

SCOURGE THE SPEED DEMON # 1
"IGNITE"

Written by Andrew Roby

Scourge created by Ken Penders

DAY - SHIV TOWN - EXT

We open on a hot desert day in a shantytown made from scrap and sheet metal bolted together by planks of wood and rusted bolts. The next panel is a close up of a green hedgehog being beaten to the ground by a baton; having been cracked hard enough, one of his shark-like teeth has been knocked out of his head. The officer wielding the baton is a hulking bear now seen patting the end of the blunt weapon as he stands over the bloody hedgehog.

The hedgehog stands, wiping the blood from his mouth, giving a defiant gap-toothed smile.

SCOURGE

"Is that all you've got? You hit like my Nanna, and that old bitch has been in the ground for at least fifteen years."

The police bear narrows his eyes into a deadly glare and points towards the messenger bag slung around Scourge's shoulder using his baton.

POLICE BEAR

"You know the rules, grass stain. No contra-banned substances allowed in Shiv Town. Hand it over, and I'll kill ya quick."

Tossing his arms out, giving a cheeky grin along with a careless swagger, he strolls up to the wastelander several times his size.

SCOURGE

"You seem a little tense; how about I give you a sample of puma, first taste is free."

Scourge is beaten down again and, this time kicked into the side a dumpster clutching at his battered body while wincing with one eye closed. His cheeky smile fades and is replaced by a foul grimace full of hatred directed towards the police officer.

POLICE BEAR

"I am the law in this town. I'd like to force you to learn that, but you'll be dead soon enough."

Struggling to stand, Scourge sputter clambering back to his bare feet.

SCOURGE

"YOU'RE A FUCKIN PRICK IS WHAT YOU ARE!"

Finally finding his footing, he raises his fists, holding a combat knife in one hand.

SCOURGE

"COME ON, TEDDY BEAR; YOU WANNA DANCE? THEN LET'S DANCE!"

The hedgehog shouts, hyping himself up for what is likely to be his last brawl. He swiftly slashes the knife across the bear's chest, causing the officer a great deal of pain recoiling in the process. Scourge strikes again, only this time for his knife to be caught by the bear's fist, snapping the blade in two with his sheer strength.

Scourge looks at the broken handle of his knife, his eyes growing wide with concern.

SCOURGE

"Fuck....."

He belts out in his raspy voice discarding the knife and backing away from his attacker. Getting desperate, Scourge's icy blue eyes dart around nervously while his tough-guy act fades, and he starts fearing for his life. He hesitates for a moment, closing his eyes before turning tail and fleeing the fight. The bloody bear snarls at the critter running from his wrath, and calls out.

POLICE BEAR

"Yeah, go ahead and run; It's about your speed, Vermin."

Defenceless, bloodied and beaten with his bag slung over his shoulder, we see our main character running away from a fight in a pathetic and pitiable state.

SCOURGE VO (Voice over)

"Names Scourge, and I've always been good at running."

He dashes across a wall, grabs onto a pipe and uses it to swing onto a nearby rooftop.

SCOURGE VO

"It's just what I do; there's something inside me that tells me to move my feet as fast as I can when things go south."

He jumps over a small gap in the rooftops and dashes away, his bare feet pattering against the sheet steel roofs towards freedom.

SCOURGE VO

"I'd rather be running towards the fight, but that's not how things work here in Shiv Town. According to nature, I'm a prey animal, and we're not built to pick fights with predators like Officer Teddy back there."

A trio of lynxes wearing a police uniform similar to the bear starts chasing Scourge across the rooftops. While our lead does not possess super speed, he's far enough ahead to give the perusing officers a hard time.

SCOURGE VO

"Nature's got a pretty fucked up sense of humour if you ask me. What choice are the rest of us left with? I either give up the drugs and let that pig kill me or go back to the Drug Lord without his cut, and he kills me."

The Lynx in the lead tries lunging for Scourge, but he manages to jump over copper, evading capture yet again.

