

The Murder of Sonic the Hedgehog (excerpt)

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Barry stands in the dining car, which is brightly lit with the morning sun's rays through the windows. Everything is state of the art, the seats look plush and comfortable, and the screens display a happy sun and various advertisements.

Barry:

(Uh oh, am I nervous? Is this first day on the job jitters?)

Barry:

(Working the train's dining car can't be so bad - c'mon Barry shake it off!)

A slapping sound effect plays before the Conductor appears on screen.

Conductor:

Barry did I uh, just see you hitting yourself?

Barry:

M-M-Mr. Conductor sir! How are you doing this morning?

Conductor:

Ho ho ho, quite alright myself! Though feeling a little bittersweet.

Two dialogue options appear:

>Is everything alright?

Conductor:

Well, truth be told, not really...

>Is that because you're a sweetie?

Conductor:

Trying to butter me up the first day, are we?

Dialogue continues:

Conductor:

Alas, today's my last day as conductor! I'm retiring after thirty-two wonderful years.

Conductor:

Time for me and The Mirage Express to say goodbye to one another.

Barry:

Oh, congratulations on retirement, sir!

Conductor:

Thank you, my wife is very excited about it. She's already got our plane tickets to Spagonia locked!

Conductor:

Our shower's been on the fritz, so I'm excited to use the hotel's, fahaha!

Barry:

... (I can see why his wife's excited.)

Conductor:

Enough of my quibbles! Today's your first day working the dining car. Here's the menu for today.

The inventory screen appears, and a paper menu is added to it. Three items are listed, 'hot dog,' 'instant ramen,' and 'chicken cordon bleu.'

Barry:

(I can open the inventory any time to view items I've received. I should look over the menu carefully!)

Conductor:

...why do you look so nervous? All we have on the train is a microwave!

Conductor:

Fahahahahahaha!

Conductor:

Though, I'm sure a little quiz is in order. Which of these do we serve in the dining car?

Three dialogue options appear:

>Crab Rangoon

Conductor:

BZZT, wrongo!

Barry:

... (Lemme try that again.)

>Spicy Grilled Picky

Conductor:

As tasty as that sounds, wrong!

Barry:

... (Lemme try that again.)

>Chicken Cordon Bleu

Conductor:

Ding ding ding! Glad you can read the menu ok, fahahaha!

Dialogue continues:

Conductor:

A little about the vessel - this is a state of the art high speed smart train with all the latest gadgets. This train can really handle anything you throw at it!

Conductor:

We've had a lot of adventures together, me and this train. It's not easy to leave.

Barry:

(After thirty-two years I don't blame him for being wistful.)

Conductor:

This train is exclusively used for events, so it's not a passenger train.

Barry:

I remember that from the interview. What's the event today?

Conductor:

A murder mystery party! Nothing better than some thrills to end my tenure as conductor.

Conductor:

Guests will be funneled here to the dining car as a home base, so to speak. I'll be with you to gather tickets, but after that you'll be on your own.

Conductor:

So, I'll need you to do everything in your power to make sure our paying guests are well taken care of, understood?

Two dialogue options appear:

>I'll make you proud, sir!

Conductor:

Fahahaha, glad this old man can rest easy.

>I can't afford to lose this job!

Conductor:

You sure can't, the severance pay is lousy! Fahahaha!

Dialogue continues:

Conductor:

Doors to The Mirage Express are opening! All aboard!

An illustration of the outside of the train is shown - the player's first time seeing it. A train whistle blares before the doors open, as comic panels appear showing familiar characters enter. A shot of the back of the Sonic cast's heads in line, familiar shoes stepping into the train, and finally Amy in the train doorway looking towards the station in excitement.

We cut back to the dining car, now filled with Sonic, Amy, Tails, Knuckles, Rouge, Blaze, Vector, Espio, and Shadow talking amongst themselves.

Tails:

Wow, this train is incredible! What fascinating tech.

Vector:

You're right, Tails. I can get used to staying on a train like this!

Amy:

What did you all expect?? You should only expect the best for my birthday party!

Rouge:

This train's as elegant as you are, Amy. Can't promise I won't take anything though.

Knuckles:

Calm down there, Rouge. Did I not just catch you stealing from the train station gift shop...?

Rouge:

It was a pen, Knucklehead! Who's gonna miss a teeny tiny pen?

Barry:

... (what cast of characters am I stuck with?!)

Conductor:

Get ahold of yourself Barry, you're sweatin' through your uniform.

Sonic talks to Barry.

Sonic:

Hey pal, can I get one of those hot dogs?

Two dialogue options appear:

>Argh, of course sir!

Sonic:

Argh? Are you a pirate?

Barry:

(Oh no, I'm more nervous than I thought...)

>Righty-o friend!

Sonic:

Well, aren't you friendly.

Barry:

(Why can't I be normal for one second...)

Dialogue continues:

Amy:

Sonic! Wait until I announce everyone's roles to get food!!

Sonic:

Haha, sorry about that, birthday girl.

Conductor addresses everyone.

Conductor:

I'll be comin' around to collect everyone's tickets! Please have them out and ready.

Conductor:

You'll join me Barry, won't you? Just click on whoever you'd like to talk with and we'll collect their ticket.

Barry:

O-ok! Got it!

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