

## **Bulbasaur's Mysterious Garden, Dimension Devastation**

Written by: Vaporeon Lugia Krabby

It is the year 2003. There are only five hundred and twelve Bulbasaur's Mysterious Garden members left. Myself counting for one of those five hundred and twelve. Right now the vast majority of the members are sitting in an exhibition hall located in Canada Place. And to be honest, the webmaster, who goes by the title of BulbaGarden, is boring me to death!

Okay, this is VLK. Those are my initials, I am actually called Vaporeon Lugia Krabby. That is my full Pokémon name done in alphabetical order in direct relation to my real human name. It is not as complex as it sounds.

I am here, along with the other Bulbasaur's Mysterious Garden members to go over the discovery of what Seadra Reef, a highly respected moderator, found. She is tall and looks like she is of Asian descent. Seadra Reef is a great artist and exceptionally good at writing. She is much in-tuned with the happenings around the Lower Mainland, which is a region of British Columbia, Canada and the Pacific Ocean. On one particular excursion to Vancouver Island, she had noticed to be what she so affectionately called a dimensional warp. This was a great concern to all of the Bulbasaur's Mysterious Garden members for some odd reason.

Some of the expert hackers, myself being part of the lower rung of the group; we managed to break into bank accounts and convert it to many of the Bulbasaur's Mysterious Garden members' accounts. In any case we have not been caught for the act, yet.

With the help of the money it was possible to create a Bulbasaur's Mysterious Garden convention. The money also funded the first class transportation and the funds necessary to rent out the exhibition hall. This is the exact place where I am now. And to think all this effort and fuss over a silly, and most likely harmless dimensional warp.

Despite the fact that I am rather bored I have succeeded in dragging my three friends, whom I address by their internet alias. One is an average, figured, amber hair female who is called Dragontear The Enigma; though I prefer Dragontear. The second is a small and rather chubby brunette, she goes by the alias of Princess Wooper. Sadly, she is no princess. The third and last friend is one I like to call Mewn. She is average height, average build and a rather saucy brunette. Together these three teenagers make up my closely knit group of friends. I appreciate their presence, it is comforting.

Right now I was staring at BulbaGarden. Honestly, he looked like a total moronic idiot. He sported an old army hard hat and a horse whip. The horse whip was used as a poorly crafted pointer stick considering the method of usage. BulbaGarden was pointing it at a large map depicting British Columbia and the lengthy coastline.

"Okay, troops," BulbaGarden addressed the audience as a person who had a lot of authority. "Here is the problem." He cracked the horse whip soundly against the map, it pointed to a spot circled in red. "There is a dimensional warp located off the coast of British Columbia. Thank you Seadra Reef for noticing." He nodded to Seadra Reef who was seated next to him on a folding chair. I began to lose interest in his talking and looked around the exhibition hall. Erika, one of the more involved members in Bulbasaur's Mysterious Garden was conversing with Dragontear over the topic of horses. I took no particular interest in their conversation. I rolled my eyes and continued to listen to BulbaGarden. He just would not shut-up!

“So troops. Have any plans?” BulbaGarden put his whip down and waited for some intelligent answers. A few hands went up and the first was definitely not the smartest answer given in the history of the human race.

Effex, an administrator, waved his hand back and forth eagerly. He jumped up from his seat and shouted his answer. “We can blast it to pieces with a big gun!” I giggled at his statement. A few resounding smacks against flesh, seats and floor were heard. Some of the other members obviously did not approve of his decision. BulbaGarden rolled his eyes and one of Effex’s administrative and highly respected friends joined. It was Optimus, a name suited for one who wishes to be called as such.

“We can call the Navy. The National Guard. My mother?” This caused an absolute uproar of laughter as images of an old, wrinkly, female version of Optimus waving a rolling pin flashed through our minds. Konidias, another administrator, had fallen off his chair that was positioned next to Seadra Reef’s and was rolling on the platform, laughing. He was not the most serious person to ever walk the Earth. I sat there finding the mark ridiculous at best. BulbaGarden kept a stern face but he could barely keep himself from laughing. He accepted the delicately raised hand of Tigrin, a cute, blonde moderator.

“Maybe we should rent a boat and investigate the warp before we react.” This was a smart idea and BulbaGarden nodded, approving of the idea.

“Let’s try Tigrin’s idea. Any volunteers?” BulbaGarden raised his hand. It was a moment of silence as he waited to see if there was a positive response. I wanted to be an idiot for once, no matter what the danger or the complications. I jumped to my feet and saluted BulbaGarden smartly.

“Yes, sir! Bulba sir!” I said clearly in a military fashion. Everyone was not expecting my enthusiasm; but after showing my lengthy speech a while back about not letting fear rule one’s life, they knew I was destined. Thankfully I was not alone either. Mewn joined me. She is a born risk-taker, believing that anyone can do anything if they put their minds to it.

“Ay, yai captain!” she laughed. The more timid Princess Wooper and Dragontear saw us both volunteer and stood. They both nodded and smiled.

“I’m not going anywhere without her,” Princess Wooper pointed to me.

“Same here,” Dragontear added. Soon after there were more enthusiastic volunteers. BulbaGarden was pleased.

“Those who didn’t volunteer,” he shouted to the audience, “I expect to see you on the boards.” This was a signal to leave and the vast majority of the Bulbasaur’s Mysterious Garden members left.

Satisfied that they had left, BulbaGarden talked to the volunteers. He slapped his horse whip against the map again. I jumped a little and growled lightly, not liking the noise or the swiftness of the motion. “Okay then. Let’s find a boat and move out!”

I was on the prow of a small and very fast party boat. I did not know whether listening to BulbaGarden drone on earlier or this nearly three hour boat ride was more boring. I looked down at the murky aquamarine water, spray whipping into my face. Mewn and Princess Wooper were a bit offset of my right. They were also looking at the water, each trying to make some form of a conversation. Sadly their efforts were fruitless. I spun around and walked along the heaving deck of the boat. I passed by Dragontear and Jessie. Jessie, or Jess was slightly younger than I was but seemed more mature of features and was almost as equally horse obsessed as Dragontear. Well

after all, Jess owned about three of her own horses which she tended to often. I continued walking around the length of the boat.

Optimus, Effex and Dark Chromium Dragonite were playing a game that I recognized as 'Shot-For-Shot'. Dark Chromium Dragonite was also an administrator; a very wise and talented person whose opinions were taken critically. In any case I did not think him to be too intelligent at the present time since he had just punched Effex roughly in the arm who in turn exchanged an equally powerful punch on Optimus. At that moment I could have easily dubbed them as the Three Stooges. I made the decision to look at the cabin instead.

BulbaGarden was talking to three administrators. One being True Blue Pikachu, a rarely seen person on Bulbasaur's Mysterious Garden but always a great welcome. Another was Link74Bit. He is the more serious and dull person of the foursome. He mostly controlled the news, issues, updates and html encoding. Konidias was also there. They looked extremely busy and I wished to hear what they were saying but I decided against eavesdropping. Whatever they were discussing about they would most likely tell the rest of the group in due time. I walked back to the prow of the boat and leaned against the rail. I glanced over at two of the members on my left.

The Virtual Meteor Master was the black sheep of the group. A tall male with striking blonde hair and green tinted glasses. He never really posted in Bulbasaur's Mysterious Garden and he never seemed to be the type to volunteer for this little outing. He was talking to one of the few female administrators, Chaka being her name. She was a short, well-figured young adult with flaming red hair. A really nice person but too much of a prostitute in my opinion. She was always out to play with everyone else and despite her great personality and her intelligence I still did not like her that much.

Further to my right and past two of my friends were Seadra Reef and Tigrin. Tigrin used to be called KDash, which stood for her initials and Ash Ketchum. Later she changed her name to Tigrin after finding the joys of Titan AE. In any case she was a tall, pimply blonde with hair that went down to her rear. Everyone loved her and she was undoubtedly the most popular Bulbasaur's Mysterious Garden member. Right now she was looking through the binoculars that Seadra Reef had brought along with her. Occasionally they switched the binoculars between themselves and looked out towards the expanse of sea and sky. I slumped over and rested my head and arms on the railing and continued to watch the water, feeling its cool spray on my face. Suddenly I was elbowed rudely in the side and whirled around to see who exactly deserved to be tongue-lashed by me. There was Mewn, though my view was a bit off considering there was some hair in my face.

"What the heck was that for?!" I hollered as I quickly brushed the hair off of my face. Mewn giggled at my flustered reaction and pointed to the dimensional warp.

"Look, we're close," she stated the obvious, then Mewn decided it was best to insult me. "Jeesh, you're crabby." I glared in reply but kept my mouth firmly shut. I had no ability to insult anyone or retort to their remarks harshly.

A noise came from behind and I looked to see True Blue Pikachu was standing there with two of the administrators and the webmaster that he had been chatting with earlier. He had made the noise of what was polite coughing and spoke to all those who were gathered on the boat.

"The plan is to jump in the vortex thingy," he paused, I smirked at what he had just said.

*Like that is intelligent*, I thought. Indeed I did enjoy another person's idiocy. True Blue Pikachu continued going over the plan.

“And we’ll look around, come back and see what we can do next.” This got a few nods of agreement. The Virtual Meteor Master seemed to agree with the plan the most and spoke his piece.

“Sounds reasonable,” he said with a lack of confidence. Everyone still wondered exactly why he was here. Link74Bit was a bit less discriminative and elaborated on True Blue Pikachu’s plan, stepping forward slightly.

“Myself and Konidias aren’t coming. We’ll be here waiting for guys.” Realizing how sexist that was, he corrected himself, adding, “and girls.” This caused a quiet period as the boat stopped within a few feet of the dimensional warp.

Everyone looked at the dimensional warp hesitantly. I was not certain what would happen if I jumped through and could not muster the nerve to go first. Mewn saw this and walked up to the rail and climbed onto it. She looked over her shoulder, a brave smile crossed her face.

“You shouldn’t be afraid of this thing. Watch!” she shouted challenging and leapt through the warp. I was a bit shocked but not too terribly surprised. I ran to the rail and leaned over the side to see if her prone body lay face down in the water. She did not. Princess Wooper ran passed me and clambered onto the rail.

“I’m not going to be outdone by her,” she muttered and dove through. I stood still and watched. Dragontear had taken hold of Jess’ arm. Jess was protesting loudly. The fear of horrible things keeping her from wanting to go through the dimensional warp.

“Forget it! I’m not going through that thing. You can’t make me!” Jess complained loudly. Dragontear would not hear of it.

“Come on Jess.” Dragontear tugged gently, Jess slid along the deck but she shook her head, fear in her eyes. “It wouldn’t be any fun without you.” But Jess still refused.

“If she doesn’t want to go, she doesn’t want to go. You shouldn’t force her,” Link74Bit intervened. Jess was thankful for his concern.

“That’s what I’ve been trying to tell her,” Jess growled. Seadra Reef and Tigrin sided with Dragontear. Seadra Reef grabbed Jess’ free arm and Tigrin pushed Jess in the back.

“Don’t be such a wuss,” Tigrin laughed giddily. Seadra Reef laughed lightly along with Tigrin.

“You can’t really turn back now anyway,” she added. The three of them pushed, tugged and dragged Jess to the rail. I backed away, not wanting to get in the way. Dragontear finally managed to get behind Jess and held her beneath the arms. Seadra Reef caught on quickly and leaned down and snatched both of Jess’ legs. Together Seadra Reef and Dragontear gave a mighty swing and poor Jess was flung into the dimensional warp. Effex and Optimus were laughing. Everyone else hid their amusement, myself being one of them.

“I’ll go next!” Tigrin said enthusiastically pumping the air with her fist. She took a running leap and went through.

“Hey, wait up!” Seadra Reef laughed and climbed quickly over the rail and into the dimensional warp. Dragontear started climbing the rails and saw me cowering from the dimensional warp.

“Are you coming?” she asked, a wild flash in her eyes told me that I should go.

“Of course. I’m willing to try anything once,” I said bravely.

“Okay then. I hope to see you soon.” She jumped in. I watched, not really wanting to go but knowing I should. I continued watching everyone else.

“Oh boys,” Chaka wagged a finger at the males. She was purposely sounding seductive. “Won’t you please come with lil’ ol’ me?” True Blue Pikachu rolled his eyes. I glared at Chaka. BulbaGarden took Chaka’s arm.

“I’ll come with you but you don’t have to do that,” he chuckled, walking with Chaka to the rail. He held her hand as she walked up the rail. After she went, BulbaGarden did too. Effex, Optimus and Dark Chromium Dragonite exchanged glances.

“First one there gets my CD collection!” Effex laughed and he sprinted for the dimensional warp.

“I’m there!” Optimus shouted as both he and Dark Chromium tried to outrace Effex. All three got to the rail at relatively the same time and dove over the rail. The Virtual Meteor Master followed and climbed calmly over the rail. Nothing said, no weird overenthusiastic actions. True Blue Pikachu looked at me as he walked up to the rail. He said nothing either and he too went through the dimensional warp. Now I was the only person left. Konidias tapped his foot impatiently as he watched me hesitate.

“Are you going VLK? You seemed so into this earlier,” he said with a tone in his voice. Link74Bit watched me as they both waited for my answer. I gave none and I climbed onto the rail. I balanced on the top, poised and perfect. I looked to the sky, to the dimensional warp, to the sea and back to the dimensional warp. I licked my dry lips and outspread me arms. Then I effortlessly leaned forward and gently fell into the dimensional warp.

It was black. This still, empty blackness. I could not understand it. I knew I was not dreaming. Dreaming was different. I realized this as I slowly came to. Well I was not certain about that either. I heard the gently lapping of waves. I knew there was warmth. It came from above and below so that meant I was on something warm. But why would I not wake! If this was a dream then it was indeed a cruel one. Then a voice, a soft concerned voice of what sounded like an angel spoke to me. Its voice was female and she pleaded with me.

“Lugia, wake-up! I know you can hear me. Please open your eyes,” the voice pleaded. I had no clue why she was calling me ‘Lugia’. I wanted to respond but I still could not. “Please wake-up. It’s me, Dragontear,” the voice introduced itself. Something with me was wrong. I needed to answer.

*Dragontear?* my mind questioned. *Dragontear!* my thoughts hollered. I struggled, I fought to welcome reality. And then after what seemed like forever, I awakened.

“Please wake-up. It’s me, Dragontear,” Dragontear pleaded. A Lugia was sprawled, belly-up on the sand. Her face squinched, obviously struggling. A concerned Vaporeon and Krabby watched the Lugia as she fought to regain consciousness. Suddenly the two tawny brown eyes shot open. The Lugia was shocked and confused, her chest rising and falling rapidly as everything suddenly took hold in her brain. Terror was masked on her face as she labored to move herself into a sitting position. The massive Pokémon looked down at the assorted creatures before her. She opened her wings and looked at them still. She was very scared as she wondered how she had acquired such a large wingspan and girth. Again, she focused on the creatures. A Rapidash looked at the Lugia’s face, seeing the distress.

*Why am I this way? Who are all these other beings? I must be dreaming but I just . . .* The Lugia was working herself into a frenzy. Oddly enough the Vaporeon seemed to have almost overheard the Lugia.

“No dream,” she answered the Lugia. The Krabby scuttled forward, pincers clacking menacingly.

“How about a reality check Lugia?” the Krabby offered.

<“I’m not Lugia. I’m Vaporeon Lugia Krabby,”> the Lugia retorted, still very scared.

“I’m Krabby you dumb shit. That Vaporeon,” she pointed to the Vaporeon, “is Vaporeon. All three of us are Vaporeon Lugia Krabby. You’re just one third of the whole package.”

<“What?! That’s impossible. I mean how can you be part of me and . . . I understand but I don’t want to believe it,”> Lugia said, her face became rather sullen. Krabby scuttled up to Lugia and clasped her pincers onto Lugia’s tail. Lugia rose to a standing position and roared, more in surprise than in pain. The Pokémon who were assembled in front of Lugia backed away. Krabby held on for dear life as Lugia was getting ready to deal with her. <“Krabby, get off my tail!”> But Krabby did not let go. Lugia arched her tail in the air and flicked the Krabby off with one swift and violent motion. Krabby crashed into the sand and made a deep impression. After a moment Krabby recovered and scuttled out of the hole, sputtering and cursing.

“Well at least she is alive,” muttered a different feminine voice. A blue and white espicat remarked. Lugia recognized her almost immediately.

<“Tigrin?”> Lugia was awed. A Bulbasaur walked to Tigrin’s left side.

“Tigrin, Chaka. We’re all here. When we went through the warp we were warped. Apparently most were warped to their names or personalities,” he said. Lugia had an idea of who the Bulbasaur was.

“Lugia, he’s Bulba,” Vaporeon said in her high and whiny voice. “Seadra Reef’s a Seadra. Tigi’s a Tigrin. Pika’s a Pikachu.” Krabby rolled her eyes as Vaporeon continued talking in her whiny, slow and horribly irritating voice.

“God, Vaporeon, could ya go any slower?!” Krabby shouted at Vaporeon. Vaporeon’s ears drooped, not liking the fact that she was being shouted at. “Dark Chromium Dragonite is a Dragonite. Dragontear, Rapidash. The Virtual Meteor Master, Ditto. Chaka, Persian. Jess, Espeon. Princess Wooper, Wooper. Optimus, Primape. Effex, Hitmonchan. Mewn, Mew anthropomorphic,” Krabby informed Lugia. Lugia nodded her large head, everything pieced itself together. A 4’5” Mew with long, neon pink hair in a ponytail and a moderate human figure walked up to Vaporeon and knelt beside her.

“It still doesn’t make sense that you split from one person and are now three Pokémon. You seem to act like Vaporeon Lugia Krabby but again, you’re split,” Mewn said and stroked Vaporeon. In turn Vaporeon purred softly, enjoying the attention. Krabby listened to Mewn. She tolerated people but she despised their ignorance.

“Look you stupid ass-holes. We all went through that warp and came out as a bunch of fucking animals. Me, Vaporeon and Lugia were separated. As Vaporeon Lugia Krabby we treated it like one of those multiple personality syndromes. So when we came here, we split to suit our personalities. Mystery solved,” Krabby growled. Lugia looked down at Krabby and deftly smacked the Krabby with her tail. Krabby flew up the beach and crashed into a palm tree with a large crash. The Bulbasaur’s Mysterious Garden members looked at Krabby and tried to figure out why Lugia would do that.

<“That Krabby is too rude,”> Lugia muttered gruffly. <“I do know what she is getting at though. I am supposed to be the wise, intelligent and physically powerful personality. Vaporeon is emotional, ditzy and hyper.”> Vaporeon took awhile to figure out that what Lugia had said about her was an insult.

“Hey! I am not!” she wailed. Lugia ignored her.

<“Krabby is artistic, rude, violent and head-strong. If you ever noticed when we were all part of Vaporeon Lugia Krabby that the balance of personalities was equal unless under some great deal of stress.”>

Princess Wooper gave a terrible moan. “The last thing I need is a bossy Lugia and her two cronies. Having a Vaporeon, Lugia and a Krabby all in one package was bad enough. But all of them out on their own?! Uhh, I rather not think about it.” She put her head to her knees since she lacked hands. Lugia contradicted her slightly.

<“Try experiencing it for yourself. It is far worse,”> Lugia said.

“Maybe we should worry about that later and figure out where we are,” The Virtual Meteor Master interrupted. His little Ditto voice not being too loud so he had to shout to be heard. Lugia looked around, seeing nothing familiar. BulbaGarden looked around as well but his reply was not hopeful.

“I don’t know.” At this moment all of the Bulbasaur’s Mysterious Garden members realized they were lost. A few whimpers came from some of the members.

“I told you to leave me back on the party boat!” Jess shouted at Dragontear, salty tears streaming down her face and her amethyst eyes glowing blue. Dragontear hung her eloquent neck in shame and trotted some distance away. Vaporeon curiously watched the hopelessness that everyone except herself was demonstrating. Her ears perked up and suddenly she had this great idea. Well for her it was a great idea.

“I’ll find out where we are! Leave it to Vaporeon!” Vaporeon shouted happily. And with that Vaporeon ran towards the tree line and into the underbrush. Chaka saw this and started calling for Vaporeon.

“Vaporeon, no!” she shouted, her voice making a hiss, a common characteristic of Persians. Lugia saw that there was a Pokémon less. Krabby turned to Lugia.

“I’ll get her,” Krabby grumbled and scuttled hurriedly after. Shortly after she was chasing down Vaporeon in the dense overgrowth and trees. Lugia groaned, not enjoying this entire experience.

Dark Chromium Dragonite could see the suppressed emotions that Lugia was trying to keep down. He spread his small, streamlined wings and took a bit of a running hop before flying into the air. This caused some of the Bulbasaur’s Mysterious Garden members to look up as they saw Dark Chromium Dragonite fly in a series of circles. He swooped low and landed back on the ground. Evidently he was not the best at landing but he did a decent job for his first try.

“I found a river in that direction,” he pointed to his left. The members looked to see more tropical vegetation but it was evident that there was a fresh water source nearby. “We can probably cut them off if we hurry.” This was a good idea and it gave Dragontear one of her own.

“If I am supposed to have the fastest ground speed then I can catch up to them in no time at all,” Dragontear whinnied, rearing and flailing her hoofs.

“Just make certain to find your way back,” BulbaGarden warned. Dragontear nodded and sped off into the tropical vegetation. Everyone saw this glowing red ball quickly disappear from sight.

“Wait, Dragontear! I wanted to come too!” Jess shouted but Dragontear was long out of hearing range. She pouted miserably, “for once I’d like to ride on a Rapidash.”

“Hello? Wooper in the water here,” called Princess Wooper impatiently, feeling very ignored. Seadra Reef bobbed up and down next to her, also feeling impatient and ignored. Both had gone into the saltwater at the mention of Dark Chromium Dragonite’s plan. Optimus noticed them and began to taunt.

“Hey, Seadra!” he shouted, putting his large, glove-like hands to his mouth. “You better watch out for sharks!” he grinned. Seadra Reef scowled at his remark.

“I hope you can swim, and fast!” Effex piped in. Seadra Reef did not like their taunting and her cheeks inflated. They watched, puzzled then in surprise as she shot a high-pressured stream of water at the unfortunate pair. Optimus and Effex spluttered and were left soaking and dismayed. Optimus looked like a drowned rat since his highly bushy Primape fur drooped and stuck to his skin. Effex laughed since only his shorts actually looked ridiculous as they clung to his skin.

The Virtual Meteor Master smiled and then laughed at them. “Serves you two right.”

“She soaked you two good,” True Blue Pikachu sneered.

“Nice shot there, Seadra Reef,” Dark Chromium Dragonite chuckled, complimenting the rather proud Seadra Reef. Tigrin giggled and stood on her hind legs applauding Seadra Reef’s accuracy. Mewn joined her. BulbaGarden sighed at the foolishness of the group. Chaka yawned, faking boredom.