SCOURGE VO

"Like I said, I've always been good at running. It's kept me alive this whole time working as a drug runner. I deliver packages, collect payment and give the greedy warthog who runs the rackets his cut. The last guy who came back without his product or payment got a cactus shoved up his ass and had his bones picked dry by the buzzards."

Scourge enters a slide skidding off the rooftops looking back to flip the cops the middle finger as he vanishes from sight with a sly smirk.

SCOURGE VO

"That's not gonna happen to me. On the really rough days, I look up at the sun and think about the kind of man I want to be. If my cords were cut, debts paid off, and I had a taste of freedom, I'd be a real Scourge. Just like the sun, I'd be the biggest blazing asshole in The Wasteland giving everybody under me a hard time."

Finally finding some respite in the shadow of a dead tree, he breathes a sigh of relief. He looks down at the bag containing the pure puma and clutches it in annoyance.

SCOURGE

"Enough screwing around. Let's wrap up this delivery."

The next panel shows a shadow cast over the shantytown belonging to a great airship, at least a football field in length. The drug runner looks up, puzzled by the sudden darkness.

SCOURGE

"There's no way it's night already..."

The imposing aircraft adorned in blue and gold blots out the sun as it soars into position over Shiv Town.

DAY - ETERNITY'S AIRCRAFT - INT

This panel shows a tall and powerful feline figure adorned in gold and black Egyptian garb; her hands are resting upon a scimitar with the hilt shaped like an ankh, the Egyptian symbol for eternal life. Her body towers over the horizon of Shiv Town below while her piercing golden gaze stares through her mask designed to resemble The God Of Death Anubis.

After the revealing shot of Eternity, we follow up with a panel of one of her subordinates bowing low to their master.

AIRCRAFT CREW MEMBER

"We've arrived at our destination, High Priestess. Shall we proceed?"

ETERNITY

"Let us continue our holy crusade."

The crewman bows his head, and the next panel shows the bomb bay doors opening on the underside of the aircraft, dropping clear canisters filled with green and orange liquids.

ETERNITY VO (Voice over)

"Let the purifying flame purge this blight from our wounded Wasteland."

The capsules hit the ground at the centre of town and explode into a towering inferno that sends a shock wave across the city. We cut back to Scourge, who catches a glimpse of the oncoming destruction and starts running for his life.

ETERNITY VO

"This den of drugs, depravity and decay must be purged if we are to heal."

Side on view Scourge is barely outrunning the flames with background wastelanders burning alive or being incinerated instantly with their homes and businesses going up in smoke.

ETERNITY VO

"Let no soul flee from the flames of judgement."

The flames are getting closer, starting to singe Scourge's spines, making them begin to blacken; his messenger bag is also burning up behind him.

Scourge skids to a stop as another canister of the orange liquid hits the ground, exploding all over him, drenching the hedgehog in chemicals.

SCOURGE

"UGH! What is this crap? It stings!"

He cries, running faster and faster, desperately trying to outrun the growing inferno consuming the town he'd known his entire life. Finally, the flames catch up with Scourge just as he ploughs into a junction box with a second capsule of green liquid dousing him.

Full page depicting Scourge mid-air being engulfed by a storm of fire and lightning from the exploded junction box he'd hit. His spines are singed short, his body burned, and parts of his ears have been scarred beyond repair. He's howling in agony as the chemicals he's been doused in are only causing the fire to spread quickly, along with the pain of being electrocuted.

We cut back to Eternity's ship on the observation deck seeing Shiv Town going up in flames in the distance. The High Priestess is standing in the frame, a subtle smile crawling from under her mask.

ETERNITY

"Burn to cinders and return to ashes. Our work here is don..."

BOOOOOOOOM!

The same panel as before but with slight alterations; Eternity's smile turns to a harsh frown as a flaming streak shoots across the landscape out of the burning town.

CREWMEN

"S..something just broke the sound barrier!"

He exclaims, looking over the scanner with Eternity looming over him, imposing her authority.

CREWMEN

"Should we pursue, High Priestess?"

