome?”

He slammed his foot down.

The shockwave threw everyone off their feet.

Godactus then raised his hand high as the sky turned black. His arm swung down with velocity, as instantly meteors started falling from the sky.

“Oh gosh I’ve never seen rain like this before!” Tootsie screeched as he began running around dodging the falling rocks.

“Take cover now everyone” Tim Tim shouted to the heroes.

As Meteors rained down from the sky, scattering the heroes, the bell flew from Mario’s hand, bouncing across the ground and sliding away through the dust.

Tim Tim reached for it, but it got too far past him as he had to dodge debris.

Finally, the meteor shower stopped, and so did the bell.

Rolling right to the edge of a broken cliff

For a moment, no one moved.

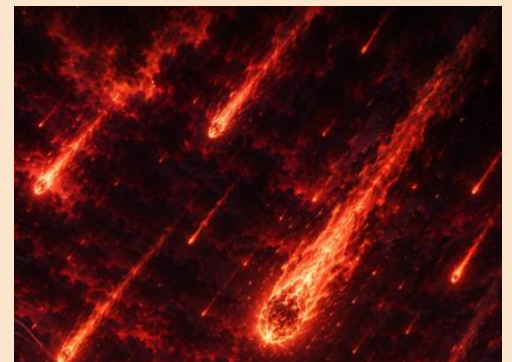
Then a hand reached down and picked it up.

Everyone froze.

Standing on the far side of the battlefield, holding the bell in one hand... was Devil Duck.

Angel Duck’s eyes widened.

“...Devil Duck, no.”



Mario stepped forward.

“Give that back.”

Devil Duck didn’t move.

He looked at the bell.

Then at Godactus.

Then at the heroes.

No one moved.

No one spoke.

Tim Tim stared at him.

The fate of the Maniaverse was in Devil Duck’s hand.

The bell flickered in his hand, pulsing with energy.

Devil Duck looked at the heroes again, then up at Godactus, then up at the sky.



Chapter 16 — Maniaverse Arise

Devil Duck held the bell in one hand and did not blink.

The battlefield remained quiet around him, awaiting a decision that could affect everything.

Godactus looked down and laughed, the sound rolling across the battlefield like a landslide.

“...I guess you were able to get away from me. How unfortunate... for you”

Devil Duck didn't answer.

He lifted the bell higher.

For a moment, nothing happened.

Then the cracks in the bell flared white.

Lightning shot out of it.

Not downward.

Upward.

Thin white streaks ripped into the red and purple sky, splitting the clouds in every direction. One streak became two. Two became five. Five became dozens. The whole sky lit up with white fractures, the sound of distant thunder echoing across the Maniaverse.

Luigi looked up and immediately regretted it.

“Ohhh I don't like that at all!”

The lightning froze in place.

Then each streak widened into a portal.

Dozens of them.

All at once.

Godactus's smile faded.

“...What.”



Devil Duck's expression stayed cold.

"You should've ended me when you had the chance."

The first portal opened behind Mario in a wave of golden light.

Out of it came Donkey Kong, pounding both fists together as he landed with a heavy thud. Beside him rolled Pac-Man, glowing and bouncing in place before stopping with a determined squeak. Samus stepped through next, cannon arm already raised. Behind her came Lucas and Ness, both looking around in confusion before quickly understanding that confusion would have to wait. Ike stepped through with his sword over one shoulder, followed by Link, who pulled his shield up the second he saw Godactus. Star Fox came out at a run, skidding to a stop. Snake emerged low and silent, already scanning the battlefield. Pikachu leapt through the portal with sparks jumping from its cheeks. Shadow the Hedgehog landed near Sonic, arms crossed, unimpressed. Yoshi bounced in right after, looked at Godactus, and immediately made an alarmed noise.



A second cluster of portals tore open behind Tim Tim and Pig.

Out stepped Connor, his orange hair and beard glowing and steady, his expression going from confusion to recognition in one heartbeat. Right behind him came Tommy, Tim Tim's son,

followed by Joey, Connor's father who looked around in disbelief. Last came Sarto, the twin and good half of Karto, calm, centered, and immediately focused.



Pig's jaw dropped.

"...No way."

Tommy looked at Tim Tim and broke into a grin.

"Father!"

Tim Tim stared for a second like he couldn't decide whether this was a miracle or another problem.

"Tommy?"

Joey looked at Connor and froze.

"...Connor?"

Tommy blinked.

"...Connor?"

Connor looked at both of them, then at the giant monster in front of them.

"We are absolutely not doing family introductions right now."

Pig pointed at Godactus,

“We’ll explain later. Right now we kill that.”

Another wave of portals split open in the sky above Angel Duck.

The second Angel Duck came flying out first, landing beside his brother with his wings spread wide. Behind him came the rest of the Duck Heroes in a rush — Fireman Duck, Basketball Player Duck, Girl Duck, Captain Duck, Football Player Duck, and Sheriff Duck — all arriving in different ways, some stumbling, some charging, some already trying to understand what disaster they had just entered.



Fireman Duck looked up at Godactus.

“...I leave for one day.”

Basketball Player Duck blinked.

“Okay, that thing is huge.”

Captain Duck drew himself up.

“Then we aim high.”



Near the far side of the battlefield, another set of portals ripped open.

Mr. Hotdog came tumbling through the first one, hit the ground, rolled, stood up, and looked directly at Mr. Tootsie Roll.

The two of them pointed at each other at the exact same time.

“...You!”

A portal opened over Frankenstein's head.

Out fell Mummy, Mr. Me, Young Frankenstein, and Mr. Bat, all landing in a tangle of limbs and dust.



Frankenstein stared at them.

Mummy slowly got up.

“...That hurt”

From another series of portals came the oddest arrivals of all.

The Scary Lion, landing with a growl.

A line of Rockhopper Penguins, slipping and stumbling onto the battlefield with absolutely no understanding of why they were there.

Waluigim, the purple penguin of Club Penguin, with blond hair, sliding out dramatically and nearly falling over when he saw the rockhoppers beside him.

Tom the Fat Turkey, flapping wildly before managing to land.

John Mania, a young boy in high school, looking around like he had just walked into a fantasy movie in his dreams.

Mr. Fox, adjusting his hat calmly as if this sort of thing happened all the time.

A family of Beavers wearing Christmas hats, looking around in disbelief.

Glasses Girl, landing in a superhero pose without even trying.

Zu the Super Bird, swooping in fast and circling once before hovering.

Mr. Cube, tiny, formal, and somehow dignified in a top hat despite the fact that he was about a foot tall.

A small blue stick figure: The Weapons Specialist Karate Master.

Jade the Black Smith, drawing his sword immediately and putting his mask on.



Godactus looked out across the suddenly crowded battlefield.

For the first time since he arrived, he looked uncertain.

“...Impossible.”

Sonic smirked and pointed upward.

“Yeah? Get used to it.”

Shadow landed beside him.

“You really know how to attract trouble.”

Sonic glanced at him.

“You came anyway.”

Shadow crossed his arms.

“Tch.”

Mario turned in a full circle, taking in the madness.

“...Okay.”

He pointed at Devil Duck.

“I still don’t trust him.”

Devil Duck lowered the bell and looked at him flatly.

“Fair.”

The Angel Ducks stepped toward him slowly.

Devil Duck looked at both Angel Ducks.

For the first time, there was no sarcasm in his face.

No anger.

No shield.

“I’m sorry.”



The battlefield quieted around the three of them, just for a moment.

Devil Duck looked down briefly, then back up.

“For all of it. For Toro. For your friends. For everything I did to both of you.”

The two Angel Ducks looked at one another.

Then back at him.

The first Angel Duck stepped forward.

“We should hate you.”

The second Angel Duck nodded slowly.

“But we don’t.”

Devil Duck blinked once, like he hadn’t prepared for mercy.

Fireman Duck came over with the rest of the Duck Heroes, looking between all three of them.

“So... are we good now, or is this a later conversation?”

Angel Duck looked at him.

“We fight first.”

The second Angel Duck nodded.

“Help anyone who needs it.”

Captain Duck raised a fist.

“You heard them!”

Sheriff Duck spun toward the battlefield.

“Move!”

At the far edge of the plateau, Waluigim stepped toward one of the Rockhopper Penguins and struck a dramatic pose.

“So. You are my people?”

The Rockhopper Penguin stared at him.

Said nothing.

Waluigim blinked.

“...You’re not much for conversation, huh.”



Mr. Hotdog ran up to Mr. Tootsie Roll and grabbed both his shoulders.

“What is happening?!”

Tootsie looked up at the sky, at the portals, at the giant fused monster, then back at him.