“That wasn’t funny!” Effex growled as he wrung out his shorts. Optimus gave himself a shake and water flung from his fur. It began to regain its formal bushy stature.

“On the plus side, she didn’t drown us,” Optimus added.

<“Enough games!”> Lugia slammed her foot in the sand. Her patience long since worn thin. As Vaporeon Lugia Krabby it was possible to be less serious and participate in encouraging silly behavior but Lugia was the one third that suffered at doing so. <“We must find those two ignoramuses immediately,”> Lugia ordered the Bulbasaur’s Mysterious Garden members. None of them really wanted to object to the obviously dominating power. It would most likely be like a Volkswagen Beetle trying to fight an F5 tornado. The poor car would not win. BulbaGarden quickly refined what Lugia had just said, making it sound less hostile.

“We better hurry and quit dawdling. Everyone, let’s move.” This said, everyone moved as fast as they good muster. The Virtual Meteor Master transformed into a Dragonite and flew alongside Dark Chromium Dragonite. Lugia glided quickly, Mewn came next to Lugia’s side.

“You’re no fun,” Mewn mumbled sadly into Lugia’s ear.

<This should never be considered fun,> Lugia snarled as she told Mewn in private telepathy and pulled away from Mewn.

The vegetation, which Krabby had just figured out was a jungle, was getting in the way of Krabby’s vision. She sliced irritably at a low branch and scuttled hurriedly after Vaporeon.

*God, that little prick puts me through too much,* thought Krabby. She continued her pursuit and was welcomed by a small panting noise up ahead.

Vaporeon gasped from the humidity. Her body was slicked with sweat. It was obvious she was breathless as her breathing was heavy and her movements were slow. Krabby was relieved that she had finally caught up with Vaporeon. Not missing a good opportunity, Krabby scuttled behind Vaporeon’s tail, just within pincer reach.

“Okay, Vaporeon. Let’s get back to Lugia and the others.” Krabby’s pincer inched towards Vaporeon’s vulnerable tail.

Glancing at Krabby, Vaporeon jumped away. She temporarily lost her balance and brushed by an exotic flower. Quickly regaining her balance she giggled, making Krabby very angry. “Hee-hee, try and catch me,” Vaporeon giggled some more and bolted. Krabby started to chase Vaporeon again.



“Bloody hell. Get back here Vaporeon!” Krabby jumped the best she could and attempted to clamp onto Vaporeon but she missed.

“Missed me,” Vaporeon teased as they both went further and farther away from the beach and deeper into the jungle.

Lugia was charging over the murky waters of the river and beneath the overhanging tree canopy. A vine caught her across the neck and stopped her. She threw back her head and an eerie screech escaped her mouth. Lugia quickly brought her jaw forward, snagging the vine in her mouth and snapping it. She continued her blind charge, avoiding tree branches and vines.

Mewn was a bit farther ahead of Lugia, using Teleports to gain her a few precious yards of distance each time. Despite the fact she was ahead of Lugia she could still hear the flapping wings, the low growls and the other noises that came when Lugia was rudely embraced by vegetation. She sighed, wondering what happened to the cautious friend she once knew.

Dark Chromium Dragonite and The Virtual Meteor Master skimmed over the river, avoiding their equal share of tree branches, vines and occasionally a log or a rock that happened to rise above the torrents of the river. They were flying far more slowly than Lugia but their lack of raging speeds came with the lack of injury. They both watched Lugia as she crashed through an odd tree branch or break a ropey vine in dismay. Too close and they might be hit by whatever debris Lugia cared to crash into.

Princess Wooper and Seadra Reef swam in the water. Having no major appendages fit for trudging on land they were basically forced to swim. Seadra Reef’s Seadra body was well adapted for currents and rough water. Princess Wooper struggled more but again she could swim faster than she could walk. She happily followed behind Seadra Reef, enjoying the lack of resistance from Seadra Reef’s wake. Together they came up behind Dark Chromium Dragonite and The Virtual Meteor Master.

Optimus’ way of traveling was more efficient than the others but then again he was adapted for it. Optimus resorted to tree swinging; in which case he was doing it very well. He was actually going very fast and his Pokémon form could handle the constant strain that was on his arms and shoulders. The fact that he was high above the ground did not bother him much either. He had full confidence in himself that he would not fall.

Tigrin, Chaka, BulbaGarden, Effex, Jess and True Blue Pikachu plodded along the soggy ground. Their trek was slow and unpleasant. They were so far behind that they could not see Lugia or Mewn as they came across bends in the river. They often had to avoid mud holes, exposed tree roots, underbrush, vines, lichens and other annoyances. Despite this they trudged on, desperate to find Vaporeon and Krabby.

Dragontear trotted through the jungle as fast as she could, yet a horse was never made for running through such enclosed spaces. They may have been able to do that a few million years ago but evolution had taken effect and no longer was a horse or even a Rapidash able to move swiftly through such places. Dragontear was mildly frustrated by this and had to take great care with her footing. The path before her was easy enough to follow. Vaporeon’s footprints and Krabby’s angry attempts to clear herself a path were telltale signs. Dragontear trotted forward, her tail flicking some moss and it burst into flames. She turned her head around at the smell of smoke. Not knowing the lengths of a Pokémon’s abilities, she focused on the fire in hopes that it

would go away. Strangely enough it dispersed, leaving the moss burnt but on the plus side, the jungle was fine. Dragontear smiled at her little achievement, thoroughly enjoying this entire experience. After her pause she got back to following the trail. Hopefully her friends were safe.

“Missed me again,” laughed Vaporeon as she dodged the angry Krabby.

“Fuck you, Vaporeon!” yelled Krabby as she tried to jump at Vaporeon and clamp down on the flailing tail. She missed and Vaporeon continued to literally run circles around Krabby. Vaporeon feigned to her left, Krabby mistook this as something else. She thought Vaporeon to be too stupid to pull off any moves that even required the least bit of intelligence. So Krabby jumped at Vaporeon who had just tricked Krabby and ended up scampering off to her right. Krabby soared past Vaporeon and embedded herself into a tree. Vaporeon ran back over to look and closely observed the new type of tree fungi, one that happened to be very useful of obscenities.

“You aren’t very smart, are you?” she said to Krabby who in turn was trying to remove herself from the tree.

“When I get out of here,” growled Krabby angrily as she used her pincers to assist herself from getting off the tree. She continued her sentence, “I’m going to rip your throat out and shove it up your ass.”

Vaporeon did not like the sounds of that and started to move away. She knew very well that Krabby was in no mood to play around anymore. “Umm,” she gulped. Krabby had just removed herself from the tree and was ready to go about performing her evil scheme. Vaporeon’s ears perked up and she sped away from Krabby as fast as she could. Krabby scuttled nearly as fast as Vaporeon could run. Vaporeon turned her head to watch her antagonist chase her and she kept looking at Krabby as she ran to the other edge of the jungle and out onto a pathway. She had not noticed the change in scenery, and she definitely did not notice the sounds of something else. Vaporeon continued further onto the pathway and with a loud smack she had crashed into a smooth pillar. She flew backwards a couple of feet before crashing into the dirt of the pathway. The thing Vaporeon had hit made a thud as it too hit the dirt. Both Vaporeon and the thing she had hit caused a bit of an impact and dust lifted around them both.

“Oww, what hit me?” moaned a female voice.

“Hey Misty, are you okay?” asked the deep voice of a male. A different, more higher-pitched male voice spoke.

“Just my luck, a Vaporeon! Let’s capture it Pikachu.”

“Pi pika,” (Sure thing,) said a squeaky voice that reminded Vaporeon all too much of what True Blue Pikachu’s form sounded like. Vaporeon twisted on the ground as she regained her senses to make certain she was not either seeing things, hearing things, or both; but there in front of her was Ash, Brock, Misty, Pikachu and Togepi.

“Vvaapporrrreeeoon?! Rrreeeeon, Vvaaaporr?” (What?! Misty, Pikachu?) she gasped in shock. Pikachu and Togepi understood what Vaporeon had just said but none of the three humans understood a word. Vaporeon started to think again and realized that she could understand the Bulbasaur’s Mysterious Garden members because they could all understand Pokémon but the humans had no clue what a Pokémon would be saying. And the whole time she thought that she was not speaking Pokémon but instead, simple English.

“Here Misty,” Brock offered his hand to Misty and assisted her up. Ash and Pikachu waited for Vaporeon’s first move. Her first move was to run away.

“Vaaapoooreeeoon!” (Aaaaaahhhhhhh!) she cried as she tried to stand and collapsed back to the ground. Her left, hind ankle was sprained and Vaporeon could not move. She looked up at them and knew that she would have to fight.

“Vaaapoooreeeoon!” (Aaaaaahhhhhhh!)

Krabby heard the cry and panic washed over her. She had fallen behind Vaporeon and had to play ‘Catch-up’ all over again. Despite the fact that she was nearly out to kill Vaporeon, Krabby had to admit that she loved the Vaporeon, even if she was a ditzy Pokémon. Krabby immediately thought of Vaporeon facing a giant bear or hanging perilously off the edge of a cliff. She picked up her scuttling speed.

“I’m coming Vaporeon! Just hold on a little longer. I won’t let that bear eat you!” Krabby hollered since now her ‘Seek And Destroy’ mission turned into a rescue mission.

“I hate this,” hissed Chaka. “Look at my precious tail. It’s ruined!” she whined as she flicked the her tail that was clotted with mud towards Jess and Tigrin who were plodding behind her.

“We are all tired and aggravated. Just try to think positively about this situation and it will be better for all of us,” replied Tigrin, the moderately muddy moderator. Jess looked at Chaka. She seemed to be just as she was, a very depressed Espeon.

“Think happy thoughts,” she murmured. This got a bad reaction from Chaka. She stopped and snapped at both Tigrin and Jess.

“Think happy thoughts?! How can I think happy thoughts when I am tired, hungry and dirty?!” she snarled menacingly. Tigrin lowered her head, not having an answer for Chaka’s questions. Jess slunk past Chaka, her temper mounting gradually. Her blue aura flared and Jess’ eyes flickered violently. She glared at Chaka who responded by backing away. Jess was a Psychic type, Chaka knew that without a single thought she could be drowning in the river. After a long pause Jess continued walking, Chaka followed with a great loss of dignity. Tigrin, Chaka and Jess still continued their argument further. Even with the constant threats from each other.

“They’re bickering,” True Blue Pikachu whispered to BulbaGarden as he watched the three arguing females ahead of him. “Maybe it wasn’t a good idea to have the whole group go out on a search. Some of us can honestly not handle it.”

“It’s better to stick together. We can watch over everyone more easily,” BulbaGarden whispered in reply. “Plus I’d rather not go face-to-face and try to reason with Lugia. I may be the webmaster but she’s got me beat,” he added.

“Yeah, who would ever have thought that Vaporeon Lugia Krabby is such problem. I have heard about her occasionally having a bad day and basically bashing people’s art. That and she can be a little emotional and stubborn but I never thought as three separate entities she is such a problem,” whispered True Blue Pikachu. BulbaGarden nodded.

“Yeah, I never thought that either. Then again I never thought I’d be a Bulbasaur. We are all surprised.”

Effex was in the very front of the group that could neither fly, swing, or swim. Though for him, being a Hitmonchan had its advantages. For one, he had great stamina and endurance; unlike the others walking on the jungle floor, he was still breathing normally. He glanced over his shoulder

and listened to the females complain about who had it easier and why their concerns were more important than the other's. His nerves were harder to grate but even his were starting to grate.

"Someone tell them to shut-up," he grumbled. Optimus peered down from a tree branch above Effex, feeling free to reply.

"They're girls. They have to fight over things," he shrugged and swung to another tree branch. The one he had just swung to was covered in lichen and was very slippery. Optimus lost his grip and fell to the ground. He hit it with a loud squelch.

"Yo, Opti! Are you okay?" called Effex as he jogged up to the dazed Primape. Optimus slowly got up, rubbing his sore bottom.

"Okay, next time I'm going swinging it's only two feet off the ground and with a safety line," he grumbled. "That," he pointed to the tree canopy, "is the hardest thing I have ever done in my life."

True Blue Pikachu overheard and took this as a good opportunity to make an insult. "Either than changing the channel, what else?" joked the Pikachu. Optimus sulkily walked over to a tree and climbed it. He continued his swinging, this time watching where he was going.

"You think you all have it hard, there are leeches in this water!" Seadra Reef yelled from the river.

"Like it is pleasant for us. As soon as we find Vaporeon and Krabby we can leave," Princess Wooper said. "Now all of you quit complaining or I'll give you something else to complain about," she threatened. A cute little Wooper that threatens people is something to be taken seriously. Especially when it's a teenager's mind behind the innocent features.

The Virtual Meteor Master and Dark Chromium Dragonite had been backtracking to see what everyone else was doing. The Virtual Meteor Master decided to mock the unfortunate Bulbasaur's Mysterious Garden members that were beneath him. He did a very stylish backwards somersault and spoke as he did it.

"Haha. At least I can fly . . ." He was cut off short as he was tangled in a vine and it began to affectionately strangle him. He did manage to get out of the death grip but his neck was red from the hold.

Lugia had also slowed down due to the increased amount of blocks in her way. She sent her displeasure back to everyone else. <"Stop stalling!"> she snapped at them.

"Vaaapoooreeeoon!" (Aaaaaahhhhhhh!)

Lugia's head jerked upwards at the sound of Vaporeon's faint cry. <"I'm coming!"> she shouted and increased her speed, beginning to forcefully smash through everything in her way. The other members watched with no longer any surprise for Lugia's behavior but an urgency to save Vaporeon. Dark Chromium Dragonite felt the same but his enthusiasm was less.

"Great," he grumbled sarcastically, "my worst nightmare. Me, with a bunch of freaking Pokémon, stuck in a soap opera. Just perfect," he said as he flapped after Lugia, being able to follow her more easily since she was clearing the way.

"We better follow Lugia," True Blue Pikachu sighed, "and quickly." He broke out into a run. Chaka, Tigrin, Effex and BulbaGarden willingly followed. Seadra Reef and Princess Wooper heard too and swam as fast as they could up the river.

"I don't want to run," Jess whined. Tigrin ran up to her and got behind Jess, gently shoving her.

"Well you have to," Tigrin said.

"But I don't want to," Jess whined some more. BulbaGarden could see Tigrin having a difficult time making Jess move and decided to offer some needed assistance. He used a Vine

Whip and extended his vines so that they wrapped around Jess' waist. Jess squirmed but to no avail. BulbaGarden then retracted his vines and Jess came with. Jess was complaining and screaming the whole time.

"Thanks Bulba," Tigrin said to BulbaGarden as she ran past him.

"No problem," he smiled and looked up at his catch. Jess glared at him from her viewpoint. "Are you going to give me one hundred and ten percent?" he grinned at Jess. She nodded furiously. BulbaGarden put her down and Jess ran. Optimus watched with amusement as he swung to a tree near BulbaGarden.

"You can all run but I'll swing." Just like last time, Optimus lost his grip and fell to the soggy ground. BulbaGarden wrapped his vines around the dazed Optimus and dragged him along as he ran.

"You are just one monkey that was never made for the trees, Optimus," he laughed and then became serious as he got back to the main concern of the day, the possible fact that Vaporeon was in trouble.

*This can't be real. It . . . it . . . owwie!* Vaporeon gritted her teeth as she struggled to stand. She managed to rise to her feet but only three of them were supporting her weight. The other one was in pain, starting to become noticeably swollen. She could not possibly run and attempted to fake that she was an aggressive Vaporeon. She looked up at Ash who smiled wistfully and was preparing to make an order that Vaporeon so terribly dreaded.

"Pikachu," Misty shoved Ash, nearly knocking him over and causing Ash to not complete his command.

"No way, Ash!" she told him and gripped a Pokéball in her right hand. "It's a Water type. And I always wanted a Vaporeon." A sort of day-dreamy look swept over her face. Vaporeon watched, distressed but amused, hoping neither would capture her. Ash thought else wise.

"I saw it first, so I'm capturing it!" yelled Ash, straight into Misty's left ear. She winced as a ringing sound was the only thing she could hear. Ash then gleefully continued his command. "Pikachu, Thunderbolt!"

"Pika." (Okay.) Pikachu stood in a fighting stance on the ground, sparks zapping around its cheeks. "Pika chu!" (Thunderbolt!) Sparks flew towards Vaporeon.

*Think, think.* Vaporeon was generally too stupid to think of a move, but miracles do happen. "Vaapoor." (Agility.) Vaporeon countered and dodged out of way. It was unusual that she could even come up with a command. She momentarily forgot about her sprained ankle and brought it down to the ground. Vaporeon lost her footing and collapsed. She came to a realization that Pikachu was more than ready to finish her off.

"Okay, Tackle Attack," ordered the excited Ash Ketchum. Pikachu raced forward and braced for a leap at Vaporeon. For a moment Vaporeon could only think of her mom and dad, her brother that she never told she loved, and her counterparts that she would long to be one with.

"Krrriiikkk krrrkk kkkiii rrrrkkkk krrrii!" (Try it and you die!) Pikachu heard the voice and halted his assault.

"Pika?" (What?) Pikachu asked in confusion. Ash, Misty, Brock and Togepi were all puzzled as they watched a Krabby scuttle onto the pathway. Krabby looked very angry, her anger no longer directed at Vaporeon anymore. She did not question what she saw, knowing that it must be real. Krabby scuttled more quickly till she was protecting the injured Vaporeon. Her pincers clashed threateningly just to make Ash, Brock and Misty keep their distance.

“Wow, a Krabby,” remarked Brock in awe. “This must be some unusual behavior since Krabbys aren’t very protective.”

“What great luck. I always wanted a Krabby,” Ash grinned.

“Ash, you already have a Kingler. I need the Krabby!” Misty yelled as she slammed her foot down onto Ash’s toes. Ash hopped around madly because of the pain and lost his balance. Misty was about to release her Pokémon but Ash beat her to it. He made the necessary call from his fallen position on the ground.

“Pikachu. Thunder!”

“Pikachu!” (Thunder!) Pikachu responded. A large ball of yellow electricity laced towards Vaporeon and Krabby. Both of them winced, anticipating pain. Krabby bravely stood her ground.

“Mew mew,” (Shadow Ball,) a voice spoke as a large ball of pink and white energy surged forward, coming from the direction of the voice. It crashed into the Pikachu’s electricity, practically engulfing the opposition’s attack, then it just merely disappeared. Smoke had trailed behind the Shadow Ball, leaving a slowly dispersing cloud of it behind.

Brock covered his eyes and peered at the figure that was gradually becoming more visible through the smoke. “What is that?” he asked. Ash stood and held out his Pokédex but it did not respond. This was to Ash’s disappointment. Vaporeon also looked at the figure, finally recognizing who it was, she called out to it.

“Vaappoorr!” (Mewn!)

“Mew, mew. Mew, mew,” (Hi, Vap. Hi, Krabby,) said Mewn, cheerfully. With that she emerged from the now thinned smoke. Mewn brushed her hair behind her shoulder, just to give a more dramatic effect. She noticed briefly that Ash, Brock and Misty seemed rather puzzled to what she had just said, let alone to what she was. It became clear to her that what she thought was normal English was not English at all. Mewn made certain to ask.

“Mew mew mew mew mew mew?” (I guess they don’t understand me?)

“Kkrrrrkii krrk,” (Guess so,) Krabby replied irritably. She was indeed grateful but did not express it.

Misty leaned towards Brock and began to whisper. “What type of Pokémon is that?”

“Don’t know,” Brock answered in a hushed tone.

Mewn calmly walked past Ash, Brock and Misty. Kneeling beside Vaporeon and Krabby, she placed her paw gently on Krabby. She looked a little worried but seemed content. Ash took this as an opportunity to try to use his Pokédex yet again and held it so that it could analyze Mewn.

“*Scanning Pokémon database,*” it said in a monotone voice. “*Pokémon type unknown. Closest relations; Pokémon number one hundred and fifty-one. Mew.*” This meant nothing to Ash, even as a picture of a pink, turquoise eyed cat, graced the tiny screen. He put the Pokédex away, giving up on the idea of forcing it to tell him clear answers.

“So,” Ash paused, “three Pokémon. Maybe this really my lucky day,” he said gleefully. Misty and Brock were both suspicious. Something like what they were seeing just did not happen out of pure chance. Mewn listened to Ash and responded to him, in English.

“I won’t let you harm my friends, Ash,” Mewn said defiantly. Ash was not expecting Mewn to speak English, or even know his name. He became a little nervous as he looked upon her cute, but serious face. Pikachu was equally nervous because of this. He would not want to face such an odd looking and very serious, unknown Pokémon; one that was presumably Psychic.

<“And I won’t allow you to lay a finger or attack on either three of them,”> boomed a different voice as Lugia flew into the view of all those who were assembled on the pathway. She unsettled a large amount of dust as she landed in a spot only a small way behind Brock. Lugia looked very intimidating, a solid glare plastered on her silvery face. Ash again retrieved his Pokédex from his coat pocket but it could not identify Lugia to any degree. Again he put the device away and looked upon Lugia in steadfast awe. Misty, Brock and Pikachu were all equally mystified by Lugia’s presence.

“I wonder what Pokémon that is?” Ash murmured. Lugia looked at Ash and blinked, not really understanding why she was looking at Ash Ketchum. The Ash Ketchum from the television show that she knew so well.

*I can’t believe it is Ash. Yet it all makes sense. The warp, the Pokémon. I have to get them back,* Lugia thought. She noticed Ash looking at her strangely and Lugia realized that whatever she did could alter the course of Ash’s life and possibly the whole dimension that she now presided in. Anything Lugia would say was crucial. She quickly thought of all the details involving the Lugia from Pokémon The Movie 2000: The Power Of One. And then she began to work around it.

<“I am Lugia,”> she said, knowing that this information was only of a little use. <“I dwell from the cold sea of the north. Others and I have come to retrieve the two misfits that are before you,”> she lied a bit, altering information as she gestured to Vaporeon and Krabby. A sound of a thunderous pounding came from a direction slightly off from that of which Vaporeon and Krabby had exited the jungle. Dragontear appeared from the vegetation, her body slightly scratched by tree branches and thorns that she must have encountered as she galloped through the forest. Dragontear did not recognize Ash Ketchum, Brock, Misty or Togepi but she did know what a Pikachu was. True Blue Pikachu did not look like the Pikachu so Dragontear became relatively confused. She snorted and pawed the ground, showing her confusion.

“A Rapidash?” Misty questioned, starting to tremble. She was even more terrified when two Dragonites flew low overhead and landed next to Lugia. Mewn smiled at the pair. Dragontear whinnied a ‘hello’. Lugia paid no interest to them as she observed Ash’s reaction to all of this. A short few seconds later and the rest of the Bulbasaur’s Mysterious Garden members approached the pathway. All of them immediately recognized Ash and company, staying back. There was a granite brick bridge that stretched over the expanse of the river, most of them were lingering around it.