ETERNITY

"No craft in The Wasteland can match those speeds; it'd be pointless to pursue. One flickering little ember is of no concern to the empire. Mission accomplished return to the temple."

Back on the ground, we see Scourge skidding to a stop leaving a flaming streak behind him stretching all the way back to the remains of Shiv Town. He looks down to his claws clutching at the air while the fiery red aura surrounding him slowly fades away. While his body is burned, his missing tooth has regrown, made evident when his jaw drops and his icy blue eyes reflect the destruction of his home.

The flames build higher and higher against a blood-red sky in a scenic shot where our lead is nothing but a black silhouette focusing on the burning town in the distance.

SCOURGE VO

"Everything I knew gone up in flames. My home, my friends."

Close up of Scourge's face donning a devilish grin spreading from ear to ear.

SCOURGE VO

*"My shitty job, the asshole cops and crime lords, and if all those fuckers are dead, my debts are gone. I just outran a fucking nuclear fire and busted the sound barrier! My ties have all been burned away, and I've been given the one thing I've wanted above all else **real freedom!**"*

Scourge explodes into a fit of uncontrollable mechanical laughter clutching at the air as his limbs all ignite, sending cinders, smoke and wafting flames onto the air. We have one last look at Shiv Town with the burning inferno taking the

form of a mushroom cloud behind Scourge as thoughts of freedom and anarchy grip his mind.

SCOURGE VO

"Now I can start running towards trouble instead of away from it. The whole Wasteland is gonna know my name. I'll give em all hell; Yeah, I'm going to be a real Scourge!"

Scourge takes off over the horizon into the desert at superspeed, leaving a blazing trail behind along with his lifelong home.

SCOURGE VO

"First, I'll need a gang."

(Each panel in the next segment is card shaped depicting a scene where Scourge vaguely explains how he met each member; the boxes are coloured in sepia to resemble old photographs or memories.)

PANEL 1:

Scourge is seen among the ruins of Shiv town lifting a heavy plank off the orphan Scamp who is staring wide eyed at his new idol.

SCOURGE VO 1

"I checked around Shiv Town and it turns out this little runt survived. The blast ended up giving him powers to. Didn't seem right to leave the kid there to fend for himself."

PANEL 2:

Scourge is at a bar very hungover with dark circles under his eyes looking a mixture of sick and tired. Puma is wearing a mocking look handing the speedster a bubbling brew in a beaker.

SCOURGE VO 2

"Next I ran into this cat who was a hell of a chemist. Her asshole boss couldn't see she could mix drugs better than he could. So I offered her a chance to make some real money working for me. Funny she's named after the drug I use to deliver; she says she picked that because she's addictive."

PANEL 3:

Scourge is on a dirty operating table while Abyss with his doctor's bag in shot is digging a bullet out of his arm with tweezers while wearing a stern expression as the hedgehog whinces.

SCOURGE VO 3

"Caught a bullet during a fight and this sketchy old lizard patched me up. Don't get the wrong idea I can outspeed bullets. I was still getting used to my powers. It won't happen again."

PANEL 4:

Scourge and Spark are side by side causing chaos as wastelanders are running from them in terror while on fire. Scourge is skidding to a stop having made a huge streak of fire and Spark is pouring gasoline into the roaring flames drooling over the carnage.

SCOURGE VO 4

"Met this nutcase named Spark who got fired from his job at the ironworks. We got drunk and burned the factory together. Ahhh good times."

TEXT BOX

"FOUR MONTHS LATER."

DAY - OPERA CITY LIMITS - EXT

We open on a coastal city reminiscent of Sydney with waves crashing against the shoreline and a clear blue sky overhead. The highway sign for Opera City hangs over the heads of our cast as Scourge & his Hellfire gang are revealed. At the centre of the group stands their savage leader smoking a cigar with a smug grin adorned in a torn and tattered black leather jacket with a flame emblem on the back, black form-fitting boots and red ski goggles resting on his head. Next to Scourge is the mousy orphan Scamp, annoyed having his hair messed up by the careless gangster. Next in the line is Abyss carrying a doctor's bag full of medical supplies wearing a stern look in stark contrast to the rest of the gang.

