Dragon and Goat: the S’Parktacular S’Particles

By Adam Fotos
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Chicago, IL
Morning.

Chicago, Illinois.

5:43 am. CST.
Can I go with you to work today...

I'm not going to the college today. It's a lab day...

Yeah, I know. I've been rigorously keeping up with your work schedule.

It's too early for this...

But if not...I can work on my line of couture leisure suits made out of finely woven owl pellets and drier lint.

Although...

...Dragon has been cooped up a lot lately...

And I could also document how my durian tree is growing...

Once I get a durian...

You hear that, Magnet?!

We're gonna go to Argonne National Laboratory today!

Bork!

I didn't say anything about Magnet tagging along...

Check out Goat's HOOFNOTES on Page 38
But he already has his LIL' ADVENTURER BACKPACK already packed...

Fine... get your VENTURD card. We leave when I'm outta the shower.

We got a train to catch...

I told you it would work, Magnet!

BORK!

Now...

Let's go find some stuff to examine with God's ELECTRON MICROSCOPE!

But there's tons you can do along the way!

Oh, sure.

A FIVE hour commute...

...it's a peach.

It must be fun taking the train to work every single day - a real life BIG CITY COMMUTER!

You can talk to crazy people, play SUDOKO with losing lottery tickets, proofread ads and spell-check graffiti.

...build a pinewood racer and have a car to car derby... arrange a ringtone symphony with strangers' cellphones...

Make tiny sculptures of former presidents out of pre-chewed gum... build robots out of discarded energy drink cans...

...play checkers with bottle caps... try moving things with your mind...

I forgot a book...

My favorite ROCK!

Don't forget reading quietly to yourself...

Then what's in your Lil' Adventurer backpack...

Then talk to the rock. I'm almost done with this last chapter...

Can someone at the LAB resurrect the TRILOBYTE lodged in its stoney core...?

That's an old Fig Newton...
AK!

We gotta HOOF it! The train leaves any second!

Not for another TWO HOURS!
And I have a PETRI DISH of ELEMENTARY PARSNIPS that I’ve gotta check before the specimen turns!

Don’t worry, Goat!
We’ll make it to your SCIENCES!

But there’ll be another one coming soon, right?

This is your big moment, MAGNET!

You ready to show goat the new trick we’ve been working on ALL SUMMER?!

BORK!

Hang on, Goat...there’s a new MAG LEV in Chicago!

It’s a good thing that without pants, it’s impossible to soil yourself...
So this is where the magic happens...?

Well, the disproving of it, at least...

Thanks, Esteban!

De nada, Dr. Tenderhooft!

Now I got you the Guest Pass, but you're gonna have to stay in my office most of the day.

It tastes very official...

I'm already bored...

Don't worry! I've got a whole pallet of DOT MATRIX paper you can draw on...

But can't I do some crazy experiments or something...?

Science isn't all crazy experiments... It's mostly paper work. Besides Catalina is gonna pick you up in a couple hours to give you a tour of the place.

So I'm an office prisoner until then?

It's the National Laboratory, not your personal amusement park.
So what do you do all day in this boring SCIENTIFIC ASYLUM?!

Haven’t I told you a THOUSAND times?

Probably...

It’s just a temporary residency. I’m an assistant to the world’s foremost expert on Particle Physics—none other than the DR. SMASH ADDAMS!

You’re kidding...

Was MR. MANHATTAN not available?

What about PROFESSOR PROTON?

He’s on sabatical in South America...

We’re working on patching up ATOMS, seeing if we can use the MICRO-PARTICLE ACCELERATRON to, well...

...not exactly FUSE...

...that’s, so far, too much of an impossibility...

...But we’re working to kind of STITCH them back up...

DR. SMASH is devising a means of ZIPPING up split particles in this new FRANKENSTEINIAN BOSON STITCHER. It’s like a subatomic sewing machine that’ll reassemble particle strings... tie up the loose ends...

I’m in charge of data pods and...

Dragon...?

Well, I’ll just play on your PC. How do I get online...?

My section’s not online. This stuff’s too sensitive. We just have a local intranet.

NATIONAL LAB, SMASHIONAL LAB!

How do you work without proper WEBBINGS?!

More effectively...?

Anyway, I’ve gotta harvest some data. Catalina will be by soon. Maybe you can draw comics or something.

Oh...right, right... Atomic Dental Floss... String Bikini Theory... Subatomic Sweatshops... Was the Frankenstein Bison burger good...?

Nevermind...
Trust me! You’ll like the tour! It’s like walking around the DEATH STAR here!

Sassafrassing, stupid security... laboratory? More like la-BORE-atory...

Did he just say... DEATH STAR...?

But how...?

Goat’s locked the HIGH SECURITY office door!

Well, that is some nice, fancy butt wagging, but we’ve gotta jail break to...

Who’s a good robotic doggie?

Yessuar! Yessuar!

I wish my BUTT were a SWISS ARMY KNIFE!

[Motif image: A key]

Time for STEALTH MODE, Magnet!

This place will be crawling with security drones, laser grids, and MEGA-MECHA-GUARDS!