Optimus had recovered from his second impact with the ground and hopped up onto the guard rails of the bridge and looked on with interest. Tigrin, Jess and Chaka joined him; all three of them looking like cats poised on a fence. BulbaGarden was slightly ahead of the bridge, shuffling slowly towards Dark Chromium Dragonite and The Virtual Meteor Master. Effex leaned against a tree nearby and watched cautiously. True Blue Pikachu exchanged a brief snarl with Ash’s Pikachu and sat by himself on the rail opposite of Optimus, Tigrin, Jess and Chaka. Seadra Reef and Princess Wooper both leapt out of the water, shaking leaves, small vines and the odd leech off their blue bodies. Both kept back since they did not want to be the key of interest for Misty.

“What’s going on here?” Misty asked with much more fear in her voice than before. She sidled up more closely to Brock, holding Togepi tightly against herself. Brock lowered his voice to a whisper.

“I don’t know but this is weird.” Ash overheard and responded with a confident voice, though his voice wavered slightly.

"I'm not afraid," he glanced down at his Pikachu who was tense, sparks coming from the Pokémon's cheeks. The Bulbasaur's Mysterious Garden members agreed with the previous statements.

"Bulb a saur," (This is weird,) BulbaGarden said rather lightly. He noticed Brock looking at him oddly. It was a look of puzzlement, often associated when another person could not understand another person's language. "Saur, bulba. Asaur bulba bulbasuar," (Oh, brother. We're speaking Pokémon,) he said loudly enough so that all could hear. This sent both Ash's Pikachu and Misty's Togepi into further confusion. A Pokémon that did not know they were speaking Pokémon was not heard of.

"Prrii maape?" (We are?) Optimus asked and began to say tongue-twisters and profanity just to see if this got a reaction from any of the humans. It did not get a reaction from them but it did get a reaction from all of those who were Pokémon. Almost all of them responded with giggles, laughter and other expressions of amusement. Lugia turned her head to look at Optimus, her eyes narrowed. She had no need to tell him anything. "Prrriiimm iimmm," (Yes ma'am,) he gulped and was silent, as was everyone else. Jess looked at Tigrin, a slight grin crept across her face as she broke the silence.

"Essspee, eeon ssppee." (Tigrin, say something.) Jess nudged Tigrin encouragingly, knowing that Tigrin could speak English, either than Lugia and Mewn.

"Alright," Tigrin said meekly. She jumped off the bridge's rail and trotted to a point where she was within easy view of Ash, Brock, Misty, Togepi and Pikachu. It became obvious that she had no clue as in what to say and stared blankly at the five that were posing such a great amount of concern. "Umm, uh. Sorry for all this big mishap. Umm, we want you to leave us alone and we'll leave you alone. I know this is all really weird for you. It's weird for us too. So let's forgive and forget and go our separate ways." She looked up at Ash, Misty and Brock; Ash was the only one who gave no reaction to her appearance or her abilities to speak English. Misty nodded, dumbfounded at the whole idea. Brock made no real motions or expressions either than a slight bit of surprise. Ash looked at Tigrin and took her words into careful consideration.

"Sure, I guess we can go along with it," Ash said, looking at Brock and Misty. Both agreed and a huge sigh came from everyone there. Tigrin smiled, glad that she had managed to ward off the problem and come to some sort of agreement.

"Great! So we'll leave. It was really nice meeting you." This was a signal to go and the Bulbasaur's Mysterious Garden members began to take their leave. No one wanted to stay, it felt weird and uncomfortable. Dust flew everywhere as Dark Chromium Dragonite and The Virtual Meteor Master spread their wings and took off down the river. Many of the other members moved and were already gone from the sight of the remaining few who were lingering behind. Mewn, Tigrin and BulbaGarden headed towards the river and each glanced back at Lugia. Lugia gave a stern look, her business not yet finished. The three of them left without saying much, knowing Lugia would be heading back when she felt ready. Vaporeon and Krabby waited for Lugia since Vaporeon could not leave without assistance and Lugia was most likely going to keep a watchful eye on her selves. With her head facing the bridge, Lugia began to speak to Ash.

<"Ash, I apologize for all the confusion we may have caused you and your friends. Our meeting was unintentional. And as the cat told you, forget this ever happened. Can I assure of you to never mention this encounter?"> Her head turned as she looked at Ash Ketchum, his Pikachu was on his backpack and the mood was solemn. Vaporeon and Krabby listened to Lugia, Krabby understanding the importance of this. Vaporeon was not too bright and guessed Lugia was just saying it for one reason or another.



“Sure thing, Lugia,” Ash smiled lightly. This pleased Lugia, she knew Ash was a person to keep his word.

<“Good, I have total faith in you,”> Lugia returned the smile. She still found it to be odd that she was negotiating with Ash Ketchum. She also found it odd that she was concerned about altering the balance of the Pokémon World. Everything thing she did and said could change it. So this was something she had to worry about. Well, that and the unity of herself, Vaporeon and Krabby. Also the responsibility for the well-being of the Bulbasaur’s Mysterious Garden members concerned Lugia. As an after-thought Lugia moved her body so that she was facing Ash more easily. She was too mature to be playing around but even she needed to lighten her grave nature. <“Bye Ash,”> she smiled and licked Ash across the face. This caused a lot of laughter as Ash was absolutely taken by surprise. Vaporeon giggled and limped as she trotted over to Lugia and up Lugia’s tail. Krabby scuttled, not far behind Vaporeon. Both positioned themselves on Lugia’s back.

“Vaaapporee vvapoorrr!” (Bye Ash!) Vaporeon hollered, wincing as pain shot up her spine. Krabby chuckled and waved a pincer at Ash. Ash rubbed his face, trying to get the saliva off it.

“Bye Lugia!” he waved, laughing.

“Have a safe flight,” Misty called, Togepi twittered.

“Good-bye,” Brock said. Lugia spread her wings and flapped them. She was airborne and quickly sent the group one last message.

<“Till we meet again.”> And with that she was over the tree tops and out of sight.

“I can’t believe it! Stuck in the Pokémon World!” grumbled Krabby from her place on Lugia’s back.

“We all live in a Pokémon World! I wanna be the greatest master of them all!” sung the high-pitched voice of Vaporeon. Krabby put a spare pincer to her ear hole and began to yell above Vaporeon.

“Damn it, Vaporeon! You sound worse than hell!” she cursed at Vaporeon, whose ears drooped slightly.

“It keeps me from noticing my ankle,” Vaporeon muttered, her injured limb was discolored and very swollen. It could have passed for a serious break and not a simple strain of tendons and ligaments.

“Lugia!” Krabby yelled so that Lugia could hear. She guessed that Lugia had the ability she was about to ask for and really demanded for the use of it. “Use your fucking Recover!” Lugia sighed, still flying, she turned her head to look at Krabby.

<“I don’t even know if I have Recover,”> Lugia stated calmly and turned her head back to focus on the direction in which she was flying. Krabby was not satisfied with the answer that Lugia had given her. Lugia winced as a brief flash of pain went through her body. Krabby released her pincer from Lugia’s flesh, it was slightly covered in blood. As for Lugia’s back, the wound began to bleed and started to trickle, staining her silvery skin.

“Use it now, and on Vaporeon too. Or else,” Krabby growled threateningly. Lugia turned her head briefly to look at Krabby yet again. Her eyes narrowed angrily.

<“You do know that I can drop you at a few hundred feet, don’t you?”> she told Krabby in a voice of suppressed rage. Krabby sort of gulped, fearful of falling to her death.

A long strain of musical notes began to play through the air. The melody consisted of five notes in various tones and lengths, and it was played to sound like a wordless elegy. Of course Krabby became curious and began to look around. Vaporeon mimicked Krabby and looked around for the source of the unknown sound. Looking down they could make out the figures of Dark Chromium Dragonite and The Virtual Meteor Master as they passed under some open spaces in the jungle canopy. Above them was the blue sky with a few wisps of white clouds. It still remained unknown as to where the sounds were coming from.

Lugia's body began to glow with Lugia's signature color aura. Vaporeon's body was also surrounded by the wavering blue light of Lugia's aura. Almost on instant, the gash across Lugia's back healed, leaving no trace of a scar or even signs of an injury. Vaporeon's ankle dramatically decreased in size as the swelling lessened, then it was completely gone. Krabby watched it all happen in front of her eyes and pieced information together. She knew what had just happened.

"What the fuck, Lugia. You said you couldn't use Recover!" Krabby shouted at Lugia, not liking the fact that she had been deceived. Vaporeon looked down at her ankle, making it move with ease.

"Guess she can," said Vaporeon as she moved into a more comfortable position.

<"I decided to experiment the various ways of using a Recover. Apparently I can Recover, but not in a normal fashion,"> she paused as she thought of an example to justify her altered ability. <"In the movie, the Lugia was healed through the use of a song. So I tried it for myself. Unless someone can sing it or play it on an instrument, there is no way for me to heal an injury. And since neither of you can sing well, or even play an instrument, there are not many options.">

*Stupid wise crack of a Lugia*, thought Krabby. She did not like the logical explanation that Lugia had given both herself and Vaporeon. It sounded as if Lugia was far better than either of her other two thirds were. And to Krabby, Lugia was no better than she was.

<"I heard that Krabby,"> Lugia said, which was weird since Krabby had not said a word, plus Lugia could not read minds. Vaporeon tilted her head and blinked, thinking that maybe Lugia was mistaken.

"But Krabby didn't say anything," said Vaporeon as Lugia started to descend in altitude. She responded with a sigh of dismay.

<"Great, we must split the same wavelength,"> Lugia muttered. This confused Vaporeon even more.

"What does that mean?" asked Vaporeon, Krabby accompanied Lugia's sigh. Lugia did not think that she needed to give Vaporeon an answer.

<"If we share the same wavelength, then you should know.">

"But I don't," Vaporeon muttered sheepishly, hating the fact that it always seemed that she was the stupid one in the group. Krabby knew the answer but Lugia would be able to explain it in a more gentle fashion.

<"Vaporeon, if we share the same wavelength we should know each other's thoughts, feelings, and what each other sees. I could have tracked you more easily if I knew that in the first place.">

Vaporeon's ears drooped as she meekly said, "Sorry Lugia."

"Yeah, well sorry, The Bitch of the Sea," Krabby grumbled, giving Lugia her own personally customized title.

Still holding true to her earlier threat, Lugia pitched her whole body into a forward flip. Eyes glowing, she managed to keep Vaporeon firmly on her back. On the other hand, Krabby

plummeted. After disposing of Krabby, Lugia began to fly in her normal flying fashion. Vaporeon was absolutely horrified as she watched Krabby drop and noticed that Lugia could care less.

“Lugia! Krabby is falling!” Tears began to form in Vaporeon’s eyes. Lugia casually looked down.

<“I’m just heightening the effects,”> she responded calmly. Lugia looked to see how far Krabby had before she hit the ground and then her reaction became one of shock. <“Blades!”> Lugia cursed in her non-obscene way. <“She is dropping too fast!”> Focusing her thoughts and her energy, Lugia managed to Teleport.

“Fuck. Shit. Damn that bloody Lugia to hell. If I survive, I’ll kill that godforsaken bitch of a Lugia . . .” Krabby hollered as she fell. Lugia appeared slightly below Krabby, Vaporeon clinging to Lugia for dear life.

<“Like that is very nice,”> Lugia smirked and picked Krabby from the air in her jaw, landing gracefully on the sandy beach. Only being seven feet from the ground was a dangerous distance to rescue Krabby. But everything turned out okay, or so it seemed. Lugia tossed her head and slammed Krabby into the sand, immediately ignoring the crab and turning her head to look at her Vaporeon counterpart.

Vaporeon was holding tightly onto the base of Lugia’s neck with her forearms. She was continuously screaming and wailing, which was very painful to hear, especially since Lugia was very close to Vaporeon. Vaporeon still thought that herself and Lugia were free-falling at one hundred feet, considering her eyes were tightly shut and her noise muted all other sound.

Mewn had managed to Teleport herself from the bridge to the beach in one try. She was sunbathing on a large, translucent, pink bubble. The serene peace that she had been enjoying had been disturbed by screaming, smashing, wailing and a few other noises. Mewn sat up a little and smiled sarcastically at the scenario before her.

“I’m going to die! Wwwwaaaaaa!” Vaporeon wailed at an incredibly high-pitch. It was a wonder that she did not seem to grow hoarse, or break rocks with the voice she possessed. Upon hearing Vaporeon’s wailing, the Bulbasaur’s Mysterious Gardens members were racing up the beach towards Vaporeon. They stopped within tolerable earshot of Vaporeon.

“What’s wrong?!” BulbaGarden yelled over the din. Dragontear’s ears were pressed against her head, she responded with a snort of displeasure.

“I wish I knew but she sure is upset about something!” Dragontear spoke in at a volume that was equal to BulbaGarden’s.

True Blue Pikachu had his head buried in the sand, his paws pressed tightly against his yellow and black ears. It seemed to be the smartest thing to do at that moment.

“Someone tell her to be quiet!” Dark Chromium Dragonite yelled loudly enough so that everyone turned to look at him. Dark Chromium Dragonite’s face was contorted in pain. Even mimicking The Virtual Meteor Master; who was holding his huge Dragonite paws to his ears, did not help.

<Vaporeon, you’re safe now. Just open your eyes,> Lugia told Vaporeon in private telepathy, trying to be calm but the racket was hard to put up with. Private telepathy went right into a person’s head. Since Vaporeon did not seem to think much, Lugia’s telepathy could easily be overheard in contrast to Vaporeon’s thinking. Thankfully, Vaporeon heard and she opened her eyes, blinking in puzzlement as she looked around.

“Huh?” she said as she seemed to have miraculously overcome the situation in a matter of seconds. There was an ominous sigh that came from the Bulbasaur’s Mysterious Garden members, glad Vaporeon was quiet, at least for a few precious seconds “Hey everyone!” Vaporeon greeted the group cheerily. She jumped off Lugia’s back, landing on Krabby who still happened to be half buried in the sand. Krabby made an ‘oomph’ noise but had gone unnoticed. “Can we go home now?” Vaporeon asked the group.

“How do we get back again?” Seadra Reef groaned tiresomely. Seadra Reef was in the warm salt water of what could either be a sea or an ocean. She bobbed up and down lightly whenever water was lapping gently against the shoreline and receding from it. Princess Wooper floated lazily on her back, not feeling very inclined to answer, though she did since it gave her something to do.

“We are going to wait for the dimensional warp to open and then we can go through,” Princess Wooper said rather lethargically. She turned an eye over to her left, seeing Vaporeon and Krabby playing in the shallows. Both were splashing each other and basically having a good time. Neither one cared much for anyone else at that point. BulbaGarden was sort of watching Vaporeon and Krabby go about getting themselves wet, but mostly he was conversing with Lugia.

“So you tried opening it by using your psychic willpower and also by flying through and around the area?” BulbaGarden asked for the fourth time, trying to formulate some sort of plan in his mind.

<“Having myself, Jess, Mewn, and The Virtual Meteor Master as a Lugia, trying to open the warp proved unsuccessful. Mewn got a headache from trying so hard. So that idea didn’t work. As for the other option, Dark Chromium Dragonite did a flyby and he didn’t manage to do anything. We might be here for longer than we’d hope,”> Lugia’s voice was grim. BulbaGarden shook his head, trying to think of an idea of some kind.

“How about if you use brute force?” interrupted Effex as he walked up to both Lugia and BulbaGarden. For once Effex actually had a good idea. Then again, brute force was his answer to everything.

“Well Lugia. Yes? No?” BulbaGarden asked Lugia’s opinion about Effex’s suggestion. “I think it might work.”

Lugia shrugged her broad shoulders. <“I’m willing to try almost anything at the moment.”> She opened her wings, stretching them. Then giving her wings a flap, Lugia was in the air. The downdraft from her wings nearly swept BulbaGarden and Effex off their feet.

The exact location of the dimensional warp was not hard to identify. Jess had noticed a large concentration of energy that must have belonged to the dimensional warp. The energy was the major focus of all previous attempts to open it. Lugia sensed the energy too, since she had one of the most powerful Pokémon forms in the known world. Her strategy consisted of aiming her attacks into the center of the dimensional warp energy. Somehow she might be able to violently shove the energy or alter it so it would create the warp.

*Psywave* . . . A turquoise glow flickered and danced around the exterior of Lugia’s body. She concentrated, wanting to bring her own energy into a precise and narrow stream. Lugia released the energy and it struck the dimensional warp energy with deadly force. A huge explosion welcomed her effort.

Princess Wooper had been watching Lugia, wondering what she was up to. Then Lugia released the energy and Princess Wooper knew that herself, for one, was in one of the worst places to be at that moment in time. Seadra Reef also noticed and was about to hop onto the sand when the violent explosion began. Princess Wooper shouted something as the explosion just started.

“Abandon ocean!” she yelled. Vaporeon and Krabby heard the booming noise and Princess Wooper. Both of their mouths hung open and they immediately got as far away from the water as possible, making for a mad dash to safety. Seadra Reef was ahead of Vaporeon and Krabby, and Princess Wooper was further behind. All four of them collapsed halfway up the beach, scared witless. They had all just missed, what could have been an early grave.

The dimensional warp energy gave a few hopeful flickers before dying away. Lugia growled, she was so close yet so far. *Okay, so try this!* she thought with a snarl, swiftly throwing her head backwards. *Shadow Ball* . . . Lugia’s jaw had been enclosing dark energy and when she thought the command she brought her head forward and basically spat out the Shadow Ball. The Shadow Ball reacted to the dimensional warp energy and crashed into it. Just like the Psywave before it, it also created an explosion. Except this time, it was slightly more loud than before.

“Trying to open the warp again,” said Chaka. In her opinion, Lugia’s process of trial and error seemed foolish and a waste of time. She was smirking from her sprawled position, halfway up the beach. Chaka was not exactly directing her voice to anyone in particular but both Dragontear and True Blue Pikachu heard her.

“Lugia is putting a lot of effort in trying get home. I would give her a lot of credit, even if she isn’t really successful,” spoke Dragontear, her head eloquently raised as she watched Lugia. Chaka did no more than bat-an-eyelash as Dragontear gave her opinion. True Blue Pikachu crossed his small, yellow arms and scrunched his face in thought.

“She is the strongest. Her stats are as high and as equal to a Mewtwo. If anyone can make the fireworks, it’s Lugia,” he ended with a nod of confidence.

“We all need to get back. Just glad I’m not doing it,” Chaka sneered and began to wash her forepaw subconsciously. True Blue Pikachu scowled at Chaka’s ignorance. Chaka had just given him a clear idea that she was either very selfish or hated Vaporeon Lugia Krabby as much as Vaporeon Lugia Krabby hated her back. Dragontear was also not too pleased to hear the remark from Chaka and rose to her hindquarters before slamming her hooves into the sand, nearly hitting Chaka. Chaka was startled and jumped away with a yowl of surprise, her expression demanding reason for Dragontear’s action.

“You should stop thinking of yourself!” Dragontear snapped, forcing herself to try to stay calm and collective. “All you have been doing is whining and complaining since you got here. Lugia,” she motioned her head towards her friend who was poised in flight, “has been a bit of a pain but she is concerned for everyone. Even you, you selfish,” Dragontear then was swiftly interrupted before her language started to become more vulgar.

“Hey, hey! Enough of that,” True Blue Pikachu raised his little paws, signaling that there should be no cussing. “I do not want to see the limits of how badly you can kick each other’s butts; so just cool it,” his voice was full of anxiety. Dragontear’s fiery tail lowered, a sign of mild sadness.

“Sorry. Still, I am right,” Dragontear told the Pikachu and looked back over to Chaka, whose fur was bristled but slowly lowering back to its previous sleek appearance. “At least some people are trying and you should too,” Dragontear muttered sternly and faced away from Chaka.

Chaka's face turned to the ground, still trying to take in what Dragontear had said. After all, what had she done?

<“Grr. Take this you stupid warp!”> roared Lugia as she arched her neck. A golden energy was gathering in her slightly parted mouth. The attack was none other than a Hyper Beam, an attack that was known for its destructive force. The force of it was demonstrated as Lugia unleashed it from her mouth.

Lugia managed to aim it well without sending the attack in wild circles around the dimensional warp energy. The beam of golden energy collided with the dimensional warp energy and made the usual explosion; well, it made a rather large explosion. The explosion was actually large enough that even the Bulbasaur's Mysterious Garden members, the full distance up the beach, felt it.

Mewn sat up on her bubble watching Lugia's third aggressive attempt to make the dimensional warp open. “Eep!” she squealed as her pink bubble fizzled and went away, the force from the blast destroying it. Mewn herself went flying up the beach and landed with a rustle into a huckleberry bush, as did everyone else. The only two who were not knocked over by the blast were Dark Chromium Dragonite, since he weighed a lot. And then there was Lugia, since she was using a Barrier to protect herself.

Optimus slid down the tree that he had gotten himself marooned in, only slightly bruised. “Warn me the next time you do that!” he shouted to Lugia who was not paying much attention to anyone or anything except the dimensional warp energy.

<“Finally,”> they all heard Lugia say, chuckling to herself. The warp had opened and she was pleased, and the rest of the group was as well

“Yay! You opened it!” Tigrin rejoiced.

“I thought she would never open it,” mumbled Mewn as she stepped out of the huckleberry bush, her body had scratches on it.

Lugia was about to fly through it, oblivious to everything still. Just as she was about to go through the dimensional warp closed in front of her face. A deep, enraged growl escaped from Lugia's throat as she stared at the space where the warp had been. The rest of the Bulbasaur's Mysterious Garden members gave cries of anguish but were more upset than a nearly half-crazed Lugia.

*This is getting really annoying,* Lugia glared at the dimensional warp energy and dove gracefully into the twelve feet of warm, crystal clear, salt water that was further from her. She was not gone for long. A monstrous cyclone appeared out of the spot where she had dove in a few seconds previous. The others recognized the attack and knew that it was indeed Lugia's doing. Despite the force of the strikes that Lugia's cyclone made, the dimensional warp energy was not willing to comply to her wishes or those of anyone else. Realizing it as well, Lugia's cyclone parted away from her body and the remains of the cyclone fell aside as a showering curtain of water. She briefly flew over to the point where her body was above the sandy beach and gave a groan before collapsing to the ground.

“Hey, Lugia? Are you okay?” came the concerned voice of The Virtual Meteor Master as he and a few others cautiously padded up to the fallen Lugia. Lugia made no response as she lay on the sand.

“She doesn't look too good,” Jess murmured as she went next to Lugia's head, examining Lugia's condition. She looked ill.

“She’s probably just tired,” Seadra Reef said as she hopped over. “After using Hyper Beam, then Twister without any rest wears any Pokémon out,” Seadra Reef plainly stated. “Just give her some space.”