Spark the numbat is standing hunched over drooling with his abnormally long tongue slobbering all over the skateboard at his feet with dynamite duct-taped to it. Finally, we have the black cat Puma perched atop the street sign with her tail hanging over the edge and her legs crossed in a seductive pose.

Textboxes introducing the crew are as follows.

SCOURGE

"Speed Demon & Hellfire Gang Leader"

ABYSS

"Cynical Doctor & Too Old For This Shit."

SPARK

"Insane Explosives Expert & Pyromaniac."

SCAMP

"Pickpocket & Shiv Town Survivor."

PUMA

"Chemist & Second In Command."

SCOURGE

"Alright, you guys have the plan memorized? Spark get that bomb to the Police station, Abyss you take care of those clowns at the city council, Runt I want you to sneak in to shut down communications and Puma...."

Closeup of Puma sitting atop the sign purring with delight.

PUMA

"Sit here and be gorgeous? Already taken care of, Boss."

Another text bubble comes from below with bold text showing Scourge's annoyance.

SCOURGE

"Just have the stuff ready!"

SCOURGE

"I'm going to go play with the heroes stupid enough to get in our way."

He tells the team while taking off, utterly destroying the sound barrier, the resulting shockwave causing the gang to shield their eyes and Puma to fall off the sign, shocked at just how fast Scourge was. Scourge storms off across the bridge into the city, leaving a flaming trail burned across the suspension bridge, scorching the ground as he goes.

Skidding to a stop leaving smoke and cinders in his wake, Scourge is greeted by the Storm Squad, composed of a kangaroo, a Kola and their leader Bouncer The Bunny. The trio is standing in heroic poses with Bouncer walking forward brandishing handcuffs.

TEXT BOXES

BOUNCER

"Ricochet Rabbit Hero and Leader Of The Storm Squad."

THE STORM SQUAD

"These guys are cannon fodder; don't get attached."

BOUNCER

"You're the Speed Demon that's murdered, other heroes? You're just a cute little hedge-."

SCOURGE

*"DON'T call me cute!
Dressed like that I can't tell if you're a hero or a hooker."*

Scourge pushes past Bouncer and zips over to the kangaroo, who proceeds to shoot lasers from his eyes; the speed demon bends backwards, beam shooting just over his head and uses it to light his cigar then pushing it into the hero's eye socket.

ROO

"AHHHHH, MY FREAKING EYE!!! WHY WOULD YOU DO THAT!?"

As the roo recoils in pain, Scourge zips over to the kola with his cigar nestled between his fingers; the second hero inhales and unleashes his cold breath only for Scourge to zip away and return with a beer he chills with freeze bream blaring past him. Popping the cap of the now cooled beverage, Scourge slams down the beer as fast as he can before proceeding to shatter the icy glass into the kola's face.

Tossing the neck of the bottle away, the hedgehog gets up in Bouncer's personal space blowing smoke in her face, the bunny coughing in disgust.

SCOURGE

"And what can you do, tutz?"

Scowling her cute features into a frown, Bouncer punches Scourge with a blue barrier surrounding her arm, sending Scourge flying off over the horizon.

Back on Opera City Bridge, we see Spark ignite the wick on the TNT and start rolling towards the city, grinding rails and flipping over obstacles.

SPARK

"The Boss wants me to head to the police station for a cook-out; Time to fire up the grill and make some bacon."

DAY - OPERA CITY POLICE STATION - INT

Two corrupt cops are in the lunchroom enjoying their break, both bragging about absolutely awful acts to one another.

CORRUPT COP - 1

"I beat five orphans today for playing without a permit."

CORRUPT COP - 2

"There's no such thing as permits for playing."

CORRUPT COP - 1

"I know that's the beauty of it; who are they going to ask about it, their parents?"