“You know what, for once I’m actually not the weirdest thing here.”

Hotdog blinked.

“...That’s fair.”

Connor reached Tim Tim’s side, Joey and Tommy close behind him, with Sarto walking just to the left.

Connor looked at the battlefield, then at the bell, then at the stones orbiting Godactus.

His expression hardened.

“He used the stones again to fuse I’m guessing.”

Tim Tim nodded.

“With all of them.”

Tommy looked between Tim Tim and the giant in the distance.

“Can you stop him father?”

Pig answered before Tim Tim could.

“The odds don’t seem to be in our favor.”

Joey looked at Connor again.

“You’re really Connor, my son?”

Connor gave him a look.

“Yes, just an older version from the future... I’ll explain if we survive.”

Jim Wam ran over from the main line, Sonic and King Cow behind him.

He saw Connor, then Joey, then Tommy, then Sarto.

Then looked at Tim Tim.

“...So we have the whole Tim Tim family together I see.”

Connor looked at Jim Wam.

“Jim...The Magic Stone.”

Jim Wam touched his chest instinctively, where the power of the stone now lived inside him again.

“I know.”

Connor’s eyes sharpened.

“We should use it.”

Tommy and Joey both turned at once.

“The Magic Stone?”

Jim Wam pointed at Godactus.

“Later. Right now we hold the line.”

Sarto stepped closer to Tim Tim.

His voice was quieter than the others.

“...Karto.”

Tim Tim nodded once.

“He’s in there.”

Sarto looked at the towering fused monster and said nothing for a second.

Then looked back at Tim Tim.

“Trust in yourself. Whatever happens next... don’t hesitate, just like I taught you.”

Tim Tim held his gaze.

Mario stepped into the center of the growing crowd and shouted the only thing loud enough to cut through the noise.

“EVERYBODY LISTEN!”

Slowly, the voices around the battlefield faded.

The heroes turned toward him.

So many heroes.

From so many different stories.



From so many different times.

Mario pointed at Godactus.

“That thing is trying to kill us all!”

He then pointed at Devil Duck and the bell.

“That bell brought us together,
and now we use it to stop that monster!”

Sonic cracked his knuckles.

“Finally.”

Jim Wam stepped up beside Mario.

“We attack together. No hero stuff. No running off. No glory plays.”

Sonic looked at him.

“That was definitely aimed at me.”

Jim Wam didn’t deny it.

King Cow lifted his sword.

“Whoever has the bell attacks hard and fast. Everyone else keeps him occupied.”

Shadow smirked faintly.

“That part I can do.”

Donkey Kong pounded his chest.

Pikachu sparked.

Link drew his blade.

Ike rolled his shoulder.

Snake crouched low.

Glasses Girl adjusted her glasses.



Zu the Super Bird shrieked once and rose into the air.

Mr. Cube cleared his tiny throat.

“I shall also contribute.”

Pig looked down at him.

“...I respect it.”

Above them all, Godactus straightened, the seven stones with him orbiting faster now, energy beginning to gather around his chest.

He looked down at the assembled heroes.

“...How inspiring.”

He spread his arms wide.

“Then all of you can perish together.”

The ground shook.

The air cracked.

The gathered heroes tensed.

Devil Duck lifted the bell again.

Mario looked at him.

“You better not drop that.”

Devil Duck glanced at him.

“No promises.”

And then the Maniaverse charged.

The charge hit like a storm.

Dozens of heroes ran forward at once, spreading across the battlefield in every direction as Godactus lifted one massive foot and brought it down with enough force to crack the ground open in a line straight through the plateau.

Rocks exploded upward.



But this time, no one stopped.



Donkey Kong leapt first, bringing both fists crashing down toward Godactus, only for an armored shield to materialize in front of the giant at the last second, the collision erupting with a thunderous impact. Yoshi bounced in right after him, kicking off the ground and striking the monster's shield with a spinning jump. Link rushed in low, blade flashing as it scraped across the fused armor. Ike followed with a heavy swing that sparked against the metal plating. Pikachu shot forward in a blur of yellow, lightning striking Godactus's side again and again.

Samus fired a blast from her arm cannon that exploded across his shoulder.

Snake rolled behind a chunk of broken stone and launched a missile upward.

Lucas and Ness lifted both hands, sending waves of psychic energy crashing into Godactus's chest.

The Weapons Specialist Karate Master took a bazooka out of thin air, firing a massive blast right at Godactus's arm.

The giant barely moved.

He laughed.

"...You puny creatures are nothing."

Devil Duck raised the bell.

"Catch!"

He tossed it toward Sonic.

Sonic grabbed it mid-run.

The bell flared gold.

Energy exploded around him as his quills shot upward again, and his body glowed bright yellow.



Super Sonic shot into the air like a missile, slamming into Godactus's face, before shooting out an energy-like blast straight at him.

Shadow jumped up beside him, teleporting in flashes of red and black, striking with him in perfect rhythm.

Sonic grinned.

"Now this is more like it!"

Shadow smirked.

"Let me see that bell for a second."

Sonic tossed the bell to Shadow, in which in similar fashion to Sonic, Shadow's quills shot up and his fur turned yellow. Super Shadow was born. Shadow quickly used his speed and power to rush behind Godactus's neck and deliver a punishing blow with a kick that seemed to agitate the monster.

Godactus raised one arm and swatted both of them away in a single motion, sending them crashing across the battlefield.



The bell flew from Shadow's hand.

Angel Duck caught it.

Blue light burst outward, wrapping around him as his wings flared wide, glowing with pale energy. His body turned light blue, aura burning around him as he rose into the air.

His twin flew beside him instantly.

The two Angel Ducks crossed their arms at the same time.

“Light Strike!”

Twin beams of bright energy slammed into Godactus's chest, forcing him back a full step, the cracks in his armor flashing brighter.

Devil Duck jumped up beside them.

“Move.”

Angel Duck tossed him the bell.

Devil Duck caught it.

The bell flashed dark red, lightning crawling over his wings as his eyes glowed brighter than before.

He looked at both Angel Ducks.

“...Let's try this again.”

The three of them shot forward together, striking Godactus at the same time, a blast of lightning energy exploding outward on impact.



Godactus grunted.

For the first time.

On the ground below, the bell dropped again, bouncing across the broken stone.

Kirby caught it.

Kirby instantly grew larger and wider. Growing to the size of Godactus's torso. From there Kirby formed a huge blade, in which he swung ferociously at Godactus. Godactus tried to dodge, but Kirby wasn't letting up. Kirby finally connected, slashing a long cut along Godactus's arm. This angered Godactus immensely, causing him to front kick Kirby with all his might, with the impact dropping the bell again, and shrinking Kirby back to normal.



“You annoying little blob... You’ll pay for that.” Godactus was beginning to become frustrated, yet his prevailing ego seemingly was continuing to hold him back from destroying the heroes at once. He wanted to play with his victims and make them suffer... yet they weren’t.

The rest of the Maniaverse heroes continued applying pressure by attacking Godactus from all directions with a plethora of moves. Although not particularly effective, the blows were slowly adding up, and distracting Godactus from whoever had the bell.

As the bell fell from Kirby, Lucas and Ness caught it together as power surged through them.

They instantly looked at each other before jumping in the air and shouting “PK THUNDER!”. The sky above them flashed as a stream of lightning flowed down crashing straight into Godactus, shaking his body.



“Hey boys, throw it over here” Jim Wam called out, as Lucas and Ness turned and chucked the bell towards him.

The moment that Jim Wam caught the bell, the light hit him and his eye flared bright blue.

He raised his hand toward the sky.

Sonic skidded back beside him.

“Oh great, glowing again.”

Jim Wam smirked slightly.

“Are you ever going to stop?”

They both launched forward at once.

Jim Wam pulled energy into his hands, gravity bending around him as he drove a blast straight into Godactus’s chest. Sonic followed with a kick, Shadow appearing beside him, both striking at the same spot.



The cracks on Godactus’s armor began to spread.

He looked down at his chest.

“I will make you pests suffer.”

As Jim Wam retreated, he threw the bell to Luigi next.

As Luigi caught the bell, the light turned bright green.

Winds started intensifying, as Luigi shot a huge gust of wind outward from his hands. An immense tornado shot upward, slamming directly into Godactus’s chest core, the glow there flickering for the first time.

Pig pointed.

“There! His chest! That’s a weakness.”



Luigi landed back down and looked around at who to throw the bell to next.

“Hey green guy over here” King Cow shouted, waving his hands in the air. Luigi spotted him and began to throw. Godactus however, was done with letting this happen. Godactus reached his

hand down to intercept the pass coming to King Cow. Mr. Game & Watch saw this and instantly reacted.