“Well I feel useless doing nothing,” Dragontear complained lightly. She also took to observing Lugia. Indeed she felt like a dead weight ever since she had gotten to the Pokémon World. Her contributions to the team seemed to amount to nothing, this bothered her.

Mewn had made another bubble and was sitting on it lazily watching the proceeding drama unveil before her blue eyes. Sure, Mewn could solve the problem but she figured that she could make someone else do it, someone else being Jess. Mewn called over, “Jess. You go and use Recover on Lugia. You’re closer.”

“You’re just lazy!” Jess replied, somewhat irritated though she was ready to use Recover anyway. Placing her delicate paws on Lugia’s head, she focused and began using a Recover, making a remark as she did. “You beat yourself up too much. All three of you.” This was implied, not just to Lugia but Vaporeon and Krabby as well. Not a soul disagreed that Jess’ statement was so close to the truth.

The Bulbasaur’s Mysterious Garden members were all lying about on the beach, which they had been doing for nearly the last hour. Tired, hungry, dirty, they were all sorely aggravated and all they wanted was for the nightmare to end and for them to go home. Still some had hope. Tigrin did, for one. She was looking out to the water and looked up, the dimensional warp began flickering to life! “Everybody come and look! The dimensional warp, it’s opening!” Her voice was loud. Ears perked up and there was a lot of movement. She was right. The dimensional warp had decided to open and was speedily increasing in length and height.

BulbaGarden took charge, figuring that he should at least give directions despite the obvious fact that there was really no need for them. “BMG members, move out!” he ordered excitedly, and there was immediately a virtual wave of commotion. Almost everyone raced down the beach as fast as they could possibly go. It was as if staying a minute longer could be the possible end to them.

Dragontear was the first through the dimensional warp. She had gone from a trot, to a canter then a gallop in a split second and leapt into the dimensional warp. Dark Chromium Dragonite and The Virtual Meteor Master in Dragonite form, were next. They were undeniably fast flyers. Thirdly would have been Vaporeon as she catapulted for the dimensional warp. Lugia was horrified as she came to a rather scary resolution and used Psychic, stopping Vaporeon in mid-air. Krabby also stopped, mostly since she did not want to be bashed around by Lugia. Those who did see Vaporeon in a restraint and Lugia being the cause of it did not ask questions but just continued past Vaporeon, Lugia and Krabby, and into the dimensional warp.

“Lugia!!!” Vaporeon hollered and protested. She began to squirm to no prevail within Lugia’s Psychic grasp.

<“We came through the warp as one. We must take the precaution to leave together,”> Lugia told Vaporeon blandly. Princess Wooper did not get what Lugia meant as she managed to barely jump into the dimensional warp. BulbaGarden did catch onto what Lugia mentioned but he was just not up to saying anything to the bird. She was too powerful and stubborn. He braced himself as he took a leap, only once glancing back. Then the beach was silent, nearly empty.

<“Vaporeon, I had to do that,”> Lugia said as Krabby scuttled up her larger counterpart’s tail. Lugia then flapped her wings, flying towards Vaporeon and snagging Vaporeon’s tail in her

jaw. <“Now we can go.”> And finally, all of Vaporeon Lugia Krabby went through the dimensional warp.

I came out of the warp and landed on the hard, wooden deck of the party boat. Thankfully I was in one entire piece. I was quite pleased about that but still not certain if my mind had held together or something else of equally great worry.

*I hope I'm okay*, I thought as my mind grew dark and cloudy. The passing through the dimensional warp seemed to be too hard for me to handle. I fell to the deck in a heap, unable to withstand the strain. I was still vaguely conscious as I heard the distant worried voices. And there were footsteps. Footsteps . . .

“Oh no! She fainted!” Konidias shouted and ran to Vaporeon Lugia Krabby’s side. He was obviously not a medical expert since he could not find her pulse.

“Step aside,” Dragontear said coolly and with a bit of dramatic flare. Konidias nodded and shuffled over a little so that way Dragontear could take a seat next to him. He knew that she was more able to do something in contrast to himself. He was right as Dragontear knowingly found Vaporeon Lugia Krabby’s pulse, which was strong and steady. Leaning over, cheek to Vaporeon Lugia Krabby’s nose, Dragontear watched the normal rise and fall of her friend’s chest. Dragontear sighed in relief, finding that those were the only two vital signs she needed to check in the first place. There was really no point in checking Vaporeon Lugia Krabby’s skin tone or temperature. Vaporeon Lugia Krabby was very pale on average and her body temperature was almost always 2°C below normal.

Dragontear saw Link74Bit in the control area of the boat and called over to him. “Vaporeon Lugia Krabby is fine but I need a fire blanket. Could you toss one over?”

Link74Bit searched frantically for a fire blanket. After a few moments, he held out something that closely resembled a fire blanket. Dragontear nodded, thinking that the object in his hand would do just fine. Link74Bit tossed the blanket over to Konidias, who had gotten up and headed to retrieve the blanket. He in turn went to Dragontear and handed it to her.

“Thank you. It should help,” Dragontear said a bit distractedly as she covered Vaporeon Lugia Krabby with the blanket, making certain to tuck it in beneath her body as well. She knew how easily Vaporeon Lugia Krabby could get hypothermia, which was so easy that she could get it in the dead middle of a hot summer day. Done with that, Dragontear decided to keep a diligent watch over her friend, periodically checking vital signs. She was preoccupied and did not exactly notice Chaka as she walked up to the prow of the party boat, kneeling next to Dragontear.

“So how did you know what to do?” Chaka asked mildly. The party boat jerked to life as Link74Bit turned on the ignition and forced the boat to head back to Canada Place. Chaka had to put a hand to the deck in order to steady herself. Dragontear had sat down and gave a courtly response, better than her previous few responses towards Chaka.

“I always wanted to be an agricultural veterinarian,” she said with a slight blush but her eyes were somewhat downcast. “The job pays well, I love animals and know so much about them. But,” she paused, seeming even more saddened now. “I’m allergic to formaldehyde, so I can’t complete any exams since everything I’m suppose to dissect is preserved in it.” This made Dragontear angry as her hands clenched a little. “Everything I’ve ever learned was from books and the net. That’s how I know what I’m doing.”



Chaka gave a solemn, “oh.” The Virtual Meteor Master heard some of the conversation and interrupted.

“At least she doesn’t have ammonia or something. You’d never be able to treat it,” he said, not intending to make it an insult or a joke, but everyone else seemed to take it that way.

“You could at least be a little more sympathetic,” Chaka said, forgetting any previous grudges with Dragontear.

“Yeah TVMM, quit it!” Jess growled at The Virtual Meteor Master from nearly the other side of the boat.

“I wasn’t being mean!” he protested but by then, no one really cared much. The party boat became silent and most of the Bulbasaur’s Mysterious Garden members were too tired to give a concern to much anymore; so it was a quiet boat ride back to Canada Place.

I felt myself coming around slowly. I could smell the salt water of the ocean, hear the boat as it motored through some rough waves. Contrary to a lot of people’s reactions, I usually never open my eyes first when I initially awaken. And I guess those certain people are truly blind to their other senses. At least to me they were. But relying on my sense of touch panicked me. Something was touching my wrist and that alarmed me. Evidently I opened my eyes within a second.

The first thing I saw was the blur of sky and clouds as I bolted upright, partially throwing the blanket off my body as I did. I sort of glanced at the view in front of me, which was of Stanley Park, Burrard Inlet and Lions Gate Bridge. Looking to my right, I saw both Mewn and Dragontear. Dragontear had a mix expression of relief. Mewn’s expression was cheerful and all smiles, and I smiled in response to her. An old saying, though I cannot quote it well is that, “When you smile, the whole world smiles back.” True to the quote, Mewn’s smiling made me smile and in turn that made Dragontear smile.

“Wazzup!” Mewn laughed. My eyes narrowed at her, I smirked in amusement. She just had to ask, did she not?

“The sky,” I answered bluntly, still smirking. Dragontear pointed at me, looking as if she were trying to accuse me of something.

“You didn’t say ‘the ceiling’,” she said in an exulted way. Mewn was not as equally amused since my response to her question was not only annoying but very tiresome to listen to after awhile.

“I’m fine,” I assured both of my friends and then noticed that there was something around my neck. Well there is always something around my neck. I almost constantly wear two pendants with leather strings. One was a pair of metallic dolphins jumping over metallic waves and a gorgeous blue orb, it was worn as a choker. The other was a poised stainless steel dragon, with a stainless steel ring encircling it. It had zodiac insignia engraved on the ring and five red ‘rubies’ inserted in it. But there was a third pendant, also with a leather string. “Okay. What in the blazes is this?” I asked my two friends, taking the pendant by the string and waving it in front of their faces.

This new pendant was different and most likely impossible to craft by any means. It was a flat circle that was four and a half centimeters in diameter and a thickness of nearly one full centimeter. Yet the size of it was not out of the ordinary. The pendant consisted of two semi-priceless gems as a base. Makes it seem normal but it was still far more elaborate. The gems must have been quartz since they were very crystalline in appearance and were translucent; though the craftsmanship or the beauty of nature itself was outstanding since the colors were a

blue with a green tinge, and an eggshell white. All of it was done in an alternating pattern that could be none other than ocean waves. In the very center of the circle were three small precious gems, a topaz, a star ruby and pearl. The pendant was gorgeous and most likely very expensive. I could not have gotten it unless one of the other Bulbasaur's Mysterious Garden members had given it to me. That was the only legitimate reason at the moment. The only other thing I could come up with made no sense, I was not even certain if it was real.

"Was I there?" I asked, my voice wavered. It seemed so real in my mind but I was an imaginative dreamer, it could be fake. Probably was fake. I bet I fell backwards while climbing that rail and really all I had been was unconscious for some time. And for sympathy, someone gave me one very pricey gift. That is what it had to be. I was certain of it.

"We were all there," Seadra Reef said, looking back to where the dimensional warp was as if she were in some sort of daze. Seadra Reef was standing, hugging her arms from a bit of wind chill. Her expression was one that did not tell lies. This made me flinch, she was not being reassuring. She had to be lying, just had to be. At that moment, I felt the need to be skeptical.

"So how can you prove we were in the Pokémon World?" I frowned at her, though expressing my body language was pointless when the person whom I was doing it to was facing away once more. Seadra Reef made no noise but did make a movement. She reached into the front of her shirt and pulled out a gem pendant that almost looked like a Seadra. I still played the skeptic but I felt that my skepticism was being greatly outweighed by sudden knowledge and facts. "We all got one, so did you," Seadra Reef noted the new addition to my pendant collection and tucked her own pendant back into her shirt. I decided to look around some more.

The party boat was not far from Canada Place, I could see it now after passing beneath the Lions Gate Bridge. Time versus distance, I knew that we were going to be there very quickly. Although we were not going to be docking at the cruise boat docks, which Canada Place mostly dealt with. We were heading for the small boat docks past it. I wished to get a better venue, not just of Canada Place but also of the Bulbasaur's Mysterious Garden members. Almost immediately my decision to rise was regretted when my knees buckled beneath me and I fell to the wooden deck for a second time in what must have been a few hours.

"Ooowwww," I moaned as I rubbed my sore rear.

"Maybe you should take it easy," Dragontear said as I was already attempting to stand again. She took my arm and helped me steady myself. It was pretty obvious that I did not listen to her advice. I usually never did listen to anyone's advice since I was too stubborn for my own good. I whipped around, glaring at her hostilely.

"Look, I'm fine. I can take care of myself," I snapped at her. My anger dropped dramatically when I noticed a pendant, not a pentacle, around her neck. It was delicately carved and was made of a precious opal. I knew a lot of gems and minerals since I had an interest in them when I was only seven years of age. I also knew the pendant on Dragontear's neck was a rare find. Even more rare since it was carved into what looked like a flaming unicorn, possibly a Rapidash.

"You just fainted. You should conserve your energy," she warned me, trying to tolerate my sudden mood swings. While I had been looking at her pendant, evidently Dragontear did not notice. My observational skills were superb, very fast and alert. Despite my bad vision and my rather poor depth perception, I was still capable of catching things more easily than most people. Maybe because I think sight is precious and I try to take in as much as humanely possible.

"Sorry for yelling at you, by the way," I muttered to her in a rather sheepish way. "I know you care but I'm fine." That was a bit of a lie, my leg ached and my head was throbbing yet

Dragontear let me go off, unaided. Mewn frowned but she was quite chipper all the time so she began to smile in her usual positive way and let me go. All of this meant I could look around the boat more thoroughly. Although, I did also catch a brief glimpse of Mewn's smooth pink pendant, with two sapphires set in what looked to be a Mew head.

I staggered for a brief moment, needing to get my bearings straight. Dragontear and Mewn both made slight motions if I needed assistance but they did not want me to snap at them again. Seadra Reef looked at me over her shoulder, going to make a remark but swiftly stopping herself. And I personally did not want to yell at anyone who wanted to try and help me or say something stupid. I do not like erupting in front of someone like that, it pains me.

I headed towards the rear of the party boat. Jess and Tigrin were looking out to the open waters of the Georgia Straight. I overheard them giggling about something but did not quite catch what was so amusing. I noticed the girls' pendants. Tigrin's was a green jade pendant of an espicats head with blue gem eyes. Jess' was an amethyst Espeon head with obsidian eyes. Hers looked so fragile that I personally would have had it stored in a foam box. Something bothered me though, and it was not about Jess' pendant. I had seen some of the other members' pendants and mine was the only one that did not even vaguely resemble any of my Pokémon forms! What was wrong with mine? Why did I always have to be different, the outcast?!

"I might as well just ignore it," I said to myself, looking to my right. I often thought vocally, it was something reassuring. It is better to hear a voice, even if it was my own.

"Ignore what?" someone said from behind me. I could not stand when that was done and my natural reaction was something that involved spinning around and waving my arms to protect myself. I briefly closed my eyes. One of my fists made contact with something that had to be at about my waist. I was rewarded with a winded noise and a clatter to the deck. Turning around and actually staring down at what I had hit, I realized that I had hit True Blue Pikachu. He was withering around and clutching his stomach in pain.

"Oh, True Blue Pikachu. Oh my gosh. I'm so sorry. Sorry," I gasped in shock and offered a hand to help him up, feeling guilty. He took my hand and I yanked him up to his feet. "I didn't mean to hurt you."

"A little jumpy I see?" he winced, a hand still clutching his stomach. I laughed nervously, hand behind my head. I know, I am weird. On many occasions I imitate anime gestures.

"What happened over here?" questioned Chaka as both herself and Effex ran over. They had noticed True Blue Pikachu's condition and were there to see what the heck had happened.

"Nothing happened. Everything is a-o-kay," he said, faking a laugh and making a sign with his fingers that symbolized he was fine. Chaka and Effex exchanged glances and looked at True Blue Pikachu as if he had lost his marbles. "See, fine. Me and Vap here were just kidding around," he forced another laugh and wrapped an arm behind my back, hugging my arm with his hand.

*Jeesh, I hope he doesn't act like this if someone were to give him a stab wound. "Oh, I just cut myself. . . Haha,"* I mocked the True Blue Pikachu in my thoughts, now seriously wanting to send him back down to the deck. One rule: Don't touch me.

"Well if you say so," Effex said, still having a rather confused and suspicious tone in his voice and on his face. He noticed my curled lip and low level growling at True Blue Pikachu. Effex signaled to Chaka to leave with him and they went to the other side of the boat. True Blue Pikachu quickly dropped the act and let go of my arm. I furiously rubbed my arm back and forth, as if I were trying to clean myself of some dreaded disease.

"Never touch me again," I growled menacingly. True Blue Pikachu backed away a bit.

“Afraid to get beaten-up by a girl?” Tigrin asked, smirking. Tigrin and Jess had seen the whole thing. Some of the other members had seen parts of it.

“Even more afraid to admit you were?” Jess added, also with a smirk. True Blue Pikachu’s response was to turn away. I had a concerned expression on my face. I had not meant to hurt him and my threats were usually meaningless. Honestly, I admired the guy.

“Guess so,” Tigrin whispered to Jess.

*“Excuse me passengers. We will be docking in a minute,”* said a voice, via the speakers. *“If the boat starts to mysteriously sink, blame it on our captain.”* Everyone was raising eyebrows at this.

*“Like you can drive a boat,”* remarked a different voice over the speakers. It was more distant sounding since it was obvious only one person could have the speaker microphone at one time.

*“Another note. Our captain is a blockhead.”*

*“Give me that!”* A sound of running and maniacal laughing was present in the background. I looked to the control area of the boat, and lo behold, there was Link74Bit and Konidias running circles inside of it. Konidias was furthering his insults, laughing extensively. Link74Bit was attempting to get the speaker microphone away from Konidias.

*“Konidias first, then women and children,”* Konidias paused from his running, noticing something most of us had not. The party boat was getting a little too close to the dock and would most likely be damaged if it was not dealt with immediately.

*“Drat!”* Link74Bit could be heard with a large amount of added profanities as he leapt for the wheel. He managed to park the party boat with minimal damage.

We all departed from the party boat, everyone was fine. Optimus walked past me and shoved Konidias roughly. “You could have killed us!” he said with mix emotions of anger, fright and childish giddy.

“I was trying to lighten all you guys up. You were all acting like a bunch of depressed zombies,” Konidias quickly replied in his own defense.

“I got a good laugh from it,” Dark Chromium Dragonite laughed as he walked past Optimus and Konidias. I gave my usual mew-ish giggles, relaying the conversation back to Princess Wooper.

“So how will we stop the warp?” I overheard BulbaGarden as he was walking and chatting with Seadra Reef.

“I wish I knew,” she answered, her shoulders sagging.

The Bulbasaur’s Mysterious Garden members were on the main level of Canada Place. Most of the other five hundred members had already left, heading back to the Vancouver International Airport. Most of them had left in the only mode of transportation that had been reserved for the entire Bulbasaur’s Mysterious Garden. Thus we had to wait a few hours for a ride, the wait being tiresome and boring.

I was heading back from the Imax with a large popcorn in my arms. The Imax was on the other end of Canada Place, and walking from one end to the other was like walking several city blocks. I had been away from the group for at least a few good minutes. Not like I was complaining much, the popcorn was just the way I liked it. Enough butter, but not enough to make it soggy,

and enough salt, but not enough to make it intolerable. Since it was the popcorn I had bought, I happened to be wolfing it down quickly.

“Smart thinking to bring your laptop, Tigrin,” True Blue Pikachu complimented Tigrin. I managed to catch the tail-end of their conversation as I walked up to the group. Tigrin had a black laptop that she had brought with her. She had recently acquired a satellite connection and Seadra Reef was waiting for a few screens to load as she had it balanced neatly on a large overhang overlooking Stanely Park and Vancouver.

“Hmm, whatcha’ looking at?” I asked the moderator as she typed in a web address in the address bar. Seadra Reef did not say anything. She was very focused on the screen as it loaded slowly. Her right hand reached out and fumbled blindly for my popcorn. I held the bag so she could have easy access to it. Seadra Reef grabbed a handful and began to eat it. I was glad I had bought a large popcorn since I knew someone would try to mooch it off of me. Princess Wooper poked me in the back and I handed it over to her as I looked at the laptop screen.

“Seadra Reef, can you see the warp?” I asked since I finally remembered what the web address was for, having seen it used when my Socials teacher wanted to show a close up, satellite view of my school and a different satellite view of the smoking rubble of the World Trade Center Towers. I waited for Seadra Reef to answer me as she was swallowing her popcorn.

“Thanks VLK. And just about.” Seadra Reef moved her finger on the touch sensitive pad on the laptop and clicked for a closer view. She gasped. The multiple noises from behind me ceased.

“What’s wrong?” I asked in alarm since Seadra Reef had blocked my view of the screen.

“Just take a look for yourself.” She moved aside and let me have a peek. What I saw was unnerving.

A large number of black specks; okay, not specks, had long since exited the warp. I could make out the large oval objects which were blimps. The smaller fish like objects must have been helicopters. They were nearly halfway here! I could not understand. Why were the Bulbasaur’s Mysterious Garden members the only people to know and the only people to see it all? Where was the military? The government? Oh blades, this was a serious problem.

I stood away from the laptop, dazed. The others were now having turns watching a serious militia movement in action. Those who could not seem to wait prodded Seadra Reef and myself with seemingly numerous questions. Seadra Reef was able to answer them, I on the other hand was not. Effex had been standing in front of me and waved his hand near my face. I did not really notice, I was so deep in thought that the world around me was non-existent.

“Anyone home?” He turned to Dragontear. “Is it possible to faint with your eyes open and while standing?” Dragontear had no clue as she shrugged her shoulders.

“I think she might be in shock,” Dragontear mumbled and looked at my face. Chaka had recently gazed upon the scary sight on the screen and had eavesdropped in on the conversation between Effex and Dragontear.

“If you want to snap-her-out-of-it, you just do this . . .” Chaka raised her hand, palm up and struck me across the face. My immediate reaction was to put a hand to my cheek.

“Chaka!?!”

“Why did you hit VLK?”

“What’s gotten into you?!” A few people heard the slap and looked at Chaka, shocked. Though she was looking at me crosly, she did hear them and frankly was more worried about me.

“Blades, Chaka! Why did you hit me?!” I yelled in a flustered manner, a few tears sliding down my face. Everyone else wanted to know the reason why as well.

“Why didn’t I? I got you out of whatever state of day dreaming you were in girl. You should thank me,” she said. It was confusing how she said it though. In a way it was motherly, but in another way it was harsh. Her reason seemed legitimate to me.

“That was no reason to hit her!” The Virtual Meteor Master snapped at Chaka, bewildered.

“You’ve had enough problems with Vaporeon Lugia Krabby. Maybe we should keep you two apart,” BulbaGarden suggested, leading Chaka away. While she was being disciplined, I was being fussed over. My crying was making it seem as if Chaka had done a terrible sin. I was just frustrated, not at her but at myself.

“Look it’ll be okay, don’t cry,” Dark Chromium Dragonite said softly. There was no tolerance for what Chaka had done. I have seen huge amounts of people band together to defend another. It brought out the better sides of some people, at least at the moment. While for others, worse, mostly since a few had taken to dealing with Chaka.

“We should try to get some ice for you,” Optimus said. The members dealing with Chaka were being pretty harsh. Chaka was arguing something in her defense. I just did not make really any responses, even when all three of my friends became involved. All of them knew I hated being fussed over like I was.

“Just leave me alone. All of you! Chaka did what she thought was best and maybe I deserved it. Now scat!” I snarled through tears, brushing my eyes against my sleeve. There was hesitation, no one knew what to do or say. “Just leave,” I murmured and moved away from everyone else since they seemed to be stunned. Some tried to make moves to stop me yet my friends intervened. I was a loner so the best way for me to deal with my problems was when I was by myself.