But couldn’t somebody PORK BARREL our government labs some HYPER-ROBO-DEATH-SQUADS?!

Yeah, yeah... fiscal responsibility... under funded research institutions...

At least, the trash cans can talk...

DO YOU HAVE ANY WASTE FOR ME, SIR?
Oo0000... How'd they make such a cool map of such a BORING place?!

Oh, wait! It's touchscreen!

SECTOR ZETA:
HIGH CLEARANCE
REQUIRED
PLEASE
MAKE IT
EASILY
ACCESSIBLE

This has GOTTA be where they keep all the Super Secret SCIENCES!

We know where to go, but how to pass the secur...?

GAME OVER. TRY AGAIN!

Now let's find where they keep the RADIOACTIVE RHINOCEROSES!

What do you mean your LAB COAT just VANISHED into THIN AIR?!
We're SCIENTISTS!!!

Maybe some stray PHOTONS turned it into an INVISIBILITY CLOAK...

So now you're a wizard...
No...I was just lookin' for the amino acid spa...

But...eh...

Why do you need to fuse ANY human's bones with plastic building blocks?

Don't worry 'bout me, short stuff.

Ms. Fin?!

Is Goat really an EVIL SCIENTIST keeping you here for sinister experiments?!

Oh, hey, Dragon!

No, I'm doing my own research on the effect of video games on adolescent dugongs.

Can I interest you in a quick gene splice?! I can put an elephant's trunk anywhere you want...

But...can you breathe fire?!

I'm gonna take a slice.

No problem. Pie is infinite.

I'll see about that.

Sorry, Mag. The sizzlin' silicon strips are out.

Bork?

Come closer, green jelly bean...

Hmmm...

He's teaching visual scales to these phosphorescent mushrooms.

So Goat is not a dastardly MER-HUMAN TRAFFICKER?!

You think he knows PINK PHLOYD?!
I read the SCHEMATICS wrong and built my NANITE too big.
You have shrink ray?
I was building the Nanite to fix it...

Hey! That paramecium looks just like me!
This is the BEST SIM-GAME ever!

Right... Sim-Game...

Are you really sure you want to solve for x...?
You wanna be breaking bad, number muncher!

What do you mean I can't go in? I have MAD clearance!
Well, it's really a Schroedinger's Cat thing... Proving or disproving its existence could jeopardize our very...funding.

Please don't disturb the matrix.

What a delicious stroll through a Black Forest Ham Forest!

This is the CUTEST SCIENCES EVER!

OMG...!

White Dwarf Hamster
Read More by Buying the book at:
https://www.createspace.com/4324392
Draw and color what you think Dragon found in the OTHER secret lab!

Eh, Goat... can you close the door?

I've got too much paper work to do from the LAST fiasco...
Time for an UPGRADE!

If Magnet is a robotic canine Swiss Army knife, what TOOLS and GADGETS do you think he can turn his legs, ears, and tail into?

What do you think his FOTONIUM CORE ENGINE looks like?
Acknowledgements

I’d like to first thank Dragon and Goat for letting me share their stories. After ten years of working with them, we have become close friends, and I’m excited to be working with them once again, celebrating our 10th anniversary. I’d also like to thank my parents, all four of them, for their constant support in my comicking and art. I consulted with young Taiyou Ishii of Cool Stuff Consulting, LLC, and I greatly appreciate his thoughts on the cover design. Finally I’d like to thank my chief editor/wife Alli for proofreading, giving invaluable feedback, and then reading everything again for the unending revisions before things go to press. Without her none of this would be possible.

About

Originally from East Tennessee, Adam Fotos is a Chicago-based comics artist, and the creator of Dragon and Goat. He began D&G as a daily comic strip over a decade ago at the University of Tennessee’s newspaper, The Daily Beacon. The comic ran for a year, five days a week, and then Dragon and Goat followed Adam to Shenzhen, China where they appeared in a full color weekly English language newspaper run by the Shenzhen Daily.

The following year Dragon and Goat debuted in the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign’s Daily Illini where it continued to run for four years. Adam took a hiatus from D&G to begin the webcomic Cloud Arcadia, while working on his first graphic novel The Panopticorn, about a small town farmer in Southern Illinois. In March of 2013, Adam’s moving comic work Shostakovich Underground was featured in a performance at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago. Fotos currently teaches comics and art at Chicago State University and the College of DuPage.
Dragon and Goat
These books collect all the early Dragon and Goat strips from their adventures competing in the Beijing Olympics, stopping a Scientology conspiracy, finding Pi-Rat treasure, and going deep into the underworld with BeelzeBob Spongepants.

A collection of webcomic strips from 2010-2012 following Jack B. Nimbus, an earthling who finds himself in a skyward kingdom amidst a menagerie of characters from knock-off video games and moral-less folk tales.

H. Cloud Kingdom: Level Up, 2009
Before Cloud Arcadia there was Cloud Kingdom, the same great comic with a different nomi-cker.

I. The Panopticorn, 2012 (a Graphic Novel)
Spanning 148 full color pages, THE PANOPTICORN tells the story of a corn farmer in Southern Illinois who discovers a new seed that may save his small farm or plot a sinister harvest of its own.