“Not so fast big guy,” Game & Watch exclaimed, as he flipped up in the air, catching the bell before it could reach Godactus’s hand.

“You little brat,” shouted Godactus.

“I’m not sure if you want to call me little” Game & Watch said with a smirk as he landed. Instantly Game & Watch started to transform with the bell now in his hand. Game & Watch became huge, growing to a similar size to what Kirby had grown to earlier. But Game & Watch was not the same... he had turned into an enormous octopus.

“Giant octopus, huh... how does that even... you know why am I even questioning it” Sonic laughed off.

Octopus Game & Watch charged at Godactus, using its 8 limbs to attack at all angles. Godactus tried to block the blows, but some were getting through, continuing to push him back.

“I will not let a fish push me back... Get off now” Godactus exclaimed as the seven stones glowed with him, sending a wave of energy at Game & Watch, effectively pushing him back and making the bell drop out of his grasp.



Frankenstein ran forward next, catching the bell, and raising both arms.

“MOVE!”

Everyone jumped back.

He slammed both hands together in front of Godactus’s leg.

A massive seismic clap exploded outward, the shockwave shaking the entire battlefield and forcing Godactus to stumble again, making him almost fall, before he regained his balance.

Glasses Girl grabbed the bell as it rolled by her.

Her glasses flashed bright white.

She pushed them up.

“Target locked.”

Twin laser beams shot from her lenses,

blasting straight into the cracks across Godactus’s armor.

Zu the Super Bird dove from the sky, slamming into the same spot, reinforcing the blow.



Godactus was slowly, but surely feeling the force of these attacks.

Sarto stepped forward next, calm as ever.

Glasses Girl tossed him the bell.

He caught it without looking.

The bell glowed deep blue.

Sarto raised one hand.

Energy gathered around him, growing brighter and brighter until it formed a massive sphere above his head.

He looked at Tim Tim.

“Stay back.”

He thrust his hand forward.

The sphere shot upward like a meteor and exploded against Godactus’s chest in a blinding flash.

The cracks spread wider.



Godactus roared.

Connor ran up beside Jim Wam.

“I think it’s time to fuse Jim.”

Tommy and Joey turned at the same time.

“Fusion?”

Jim Wam looked at Connor, then at the glowing energy inside his own chest.

“...The stone’s already in me.”

He held out his arm.

“All of you. Now.”

Connor grabbed his arm.

Tommy grabbed Joey.

Joey grabbed Jim Wam.

The Magic Stone energy flared.

Blue light exploded around them, the air warping as their forms blurred together.

When the light cleared, one figure stood there.

Taller.

Stronger.

Hair glowing bright blue and orange.

Eyes burning with energy.

JimConTomey.

He lifted both hands, squeezing his fists with his newly formed strength.

“Let’s finish this.”



He shot into the air and gathered energy between his palms, a massive glowing sphere forming as the wind whipped around him. JimConTomey shot out with all his might hitting Godacus right in the face.

Godacus underestimated the multiplied speed of this new fused being, and thus just missed deflecting the blast, which hit him right in the eye. Godacus shrieked with pain for the first time, holding his eye in agony.

Below, the bell fell and bounced again.

It rolled across the ground.

Right toward Mr. Tootsie Roll.

Everyone froze.

Pig's eyes widened.

“...No... Tootsie.”

Tootsie looked down at it.

Then at the giant monster, who was distracted for the first time.

Then back at the bell.

“...Oh boy, this might be our only shot.”

Mario shouted.

“Tootsie, don't—”

He picked it up.

The bell exploded with white light.

Tootsie's eyes widened.

“...Whoa.”

Energy burst around him, wild, unpredictable, almost cartoon-like, sparks flying in every direction as the ground shook under his feet.



He laughed nervously.

“I don’t know what I’m doing!”

Pig shouted.

“JUST HIT HIM! IT’S NOW OR NEVER”

Tootsie jumped.

Way higher than he should have ever been able to.

He flipped in the air, spinning like he had no idea how he was doing it, the bell glowing brighter and brighter in his hand, guiding him.

Godactus took his hands off his eye to see what was coming at him... but he was too late.

“...What the.” he stuttered to himself.

Tootsie yelled.

“TAKE THIS YOU BIG OLE DOOFUS!!!”

He slammed the bell like a basketball dunk, straight into the glowing core on Godactus’s chest.

The light exploded.

The cracks spread across the monster’s body all at once, racing through every piece of fused armor, every wing, every horn, every metal. Godactus roared. The stones spun wildly around him. The core shattered. Light burst out from inside him like the sun exploding.



Everyone dove for cover.

The explosion ripped across the battlefield, throwing dust, rock, and energy in every direction.

Mr. Tootsie Roll flew back hard onto the battlefield, with the power of the bell still coursing through him.

Then—

Silence.

The light faded.

Where Godactus stood, there was nothing but smoke and broken ground.

For a moment, nobody moved.

Then Sonic stood up slowly.

“...Did we win?”

Mario looked around.

“I think... we did.”

Donkey Kong pounded his chest.

Kirby cheered.

The Duck Heroes started chanting.

Hotdog grabbed Tootsie.

“You did it!”

Tootsie blinked.

“...I did?”

Angel Duck landed beside Devil Duck.

“You did good out there.”

Devil Duck shrugged.

“...Don’t get used to it.”



Luigi helped up Mr. Game & Watch

“That was some crazy octopus transformation you had there... you know you’re not so bad”

Mr. Game & Watch laughed as he got to his feet.

JimConTomey landed, and unfused.

Connor looked at Tim Tim.

“Is it over Tim?”

Tim Tim didn’t answer though.

He was staring at the bell in Tootsie’s hand.

“What’s wrong father? Godactus is defeated... right?”

Tommy followed up with.

The cracks along the bell’s surface continued to flicker.

Once.

Twice.

Then faster.

Tim Tim’s eyes widened slightly.

“...This story isn’t over yet.”

Pig looked at him.

“What do you mean Tim?”

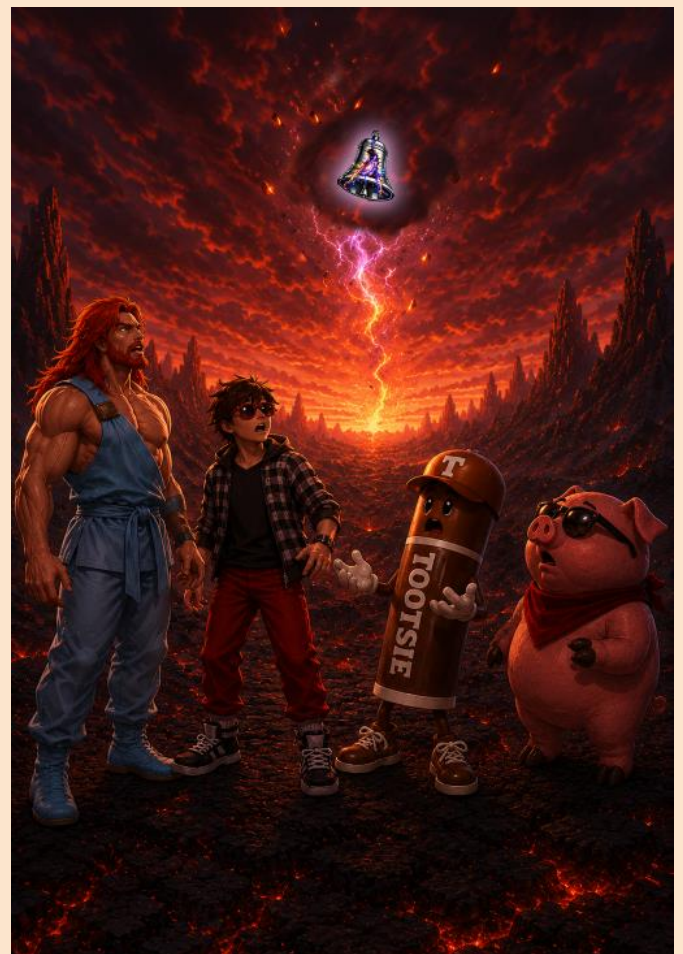
The bell rang.

Not loud.

Not soft.

Wrong.

The bell suddenly levitated from
Mr. Tootsie Roll’s hand and flew up into the sky



“Tim Tim... what’s going on?” Pig questioned with a frightened look on his face.

A white crack tore across the sky, behind the bell.

Different from before.

Colder.

Sharper.

Unfamiliar.

Everyone looked up.

The crack widened.

Inside it... something moved.