*I can’t believe what I’ve been doing. I’ve been so confused. I better make up my mind.* Hmm, I sighed to myself as I walked towards the distant street and further away from the group. I knew what I was doing now. I was looking for a long chain that I saw as the party boat passed by one of the cruise ship docks. It did not take me long since the chain was securely fastened to the walkway of Canada Place, and looking at the walkway in a depressed fashion made my search easy. Clambering over the rail, I hung over and gripped the rope. That was when there was some chaos among the members but I was faster than they were and had already descended a few feet. Tigrin was the first there.

“VLK! What are you doing?!” she demanded as she looked over the rail at me. I sort of glanced up at her. I did not care. The others arrived quickly. Dragontear was the most panicked in the group. She knew me for the longest and I had gone through grade six as her friend. I could tell that she was scared for me.

“If I think these pendants do what I think they do then I’m the only one who can stop that fleet!” I said determinedly and confidently. I continued my decent. Maybe I was crazy, but aren’t we all?

“She’s nuts,” Konidias said. Chaka was getting ready to dial numbers on her cellphone.

“Do they have 9-1-1 in Canada?” she asked, fingers hovering over the numbers. I heard her and made a bit of a sardonic laugh.

“Yeah, well don’t think about it,” I said, still going further down the chain. The bottom had to be about ten stories beneath me. It may not seem like such a great distance to a lot of people but when a person’s only life line is a chain hanging perilously over a concrete deck below, it is a very great distance. “Nice day for a climb, wot!” I laughed nervously, my laugh was

cut off when my right hand tried to grip a large grease spot on the rope. My hold was no longer there and I felt myself fall.

“Vaporeon! VLK!” the Bulbasaur’s Mysterious Garden members cried out.

“Ness!!!” Princess Wooper, Dragontear and Mewn hollered, saying my real life nickname.

“Aaahhh,” I yelped and made a wild motion with my left arm, grabbing some of the chain in my hand. That gave me a split second to react. My right arm basically flew to the chain and I wrapped some of the chain around my feet. I held onto my only reassurance for dear life. My heart was beating fast and hard in my chest, I could hear my pulse in my ears. My breathing was short, ragged and I was scared out of my wits. I was nearly killed! And what was worse, I had about eight stories of chain to go.

“Are you okay?” True Blue Pikachu cupped his hands around his mouth and called down to me. There was no answer from me, I felt so afraid since I now regretted trying to scale the chain. I was not a gym person and I knew I could only hold on for a few more minutes. Climbing was not an option since I had no upper body strength, but trying to climb down like I was might leave me as a pancake.

“My phone isn’t working right now! Stupid service,” Chaka cursed, trying to make her phone dial some form of an emergency number.

“I can’t climb up,” I called, whimpering slightly and in tears again.

“Just hold on. We’ll try to get some help,” True Blue Pikachu said soothingly. “Mewn,” he signaled to Mewn, “go get some help. Tell them,” True Blue Pikachu was interrupted by me.

“I can’t hold on for that long! I have to go down the rope.” The Bulbasaur’s Mysterious Garden members realized it too. “If I make it, I’m doing what I think I can do,” I finished and released my very tight grip a little, sliding slowly down the chain. The slightly over a dozen pairs of eyes watched my every attempt to descend with growing anxiety.

Four minutes had gone past, though it seemed like eternity. I was nearly at the bottom with only seven meters left to go. That is when I found out that I was literally at the end of my rope. There was no more chain! Who ever stuck that chain there in the first place was a moron. But whoever chopped off the last bit of chain deserved to just burn in heck for all I cared. My choices now were none. I had no trunk card to play. Either drop now or drop later. What an option.

I hung there, trying to sum up the courage to fall. I would end up dropping a total of twenty-three feet if I did. That was about four times my own height. I was scared of falling a quarter of that and even then I was petrified of falling. It took me awhile but I gave up, there was no point in delaying the inevitable. I opened my hands, letting my arms go in front of me. I fell nearly three stories to the ground.

“Owww . . . oomph.” I hit the concrete deck with a sickening thud. The noise was dulled as I managed to pull-off a forward roll right when I impacted the ground. My body sort of was in a fetal position, ready to fall apart at any moment. Obviously I cry when I am hurt, so I was sniffing, choking down sobs. No one could hear me and the whole place was empty. Dark shadows were cast everywhere because of the overhangs of the street and Canada Place above. Down where I was, this was a mooring dock for a cruise ship. Further ahead of me was where I wanted to go. I saw various vessels I could hijack. I was not after the party boat that had been rented for this day, but with my condition, I did not know if I could even walk let alone drive a boat.

"I . . . b-bb better get up." I struggled to stand but I managed with a major decrease of my usual grace. Upon standing, the first thing I noticed was that my whole body felt sore, especially my hands, arms and my legs. I briefly rolled up my sleeves with my pain-stricken hands. My arms were already bruising. My hands were the same. Checking the lower part of my leg, unzipping my boots, it was also the same. I was bleeding internally and half of it must have been caused by fractures. It was almost ironic. I survived the fall, did not break anything but was probably going to bleed to death, from the inside, out.

"Blades beeping beep blades," I cursed in my non-obscene fashion as I basically forced myself to walk in a normal stride. It was the most excruciating thing I had ever done. It must have been even harder to watch. I thought momentarily of how similar I was to characters that I created. I grinned at the idea, then winced as I stepped forward.

"Why isn't she moving?" Jess peered over the rail. Tigrin was looking through Seadra Reef's binoculars. Both Tigrin and Seadra Reef loved to play with the other girl's equipment.

"Eesh," Tigrin said while everyone was waiting for Tigrin to give them details. "Okay, okay. She's getting up really slow." There were nods and noises of impatient understanding. "She's rolling up her sleeves? Ouch, her arms are bruised really badly." Then that made everyone briefly look at Dragontear. They wanted to know how badly hurt Vaporeon Lugia Krabby was, based on the information.

"What?" she said, feeling a bit uncomfortable. "I don't know how she got bruises so fast." There were a few ideas that went through all of their heads but no one said them. Too offensive and personal.

"Why is she going that way?" Jess asked.

"Maybe there is a way out?" BulbaGarden suggested, but none of the born British Columbians there thought so. They each had their own theories but the entrance into the place had to be through an area close to Canada Place, not away from it.

"I think she's limping," Tigrin observed. Optimus snatched the binoculars from Tigrin's hands, having enough with such vague information.

"Hey!" Tigrin protested as Optimus looked down at Vaporeon Lugia Krabby.

"Oh yeah. Vap's limping," he assured everyone. Chaka was trying to make her phone work again.

"Work," she cursed at it while smacking it. "I just recharged the batteries two nights ago! What the," she cursed again, pressing buttons, checking the batteries. "I can't get my phone to work," Chaka gave the thing a violent shake.

"Hi everyone. How's VLK?" Mewn ran up, panting. "I tried calling 9-1-1 but the machine ate my quarter. And when I went to the service place in The Pan Pacific, there was no one there," she gasped from the lack of breath.

"Well you didn't miss much," The Virtual Meteor Master said. "Vaporeon Lugia Krabby fell and she's limping," he answered, worry in his eyes.

There were a lot of tug boats for the cruise ships. Lots of power but they were way too slow. I glanced at them as I limped past, starting to no longer being able to see Canada Place. At least the main level of it, but I was paying attention to the boats more. And since this area was a restricted area, all the boats had keys in the ignition. I had heard something about that. Staff members only and if it was staff only then there was no need to bother with getting keys.



I walked by a police boat. They were fast but I did not want to deal with other officers knowing where I was and tracking me on a global positioning system. It's like having a car thief steal a police cruiser. It was something no one would do for a lot of reasons.

Now the next boat seemed very promising. It was one that was designed for coast guards. This one in particular was one leveled. It was completely open except for the seven foot guard that was protecting the controls and the driver from the elements when at top speed. The paint was orange and I could tell that this was a boat specialized with diving rescues. It had appropriate edges and a lot of diving equipment. And the best part was that it had absolutely enormous, twin engines in the back. Now this was the boat I wanted

I smiled gleefully as I climbed a small step ladder that went up into the rescue boat. I was no boat genius and had forgotten to undo the ropes that moored the boat to its dock. So with a great deal of pain and complaining, I clambered out of the boat and undid four sailor's knots before getting back into the boat. The rescue boat had drifted out a bit, thankfully. I pulled in the buoys, hurting my hands as I did. That did not help me in anyway besides lessening drag when I would be at top speed.

"Okay, let's see if you work," I muttered, turning the key in the ignition. Then eureka, the boat was alive. I furthered that idea with imitations of Doctor Frankenstein and his lines when his monster twitched. "It's alive!" I laughed maniacally, stopping myself as I winced. "Now how did this work again?" I looked at the many controls. There was a throttle lever, which must have been for speed. I was going to go for a fast speed and put the boat on cruise control so at least that way the speed would not drop.

"Well, let's try this," I grabbed the throttle lever and shoved it upwards. The boat lurched forward before dramatically increasing its knot speed. I was nearly thrown off the boat because of the sudden movement. I flipped the switch for the cruise control and the rescue boat was able to keep at a constant speed. A lot of other boaters watched me in shock as I forced the boat into a wild turn. I nearly capsized the rescue boat and almost crashed into a small sailing boat. Despite everything that had happened and was going to happen, I was happy and full of adrenaline.

"Hey look ma'. I erm drivin' one of these 'ere gimmicks," I imitated a hillbilly and laughed wildly. I was really in one of those moods at the moment. My wake rocked other boats and my driving had nearly caused several boats to upturn. I made the rescue boat head for the edge of Stanley Park and turn out of the inlet. *I hope I'm right.*

"Vapoleon!" Princess Wooper yelled from the walkway of Canada Place. "Vapoleon!!!" She started to grow hoarse from her yelling. Vapoleon Lugia Krabby was too far down below and too far away to hear. She seemed preoccupied anyway by the sounds of it.

"She's untying the fruity orange boat guys. Vap's trying to steal the boat," Optimus informed, still holding the binoculars to his eyes. "And she's back in the boat. Umm, we kind of got a problem. Vappie is going to go a long, long way from here soon. She's started the boat!" he said with more urgency, noticing the smoke from the engines and the water frothing around them.

"Where's the entrance for that dock?!" Konidias demanded the British Columbians for an answer.

"Probably in Canada Place. We can't make it down there to stop her in time," Seadra Reef said, Tigrin's laptop tucked beneath her arm. Dragontear's nails were digging into the rail. Princess Wooper paced briefly while Mewn looked on with worry. The four were dead certain

they could not get down there in time unless they jumped off the edge and miraculously survived.

“We just use the party boat over at the other dock,” Dark Chromium Dragonite said, already heading down the walkway, ready to break out into a run in a millisecond.

“Hate to interrupt your plans, but Vaporeon Lugia Krabby has pulled out of the dock,” Optimus pointed out.

“Does she even know how to drive a boat?” Link74Bit was puzzled, briefly glancing at Vaporeon Lugia Krabby’s friends.

“Don’t know,” Mewn answered.

“Nope,” answered Princess Wooper. The only person who had been around Vaporeon Lugia Krabby and boats at the same time.

“Not really,” Dragontear spoke, shaking her head, a few strands of hair brushing over her shoulders.

“Come on, let’s go catch her again,” urged Dark Chromium Dragonite with an impatient wave.

“Head to the party boat!” BulbaGarden ordered as Dark Chromium Dragonite sprinted down the walkway. The other Bulbasaur’s Mysterious Garden members followed. Seadra Reef went into one of the many side doors down the exhibition hall pathway, skittering past people as they passed. Jess followed Seadra Reef and so did The Virtual Meteor Master. The rest ran flat out down the walkway.

“Minnasan, noku!” (Everyone, move out of the way!) Princess Wooper snapped at a group of Japanese tourists as they went to the glass walls of Canada Place and the railing. The tourists received ample warning before they were nearly barreled over by the group of teenagers and young adults.

“Link74Bit, you’re doing the driving,” BulbaGarden shouted as he ran close to Link74Bit.

“But I wanted to drive!” whined Effex as he kept a steady pace with BulbaGarden.

“You couldn’t drive a car,” BulbaGarden joked in-between breaths. Effex was disappointed and then noticed Optimus ahead of him.

“Yo, Opti! Wait up!” Effex called over to his buddy.

The Virtual Meteor Master was glancing at the group, the wall of glass preventing the two groups from communicating. He looked at BulbaGarden, asking, “What’s wrong?” with his mouth. BulbaGarden briefly reached into his pocket and pulled out a set of keys before struggling to put them back into his pockets, slowing down his progress as he did.

The Virtual Meteor shouted something to Jess and Seadra Reef, both were basically with him. They sort of laughed and then tried to get back into a normal stride.

“Isn’t there auto-pilot or something?!” I could not exactly steer well because of my injuries and it showed. The rescue boat hit a large wave, flew into the air and then crashed solidly back onto the saltwater. The equipment that was not fastened down rolled to the back of the boat. I went with the equipment, losing my balance and slipping. The boat veered around a bit as it waited for me to get it back under some control. I managed to stand but barely and hobbled towards the steering wheel, finally making the boat come back under my command.

“I could jump on a boat before now! Why did I bother injuring myself. It isn’t worth this!” I sniffled as I guided the rescue boat to the now very close air fleet. I immediately switched

off the cruise control. The boat began to move on its own momentum and immediately slowed down.

I found a portable microphone unit; one of the many advantages of stealing a rescue boat. I attached the battery pack to my belt. The actual microphone was pinned onto my army jacket collar. There was a switch on the controls that basically gave me an idea of volume and microphone options. I grinned and turned it on. Almost instantly I heard the annoying sound that speakers make when they were too close to a source and were just turned on. It was terribly annoying.

*Now off goes the boat*, I thought as I pulled the throttle down, the boat coming to a halt as the waves gently let the rescue boat rise and fall. There was not much noise anymore except for the hum of the speakers and the whirl of helicopter blades. I moved to the front of the boat and looked up at the air fleet. It was more terrifying than it was on the laptop screen. I was scared beyond comprehension, but I had gone through so much in one day that fear was drowned by everything else. I am Vaporeon Lugia Krabby, fear does not rule me.

The portable microphone unit was switched on as loud as both itself and the speakers could possibly handle. A loud, annoying ring sounded but at least it proved functional. My plan was to get the air fleets attention, and at the altitude some of the helicopters were flying at, getting their attention was merely child's play.

The party boat had been in easy view of Vaporeon Lugia Krabby and the rescue boat she had hijacked for most of the time. But trying to keep a steady pace with Vaporeon Lugia Krabby had nearly burned the motors in the party boat. Link74Bit managed to handle the boat well in contrast to Vaporeon Lugia Krabby's obvious rookie attempts. It was almost surprising she got it to start let alone to actually keep it at the same speed the whole time.

"Oh no!" Seadra Reef gasped next to Link74Bit. "She fell." Seadra Reef was worried as she saw Vaporeon Lugia Krabby being knocked off her balance from a large wave and tumbled into the back of the boat. Seadra Reef was watching this through her binoculars. She saw Vaporeon Lugia Krabby getting up, fixing the rather jaunty steering and suddenly forcing the boat to slow down. "Link, we're getting really close. Wait, the boats stopping," she continued to observe. The party boat was quickly covering the distance between. "Vaporeon Lugia Krabby is putting on something. Okay, now the boat stopped." BulbaGarden looked imploringly at Seadra Reef, basically asking if he could have the opportunity to peer through the binoculars. Seadra Reef willingly handed them over.

"Thanks," he smiled and then looked at the party boat with the aid of the binoculars. "Wow, look at all those buttons," BulbaGarden was surprised at how many switches and buttons were on the rescue boat. "We're close."

"Yes, we are close. Slowing down the boat," Link74Bit confirmed as he slowed the party boat to a stop. The party boat was slightly out of Vaporeon Lugia Krabby's ear shot. She did not notice that the Bulbasaur's Mysterious Garden members were there yet.

"What is VLK doing?" Seadra Reef asked as Vaporeon Lugia Krabby walked to the front of the rescue boat.

"Standing on the front of that boat," Link74Bit replied with very little enthusiasm.

"She is way too careless," BulbaGarden grumbled, folding his arms, still holding onto the binoculars in one hand. "You haven't seen it Link74Bit but she was bashing herself around more than ten times. Bashing each other, pinching, strangling. The list goes on."

"I'm guessing she really was careless," said Konidias as he peered into the cabin. Link74Bit gave an agitated look at Konidias.

"I thought I told you to stay out of here?!" Link74Bit growled but Konidias walked further in, despite the possible endangerment to his life.

"I need to tell you something. From what everyone told me and what I'm seeing," he nodded to the air fleet, "I bet those vehicles are from Team Rocket."

"What!?" came the combined voices of Seadra Reef, BulbaGarden and Link74Bit. The rest of the members heard the exclamation and were staring.

"If you haven't noticed, there are red R's all over the blimps and helicopters. I also know because there is the Blimp Brigade. And they came out of that warp. They're most likely from Team Rocket," Konidias stated the facts he had observed. Immediately the trio all looked upon the air fleet, making certain for themselves.

"So then what chance does Vaporeon Lugia Krabby have in stopping them?" asked Link74Bit in complete skepticism.

"She seems bright," BulbaGarden said.

"Yeah, some times," Link74Bit scoffed.

"I bet she has something up her sleeves," Seadra Reef was trying to sound optimistic but her lack of confidence in Vaporeon Lugia Krabby was obvious. Even at that moment, Vaporeon Lugia Krabby herself had nothing up her sleeves besides bruised arms and a stubborn willpower.

Team Rocket. An organization based around the idea of an Italian Mafia. They stole, they committed unknown crimes. No one can exactly prosecute them since there is never enough evidence to convict them of anything. My gut told me that it was them. I knew and I could see it. I sighed as I cleared my throat, ready to make my first move.

"Hello!" I shouted into the microphone as loudly as possible. My own voice rang from the speakers slightly behind me, hurting my ears. "Oww," I winced momentarily as the ringing in my ears quickly subsided. "I wish to address the leader of Team Rocket who goes by the name of Giovanni," I said very loudly, my voice slightly bitter with a continuous tinge of pain. The helicopters made a bit of a halt, it proved that at least I was loud enough to get a reaction. That was a good thing, but now everything would likely become harder.

The Bulbasaur's Mysterious Garden members were in the front of the party boat. Chaka had heard the name of Giovanni and was obsessively trying to see where he was. "Where is he? I want an autograph!" she exclaimed, frantically trying to spot him amongst the air fleet. Jess was doing the exact same thing as Chaka, the only catch being that Jess was looking for James.

"I want to ask James a few questions," she said with a blush. Tigrin rolled her eyes.

"Is all you two think about is boys?" The Virtual Meteor Master asked with his arms folded across his chest, he had a slight expression of disgust. Chaka and Jess both glared at him, neither bothering to give an answer.

"I bet it's a 'yes'," Effex grinned while whispering to The Virtual Meteor Master.

The Virtual Meteor Master shrugged his shoulders. "That's girls for you."

"Hey, the roof of that helicopter just opened up. Oh my God . . . It's Giovanni!" squealed Chaka as if she were a crazed fan girl at a Linkin Park concert.

"You've got to be kidding me," Effex muttered as he glanced at Chaka before looking up at the helicopter in the front of the air fleet that was carrying Giovanni.

The first thing I felt when the hatch on the roof spread apart and the fenced floor went up was rage. I hated Giovanni with every little part of my body, even if he was a cartoon character at one point. I growled quietly, my anger even more obvious as I clenched my pained fists. I glared at the Italian man in the red suit and that stupid, snobby show cat called a Persian. I really hated that man.

“Something wrong?” Giovanni laughed through his own portable microphone unit. He was not exactly looking at me but at a large panel in front of him.

*Uh, he’s watching me through a camera,* I thought, feeling so small now. Still, no matter how small, I could not just stand there and wait for me to pass out without doing anything. I had not gone through everything to be where I was now and do nothing. “Why are you here, Giovanni?!” I demanded with a hostile snarl, index finger thrust forward and pointing at him.

“What else? I want to rule the world!” he laughed but more menacingly this time. I could not see his full expression but it did not take a genius to guess how he would express that line.

“Then why here? Why my dimension?” I asked, arms outspread signaling everything around me. There seemed no reason to why he wanted it.

“It’s easier to conquest. My scientists have found out there are no Pokémon here. And barely any rebels,” he paused, seeming calm yet his voice suddenly became aggressive. “Now move out of my way!”

“What?!” I exclaimed, my eyes wide in shock. “You mean you, oh blades it. I’m not letting you get past without me calling the navy and the air force,” I threatened, holding my pendant for some comfort. I had no confidence at all towards Canada’s armed forces. It was under-funded and in too poor of condition to even take down any of the vehicles in the air. Heck, not even the Snow Birds could take down that fleet. They were for show. “If you don’t get your butt back to the Pokémon World you will be in some serious trouble,” I warned.

Giovanni made a humming noise, he was pondering something since there was a long pause in which he was silent. “How do you know of the Pokémon World?” he finally spoke. That had to be a good question. I bet he had no clue that where he came from, Pokémon were real and here they were a well-known phenomenon.

“Pokémon, or Pocket Monsters as they’re called in Japan, is a show, a line of video games, a line of cards, movies and stuff like that. Everyone knows about Pokémon. Some people know about the Pokémon World. Yeah, lots of people know about it,” I changed my expression and voice to anger, “and about you.”

“So then you might know these Pokémon.” Giovanni held out an arm and snapped his fingers once. I watched curiously as small hatches in the blimps and helicopters released what must have been Pokéballs in response to Giovanni’s signal. The balls cracked open, dozens of white lights shone from beneath the vehicles and suddenly in the sky and the ocean there were Pokémon. I was so busy staring at the Pokémon that I had not noticed Giovanni talking privately into an intercom on his control panel.

There were the fearsome blue sea dragons called Gyarados. They seemed more terrifying than I expected, roaring loudly. Fearows flapped their large light brown wings in the sky, squawking, screeching and just creating an awful noise. I saw the harmless looking Quagsires, the adorable Seels, the mystifying Xatus and more Pokémon than conceivably imaginable. And what was worst, they were in full, living, breathing 3D and they could all swim, hover or fly.

I looked away from the masses of Pokémon and gazed back up at the helicopter. A door on the side of the helicopter had opened. I thought nothing odd about it until something came out. My response was to recoil in horror. That was not fair at all. Giovanni could win this world

over without any effort and only with that one Pokémon. Even as I looked at the pale lavender of the Pokémon's fur and the lavender of its tail and eyes, I knew I was going to lose. Nothing can win against a Mewtwo. Nothing.

"Wow, Mewtwo," murmured Princess Wooper.

"I bet a could take it on and win if I were still a Mew," Mewn said with ignorant confidence. Konidias, Link74Bit and BulbaGarden were at the front of the boat.

"The most dangerous Pokémon. Strong, fast and experienced," Link74Bit informed, letting out a sigh.

"No way in a million years can Vaporeon Lugia Krabby win," added Konidias.