Both officers laugh at the misery of the children in unison. Their lunch is interrupted when Spark comes crashing through their table, performing a radical kickflip between the shocked police officers.

SPARK

"WHOSE FOR CRISPY COPS!?"

Spark shouts at the top of his lungs with his long tongue hanging out of the side of his mouth. We cut to outside, where we can see the entire police station has been destroyed by an explosion tearing into the city sky. With his task completed, Spark rolls down the station steps covered in soot but relatively unharmed. A few of the officer's bodies are strewn about the ruined site as Spark speaks onto a radio.

SPARK

"The Bacon has been cooked, Boss."

DAY - OPERA CITY HALL - INT

A group of comically wealthy politicians are sitting at a round table discussing ways to 'enhance' the city.

POLITICIAN A

"I say what are we to do about this tax raise to feed the police dogs?"

POLITICIAN B

"We have a lot of unsightly homeless people wandering the streets; perhaps they hold the solution."

POLITICIAN C

"Why don't we have the homeless vagabonds ground up into dog food, solving both problems at once?"

The group start applauding the comically appalling suggestion with praise all around.

POLITICIAN D

"Good show, good show."

POLITICIAN E

"Capital idea."

POLITICIAN F

"A Simply elegant solution, darling."

Breaking up their meeting, Abyss enters the room, firmly clutching his doctor's bag wearing a stern expression. He raises an eyebrow at the solution he'd just overheard and smirks.

ABYSS

"You stuffed shirts just made my job a whole lot easier."

The thorny devil digs his claws into the ground, quickly destabilizing the ground, causing the table along with the city council to start sinking into the ground.

With the entire room being converted to quicksand aside from a small circular area Abyss is standing on, the council members quickly begin to panic, grasping at the sky with a look of abject horror in their eyes.

After their bodies have sunken below ground, Abyss pulls his claws out of the floor, and it returns to normal with the muffled screams of the slowly

suffocating coming from below. Pulling out a radio, he speaks into it, alerting Scourge of his success.

ABYSS

"Scourge, the city council generously decided to feed the worms below Opera City."

DAY - OPERA CITY SEWERS - INT

Scamp is seen clinging to a pipe on the ceiling in the sewers waiting for the guard armed with a baton to pass. Once he passes, Scamp turns invisible, indicated by a white outline and transparent figure; he pickpockets the guard, his face lighting up upon discovering the key. Scamp locates the fusebox for the city, unlocks the padlock and, using all the effort of his weak little body, throws the lever down, rolling back into the sewage in the process. Puffing up his cheeks and looking annoyed, he turns visible and taps on nearby pipes morse-code over the radio to alert Scourge the job was done.

Hitting the ground far away, Scourge pushes out of the rubble with an excited look upon his face.

SCOURGE

"YESSS, Finally something more than just a speedbump. Things were just starting to get boring."

He takes off again, blazing a flaming trail until he's face to face with the rabbit again.

SCOURGE

"Now that's an interesting little power you've got there."

Bouncer cocks her hip, placing a hand upon it while wearing a prideful smirk.

BOUNCER

"Well, they don't call me Bouncer because I keep riff raff like you out of nightclubs."

Scourge snickers and gestures towards the sassy rabbit.

SCOURGE

"One thing you can't bounce back from is death; just look at your loser friends there. If you keep getting in my way I'll toss your carcass in a dumpster. Fitting given how trashy you dress."

Shocked in horror, the bunny blushes and covers her face with her hands feeling a mixture of rage and embarrassment at the insensitive comment. Scourge runs at the bunny again with his fist raised, and she sends him over the horizon with a swift kick deflecting his attack.

Without a second to spare Scourge blazes back leaving a flaming trail across a tower spelling out his name in the background. He reacts so quickly Bouncer is unable to brace herself as Scourge uses her stomach as a speed bag with each punch building up the flames around his fists until they are raging fires.

Unable to keep up, Bouncer spits up blood when Scourge's flaming boot connects with her face singeing her cheek before sending her crashing into the harbor with a steaming splash. Scourge skids to a stop and plunges his flaming fists into the harbor, his entire body exploding into an inferno raising skyward.