Tim Tim whispered.

“...It’s not over.”



“Mama Mia” Mario muttered to himself while tensing his fists again.

The portal opened wider.

And the light on the other side wasn’t from the Maniaverse.

It was from somewhere else.



Chapter 17 — The Paperverse

The celebration lasted only a moment.

Smoke still drifted through the shattered battlefield where Godactus had fallen. Pieces of debris floated in the air, slowly settling back into place as the last echoes of the explosion faded into silence. The seven stones sat on the ground.

The cracks in the bell were glowing again.

Faint at first.

Then brighter.

Then flickering.

Tim Tim's eyes narrowed.

The sky split open.

Not like before.

Not like the portals from the stones.

This tear was jagged.

Uneven.

Like the world itself had been ripped like paper.

A white crack stretched across the sky, and something on the other side moved.

Pig stepped back.

"...That's... different."

The crack widened.

The air warped.

Color drained slightly from the ground beneath their feet.

And then something flew through.

It was flat.



Not completely.

But wrong.

Like a drawing that had been cut out and pushed into the world.

Green skin.

Pointed ears.

Sharp grin.

Its body looked like it had been drawn with a colored pencil

Lines visible.

Colors uneven.

Edges slightly bent like paper.

The creature levitated in the sky on some sort of flying device, gliding and looking around with an unsettling and crooked smile.

“...Hmm.”

More shapes fell out of the portal behind it.

A black figure with white eyes and a long tongue, stretched like ink.

A dark monster figure drifted down like a shadow that hadn't finished being colored.

A lion that looked like it had been drawn by a child stepped through last, flickering in and out of existence like someone couldn't decide if it should be there.

All three were just as paper-like as the green one.

Behind them, other paper-like shapes moved in from the portal. Red, yellow, blue and purple stick figures walked out. Stick figures that looked like animals, and objects alike.

Not fully formed.

Not fully real.

Two-dimensional.

Everyone froze.



Sonic blinked.

“...Okay... what the heck are those?”

The green figure tilted its head as it continued to glide through the air, looking at all of them like they were toys.

“...Wow.”

It laughed.

“You guys actually look complete.”

Mario stepped forward.

“Who are you supposed to be?”

The figure bowed dramatically.

“Allow me to introduce myself.”

It spread its arms wide.



“Where I’m from people call me the Green Goblin”

“And where exactly are you from?” Jim Wam exclaimed back.

“I’m from a wonderful place called the Paperverse.”

The word echoed strangely.

Tim Tim’s eyes widened slightly.

Goblin continued, pacing slowly on his glider.

“A world with no rules.

No limits.

No logic.

No structure.”

He looked down at the ground.

“And this place...”

He grinned wider.

“...has way too many rules.”



The black creature laughed behind him, his voice echoing like it came from a crumpled page.

The dark creature floated silently, his form flickering.

The lion appeared... then disappeared... then appeared again somewhere else entirely.

“My friends Venom, Darkrai, and the Disappearing Lion over here agree with me... you see our creator didn’t care about logic... why do we have to live by rules that others establish for us?”

Goblin looked up at the bell that hovered above them.

“...And you.”

He pointed to Mr. Game & Watch.

“That little crack in reality.”

His grin sharpened as he looked back up at the bell.

“You opened the door to us long before you knew it.”

Goblin laughed loudly.

He snapped his fingers.

“And now we’re here.”

Before anyone could react, he moved.

Not fast.

Not slow.

He just appeared in front of the bell and grabbed it.

The moment his hand touched it, the air twisted.

Everyone felt it.

Reality bent slightly, like the world had just been folded.

Goblin held the bell up and examined it.

“...So, this is the thing holding everything together.”

Tim Tim stepped forward.

“Put it down.”

Goblin looked at him.

“...Why?”

Tim Tim’s voice stayed calm.

“Because you don’t know what it’s capable of.”

Goblin’s grin widened.

“Oh, I don’t?”

He lifted the bell higher.

“You might be limited to a world with rules.”

His mask glowed faint green.

“But we don’t play by rules.”

He slammed the bell downward.

The sound that came out wasn’t a ring.



It was a tear.

The ground rippled like paper.

Mountains in the distance folded inward.

The sky wrinkled.

Color flickered.

The battlefield flattened for a second... then snapped back.

Everyone staggered.

Mario grabbed his head.

“...Anyone have a new plan?”

Goblin laughed.

“We’re going to fix your world.”



Venom stretched his arm forward, his hands turning into giant scribbled claws that slammed into the ground and erased a chunk of rock like someone rubbed it out.

Darkrai waved his hand, and Samus, Pac-Man, and Link suddenly froze mid-movement and turned 2D, like drawings stuck on a page.

The Disappearing Lion roared — then vanished — then reappeared behind Mario and knocked him forward without even touching him. Sonic skidded back, “...They’re not even following physics!”



Jim Wam clenched his fist.

“They don’t have physics.”

Goblin spun the bell in his hand.

“In the Paperverse... anything can happen... that's the beauty of it. Why be confined?”

He looked up at the sky.

“Confined no more.”

He raised the bell.

White lightning shot upward.

The sky cracked wider.

The world began to change even more.

The ground turned flat in patches.

Trees bent like cardboard.

Mountains lost color.

Characters flickered like unfinished drawings.

Luigi looked at his hands.

“...Why do I look... lighter?”

Angel Duck flared his wings.

“This world is breaking!”

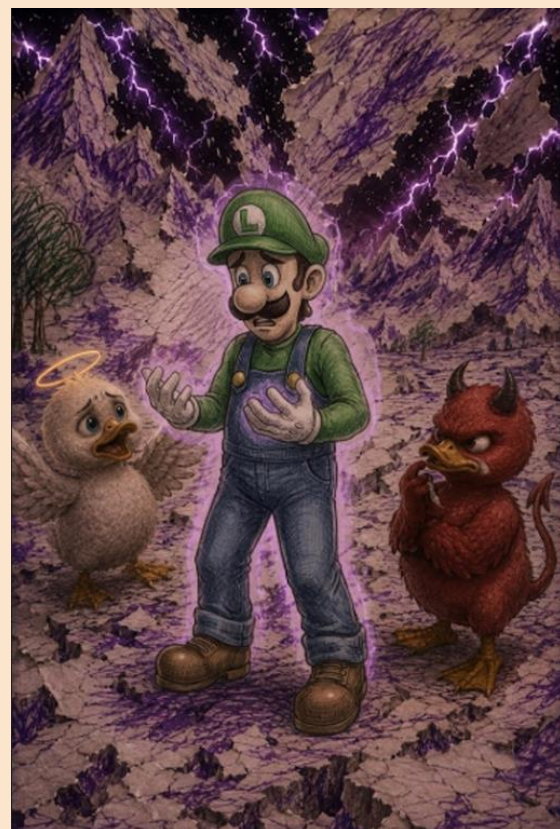
Devil Duck looked at the sky, uneasy.

“...No... it’s not breaking.”

He looked at Goblin.

“...He’s rewriting it.”

Goblin laughed louder, cackling.



Venom grabbed a chunk of ground and crumpled it in his hand like a page.

Darkrai dragged the sky downward with one motion, slowly making it collapse on itself.

The Disappearing Lion reappeared next to the Scary Lion, a Maniaverse hero, and turned him into a book cover that fell flat onto the ground.

Chaos ensued everywhere, and the heroes rushed forward again in a last-ditch effort.

Mario punched.

Sonic spun.

Jim Wam blasted energy.

The Angel Ducks attacked.

All to no effect.

Every attack did zero damage.

Every piece of matter warped.

Every person was useless.

Pig looked at Tim Tim.

“...There’s nothing we can do.”

Tim Tim didn’t answer.