"Come on. She is doing a lot more than what we would ever do. Be optimistic," BulbaGarden mentioned that, knowing that either bravery, stupidity or both was what kept Vaporeon Lugia Krabby from not turning tail and leaving.

"Oh, and how will she win?" Link74Bit cocked his eyes at BulbaGarden. He was about to make a suggestion when Dragontear interrupted.

"She can talk them to death. She nearly does that in school," Dragontear said optimistically.

"Eureka, we're saved," Optimus muttered in sarcasm as he walked past.

Konidias in turn threw his hands up into the air. "Okay, that's it. We're doomed."

"So what do you plan to do to stop the awesome power of Team Rocket?" Giovanni asked smugly.

*Sit here and cry?* I thought bitterly.

<That would be an improvement,> a voice said cynically in my head. I looked up, tears forming in my eyes. Mewtwo looked down at me, a sneer on his face. It was him who had not only peered into my thoughts but spoke in my head. If it were not for the fact that I stood between Team Rocket and the world's doom I would have broken into sobs right there and then. Not only was I badly injured, I was alone and my favorite Pokémon hated me.

*Life sucks*, I concluded, then I got an idea. "Hey, Mewtwo!" I said cheerily. Mewtwo gave a puzzled look.

<"What?">

"Why don't you try ruling the world yourself? Do you really need a weak human like Gio-butt over there to order you around?" I smiled. I could hear the gritting of teeth that was coming from Giovanni. I was probably going to be shot for that but who cares? That was the best thing I could ever have said. "He makes you battle all the time. He uses you just so he can catch Pokémon and win gym matches. You should be taking control." This was the greatest thing I could ever do. I could turn Mewtwo against Giovanni. All of Team Rocket would probably be destroyed and the world only had to worry about Mewtwo. It was too perfect.

"Don't listen to her Mewtwo. She has no clue what she is saying!" Giovanni snapped at his Pokémon. Mewtwo looked at Giovanni, taking what I said quite seriously.

*Yes, that's right Mewtwo. I know all about the Pokémon World and all about you too*, I thought rather devilishly. Then something gave me a reality slap in the face. If I kept fueling a rebellion against Giovanni, I would ruin the Pokémon World in turn. To save this dimension I would ruin one other dimension in the same process. I just could not do that. And with that, I agreed with Giovanni.

“Yeah you’re right Giovanni. All lies. I’m just trying to make Mewtwo turn on you. But he shouldn’t when you’ve offered to help him with his training, be his partner.” I looked down at the deck of the rescue boat. “I knew Mewtwo wouldn’t buy it, but I tried,” I forced a laugh. I felt so stupid, and like a betrayer.

<“So you lied to me?”> Mewtwo glared harshly at me.

“Yes, Mewtwo. I lied,” I muttered as I hung my head.

“Foolish girl. You can never outwit Team Rocket,” Giovanni boasted.

“That doesn’t sound like Vaporeon Lugia Krabby. I thought she’d do anything to get Mewtwo away from Team Rocket, wouldn’t she?” Tigrin asked no one in particular.

“No! That was our only chance to create a mutiny! Why did she do it?!” Princess Wooper hollered. “Why did she change her mind?!” And she was not the only one who was mad.

“She ruined a perfectly good idea. I swear it was working. Did you see the way Mewtwo was glaring at Giovanni? He was like, ‘You jerk. You used me’,” Dark Chromium Dragonite said.

“I bet she has a good reason,” Dragontear said, trying to not be mad at Vaporeon Lugia Krabby.

“And here’s a good reason. Vaporeon Lugia Krabby is selling us over so that way she doesn’t get killed,” Chaka growled, rekindling her hate against Vaporeon Lugia Krabby again.

*Oh great. I’m going to have to rely on my original plan now. It’s never going to work.* I looked up at Giovanni. “Can you please find it in your heart to not attack this dimension?”

“No,” Giovanni replied bluntly then made a wave ahead of him. “Team Rocket advance,” he ordered as some of the blimps began pushing forward.

“Okay Giovanni, you’re asking for it,” I warned him.

“You can’t hurt me,” Giovanni laughed mockingly. Mewtwo looked down at me, smug as ever.

<“You can’t do anything against us,”> Mewtwo spoke. Man, was I starting to hate his ego.

“I’ll show you!” I yelled, grabbing my new pendant and almost ripping it off over my head. I held it in my hands and let the pendant sway hypnotically. “You made one big mistake Giovanni.” I forced the pendant to come back into my right hand, smacking my palm which made it hurt even more. “Don’t mess with VLK.”

“Is she insane or just delusion?” remarked Dark Chromium Dragonite.

“She usually acts like that when she is hyper,” Princess Wooper grumbled as she listened to Vaporeon Lugia Krabby sounding ridiculous.

“You’re probably right about that,” said True Blue Pikachu. “Vaporeon Lugia Krabby has been acting weird all day.”

“That is what she is like in real life. After three years and we’re still friends,” Mewn laughed weakly, finding no reason to laugh in the first place. No one was paying much attention to her either, with all the Pokémon around it was hard not to stare.

“I never thought she could be so . . . weird,” Dark Chromium Dragonite muttered.

“What do you expect? Everyone acts different in different places. Vaporeon Lugia Krabby doesn’t have to act the same on the boards,” Link74Bit said as he looked at the water. “So many Pokémon.”

“Oh great. Now VLK is giving hollow threats.” Dark Chromium made a gesture of idiocy and dismay.

“Maybe she is thinking some sort of method will work?” Tigrin answered, sounding a bit dazed since she was just looking ahead.

“Animorphs?” Princess Wooper asked in an almost certain but not so certain way.

“Sort of, but not really,” Tigrin said critically, sharing her idea between herself and Princess Wooper.

“Well we’re about to find out,” Chaka interjected as she nodded in the direction Vaporeon Lugia Krabby.

I closed my eyes and just tried to ignore every distraction around me. It was hard with the searing pain that constantly went through my body and the noise of all those Pokémon. I thought of energy and the pendant; the movement of energy through my distraught hands and into the pendant. *Please work*, I pleaded at my piece of jewelry. After a few seconds I opened my eyes and was oddly enough welcomed with a light blue glow from the pendant. It was no time for me to be giddy, despite how promising what I was seeing happened to be.

“It’s working,” I grinned, then looked up at Giovanni. He probably had his eyebrow raised, wondering what the heck I was up to. Mewtwo was puzzled as well. “You will just love this trick,” I said as I quickly took off my portable microphone unit, placing it on the deck of the rescue boat. I thought of all that had gone on before now, and most importantly, I thought of my Pokémon namesakes. I was those Pokémon, and I am going to be them again. The pendant suddenly burst with a blinding blue light, it was overwhelming. I felt myself fall into a void of emptiness, blacking out.

“You will just love this trick,” Vaporeon Lugia Krabby said as she took off her portable microphone unit and placed it on the deck. For a brief second she looked like she was concentrating then an intense blue light engulfed her.

“What’s going on?!” Seadra Reef asked as she turned away, the light hurting her eyes.

“I don’t know, something’s happening,” Mewn said as she covered her eyes, still trying to see if she could identify Vaporeon Lugia Krabby. Effex had a pair of sunglasses on his head, flicking them over his eyes so that way he could actually see a bit.

“Yeah, something is happening,” Effex said as he watched two smaller lights tear away from the larger. One went slightly to the right, another went slightly to the left but still on the deck of the rescue boat. The lights began to dim and everyone saw the after result.

“It’s a Krabby, a Vaporeon, and a Lugia,” gasped Jess.

“Oh my, wow. How the . . . Can someone tell me what is going on?” Mewn asked, blinking repeatedly.

“She did it!” Tigrin squealed.

“Go Vaporeon Lugia Krabby. You kick their butts,” Optimus cheered, probably one of the few people that did not bother to ask any questions. Konidias and Link74Bit stared with their mouths agape.

“Jeesh, you guys were right about the transforming and splitting,” Konidias said, shocked.

“I sort of wish I went now,” Link74Bit added.



Vaporeon, Lugia, and Krabby awoke almost as soon as their forms came into clear view. Krabby was the first to snap out of her unconsciousness, she glanced at her other two forms; Vaporeon who had just come to consciousness a few seconds later. Then Lugia who hovered a few feet above the rescue boat and near submerging it.

“So what do you think of those fireworks? Yeah baby, yeah.” Krabby’s voice sounded loudly through the portable microphone unit that had been left active on the deck. But the English speaking, and the rather hip hop-ish sound of Krabby’s voice was peculiar.

“Told you it would work,” Vaporeon giggled as she looked up, seeing Mewtwo’s surprised expression but not Giovanni’s. She felt no fear as long as her mind was unified with Lugia and Krabby. Also Lugia was such a protective figure, how could she not feel safe? “You should listen more often.” Her voice was a distinct and stereotypical valley girl, but a lot more whiny.

Lugia looked at Mewtwo, then at Giovanni. Her eyes could outline Giovanni’s facial expression clearly. He was horrified, obviously wondering how it was even possible for that to have happened. <“I see you are surprised with this display,”> Lugia said plainly. Her voice had made no change from what it previously was, it was the same normal and boring telepathy it had been previously.

Giovanni’s hand shook as he observed with a critical eye. Mewtwo was surprised but he had not yet found anything too terribly odd with the display. Any place except home had to be weird in a sense.

Vaporeon, Lugia and Krabby looked at each other, noticing something different from the last time they were all separated. Each one had an individual pendant carved into a shape of a head of their respected forms. Lugia arched her neck briefly to look behind her. The sixth sense of her mind was very strong and she had noticed what she had not hoped to see, the Bulbasaur’s Mysterious Garden members were on the party boat, almost an ear shot away from the stolen rescue boat.

*They came, they shouldn’t have. All they’re doing is putting their lives in danger, and I have one more thing to worry about,* Lugia thought bitterly as she looked back at her opposition. <“Giovanni, you are greatly risking your people and Pokémon. I am Lugia, a Pokémon with stats that are equal to Mewtwo,”> she proclaimed.

<“I wouldn’t worry. The Lugia is inexperienced, same goes for the Krabby and the Vaporeon. If I may, I would like to deal with the Lugia, personally,”> Mewtwo spoke to Giovanni in particular as he edged closer to Lugia.

“If you wish Mewtwo. The rest of the Pokémon can take care of the other two,” Giovanni grinned. Vaporeon and Krabby looked at each other. They both realized they could not handle that many Pokémon. It was suicide to try. Lugia looked down at her two forms as the pair stared at the frothing water being churned up by the Pokémon in it. She looked back at Mewtwo, dumb struck. The gut feeling of substantial loss was present. *I have to make this fast.*

Lugia and Mewtwo headed off towards the south, away from the air vehicles. They stayed a few meters above the murky, frothy water glaring at each other as two rivals do in a combative fight or race. Lugia arched her neck, wings outspread. A Barrier composed of her psychic blue energy embraced her protectively. Mewtwo brought his head down, eyes wide and he replicated Lugia’s Barrier. The rivals looked through their defenses, glaring at each other before throwing their bodies forward in a head on charge, meeting the other in the middle, only to hit and then be smacked away.

<“You’re pathetic!”> Mewtwo insulted. He clenched his fists and then got ready to charge again.

<“I can say the same for you,”> Lugia retorted and charged at Mewtwo only to have herself and Mewtwo ricochet again.

Vaporeon could hear Lugia and Mewtwo arguing and making a racket as they met and departed. Krabby was watching the water. “Vaporeon! Gyarados a bit to your left. Use Ice Beam and put that bastard on ice!” Krabby ordered even when everyone could hear her voice through the portable microphone unit. Vaporeon looked in the direction Krabby had mentioned, yelping as soon as she saw the Gyarados with its dangerous, flesh ripping fangs. She closed her eyes and just released the Ice Beam.

“Great shot, Vaporeon. Just aim out into the crowd now,” Krabby said encouragingly when Vaporeon hit the Gyarados and it backed away. Krabby gathered a type of cold and colorful aura in her pincer. She shot it at a mass of a dozen Pokémon. The Pokémon backed away, surprised by the power coming from such a small crustacean as some of their bodies became frozen and the water around them made a temporary landing of ice.

Vaporeon just shot her attack at the water a ways ahead of her, creating another ice landing that was like a natural shield. Krabby caught a glimpse of Vaporeon’s work, listening to her other self’s mind as it was pushed to the brink of thought. Lugia’s mind on the other hand was a jumble of tactics and scenarios, nothing positive, nothing hopeful, just the need to survive and protect everything she cared about. Listening in gave Krabby the feeling that Lugia’s world was weighed entirely on her shoulders. *Lugia, we’re here to help you. Now get your ass moving and stop frickin’ caring so damn much!* Krabby thought rather loudly.

Lugia caught the thought and looked back at Mewtwo, charging and ricocheting off him yet again. She was not alone in this fight.

“They can’t win. I want to help!” Mewn yelled in frustration, nearly leaping over the rail.

“Mewn, calm down,” The Virtual Meteor Master said reassuringly as he grabbed her arm. “No point in getting worked up.”

“I’m doing what she did.” Mewn grabbed her own pendant. “I am a Pokémon. I am a Pokémon,” she repeated. “Now transform!” she cried out, determination fueling her desire. A pale pink light flared around her, violently throwing The Virtual Meteor Master into Dragontear. Together the pair fell into a heap on the deck. Mewn was fine and within a split second was standing at her proud 4’5” height, looking like a very angry Mew anthropomorphic. She was not in shock, actually Mewn seemed quite comfortable and adapted. “Vaporeon Lugia Krabby needs help and I’m not going to lose another friend,” Mewn said as she glanced over her shoulder at the group. Her aura laced around her body briefly, initiating a psychic ability to levitate and fly. Without word she was in the air, straight to the aid of Lugia.

“If she can do that, I can too,” Dragontear muttered while The Virtual Meteor Master helped her to her feet.

“No, wait Dragontear,” Seadra Reef said urgently, jogging up to Dragontear, ready to put a restraining hand on Dragontear’s shoulder. “You’re a Fire type. If the boat capsizes you’ll die.”

“You don’t know that for certain.” Dragontear was becoming a bit agitated. She knew horses could swim, though the significance of herself being a fire Pokémon was not quite obvious.

“Listen to Seadra Reef,” Link74Bit intervened. “If you’re a Rapidash like I’ve been told, then when your flames go out, you die.”

“You don’t have to play Wonder Woman too,” Effex pointed out in concern. Dragontear gave a rejected look feeling less special than she wanted to. BulbaGarden understood that the group did want to help, did want to test this intriguing transformation skill, and was nearly ready to go at it whether anyone agreed or not.

“Okay, we are outnumbered at least five to one. Since the ocean won’t support some of us, only those who I say can transform, do so. Princess Wooper, Seadra Reef, Dark Chromium Dragonite, transform and go.

“Okay,” Princess Wooper grinned as she struggled briefly before a light blue light changed her into her previous Wooper form.

“Sure thing,” Seadra Reef said as she transformed slightly before Princess Wooper, far more focused in contrast.

“Do I have to?” Dark Chromium Dragonite whined as he watched both Princess Wooper and Seadra Reef hop to the rail making a few feeble jumps before actually getting over. BulbaGarden just glared unwaveringly. “I guess I have no choice?” BulbaGarden responded with a nod and a grin. “I’ll get you some day for this,” Dark Chromium Dragonite muttered. “Okay, transform!” No reaction. “Hocus-pocus! Abracadabra! Open-sez-me . . . Work!” Then after a few tries, the pendant responded. Dark Chromium Dragonite opened his Dragonite eyes as the light dissipated from around him. “Finally,” he sighed opening his wings and making a slightly sloppy take-off. The party boat dipped a bit as Dark Chromium Dragonite’s weight severely counterbalanced the buoyancy of the boat.

“The Virtual Meteor Master, transform then transform into a Dragonite. True Blue Pikachu, you get to ride on his back,” BulbaGarden said, staring at the opposing Pokémon as Seadra Reef was making an iceberg.

“Ride on his back?” True Blue Pikachu walked up to the prow of the boat, catching a glimpse back at BulbaGarden.

“As a Pikachu.”

True Blue Pikachu nodded, “Easy done.” He transformed flawlessly.

“Great, I’m going to get shocked, I just know it,” The Virtual Meteor Master grumbled, shivering briefly at the idea of being shocked with ten thousand volts of rodent electricity. His transformation was fast, barely any light of sorts to shroud him. The possibility that he was a Ditto must have made transforming easy. He then transformed a second time, upholding a Dragonite shape. True Blue Pikachu ran across the deck, leaping onto the back of The Virtual Meteor Master.

“Fly away!” True Blue Pikachu cheered, his voice was normal and human sounding, just a bit more squeaky. The Virtual Meteor Master obeyed without hesitation, spreading his wings then without any disruption was in the air and speeding over to the Pokémon that occupied the skies.

“Jess, you go to Espeon form,” BulbaGarden ordered, Jess was already getting prepared. Her pendant glowed with purple energy, quickly engulfing her in an unbearable violet light and nearly flooring Optimus and Chaka as she did. The light dimmed, leaving Jess slightly woozy but unharmed.

“Are all psychics so violent?” Optimus hollered, loosing his balance and landing on his rear. He noticed a pattern. Vaporeon Lugia Krabby, Mewn and Jess all had psychic Pokémon forms. All of them nearly either blinded the Bulbasaur’s Mysterious Garden or knocked them a few feet away.

“Jess, use some psychic attacks to protect the boat.” BulbaGarden was pleased with Jess’ enthusiasm but she was not paying much attention. “Effex, just use Thunder Punch to discourage anything that comes too close to the boat.”

“Can do,” Effex said, the last person to transform under BulbaGarden’s orders.

“The rest of you just sit tight.”

“Yes, Bulba,” a chorus of voices responded. Tigrin, Chaka, Optimus, Dragontear, Link74Bit and Konidias felt a little useless. Tigrin could use psychic abilities and Chaka and Dragontear both had long range attacks. But whatever BulbaGarden says, goes.

Mewtwo concentrated energy into his open right paw and threw a Shadow Ball at Lugia’s head. Mewn zipped in front of Lugia, used Barrier and stopped Mewtwo’s attack.

“Need some help?” she asked sweetly. Mewn was brimming with pride from being able to stop an attack from such a powerful Pokémon.

Lugia shook her head disdainfully. <“No. You’re weaker than a Mew. Mewtwo would use your weakness to his advantage.”> That completely insulted Mewn. She thought she was doing Lugia a much needed favor but Lugia was just criticizing her instead. How did Lugia know Mewn was weak? She had no idea about anything.

“Fine then, be that way. See if I ever help you again!” Mewn replied in a huff, Teleporting over to some Pokémon in order to fight them.

*I don’t want her to get hurt. Why does no one understand my motives?* Lugia thought bitterly, her head arched away from Mewtwo. He was doing nothing at the moment that concerned her anyway.

<Wise decision Lugia. I would rather fight a challenging opponent like yourself, rather than some low life,> Mewtwo said calmly, dropping his fighter stance for a more casual levitating position. Lugia heard the voice in her head, Mewtwo was up to something.

<“She is my human friend, not some low life!”> Lugia snarled. She made a dive at Mewtwo, stopping suddenly, making an attempt to roundhouse Mewtwo with her tail. Mewtwo just Teleported behind Lugia. Lugia made a wild, swiveling motion as she faced Mewtwo again.

<Do you want to battle elsewhere?> Mewtwo asked, still calm despite the glare on Lugia’s face.

<“Pardon?”> She had not expected Mewtwo to offer such a resolution, this could be a trick.

<Answer me personally,> Mewtwo hinted with a smirk, this conversation was going to be their little secret. <I happen to notice that some of your team mates are useless and vulnerable where they are as is. I can take all of us to a place where we will all have an advantage. One that will compromise to your team mates.>

Lugia knew Mewtwo was right about that. The last of the Bulbasaur’s Mysterious Garden members could be left prey to the ocean and Team Rocket’s Pokémon if they stayed on the party boat. <Agreed. You choose the destination.> Lugia had to trust that Mewtwo would not pick some sort of barren desert, a glacier region, or even worse, a place populated by people. She would never forgive herself if a populous city such as Vancouver or the nearby Seattle were chosen just for some sort of sick pleasure. Mewtwo noticed the expression on Lugia’s silvery face.

<Conquest is easier if it is fought in a more remote region. Yet not too remote that it is inhabitable. You have made a wise decision, I assure you.> A sly smirk crept across Mewtwo’s face. She was feeling no better about this. <I will make certain your decision is authorized.>

Then there was a long pause, Mewtwo was telling Giovanni what he was doing. Lugia only knew since she saw Giovanni bobbing his head at different intervals.

*Hey Lugia, as much as I love to eavesdrop, why the hell aren't you telling the rest of us this?! Krabby thought to Lugia loudly from her place on the rescue boat. And when did Mister High N' Mighty start being so damn articulate? Come on, 'You have made a wise decision, I assure you,' is like damn trickery there. Or did, 'I would rather fight a challenging opponent like yourself,' get to your head?*

*I'm handling this situation with reserve and careful consideration,* Lugia hissed mentally to Krabby, blushing furiously. Mewtwo cocked his eyes at Lugia, still smirking.

<So the Krabby was listening in,> he told Lugia. Mewtwo knew since Krabby seemed distracted and Lugia's facial expressions changed faster than the tides. The blush on Lugia's skin the obvious detection. <It does not matter.>

*What the fuck, it does too matter. Tell him it matters,* Krabby started to get very annoying. Lugia glared, not even at Mewtwo this time.

<The Krabby warrants no patience.> Mewtwo was amused.

<I know, she doesn't,> Lugia muttered, talking to Mewtwo again.

<Your decision was approved, and I have chosen a location you will find suitable.>

<Thank you,> Lugia said, bowing her head a bit. They were getting along so well, that just meant it would be even harder to fight Mewtwo if he could be so polite.

<You can talk openly now,> Mewtwo said, scowling at all the Pokémon, the Team Rockets inside their vehicles, and the Bulbasaur's Mysterious Garden members.

<“Cease fire everyone!”> Lugia bellowed, getting every living thing's attention by making a huge wave rise and fall in the same spot, nearly endangering a lot of Pokémon as she did. Lugia had a quick grasp of her abilities and everyone looked at the two very powerful Pokémon. Some wondered what exactly was going on. Had Mewtwo and Lugia aligned to become some incredible force? That was what the Rockets thought.

<“Cease fire, that is an order from Giovanni,”> Mewtwo said loudly, assuring the Team Rockets and their Pokémon. All activity stopped.

“Cease fire? What's going on?” Optimus questioned as he looked at Lugia and Mewtwo.

“Did Lugia surrender without telling us? Maybe that is why she stopped convincing Mewtwo earlier,” assumed Tigrin.

“Shh, just listen.” Dragontear put a finger to her mouth to signal silence.

<Mewtwo, you can inform them.> Lugia had turned the tables over to her rival.