SCOURGE

"This oughta get your piss boiling."

The hedgehog taunts as the surface of the water starts to bubble, coming to a boil with dead fish floating to the top. Bouncer surfaces gasping for air screaming out in pain from the sudden temperature increase.

BOUNCER

"Why is the water boiling hot!?"

Attempting to struggle out of the water Bouncer manages to flip her body forward and activates her power with a barrier around her hand colliding with the surface of the water sending her crashing towards the sandy shores.

Before she can hit the ground Scourge appears in the blink of an eye with his fire having heated up the sand transforming it into sharp shards of glass. He's holding the rabbit by the same foot he caught when he plucked her from the air offering a devilish grin.

SCOURGE

"Nothing lives forever and if you want to last longer you've got to be quick. I'm ahead of the game because **I'm the fastest!**"

Finishing up his brutal assault he smashes the heroine through a glass

structure slamming her against the ground. Bouncer wears a look of panic as the speed demon has picked up a sharp shard of glass and is coming over to finish the job; he has an expression of pure pleasure like he's going to enjoy the kill. In her panicked flailing she manages to activate her ability and kicks Scourge into the air sending him towards the city limits.

BOUNCER

*"Stay away from me you **DEMON!**"*

Scourge touches down on the Opera City Bridge with a thud where Puma is just finishing mixing her chemicals and pours them into a steel canister. Having landed on his face, Puma takes a seat atop Scourge's back and purrs with delight.

PUMA

*"It appears the beautiful bunny is a tad too much for you to handle, *purrrrrr*?"*

Scourge lays on the bridge with his second in command upon his back and muses for a moment.

SCOURGE

"Her powers seem to deflect any force thrown at her, so high-speed strikes are out of the question. This is why we planned a backup strategy; is everything ready yet? I'm tired of getting punted around like I'm a soccer ball."

Puma secures the lid on the canister and offers the container to Scourge, hanging by its pull-pin just off the end of her tail.

PUMA

"There's enough pure puma in there to make anyone an addict. There's no way anybody living no matter how powerful they are going to survive withdraws without a second and third hit."

SCOURGE

"Nice, all according to plan."

PUMA

"Now, Boss, don't go roughing up the pretty little bunny too much. It's not

often I find a girl this cute in these parts."

Scourge pushes himself to his feet and rolls his eyes, dismissing his underling.

SCOURGE

"Yeah, yeah, avoid the face. I got it."

Blasting off one last time, the evil speedster creates a flaming barrier and a gust of wind, causing Puma to hold her dress down, so it doesn't fly up billowing around the sides. Scourge collides with Bouncer, and she leaps into the air performing a powerful downwards kick with her ricochet ability sending Scourge smashing into a crater. The hero lands atop her foe with one of her powerful feet pressing against his chest so he can't escape.

Fury blaring in her eyes, the bunny glares at her captive and holds out a pair of handcuffs.

BOUNCER

"You're going away for a long time for what you've done to my friends and the other heroes."

Scourge simply laughs, unleashing an insane torrent of cackling that billows throughout the area.

BOUNCER

"What's so funny punk? You're pretty cocky for somebody who's looking at a life sentence."

Scourge pulls the silver canister out of his jacket, pulling the pin with his shark-like teeth.

SCOURGE

"I've tried prison before, and it's not my style. There's no room to run around."

Scourge tosses the canister emitting purple gas at Bouncer's face causing her to cough and wheeze until she's spazzing out in violent contortions on the ground. The victorious hedgehog straightens up his jacket and looks down at the rabbit who's currently foaming at the mouth from an overdose.

SCOURGE

"I did learn one thing in the slammer, though; win by any means necessary."

Scourge pulls out a radio and informs the crew of their victory.