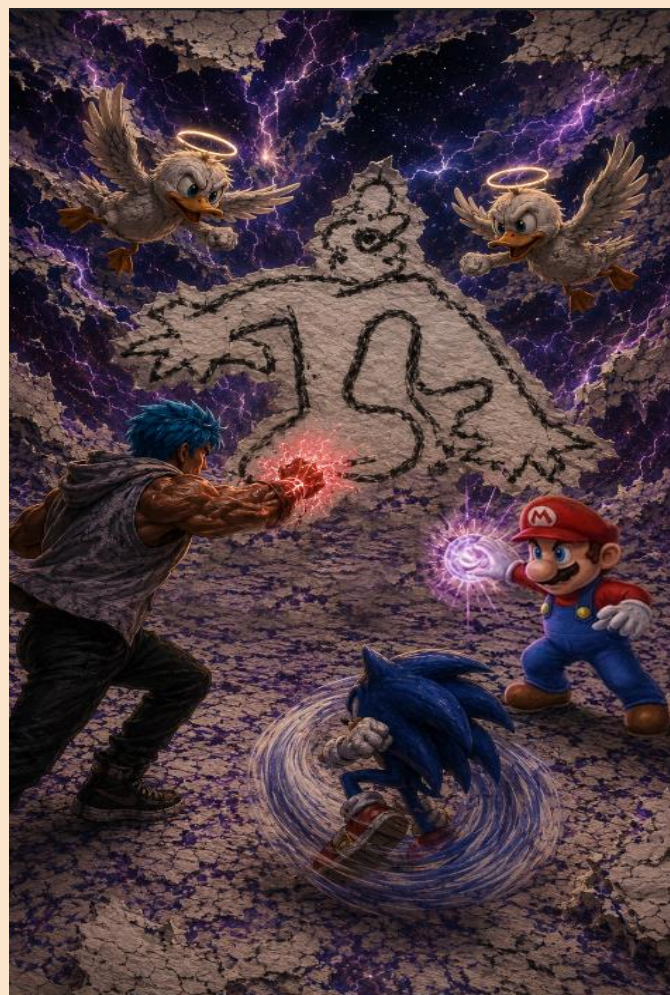
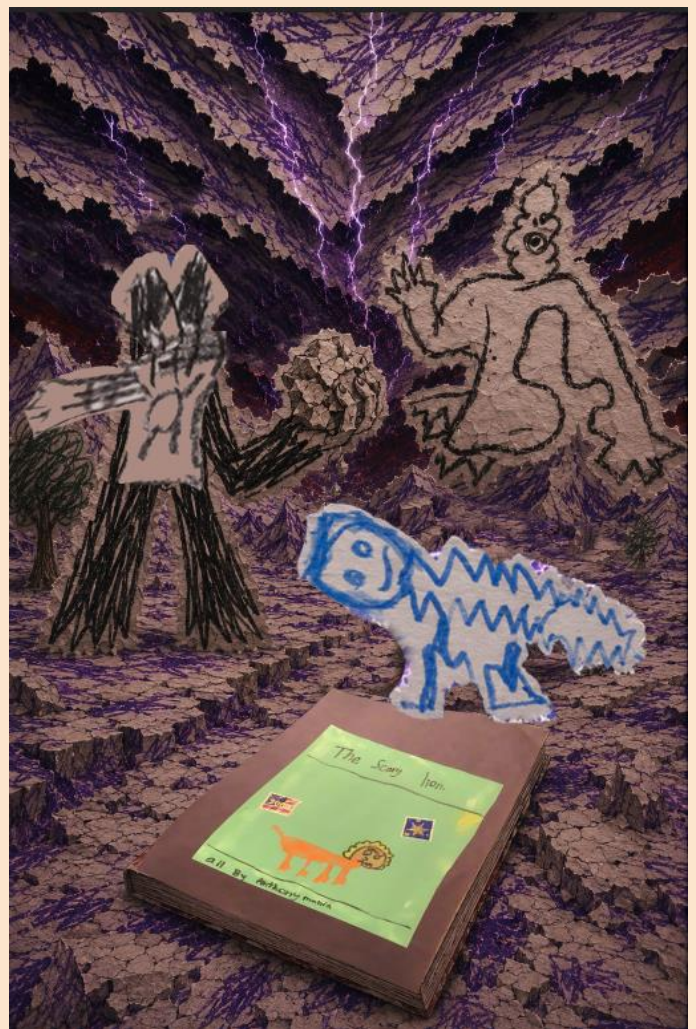
He was still staring at the bell.

His voice was quiet.

“...Anthony...”

The sky tore wider.

The ground flattened again.



Reality flickered.

And for the first time...

Everyone realized hope was lost.

The Maniaverse was ending.

Sonic looked around.

"...Guys..."

Jim Wam turned.

"...Yeah."

Pig swallowed.

"...This isn't stopping, is it?"

Tim Tim whispered.

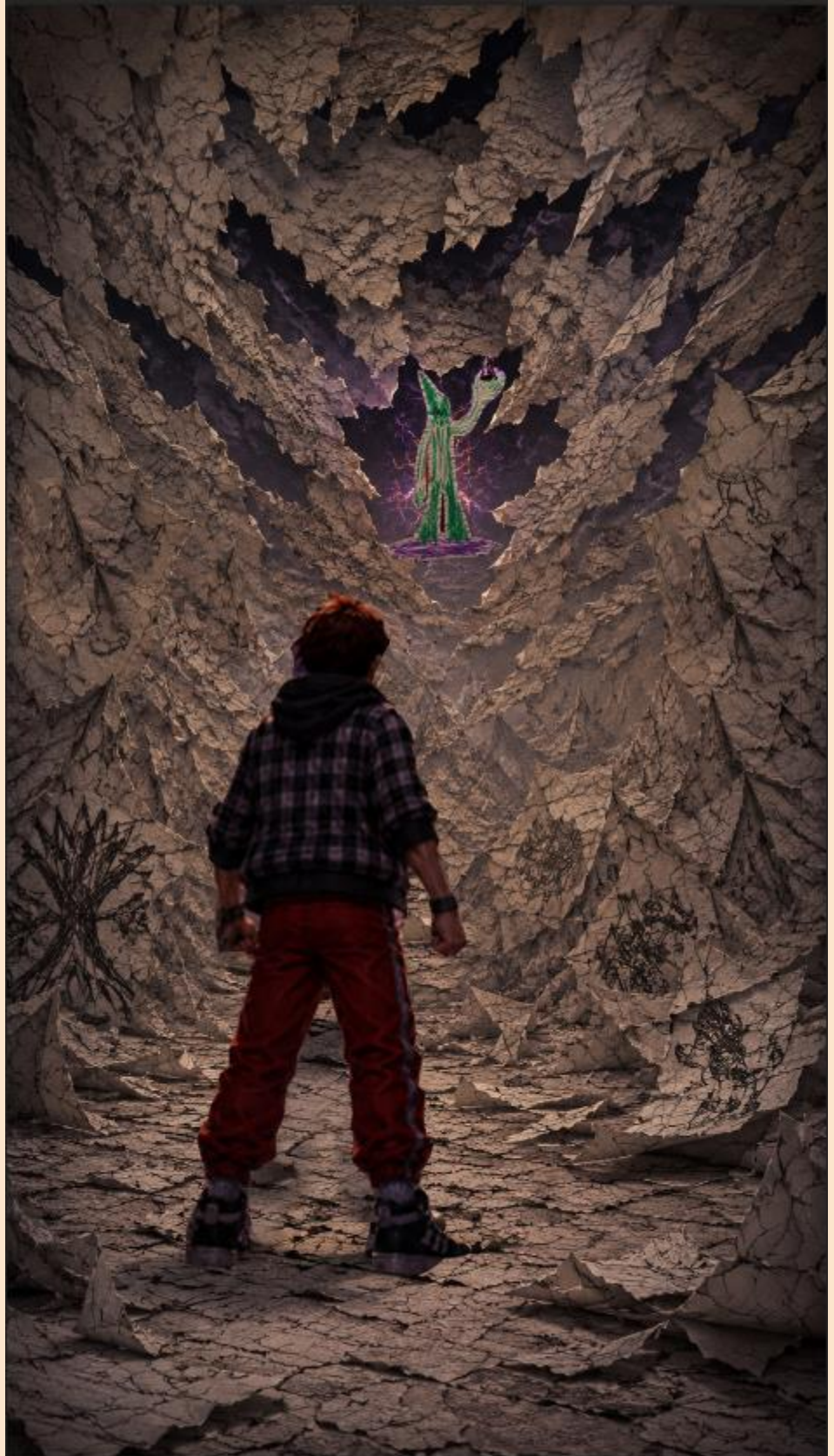
"...No."

The bell cracked louder.

The sky folded again.

And the Maniaverse was close

to fully being turned to paper.



Chapter 18 — The Computer in the Sky

The Green Goblin laughed, spinning the bell in his hand as he flew on his glider. The Maniaverse was almost entirely turned into the Paperverse. The world slowly was transforming into a lifeless two-dimensional surface that rendered The Maniaverse characters into motionless drawings.

The Goblin sang maniacally, “There once was a world with no more rules, no more rules, no more rules... There once was a world with no more rules, ALL BECAUSE OF ME HAHAHA...”

Venom and Darkrai continued leaving black, ink-like streaks that erased pieces of the ground behind them... while the Disappearing Lion continued to turn landmarks and some of the heroes into paper.

Heroes stumbled as the ground bent beneath them.