<Certainly,> Mewtwo said privately as well, nodding his head ever so subtly. <“Myself, Lugia, and Giovanni have decided to relocate our battle to a different location.”> Mewtwo projected his mental voice loudly and clearly. <“This will be done in order to convenience everyone.”> BulbaGarden responded to this by looking at Lugia and Mewtwo with a rejected glare. Only those close to the party boat could hear him though as he spoke.

“I'm the head honcho of Bulbasaur's Mysterious Garden. I should be making the decisions. The least Lugia could have done was consult me. She is not even a moderator,” complained BulbaGarden. Lugia noticed his facial expression, her keen eyes showing her though she was not at all certain what was wrong. She saw Link74Bit edge closer to BulbaGarden.

"I'm guessing Giovanni didn't have much of a say in this either. Anyway, arguing with either of those two Pokémon isn't exactly something I would want to do any time soon." Link74Bit looked at Lugia, glancing continuously at Mewtwo.

"Good point," BulbaGarden said with a frown. The whole time BulbaGarden had been talking, Mewtwo was speaking as well.

"<So I will Teleport everyone to our destination.>" Mewtwo's signature blue aura surrounded the sky, the water, every small parcel of machinery, even the very living things that were not water fowl, sea mammals or fish.

Lugia glared over at Mewtwo, watching him concentrate before Mewtwo completed the start of his Teleport, then blue light overwhelmed everyone, the Teleport had taken place.

"What a beautiful lake," Vaporeon gasped in awe as she stood on the shoreline.

"You're concerned with beauty?! There are dozens of Pokémon and you're looking at the water! Damn it, Vaporeon, you're such a space case," Krabby growled.

Tigrin listened, privately giggling to herself. "Tiggy transform!" Tigrin giggled more as light surrounded her, spreading out in the form of a huge mercury atom before condensing back to a much smaller form of Tigrin, her espicat form. She bounded over to where Vaporeon and Krabby were. Tigrin raised her left paw and pointed at Vaporeon. "Vaporeon is not much of a space case as I am."

"Whatever," Krabby rolled her eyes, not amused and frankly not giving a care.

"Where's the boat?" Vaporeon turned her head this way and that, trying to find either the party boat or the rescue boat. Her ears were raised, a sign of high alertness but Vaporeon was bad at judging any sounds.

"Behind you," Tigrin answered plainly. The party boat was stranded, as was the rescue boat. The party boat was imbedded in the sandy shoreline, upright. The rescue boat on the other hand was on a bit of a tilt close to the party boat. Konidias and Link74Bit were still inside the party boat not wanting to be exposed to the possible array of Pokémon attacks. The other Bulbasaur's Mysterious Garden members were huddled around, outside of the party boat. All of them were now officially in their various critter forms.

The Team Rocket blimps were nowhere to be seen. The helicopters were parked higher up on the main beach. Most of the already released Pokémon were scattered around the shoreline. As for the masters of the Pokémon, they were massed together in one large group, close to the helicopters.

Lugia looked around, sensing where Mewtwo had exactly managed to hide all of those blimps. <So you stashed them all in the Antarctic.> Lugia had closed her eyes, feeling her way for the location. <And my team mates are unharmed. Glad to see it. I noticed you chose White Pine Beach,> Lugia said with a slight sigh of relief. No one would notice the battle. The trees around the lake were being treated with a pesticide because of the Termite invasion that had infected some of the trees, so it was too dangerous for normal tourists. The entire area was designated as out-of-bounds for that very reason. <Still there isn't enough battle ground for the other types.> She watched Mewtwo, who to her surprise looked as if he was sleeping. His eyes were closed tightly, arms crossed somberly over his chest. Lugia started to doubt whether Mewtwo was okay or not.

<I'll deal with that,> Mewtwo answered, proving that he was awake at least. He raised his arms above his head, wrists lazily crossed in front of the other. Energy coursed around each paw. Suddenly his eyes shot open, he threw his arms wide and all the trees within a few yards of the lake were leveled, disappearing as soon as they were toppled. He left his right arm outstretched, more energy coursing through his right paw. His arms raised with a bit of a struggle, as did a large sandbar that extended and separated the two defined sections of the lake. Many of the spectators watched with surprise, the Bulbasaur's Mysterious Garden members realized how much of a hard time Lugia would really be in for. The only one who showed no surprise was Giovanni. It was as obvious as the grin on his face. He loved knowing he had the complete loyalty of such a powerful Pokémon. Lugia saw that, her mouth hanging slightly open in more dismay than usual. Mewtwo was more skillful than she had made him out to be.

<That was . . . impressive,> said Lugia as she calmed herself. She sounded appalled in a way at what Mewtwo had done. He had destroyed the trees, the serenity and the beauty. Lugia was the most in-touch part of Vaporeon Lugia Krabby with the Earth. It saddened her to hear that people were poisoning the oceans, clear-cutting forests, killing each other over pathetic brawls over useless terrain. She was wise for a reason.

<So then it is to your liking, Lugia?> Mewtwo smirked lightly carefully watching Lugia's every reaction.

<It was not what I expected but I will go along with it,> Lugia muttered. Mewtwo cocked his head to the side a little. There was a distant look in the bird's eyes from what he could tell. Since she was not paying close attention, he allowed his eyes to scan at the rival's pendant. An idea crossed his mind if he could not quite guarantee himself a legitimate victory.

<Good.> Mewtwo switched to open telepathy. <“Giovanni, your orders.”> Mewtwo turned his head to look at his confident master. Giovanni had a megaphone in his hand by then, mostly since he had just recently grabbed it off one of his employees. The device was turned on, a loud screech came from it. Lugia winced.

“Ouch, that hurts!” yelped Jess as she laid her ears as flat against her head and neck as possible. Tigrin had the same reaction but had risen to her hind legs, her forepaws covering her ears. Princess Wooper glanced at them, overzealous.

“I don't have ears. Ahahahahaha!” she laughed. Effex shuddered as he listened to Princess Wooper laughing maniacally.

“Oh great, she's lost it.” Effex took his gloves away from his head, noticing that Giovanni was making movements with his mouth.

“Before my members release their Pokémon, I will give you a chance to make a wise decision,” Giovanni blurted through the megaphone. The distance he was away from the Bulbasaur's Mysterious Garden members allowed for them to converse amongst themselves without Giovanni hearing. Though he obviously knew what they were up to.

“A wise decision? We are doing this because we have to,” The Virtual Meteor Master said with a tinge of anger. “There is no other decision.” The others nodded in response. They were going to fight, and that was just how it would be. Briefly The Virtual Meteor Master glanced at Giovanni, who had a faint smirk on his face. “K, guys. He can't hear us.”

“I say, ‘Let ‘em have it’,” Optimus replied.

Giovanni was irritated with the unknown conversation and interrupted. “Either fight and lose horribly. Or surrender and you'll be spared.” He awaited for an answer, his patience waning. BulbaGarden took responsibility and stepped far ahead of the other members. A nearby Pidgoot

hissed at him. Lugia watched, prepared to take the Pidgeot out but it flew into the air and landed on the opposite side of the lake.

"Either which way," BulbaGarden began, "you'll take over this dimension. If we fight, at least we'll have a chance of keeping it." He stopped, sitting down with an air of defiance.

"You tell him!" Chaka shouted.

"We fight no matter what. So let's get started!" Seadra Reef said almost with an ecstatic tone.

"We're going to give them blood 'n vinegar," Krabby replied, calmed by the whole idea of fighting. Dark Chromium Dragonite looked over at Krabby.

"You're weird. Come on, we're going to fight probably a lot of Pokémon. Don't you care?"

"What do you think?" Krabby replied cynically. Dark Chromium Dragonite did not respond fast enough, so Krabby answered for him. "I don't give a shit whether I'm fighting or not. So stop asking and live with it."

Giovanni heard a bunch of muffled pieces of conversation. He stared at Mewtwo who had a wry grin on his face. Mewtwo was listening to the conversation from the Bulbasaur's Mysterious Garden members and seemed to be pleased. The group did not cooperate very well and had little team organization. The brunt force in the group was Lugia. The leader was BulbaGarden. Almost every member there did not get along with at least one or another. So that meant minimal group effort, mostly solo attempts. <They do not cooperate to much of a degree. This fight will be easy for us,> Mewtwo told Giovanni privately. Lugia glanced at Mewtwo, wondering still further. She then heard Giovanni inhale briskly through the megaphone, starting to speak again.

"Team Rocket, release your Pokémon," ordered Giovanni with a wicked smile. As soon as the command had been issued, Pokéballs were tossed through the air. The Pokémon that were released first, traveled immediately to large spaces that gave them a mobility advantage. Other Pokémon with familiar type similarities joined with each other, making virtual mobs and gangs of same type Pokémon. "On the signal of start, you may begin fighting."

"Preeoww," (Losers,) meowed the annoying voice of Giovanni's Persian in the background noise of the megaphone.

Chaka started to hiss. "I'll show that stuck-up feline!" She began to try to bound and leap at the Persian yet Optimus reached forward, snagging her tail firmly.

"Just wait," cautioned Optimus while Chaka only let her rage build. Everyone else watched as the Team Rocket's Pokémon had all been released from their Pokéballs. Ghost, Steel, Grass, Dragon, the list went on equaling that all types and possible combinations were present. They numbered at a ratio of eight to one at best, terrible odds for the Bulbasaur's Mysterious Garden members.

"Pick a type that is weak and go for it," whispered True Blue Pikachu in earnest.

"I don't think that will work. The way they are working, we'll be battling our own type," Dragontear whispered in response. She was great at identifying animal behavior and she could not mistake the distinction between pack nature and the type cooperation. It amazed the rest of the members since Dragontear knew the least about Pokémon, though her observations seemed accurate. The types were massing in large groups of similar elements. In the case of Grass types, where Poison types came as secondary characteristics, there was noticeable blending. And in the case of BulbaGarden in particular, this was incredibly worrisome. Team Rockets are known to have many poisonous Pokémon and Pokémon of dark natures.



“Just go to your type and wait for the signal. We are in no position to complain,” BulbaGarden murmured.

“Crap,” cursed Krabby, who only noticed the scenario of her own predicament. “There’s a bunch of Krabbys and Kinglers over there.” She scowled at a group of crustacean and mussel Pokémon. “And you want me to battle them?!”

Dark Chromium Dragonite looked down on Krabby and began to mock her. “Oh, is the lil’ Krabby scared? Afraid of some puny crabs?” Krabby looked up as he said that, eyes twitching. Krabby was not one to be mocked. She made a quick resolution and clamped down on Dark Chromium Dragonite’s exposed foot.

“I’m not afraid, just intimidated,” she chuckled as she scuttled off to clash pincers with her opponents. She did not bother to look at Dark Chromium Dragonite as she moved away, though it would be entertaining to watch the sight.

Dark Chromium Dragonite was holding onto his injured foot, flapping his wings. Apparently he was doing the infamous ‘Dance of Pain’. “Oww, oww, oww!” He cried and flapped into the air since that was the only place he could balance himself while trying to rid the throb of his foot from his mind. Diverting his attention from flying he yelled to Krabby, “you’re cheap!” and as he did, he nearly crashed into a Butterfree and two Beedrill. Krabby saw that of course and chuckled more as she sidled up next to a Corsola. One of her eight opponents.

“So who am I battling?” Vaporeon turned her head but everyone else had left. Mewn and Tigrin were off at the furthest side of the lake, sizing themselves up against nearly two dozen Ghost and Dark types. Obviously not being true Pokémon, they chose to battle whom they pleased. Vaporeon shrugged to herself, she did not want to fight to begin with. “Oh well, I guess I can just wait here and . . .” A whole group of Eevee evolutions and an actual Eevee, approached Vaporeon. Each of them belonged to individual trainers but the whole group specialized as a working team. The leader, an Umbreon, was taking a stand.

“Umm brree, oon! Bree onnn, grrrr,” (We fight, now! Or else, heh,) challenged the highly aggressive Umbreon. Vaporeon backed away sheepishly. The Jolteon in the group snapped at Vaporeon’s tail with her teeth. Vaporeon chose to stand still.

“Jolt jolt,” (Stay there,) she warned.

The male Espeon observed Vaporeon with intent interest as most psychics do. The constant stare sent chills down her spine. <Afraid are we?> the Espeon questioned, using telepathy since the other five eons drowned out his soft, passive voice. It was obvious as the squeaky Eevee paced, making a few occasional obscene remarks behind Vaporeon’s back. The Flareon shuffled further up the beach in order to avoid both Vaporeon and the water from the lake. Despite the shuffling, it had quite a deal of confidence. The Vaporeon was quite close, poised and perfect as most of his species was. Except of course for Vaporeon herself. Loud, annoying and overly cute was the job of an Eevee.

*Ooh, why can’t I look as nice as he does?* Vaporeon thought vainly to herself as she gazed, rather mystified by the male Vaporeon.

<Vaporeon,> snapped Lugia, overhearing Vaporeon and her thoughts. <Pay strict attention to battle only. If you get in any trouble, I will not be there to bail you out.> Vaporeon sulked as she listened, sending a rejected look at Lugia. Lugia saw but emotionlessly turned to face Mewtwo, conversing with him again. But not before she added, <desires of the heart, the greedy, the *vain*, get one in trouble. Remember that.>

Mewtwo watched Lugia glare at Vaporeon, saying something that he could not catch. The bird turned back to look at Mewtwo, her shoulders briefly heaving from weary. He took the moment that Lugia was not paying attention to look at Giovanni, who nodded. Mewtwo sneered and began powering a Shadow Ball. Lugia perked up and adjusted her stature so that way she held a fighter stance.

<Ready?> he asked, more or less jibbing.

<You bet,> replied Lugia, adapting Krabby's enthusiasm for battle. She kept her jaw tightly sealed as she too was powering a Shadow Ball, nestled safely in her jaw.

Giovanni held the megaphone to his lips, the Pokémon gave eager and apprehensive looks as they waited for their masters' boss to give the order. The Bulbasaur's Mysterious Garden members all watched with fretted expressions. They dreaded the call. The Team Rockets were all smug as they waited. Many were bragging about their powerful Pokémon. Giovanni's mouth opened. "You may start the battle." Roars and screeches came. Water churned and electricity crackled, all welcoming the command. The battle that would determine the fate of an entire dimension had begun.

Chaka moved across the beach, diving behind small sand dunes and making herself as inconspicuous as possible. To her, she was on a mission. "I must get that Persian," she told herself. An Arcanine ran past Chaka, not taking care to notice her. It launched itself at Dragontear, who was bucking and kicking wildly off to Chaka's right. Not a Pokémon would dare get near Dragontear and her deadly, flailing hooves.

*No one notices me, good.* Chaka continued her slinking. "So close. Just a few more feet." The goal that Chaka had was to take down Giovanni's Persian just so that the rest of the Pokémon would become fretful. After all, the Persian had more superiority than the rest of the Team Rocket's Pokémon combined, so it was fair to assume that none would feel safe if their leader took a fall. For a moment Chaka noticed that there was a lot of splashing off towards the lake.

Princess Wooper and Seadra Reef were tag-teaming. Princess Wooper lacked the mobility of Seadra Reef but made up for it in the offensive area. A Smog clouded the air while Princess Wooper took that as an initiative to attack. Her cheeks inflated and she shot Water Guns with deadly precision. Some of the Water types responded by using their own water attacks. One of what must have been a Seaking shot in the wrong direction, its Hydro Pump attack narrowly missing Chaka's head and hitting the sand behind her. Water and sand rained on her but she kept going.

"Seadra Reef! Use Sludge and blind them instead!" called Princess Wooper who was off in the distance.

Chaka was close now. The Persian was washing himself with such an air of dignity as he ignored the battle. This was a perfect time to make a move. She leapt into the air, making certain to land on the Persian and topple him to the ground. Chaka made a howling noise like some demon cat from Hell and landed right on top of Giovanni's Persian. The pair began to roll and hiss across the sand and onto the grass. Chaka was trying desperately to go for the Persian's throat as she realized that her opponent was trying to do the same.

"What in the . . . Persian, return!" Giovanni commanded as a Pokéball for his pet was retrieved from a breast pocket. He tried as best as he could to recall the Pokémon but he could not since he could not grab a glimpse of his Persian within the tangle of limbs and flying fur.

“You have got to be kidding me,” Effex said in disbelief as stared at thirty-four assorted Rock, Fighting, and Ground types. The odds were a little beyond reasonable. Effex shrugged, he had to attack them first before he was attacked, so he had best get started. He began by clenching his gloves, making a fist, then going for the nearest Onix. “Ice Punch.” Ice covered his gloves, making contact with the rocky exoskeleton of the Onix.

Optimus was also there ‘trying’ to help Effex. His helping was hindering rather than actual help as he was hopping around, avoiding the occasional attacks from various Pokémon.

“Umm, some help over here!!!” Effex yelled as he finished with the Onix, only to have a Hitmontop to replace it.

“Coming,” Optimus called to Effex distractedly. A Sandslash was using Roll Out and aiming itself at Optimus. Optimus panicked as he tried to come up with an attack. “Slash!” He closed his eyes as he made the motion. A thud came and the Sandslash was lying on the sand, unconscious. From the opposite side of the beach the trainer called the Pokémon back. The Onix that Effex had disposed of was also called back to the safety of its ball. Optimus opened his eyes to see a red beam of light take the Sandslash away. “Cool, I just beat a Sandslash,” he smiled proudly, recalling the days where he used to play his Gameboy Color and catch such Pokémon.

“Optimus!” Effex shouted in desperation as he was feebly trying to block the spinning Hitmontop while seven other opponents watched on mockingly. A Geodude, Rhydon, Donphan, and a Machoke parted from an even larger mass, seeing that the Sandslash could not handle the challenge of fighting the Primeape. Optimus was about to get a very rocky Body Slam from the Geodude.

“Uhh, uhh,” he eyed the Geodude. “Ah.” Optimus reached out with his arms, grabbing the Geodude’s arm. He made a spin in a circle before releasing his grip, ultimately flinging the Geodude towards the Hitmontop that was fighting Effex. The Hitmontop was struck down by the large rock which rolled into a Machop before eventually rolling into the shallows of the lake and fainting. The Machop and the Hitmontop both lay on the ground in awkward positions because of the Geodude. “Sweet, I got a strike,” Optimus grinned, watching the Pokémon as they were recalled.

“High five!” Effex said as he ran up to Optimus, the two slapped glove to gloved paw. Both were smiling. These Team Rockets and their Pokémon were not as tough as they always seemed. Their moment of happiness was rudely disrupted by a Tyrannitar which stood behind the pair, growling. Optimus and Effex turned and screamed as the Tyrannitar leaned in for a snack.

A red streak zipped passed the Tyrannitar, stopping it dead in its tracks. The red streak ended on the beach. A Scizor looked on at the Tyrannitar hopefully, still tensed. The Tyrannitar made a groan deep inside its body but stood its ground. It roared in rage at the superficial wound it had received along its chest, charging at the Scizor madly. The Scizor eyed it cautiously but suddenly disappeared. The Tyrannitar looked back and forth.

“Tttaaaaaarrrrrr!” (Get back here!) it bellowed deeply.

“Behind you, rock brain.” The Scizor stood behind the Pokémon, smirking. The Tyrannitar turned ever so slowly, giving the Scizor the upper claw. It used Iron Claw, squeezing the neck of the Tyrannitar to the point where it was unable to breathe. Then it released its claw slightly, digging in savagely with a Crunch attack. It did not work the first time. The second time over, still nothing. Third time and the Scizor squeezed to the point where it struck pressure points, blood vessels and nerves. The Tyrannitar’s eyes dilated as its body became limp with paralysis, then it sank to the beach before being recalled.

“Good Pokémon, poorly trained though. Brainless too,” commented the Scizor which turned around and used Steel Wing on an approaching Phanpy. There was such calm and grace in the Scizor’s motions, not to mention level thinking. Optimus decided to inquire while he had his back turned, exchanging Mega Punches with a Tyrogue.

“So you’re The Virtual Meteor Master, right?” questioned Optimus.

“Of course,” The Virtual Meteor Master answered. “I mimicked the Scizor that I was battling earlier. Here, I’ll help you two.” He disappeared in a blur of red, a Machop collapsed. The Virtual Meteor Master reappeared near Optimus and Effex. “I use a strong attack that is effective against the opposing type. As you can tell, most of these Pokémon can’t handle any strong attacks.”

“Trio trio trio trio.” (Let’s test your theory.) A Dugtrio used Earthquake just as The Virtual Meteor Master was about to pay attention to it. The Virtual Meteor Master was jostled by the ground, one of his legs sank into the sand, rendering it useless. The Dugtrio took that as an opportunity to charge and use Slash on the Bulbasaur’s Mysterious Garden member.

“Effex, don’t just stand there looking at me!” The Virtual Meteor Master shouted as he tried to remove his leg with a great deal of pain. Effex turned away and Ice Punched the ugly mole. The Dugtrio froze into a convenient ice block and was called back. While Effex was being the distraction, Optimus was digging The Virtual Meteor Master out of the sand. Effex continued to fight in a fury with Ice Punches flying.

“That looks serious,” Optimus pointed out as The Virtual Meteor Master’s leg was freed. His leg was crushed like aluminum, blood running down his leg at a rapid pace. The Virtual Meteor Master looked at the leg with a stressed, agonized face. That was the worst looking injury he had ever seen; seemed distant to him that the injury was actually his.

“I can fix it.” The Virtual Meteor Master transformed to a Ditto, then to a Starmie. There was no sign of the injury but he did have no face. Having no face was an interesting perspective, definitely made seeing and speaking hard things to master. He did take sight of all the Rock and Ground types as they tensed at the very existence of a Water and Psychic Pokémon. <“On your marks,”> the Pokémon started to back away. <“Get set,”> their eyes were wide. <“Attack!”> The three Bulbasaur’s Mysterious Garden members went wild with their new found courage.

Jess was exhausted. Her odds were beyond unfair. Unlike most of the other members, she was battling experienced Psychic Pokémon. They numbered at around fourteen, which was a small decrease from the previous seventeen.

A Girafarig gathered a rainbow colored energy. Jess tensed as it shot a Psywave at her. She braced against the attack but was barely able to block the Psywave and Reflect it. The Psywave was returned to Girafarig, it took the hit but did not collapse. It was now a Jynx’s turn to deal damage as she sneaked up from behind and tried to Lovely Kiss the weakened Jess.

“Ugh, you’re not kissing me!” Jess snarled as she brought in her rear legs and did a charley horse Mega Kick, getting the Jynx in her face. The Jynx gave a garbled cry and fell into a daze, this left a considerable opening for a Future Sight that had been summoned by a Drowzee.

Jess stood there like a deer in the view of car headlights as she saw a large ball of swirling light appear and barrel down on her. She went flying up into the air and landed with a splash in the lake. Jess struggled considerably as she fought her way against unconsciousness and up to the surface. One of the three Alakazams snagged Jess with a Psychic, bringing her into the air and squeezing the life out.