SCOURGE

*"The two pathetic heroes are dead, and the useful one is under our control. The city is **MINE**; you guys are going to love the name I've got lined up."*

The gang are all gathered at the entrance to the city by the bridge where their invasion started; the crew are all face-palming, cringing or rolling their eyes save for Scamp, whose eyes are sparkling with stars. Scourge is wearing a grin like no other, as if his ego couldn't get any bigger while holding a can of spray paint.

SCOURGE

"It's got a great ring to it."

The next panel is a close up of the City Limits sign with the word Opera crossed out with green graffiti replaced by the hedgehog's name, with the area now being called Scourge City.

Scourge is standing outside the pristine white Opera House, deep in thought with Puma at his side.

SCOURGE

"It's missing something."

PUMA

"Jewels?"

SCOURGE

"No more like a personal touch."

PUMA

"We can steal you a doormat if you like."

Scourge snaps his fingers with a light bulb glowing above his head.

SCOURGE

"I've got it."

The hedgehog speeds around the monument in a storm of green and black, backing away beside Puma when it's finally finished. The pointed structure has now been painted to look like Scourge's spines with a green coat of paint with the sharp ends of the building a charcoal black.

SCOURGE

"Now that's what I'm talking about."

Puma snickers and mocks her boss with good humour

PUMA

"If what you were going for is garish and tacky, then sure it's great."
Dropping his expression to an unimpressed glare, Scourge pushes past the cat and growls.

SCOURGE

"Just get inside."

EVENING - SCOURGE'S THRONE ROOM - INT

The Hellfire gang are all gathered in a grand hall at a table with each member's chair customized to suit their personality; Scourge's chair is a huge throne covered in green graffiti, and Puma's is a classy pink love seat etc. Scourge drops a duffel bag onto the table, letting the heavy contents clatter against the wood.

SCOURGE

"Pass those around."

Puma opens the bag and pulls out a street sign with her name neatly spelled across it in metal letters. She looks confused, as do the others peering into the bag.

SCOURGE

"In prison, they teach how to make license plates; this wasn't too different. Those are street signs, each with your name screwed into them. You all were a vital part of the conquest of Opera City. So I'm giving you each your own street in my city. Fix that sign to any post in the city, and I'll consider that entire street to be your territory."

Wide shot of the crew each holding the sign with their respective names; the group look shocked with their jaws agape except Puma, who is holding her paws over her mouth in a surprised gasp.

ABYSS

"Scourge...."

SPARK

"Boss..."

PUMA

"Oh my goodness."

Full shot of the entire cast showing their appreciation towards Scourge's generosity. Scamp is hugging his leg, Abyss has his hand on Scourge's shoulder, Spark is licking his cheek like a wild mutt, and Puma has created a heart shape with her tail framing his face while her eyes sparkle staring at the sign in her hands. After a moment of being smothered by his crew, he pushes his way out of their embrace, donning an annoyed look.

SCOURGE

"Knock that sappy shit off."

Scourge climbs atop the table with his going looking on in awe, raising their fists in support of their leader.

SCOURGE

"All of you played your role perfectly; with no leadership, law enforcement or way to contact the outside, there was nobody to stop us. Scourge City is just the first part of my conquest. There's plenty of other assholes out there that don't know there's been a change in management."

GANG

"SCOURGE! SCOURGE! SCOURGE! SCOURGE!"

The hedgehog paces down the table towards his adoring public, igniting his fist into flames before pumping it into the air.

SCOURGE

"We don't fear hell because we're already there; this scorched wasteland we were born into is harsh and unforgiving. We are the hellfire that will spread

*across this world. With my cunning and speed, we'll be unstoppable. We'll burn down everything that gets in our way and usher in an age of anarchy under my rule, the rule of **Scourge The Speed Demon King.***"

GANG

"LONG LIVE SCOURGE THE SPEED DEMON."

They cheer in unison, feeding the burning flames of their King's ego while his entire body ignites, with the flames building higher and higher in the shape of a hedgehog skull with glasses burning away in the background.

End of Issue One.

(Part 2 Scourge The Speed Demon: Fuel The Fire)

More Details to come.