Mario grabbed Luigi’s shoulder to keep him from falling.

Luigi looked around in panic.

“M-Mario... what’s happening to us?!”

Mario shook his head slowly.

“...I don’t know brother.”

Sonic skidded to a stop beside Jim Wam.

The ground under them folded like a page, forcing them to jump back.

“...Okay,” Sonic muttered, “this is officially worse than Godactus.”

Jim Wam smirked faintly, even now.

“...I don’t suppose you have a new plan.”

They looked at each other for a moment.

Not arguing.

Not competing.

Just understanding.

Sonic crossed his arms.



“...You did alright back there.”

Jim Wam shrugged.

“You weren’t terrible yourself.”

Sonic grinned.

“...Don’t get used to hearing that.”

Jim Wam chuckled quietly.

“Same to you.”

Behind them, Pig turned to Tim Tim again.

Tim Tim’s eyes were still locked on the sky,
as Pig stood next to him.

He was listening.

Listening to the bell.

Listening to the world.

Listening to something only he could hear.

Connor, Tommy, and Joey ran over.
Tommy looked around.

“This is it... isn’t it.”

Joey nodded slowly, Pig hugging the two.

Connor looked at Tim Tim.

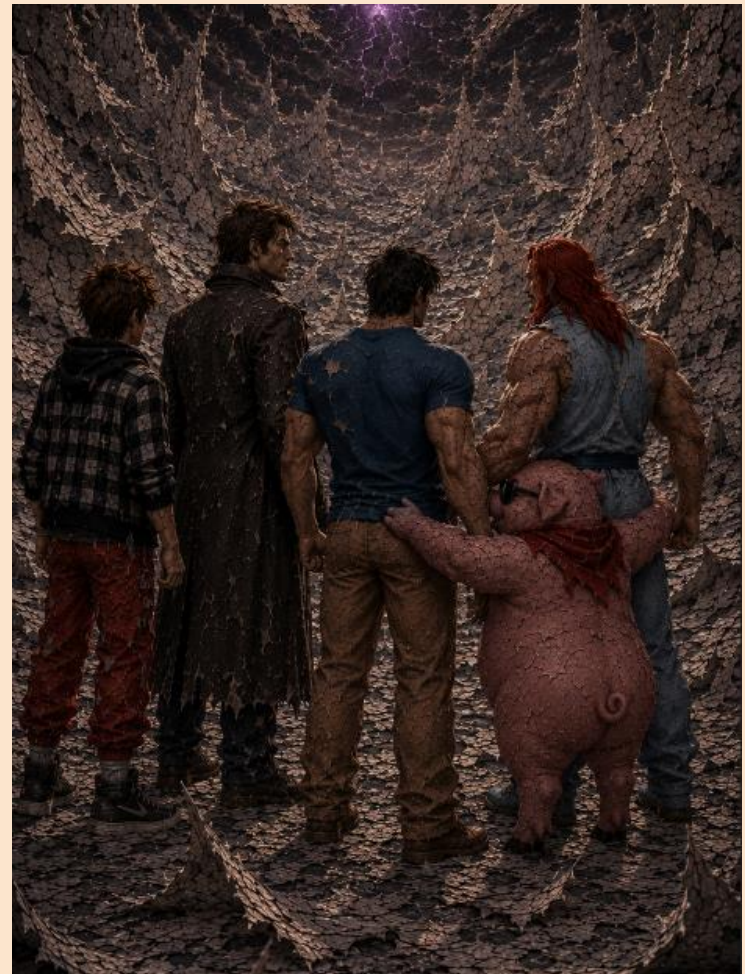
“...You know something, don’t you.”

Tim Tim finally spoke.

“...I think I do.”

Not far away, the Angel Ducks stood side by side,
wings half-open as the sky above them flickered.

Devil Duck landed beside them, silent.



For a moment none of them spoke.

Then Devil Duck looked down.

“...I guess this is how it ends, huh.”

One of the Angel Ducks shook his head.

“...Dad would’ve been proud to see us like this”

Devil Duck let out a small laugh.

“...Always with the sentimentals.”

The other Angel Duck smiled slightly.

Behind them, the rest of the Duck Heroes gathered.

Fireman Duck looked up at the tearing sky.

“...So what now?”

Angel Duck spread his wings.

“There might not be much we can do... but still try to help anyone you can.”

Devil Duck stretched his arms.

“...And try not to get turned into paper.”

Across the battlefield, Tootsie Roll sat on the ground, staring at his hands as they flickered between color and sketch.

Hotdog ran over.

“Hey! You okay?!”

Tootsie blinked.

“...I don’t think I’m supposed to look like this.”

Hotdog looked up at the sky.

“...None of us are.”



Tootsie swallowed.

“...Did I mess everything up again?”

Hotdog shook his head.

“No.”

He smiled.

“You saved us last time, remember?”

Tootsie stared at him.

“...Yeah.”

Hotdog nodded.

“...You’ll probably save us again.”

Tootsie let out a nervous laugh.

“...No pressure...”



Nearby, King Cow planted his sword in the ground as the world shook again and he looked at the sky.

“...If this is the end... I hope I made you proud... Cow Kingdom.”

Kirby bounced beside him, then stopped when the ground flattened under his feet.

He looked up, sad.

“...Poyo...”

Snake looked around silently, while helping Lucas stand.

Ike gripped his sword tighter.

Yoshi blinked as one of his arms briefly turned into a line drawing.

Tom the Fat Turkey walked up to Waluigim, as they both stared at each other.

Waluigim spoke.

“...You see this too?”

Tom nodded slowly.

“Yeah... I guess us birds have tough luck.”

Jade the Black Smith took off his mask and sat down, accepting the fate of the world.

The Weapons Specialist Karate Master walked up to Mr. Game & Watch

“I guess us stick guys are finally in our element”.

Game & Watch just glared at him saying nothing.

Mr. Fox ran over, helping both the Christmas Beavers and John Mania out of a sinking paper hole.

Mario stepped back beside Luigi again.

Luigi looked at him.

“...Mario...”

Mario put a hand on his shoulder.

“We’ve been through worse.”

Luigi looked at the sky tearing open.

“...Have we?”

Mario hesitated.

“...Okay... maybe not this bad.”

They both laughed quietly.

Then the ground flickered again.

The sky cracked wider.

Goblin raised the bell higher.

“More! I want more!”



White lightning shot upward again.

The world folded harder this time.

Pieces of the battlefield peeled away completely and drifted upward like loose pages.

Pig grabbed Tim Tim again.

Tim Tim finally looked at him.

Pig's voice shook.

"I don't want to go...
And I don't want to lose you either, best friend."

Tim Tim looked at the bell.

"...I think... I know what to do."

Pig blinked.

"...For real?"

Tim Tim shook his head slowly.

"...But if I do this..."

He looked around at everyone.

"...Everything ends."

Pig stared at him.

"...What?"

Tim Tim's voice was quiet.

"...Anthony told me... the next story... might have to be written again."

Pig's eyes widened.

"...You mean... reset?"

Tim Tim didn't answer.



The sky tore even wider.

Goblin laughed louder.

“Yes! Flatten it all!”

Tim Tim stepped forward.

“...I’m sorry.”

Pig grabbed his arm.

“...Tim Tim—”

Tim Tim pulled away gently.

“...Trust me.”

He ran.

The ground folded under his feet.

Paper shapes flew past him.

Venom swung at him — Tim Tim ducked.

Darkrai reached out — Tim Tim slid under the shadow.

The Lion flickered in front of him — Tim Tim jumped through as it vanished.

Goblin turned.

“...Oh?”

Tim Tim leapt.

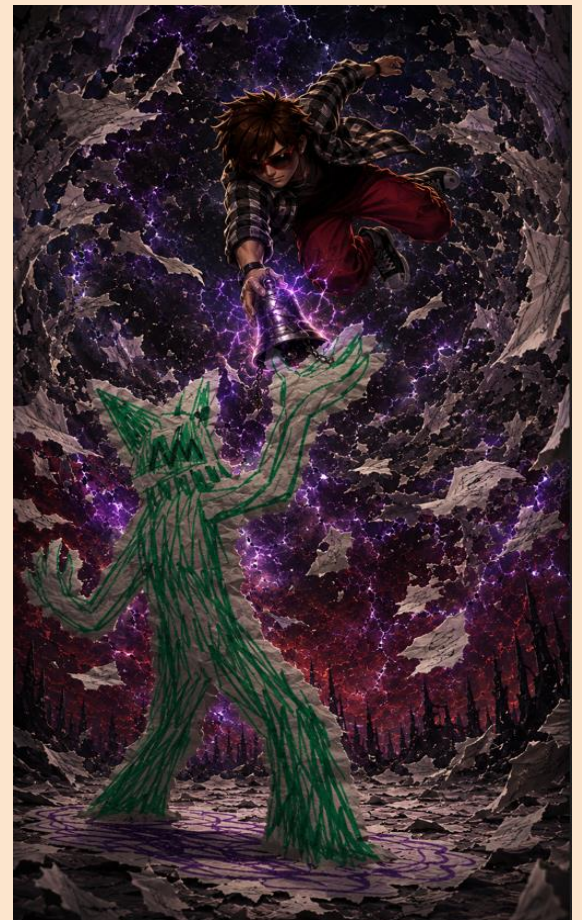
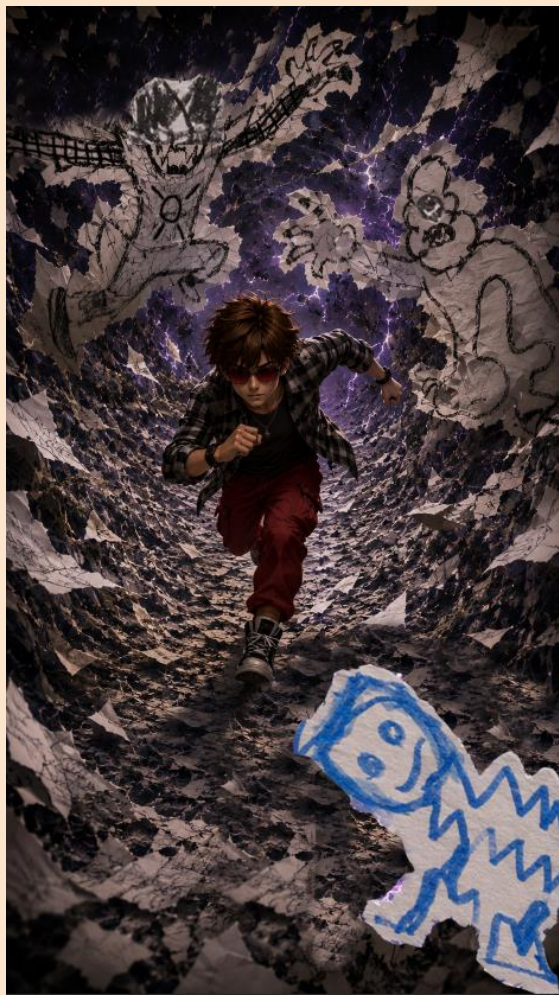
Grabbed the bell from his hands and flipped past him.

The moment his hand touched it—

Everything stopped.

The bell pulsed with energy

Goblin stepped back, confused.



“...What are you doing?”

Tim Tim held the bell close.

“...What I was meant to do the whole time.”

The cracks in the sky froze.

The paper stopped spreading.

Pig gave Tim Tim a look.

Tim Tim looked back at him, and then at all the heroes.

His voice was calm.

“...This story is ending.”

The ground beneath everyone turned white.

Color drained from the world.

One by one, characters began to fade.

Luigi grabbed Mario.

“...Mario—”

Mario nodded.

“...See you next time.”

They vanished.

The Angel Ducks looked at Devil Duck.

“...Thank you brother.”

Devil Duck nodded.

“...No, thank you....”

They disappeared.

Connor put a hand on Jim Wam’s shoulder.



Pig swallowed.

“...You always were the one who knew.”

Tim Tim looked at him.

“...I’ll see you again.”

Pig smiled faintly with a tear in his eye.

“...Yeah... you better.”

Pig faded.

Silence.

The world turned completely white.

No sky.

No ground.

No sound.

Only Tim Tim.

And the bell.

Floating.

Tim Tim looked around slowly.

He looked at the bell in his hands.

“This bell isn’t a weapon...”

He breathed out.

“...It’s a tool.”

The bell glowed.

The cracks reshaped.

The metal shifted.



Changed.

The bell became a desk.

A screen.

A keyboard.

A computer.

Tim Tim stared at it.

Then sat down.

His fingers hovered over the keys.

He smiled faintly.

“...Alright... now where do I start”

He cracked his knuckles and began typing.

And just like that... The Maniaverse began again.



Epilogue — New Beginnings

The Maniaverse had been written again.

Not new.

Not different.

Not loudly.

Not dramatically.

No thunder split in the sky.

No great voice announced a new beginning.

It simply... was.

As if it had always been that way.

As if nothing had ever gone wrong.

As if worlds had never collided, bells had never cracked, stones had never been stolen, and heroes had never stood together at the edge of everything.

In one world, under a bright sky and over rolling green hills, Pig walked through a field with Tommy and Joey at his side.

Joey ran ahead, pointing excitedly at something in the distance while Tommy called after him to slow down. Pig just shook his head and smirked, used to the shenanigans of them by now.

“Joey,” Pig called, “if you fall, I’m not carrying you.”

Joey turned around while walking backward.

“You always say that.”

“Because it’s always true.” Pig chimed back.

“It’s not true,” Tommy said. “You carried me one time.”

Pig pointed at him.

“One time. And you never let me forget it.”

Joey and Tommy laughed.

They kept walking until another figure came up over the hill, calm as ever, hands at his sides, like he had just been out thinking for a while and had finally decided to come back.

Tommy's face lit up instantly.

"Father!"

He ran over to him, and Tim Tim smiled faintly as Tommy nearly crashed into him.

"Easy."

Pig looked at Tim Tim for a moment, his expression softening.

"There you are."

Tim Tim nodded once.

"Yeah."

Joey crossed his arms.

"You disappear a lot, you know that?"

Tim Tim smirked.



"Chill, I was only over by the pond looking at the fish."

Pig looked at him a second longer than usual, like there was something he almost remembered, something just out of reach, but then he shrugged it off.

"Well, you're here now."

Tim Tim looked out over the hills.

"...Yeah."

And the wind moved softly through the grass.

Far in the future of that same world, beneath a different sky and in another time, Jim Wam stood in a clearing with Connor across from him.

Both were sweating.

Both looked tired.

Connor rested his hands on his knees and shook his head.

“You still drop your left shoulder when you throw that strike.”

Jim Wam rolled his eyes.

“And you still talk too much in the middle of training.”

Connor straightened up and smirked.

“I’m helping you.”

Jim Wam folded his arms.

“You’re annoying me.”

Connor pointed at him.

“Same thing.”

Jim Wam almost smiled despite himself.

“Not even close.”



Connor stepped forward, giving him a light shove on the shoulder.

“Again.”

Jim Wam took a few steps back.

“You know, for a thousand-year-old spirit-human, you really haven’t gotten any less smug.”

Connor laughed.

“And for a teenager, you still take everything too seriously.”

Jim Wam got back into position.

And the training began again.

In the Cow Kingdom, King Cow stood on the balcony of his castle with both hands resting on the stone railing.

The wind moved through the banners behind him as he looked out over the kingdom below — the towers, the fields, the walls, the quiet order of it all.

He stood there in stillness, sword at his side, watching over what was his.

A guard approached from behind him.

“My king?”

King Cow didn't turn.

“Yes?”

“The eastern tower has been repaired.”

King Cow nodded.

“Good.”

The guard hesitated.

“Anything else, sir?”

King Cow looked out over the horizon.

“...No. Just keep watch.”

The guard bowed and left.



King Cow stayed where he was, eyes on the land before him, as if guarding not just a kingdom, but something larger he couldn't quite name.

On another world entirely, Mr. Tootsie Roll and Mr. Hotdog sat in a small boat drifting lazily across calm blue water.

Neither of them appeared to be doing anything useful.

Hotdog had one hand trailing in the water.

Tootsie was leaning back with a fishing pole he had absolutely no idea how to use.

“Do you know how to fish?” Hotdog asked.

“No.”

“Then why are we fishing?”

Tootsie adjusted the pole.

“Because it makes us look cool.”

Hotdog nodded.

“Fair.”

A long silence followed.

Then Hotdog looked over.

“You got any bait on that?”

Tootsie looked down at the bare hook.

“...No.”

Hotdog sighed.

“...So we’re not really fishing.”

“To be fair,” Tootsie said, “I never said we were good at it.”

Hotdog laughed.

The boat drifted on.

At a party in a house on a tall mountain,
Frankenstein stood in the middle of a
room crowded with familiar faces.

Mummy sat at a table with
Mr. Me and Mr. Bat while
Young Frankenstein ran past
them holding something that
probably should not have been on fire.

Mr. Me pointed across the room.

“Your kid’s doing that thing again.”

Frankenstein rolled his eyes.

“...He learns.”

Mummy blinked. “...From who?”



Frankenstein thought for a second.

“...Bad question.”

Mr. Bat laughed.

Young Frankenstein ran by again, and this time everyone ducked.

The party kept going.

Across another world, Sonic and Shadow raced through a long stretch of open land under a bright sky.

Blue and black-red streaks tore across the ground, up cliffs, over rivers, and through the wind itself.

Shadow warped ahead.

Sonic caught up.

Shadow surged forward again.

Sonic grinned.

“You cheating now?”

Shadow didn’t look at him.

“You’re just slow.”

Sonic laughed.

“Keep telling yourself that.”



They shot off into the distance, still trying to outrun each other, neither willing to lose, both enjoying it far more than either would admit.

Somewhere peaceful and bright, Kirby floated gently through the air, completely content, passing over hills and flowers without a care in the world.

He looked up at the sky.

“Poyo.”

Then drifted on.



In another place, under scaffolding and steel beams, Mr. Game & Watch sat high above the ground with a small construction hammer in one hand.

He struck a beam once.

Then again.

Then paused, looking out over the work site below.

For a second, he tilted his head as if listening to something far away.

Then he shrugged and got back to work.



In the Duck Land, the sun hung low over the rooftops of the city, casting long golden shadows across the streets as the evening settled in peacefully.

The Duck Heroes sat together near the edge of the town square, helmets off, wings relaxed, enjoying one of the rare moments when nothing was on fire, exploding, or being taken over by something evil.

Fireman Duck leaned back against a fountain, arms crossed, looking unusually calm for once.

Basketball Player Duck spun a ball on one finger.

Captain Duck sat on the steps with the rest of the team, while Girl Duck tossed small pebbles into the fountain one at a time just to hear the splash.

Not far from them, the two Angel Ducks stood side by side, looking out over the city.

For a while, no one said anything.

Then Fireman Duck spoke.

“So... he’s still locked up?”

One of the Angel Ducks nodded.

“Yes.”

Fireman Duck scratched the back of his head.

“...Think he’ll ever learn?”



The other Angel Duck looked toward the distant tower at the edge of the city — the one with the iron bars over the windows.

Inside, far away, a shadow moved behind the glass.

The Angel Ducks smiled slightly.

“...We hope so.”

The first Angel Duck folded his wings calmly.

“He’s made bad choices.”

Fireman Duck nodded.

“Yeah... that’s one way to say it.”

The second Angel Duck continued.

“But that doesn’t mean he can’t change.”

Basketball Player Duck stopped spinning the ball.

“You really think he could turn good one day?”

The Angel Ducks exchanged a glance.

Then one of them answered quietly.

“...We believe everyone has it in them.”

The other nodded.

“And when the time comes... he’ll make the right choice.”

Captain Duck tipped his hat slightly.

“...Hope you’re right.”

Fireman Duck stood up and stretched.

“Well, until then, I’m enjoying the fact that the world isn’t ending today.”

Girl Duck laughed.

“Give it five minutes.”

Everyone chuckled.



The wind moved softly through the square, peaceful and quiet, like nothing strange had ever happened at all.

And in the Mushroom Kingdom, as evening settled softly over Peach's castle, Mario and Luigi sat together outside beneath the night sky.

The air was cool.

The grass moved gently in the breeze.

For once, there were no battles, no villains, no strange worlds, no impossible decisions.

Just the castle behind them, the stars above them, and peace.

Luigi looked over at Mario.

"You've been quiet."

Mario didn't answer right away.

He was looking up at the sky.

Not searching.

Just looking.

Luigi frowned slightly.

"What's wrong?"

Mario blinked once, then smiled and shook his head.

"Nothing."

Luigi leaned back on his hands.

"You sure?"

Mario stood up and adjusted his hat.

"Yeah."

He looked towards the castle doors.

"Come on. Let's go inside."



Luigi got up too.

“For what?”

Mario smirked.

“Pasta and meatballs.”

Luigi’s face lit up instantly.

“Mama Mia, now you’re talking.”

The two brothers started walking toward the castle.

Right before he stepped inside, Mario paused.

Just for a moment.

He looked up one more time at the sky, like there was something there he almost recognized, something just beyond memory.

Then he smiled faintly and went inside.

And high above the Mushroom Kingdom, where no one thought to look, among the stars in the bright night sky, the bell sat still... watching quietly and peacefully over the Maniaverse.

The End.



About the Author



Anthony Mark Mania is the founder of AM Publications & Entertainment and the sole creator of Video Game Land: The Maniaverse. A lifelong storyteller, he has spent years bringing original ideas to life through a wide variety of creative mediums, including novels, original character-driven stories, poetry, memoirs, films, documentaries, music, artwork, graphic design, websites, presentations, and more.

From an early age, Anthony was captivated by imagination and the endless possibilities of creating new worlds. What began as handmade books and childhood adventures gradually evolved into a lifelong passion for storytelling. Every project he creates reflects his belief that creativity has the power to inspire, connect, and transport people beyond the ordinary.

The Maniaverse is the culmination of years of imagination, combining original characters, action, humor, and heartfelt moments into a story that celebrates friendship, courage, heroism, and the limitless potential of creativity itself. It represents not only Anthony's first long published novel, but also a tribute to the imagination that has guided him throughout his life.

When he isn't creating new stories or expanding the Maniaverse, Anthony enjoys exploring new creative projects, designing artwork, producing media, and continuing to build the ever-growing collection of works featured through AM Publications & Entertainment.

To learn more about Anthony and explore his creative portfolio, visit:

<https://ampublicationsente.wixsite.com/ambooks>

Read the foundational stories to The Maniaverse!

All available on

<https://ampublicationsente.wixsite.com/ambooks/maniaverse>

V.G.L. SUPER SMASH BROS. BRAWL Season Two

Video Game Land: Super Smash

Bros Brawl - Season 2

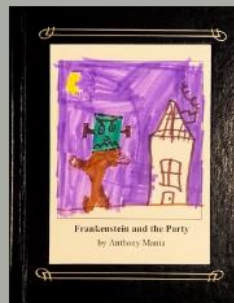
In the Video Game Land, Mr. Game & Watch trapped all characters into his game: Super Smash Bros Brawl with his magical bell. Can Mario and his friends stop this new threat?



Mr. Tootsie Roll and Mr.

Hot Dog

The story of how two unlikely strangers become best friends.



Frankenstein and the

Party.

Frankenstein's adventure to a party with his friends



Duck Heroes Franchise

Watch the five films and one novel in the Duck Heroes Franchise, telling the story of the Angel Duck's pursuit to save the day against the evil Devil Duck.



TIM TIM Universe

Four comic franchises comprised in one collective universe. Including, TIM TIM: The Complete Saga, The Chronicles of JIM WAM, The Black Smith, and King Cow



Spider-Man 1: The Goblin Fights

A retelling of the events of Marvels 2002 film Spider-Man



The Paperverse

A series of short stories written by a young Anthony. Most of them don't make much sense but are about The Backyardigans, The Disappearing Lion, The Wiggles, Scooby Doo, Spider-Man, The Power Rangers, and more.



Anthony's Lots of Books

A bunch of random stories by a young Anthony (that although don't make much sense), are about my Dad, the sun, the rise Darkrai, and Spongebob.



After the events of Video Game Land: Super Smash Bros. Brawl – Season 2, Video Game Land was finally free from Mr. Game & Watch's control. Mario had rung the magical bell, sent everyone back to their respective video games, and saved the world.

But when the bell cracked, it did more than end the conflict...

It opened up something new.

Now, the fracture in Mr. Game & Watch's bell has unleashed something far greater than Video Game Land... the Maniaverse, a shared reality where worlds, timelines, heroes, villains, and stories collide.

As familiar heroes from Video Game Land—including Mario, Sonic, Luigi, Kirby, and Mr. Game & Watch—return to face a new threat, the conflict spreads far beyond their world. Characters from across the entire AM Publications & Entertainment catalogue are drawn into the battle, uniting for the first time. Heroes from the TIM TIM Universe, including Tim Tim, Pig, and Jim Wam, join forces with legendary figures such as Mr. Tootsie Roll and Frankenstein, while the ancient Angel Duck from the Duck Heroes universe also answers the call. Together, characters from old and new stories stand side by side on one battlefield as the fate of the Maniaverse hangs in the balance.

Video Game Land: The Maniaverse serves as both the epic conclusion to the Video Game Land saga, and the ultimate crossover event for AM Publications & Entertainment, uniting beloved characters from across its many stories in an adventure where every role is important and only together can they save the Maniaverse.

Welcome to the Maniaverse.