Jess let out of small cry of pain, tears beading at the edges of her amethyst eyes. She concentrated for all she was worth and countered the Psychic from the Alakazam by using Disable to rid the Pokémon of the attack. She fell back into the water yet again with another splash. This time Jess was aware enough to swim to shore. Being on the shore was no better than being in the lake. She was still outnumbered, this time thirteen to one. Thirteen experienced psychics versus one desperate rookie.

Chaka panted, water dripping down her body, then she sent a plea of desperation. <“Tigrin, Chaka. Somebody! I need help!”>

Lugia heard the plea from Jess as it rang loudly in her head. She could not help if she wanted to, after all, Lugia was still engaged in a dangerous fight with Mewtwo. At the moment Mewtwo was powering two Shadow Balls at once. Lugia raised her wings above her head, her aura tinted with a pale gold as she hovered. Then with considerable force, she brought her wings out in front of herself, her mouth ajar and releasing the powerful Aeroblast. Mewtwo expected as much and threw his two Shadow Balls. Lugia’s attack surged towards Mewtwo while Mewtwo’s attack diverged around the Aeroblast and went for Lugia.

Mewtwo took the Aeroblast completely. The force from the blow sent him far through the sky, nearly using him as a living missile to take out a Toggetic that just so happened to be teasing Dark Chromium Dragonite. He managed to regain his piece of sky swiftly in order to avoid hitting another allied Pokémon.

Lugia was struck in her wings. The force from the attack and the attack type numbed her wings, no longer allowing her to hover. She screeched in pain as she fell to the water below. A huge spout of water shot into the air, the mist making a temporary rainbow. Mewtwo smiled on with satisfaction as the water rose to swallow Lugia.

<Mewtwo, you are exceedingly cheap,> a voice said from beneath Mewtwo. His focus went towards the lake as he began to notice the churning of water. Lugia was causing the churning as she drew her damaged wings close to her body and made a small twist, then repeated the motion. A cyclone of water formed around her body and lifted her out of the water. A small flock of Natu and its evolutionary forms were partially drowned because of Lugia’s water cyclone.

<And you’re not?> Mewtwo laughed in amusement while Lugia’s cyclone reached the altitude which Mewtwo was at. She broke the attack at the eloquent spread of her broad wings, water dropped and sprayed away from Lugia who gave a screech of distaste. They were eighteen stories above the lake just so they would not be disturbed.

<We will do this fight my way,> Lugia said as she was surrounded by a clear Barrier with ebbing blue lines. She was getting sick of Mewtwo using Shadow Ball, it was starting to become damaging.

<Fine. You can lose your way as well.> Mewtwo donned his translucent blue Barrier. The two both backed away from each other then crashed into each other as they had done before. Except this time, their movements were fast enough and forceful enough that their charges were not visible with the naked eye.

“I’m way smarter than you are!” BulbaGarden yelled immaturely at an ignorant Chikorita. The battle between the Grass and Poison types was at a standstill. The bossy Chikorita had to win her way, first. BulbaGarden could have asked for no better.

“Chiiikkoh. Chiii chikkoh chiikkorrriiii chikkooh chii chikkoh kkoh chi. Chiikorrri?” (No way. At least I don’t have a complexion like you. Spots?) she shuddered as she looked at BulbaGarden. Despite the fact that there were several Bulbasaur, Ivysaur and Venusaur, none took offense.

“Oh yah,” smirked BulbaGarden. “You call those vines on your neck? They look like warts to me.” BulbaGarden had a huge grin on his face. *I’m spamming more than King Spamma*, BulbaGarden thought in ironic glee. The Chikorita started to raise her voice.

“Ccchhiiiiikkoh chi chikoh! Chi chiiikkorrriiii chikkoh chiii,” (I don’t wear garlic! No wonder you smell bad,) she mocked as she put a vine to her nose for emphasis.

“And you smell like a compost heap,” sneered BulbaGarden, imitating the Chikorita.

“Chi kkoh chiiikoh cchhiii,” (I smell like roses,) she stated plainly with a snobby smile.

“Compost heap,” growled BulbaGarden as he retracted his vine.

“Cchhiii.” (Roses.) The Chikorita retracted her vine, edging closer to BulbaGarden.

“Compost!” BulbaGarden said forcefully, his snout rubbing up against the Chikorita’s.

“Cchhiii!” (Roses!)

“Compost!”

“Cchhiii!” (Roses!)

The argument continued as the patience of the Grass and Poison types waned. A Muk started to act like a puddle as it listened in boredom to the arguing Chikorita and the odd transforming human. A Gloom glanced over at a Tangela.

“Gllloomm gloom gloom gloom glllloomm gllloomm gloom gloom.” (We’re never going to get to fight the Bulbasaur at this rate.)

“Eat this!” Krabby yelled as she Hyper Beamed a Kingler. That was the third time in a row she had struck the thing. The Kingler’s body made a rattling noise, its body collapsed around itself in defeat. Krabby looked on with a grin as she struggled to catch her breath with her poorly crafted Krabby lungs. A Cloyster behind the knocked-out Kingler exposed itself. She had been waiting for a couple of minutes for that opportunity, and despite being thoroughly exhausted, she was determined. Krabby swiftly Bubbled a Corsola and aimed her pincer at the sand. The Cloyster made a face of puzzlement as it wondered what Krabby was doing.

“Cloyster ccck ccckk cloyster,” (Like that’ll work,) the Cloyster remarked.

“Watch me.” Krabby released a huge spray of water from her pincer, a Hydro Pump really. The attack acted as a jet propulsion to get her up into the air. The Cloyster looked up to see a Krabby soaring at it. Instinctively, the Cloyster began to close its shell.

“Oh no you don’t!” Krabby warned from her height above the Cloyster. “It’s now or never. Hyper Beam!” She powered up and blasted the attack at the top of the Cloyster’s face. It rocked back a little; the Cloyster’s dazed eyes staring up at a Krabby that was starting to descend. Krabby fell to the point where her pincer was inside the Cloyster’s open shell. Krabby went for her last killer attack. “Guillotine!” The Cloyster’s eyes were wide as it realized its terrible position. Krabby’s pincer went wide and clamped onto the mussel’s face. The Cloyster tried to close its shell but it was too slow as the vice of the Guillotine started to dig. Krabby applied as much force as possible, and then suddenly her pincer relaxed when the pieces of the Cloyster’s skull cracked and some shards came off in Krabby’s pincer.

To Krabby’s fortune, and to the horror of her opposition, she had crushed the entire face and most of the skull and brain of the Cloyster. The Cloyster suffered the ultimate punishment, death. Now there are several known Pokémon attacks that cause knockouts. Guillotine just so

happened to be one of them. The catch was that they knocked the Pokémon out, not kill them. But Krabby was in a spiteful mood, and frankly she did not give a care if anyone or anything just so happened to die. Especially an enemy.

Krabby landed back on the sand. Blood lapped around her in a fountain of red water and steam. She let out an insane little chuckle, not even bothering to move as she was showered in the Cloyster's fluids. The remaining six of her opponents stared, jaws dropped. Further up the beach a Team Rocket could be heard screaming at the sight of his dead Cloyster.

The Corsola was wide-eyed in terror. A Shellder looked at the Corsola, sharing the same feelings about facing Krabby. Both rammed at each other, knocking them both unconscious so their pathetic lives could be spared. As they thought, Krabby looked like death warmed over. Another Cloyster hid in its shell, pretending it was unconscious for the exact same reason. One Kingler raced up the beach, up to its master, and straight into its Pokéball. The only opponent remaining a minute later was a Krabby that just so happened to be two times Krabby's actual size. Anything that wanted to fight Krabby now, had to be crazed.

"Whoa, did you see what Krabby did!?" remarked Konidias in disgust. He turned away, briefly offering Seadra Reef's binoculars to Link74Bit. The offer was refused as Link74Bit gave a light smile, raising a pair of binoculars triumphantly. He had 'borrowed' the binoculars from the marooned rescue boat, which answered Konidias' question to what Link74Bit was doing over in the other boat.

"She must have killed the Cloyster," he said as he glanced through the lenses. "I don't know how much damage a Pokémon can really take but I assume it's dead."

"You assume? See the gray stuff in the sand, that is the Cloyster's brain! Of course it's dead!" Konidias yelled, his face was ashen and sort of green. Telling Link74Bit that reminded him of why he did not want to look at the mess. He completely looked away from the area where Krabby was fighting, back leaned against the rail. "Want to know something? Krabby might not be able to do much more damage. She took some severe beatings earlier and she used Hyper Beam about nine times."

Link74Bit looked at Konidias with a weird expression. He had known Konidias to goof off, not to point out facts. Then again, he seemed useful at some points. "I wouldn't worry about her. She only has a Krabby to fight. Seadra Reef and Princess Wooper are doing pretty bad." Link74Bit was casually glancing at the lake, unaided by binoculars. He repeated what he observed. "Good, Seadra Reef just blinded some of those Pokémon but they are still outrageously outnumbered." He sounded worried. Konidias would have joked at the usage of big O' words but the seriousness of the situation warranted that he not.

"They aren't doing nearly as bad as Jess." Konidias directed Link74Bit to her struggle. "She can hardly stand." That was when Jess collapsed to the sand. "Oh no! She fainted!"

Link74Bit had dropped his binoculars. They made a heavy thud against the deck of the party boat. "If no ones helps her, she'll die!"

"On it," Konidias spoke briskly as he began to climb over the rails.

"Don't. You can't resist Pokémon attacks," Link74Bit warned, his hand dug into Konidias' shoulder before he fell to the deck. He did not bother to move.

"Then who will save her?!" Konidias hollered as he looked up at Link74Bit.

"Hopefully one of the other members."

True Blue Pikachu perked his ears at the sound of Link74Bit and Konidias. With his attention diverted, a Magnemite took the opportunity to shock him.

“Gaah!” True Blue Pikachu yelled. Two Electrodes and one Voltorb tried a combo tackle when the Magnemite backed away. True Blue Pikachu saw it and used Light Screen to defend himself. The Pokémon bounced off harmlessly but the Light Screen cracked and sheered away from himself. A Raichu tried to Body Slam True Blue Pikachu, but he rolled in the nick-of-time. Since he could not see what was around him when he rolled, True Blue Pikachu encountered the same Magnemite that shocked him earlier. And evidently, it shocked him yet again. While the Magnemite posed as the ultimate distraction, an Ampharos charged forward and used Thunder Punch. True Blue Pikachu rolled into the shallow water of the lake before standing and shaking the water and sand from his yellow fur. Obviously he was getting rather annoyed and rather sore. Some fur was missing from his body, bruises were swelling already beneath his skin, as were blisters from numerous shocks. He was still fighting fit, but he did look like a rat that got itself sucked into an electric generator.

*I can't just fight them like this. If I could just demobilize them.* True Blue Pikachu glanced at the Pokémon as each prepared an attack or tried to hurt him in some other way. He focused his energy and dodged at the speed of electricity as a Flaffy tried to use Sand Attack. He would do the same, except with Agility.

True Blue Pikachu scraped his paws against the sand and zipped around. He paused for a split second in front of the annoying Magnemite, whipping sand into its giant, single eye with his forepaw before repeating the process with other Pokémon. A Voltorb played the same trick, using Agility, then Tackle to send True Blue Pikachu sprawling head first into the sand. True Blue Pikachu stood up, spluttering sand but immediately repeated the process of using Agility and Sand Attack. After getting some of his opponents in the eyes, it seemed that by almost disabling them in that fashion, that he could win.

Dragontear was bucking wildly. She was lashing out with teeth, hooves and her wild, fiery tail. She was a complete menace, and was loving every moment of it.

A Charizard flew into the air, and with a large roar it used Fire Spin in an attempt to contain Dragontear. Dragontear countered the attack with a Flamethrower. Most of the Fire types were stunned. Trying to hurt her with normal attacks, or physical attacks, was dangerous. A Slugma had an injured spine when Dragontear slammed a rear hoof down on it. A broken jaw was delivered to a Quilava as it tried to Bite Dragontear, only to have her kick out at it. And of course, multiple bruises and fractures were dished out all around.

Fire attacks were pretty useless against Dragontear. She often countered them with her own attacks or just ended them with her fiery tail. Flying attacks were hazardous. One Charizard had to face the consequences as it used Fly, only to have Dragontear increase her mane flames up towards it, and then add a playful bucking motion as it grazed her back. Rock and Ground related attacks also proved futile. Dragontear's speed allowed her to avoid almost every attack the Pokémon threw at her. In addition, getting too close to Dragontear and her powerful kicks could easily send the Fire types into the lake. Dragontear knew this and was ecstatic at her skills.

Mewn sensed Jess' distress. Tigrin quickly finished off the last Ghost type and turned to Mewn at the sour note of her expression. “Something wrong?”



“It’s Jess. She just fainted,” Mewn said sulkily as sweat beaded on her brow. She had been fighting Ghost types, Dark types, and some Steel types. It was starting to tire her. Tigrin felt the same but was more concerned about Jess rather than herself.

“Well then, we’re going to save her.” Tigrin bolted a few inches, stopping and turning to Mewn. “Coming?” she asked. Mewn was glancing around at the situations of the rest of the members.

“Let’s go save a friend.” She made a fist with her paw then levitated off the ground before cutting across the lake to Jess. Tigrin ran around the circumference, not having the ability to hover.

“Aaaaaaeiii!” Jess cried as one of the psychics hit her with an attack. She rolled along the ground, landing in the wake. Jess had not fainted but her conscious level was low, very low. The lids of her eyes were closed, too weak to open them and all her thoughts were on the pain that went across her body.

“Hhyypno,” (Psychic) said a Hypno as it used the attack on Jess. She was hit harshly and mostly from underneath. The attack knocked her a good few feet into the air over the deeper part of the lake.

“Jess, I’m coming.” A pink light zipped below the falling Espeon and stopped. Mewn was there with Jess gently cradled in her pink arms. “Gotcha’.”

“Nice catch!” Tigrin called out as she came running across the beach. The Psychic Pokémon looked at Tigrin with puzzlement. It was no Pokémon they had ever seen before. Tigrin swerved through the crowd, coming up to the Hypno that could have drowned Jess. “Kamikaze!” (Divine wind!) she yelled in Japanese, leaping into the air. She did a dramatic spin and used Hi-Jump Kick to knock the pendulum out of the Hypno’s hand. The Hypno dove for its pendulum, the source of its power. Tigrin was not going to let the Hypno get the device. She rose to her hind legs, a paw held with the sharp claws extended fully. Dark energy gathered around her paw and it became translucent. “Evil Swipe,” she said before sending her paw through the middle of the Hypno’s head. The attack ended with Tigrin’s paw unharmed. On the other hand, the Hypno’s eyes went blank and it fell. The other Psychics were puzzled, even Mewn was as she hovered close to look at the fallen Hypno.

“What did you do?” Mewn asked as she continued to cradle Jess.

Tigrin giggled a little, “I just made up an attack. A Ghost type attack,” she smiled a toothy grin at Mewn who flew back slightly as the psychics edged closer. “It overloads the brain and knocks them unconscious. Cool, huh?” Mewn had her doubts as she looked at the Hypno which disappeared in front of her eyes as a red light claimed it.

“You’re a Ghost type?”

“No, just gifted,” Tigrin smiled even more. She noticed a Golduck that was close and used Evil Swipe on it. It proved successful yet again.

“Good, I’ll use it but first I’ll hand Jess over to Koni and Link.” Mewn Teleported, leaving Tigrin to happily play with her new attack.

Mewn appeared in front of Konidias and Link74Bit, both jumped until they realized that it was only Mewn.

“Whew, you scared me,” Konidias said, breathing heavily with a hand clutched to his shirt.

“Sorry, Konidias,” Mewn apologized. “Could one of you take Jess?”

"I'll take her," offered Link74Bit, his arms outstretched as he accepted Jess.

"I want you to put this on." A Hyper Potion appeared in Konidias right hand. He started at it. "I saw one on the belt of a Team Rocket earlier and Teleported it here to us."

"Quite a talent," Link74Bit complimented. Mewn smiled cheekily.

"There are instructions on the side," she paused. "Oh, I also used Thunder Wave on her, just to numb the pain for a couple of minutes. She's also unconscious, just so you know."

"That's great! Thanks, Mewn," Konidias said as he raced into the party boat cabin to retrieve the fire blanket that had been used on Vaporeon Lugia Krabby earlier. Mewn looked to Tigrin in the distance, then gave a wave to Link74Bit before Teleporting back to Tigrin. She made an Evil Swipe at a Slowking, mouthed something to Tigrin before Teleporting somewhere else.

"Put her on the fire blanket," Konidias said as he laid the blanket out on the deck for Jess to rest on. Link74Bit had been looking to see where Mewn had gone off to. "Put Jess on the blanket, Link74Bit," Konidias growled.

"Oh right," Link74Bit said, laying Jess carefully on the blanket.

"Finally, you heard me." Konidias glared, being only slightly playful. "I'll apply the medication." He read over the instructions as he sat next to Jess. "Now I'm *suppose* to spray the injuries with one sprits." He gave a shrug as he looked at Jess' injuries. There was not one place on her that did not demand being healed.

"I guess that's everywhere," Link74Bit muttered, taking a seat across from Link74Bit. "Better get started."

"Cchhiii!" (Roses!) the Chikorita spat in BulbaGarden's face.

"Compost!" BulbaGarden blew a raspberry.

"Cchhiii!" (Roses!) growled the Chikorita.

"Compost!" BulbaGarden yelled, making a stomp with his forefoot.

The Virtual Meteor Master, disguised as a Haunter, floated with Mewn, totally unnoticed by the Grass and Poison types below. Both glanced at each other, they had to admit that the display below was quite beneath BulbaGarden's level. Though it was amusing.

"So I let Optimus and Effex go wild against the Normal types . . . Umm, the attack is called 'Evil Swipe', right?" The Virtual Meteor Master whispered quietly.

<Yeah, basically you just go for their heads,> Mewn replied in private telepathy so that way she would not be heard.

"Okay," The Virtual Meteor Master continued, then gave same shifty glances at BulbaGarden and the Chikorita. "I'll sort of interrupt here." He gracefully floated down between BulbaGarden and the Chikorita. He placed both of his hands on their foreheads, pushing them apart from the other. "Children, children," The Virtual Meteor Master chided. "We don't solve anything from name calling." Above he could hear Mewn chuckling. BulbaGarden had not known that the Haunter was The Virtual Meteor Master until he heard Mewn chuckle also, which made him finally notice the pendant looped around one of The Virtual Meteor Master's horns. "If you want to solve anything," his face became gruesomely devilish like most Haunters do when they have a sneaky idea, "we do this." The Virtual Meteor Master pushed the hand on the Chikorita's head through it, she gave a whimper and sank to the sand. The Pokémon gasped.

"Veenuss ssaurrr. Ssssaauurrr! (Get them. Now!) roared the baritone voice of a Venusaur. BulbaGarden backed up hesitantly as the mob of Pokémon started to press him towards the water.

<You help out True Blue Pikachu, we'll finish the work here,> Mewn urged.

"Sure," BulbaGarden nodded as he looked for a way to push through. He made a leap of courage, bouncing off a Vileplume; he catapulted over the ring of other Pokémon and ran towards True Blue Pikachu and away from the scary scene behind him.

There was a mass surge of Pokémon. The Virtual Meteor Master phased through Mewn, waiting behind her for protection. Mewn was about to make some havoc.

"Hey, everyone, I have a magic trick to show you," Mewn giggled as she began to rub her hands together, creating friction. She spread her hands apart and a small flame flickered between.

"Bellsprout bell bellsprout," (That won't do much,) remarked a Bellsprout. It was as arrogant as the Cloyster that Krabby had destroyed, trained by the same trainer actually.

"I'm not done my trick," Mewn smiled warmly. Some of the male Pokémon were lost in her sea blue eyes that seemed gentle and healing. The Virtual Meteor Master was nearly on the verge of laughing as he listened to Mewn and watched the dopey reactions of some of the Pokémon. He backed away as Mewn threw her arms wide. The spark between her hands had now become a massive Fire Blast. They all stared at her, most were dumbfound or in slow realization that the trick was being pulled on them.

The Fire Blast was released. The Poison types were slightly more quick of thought and progressively moved out of the way of the attack. That of course was not applied to the Grass types who started to give off the sound of panicked cries. The ones that were struck ran around in circles trying to put out the flames. A lot ran into the water but fainted soon afterward. Those that did survive Mewn's attack were being quickly taken down by The Virtual Meteor Master's Psybeam and Evil Swipe attacks. Red beams of light flashed around them from across the lake where the Team Rockets were. The place was full of fire and red flashes, making Mewn and The Virtual Meteor Master look like harvesters of devastation and destruction.

"Guess what?" The Virtual Meteor Master asked smugly.

"What?" Mewn rolled her eyes, playing his little game.

"We're winning."

"Get back here," Dark Chromium Dragonite growled at a Noctowl. The Noctowl flew past him, laughing and throwing rude remarks. A Butterfree used Tackle on Dark Chromium Dragonite, he turned around and whacked the bug with his tail. The Noctowl flew near and Pecked him. Dark Chromium Dragonite was getting mad. From beneath Dark Chromium Dragonite, a Dragonair aimed upwards, grazing his left foot with an Ice Beam. "Oww. Why you little . . ." he glared down at the Dragonair which snaked back and forth in the water. Electricity charged around his antennae and he aimed the Thunder attack towards the Dragonair. It was not just the Dragonair that was shocked, so were several water Pokémon. Seadra Reef came to a halt, nearly being zapped by the electricity.

A flock of Pidgey, Pidgeotto, and Pidgeots flapped in a circle around Dark Chromium Dragonite. Their combined flapping power created a Whirlwind. Dark Chromium Dragonite was not what anyone would call happy. He summoned a Twister and ended the assault. The birds backed away slightly, then dramatically as a Gyarados flew out from the water below, trying to latch onto Dark Chromium Dragonite and drag him down into the water. He dodged.

*How many flying Pokémon are there?* Dark Chromium Dragonite unleashed three Blizzards in a row, causing large numbers of the flying fiends to become victim. It was noticeable that Team Rocket was very partial of either water Pokémon or flying Pokémon for this particular mission.

BulbaGarden ran at a Raichu with a Body Slam. It turned around and growled. "Rai rai." (Go away.) BulbaGarden was more than welcome to take a challenge.

"Actually, I'd rather stay," he said as used Vine Whip. The Raichu attempted to dodge but was caught unprepared. The vines sent the Raichu into a Voltorb. True Blue Pikachu turned around with a jolt, he had really expected he would be going this alone.

"BulbaGarden?" he looked surprised, his Pikachu ears erected. He blinked then composed himself. "Thanks. I was having trouble with that Voltorb." He took advantage of the Raichu's and Voltorb's moment of weakness, gathering a large charge and blasting it at the pair. The Thunder shorted their circuits and they both passed out. BulbaGarden stood back and was gathering sunlight instead.

"True Blue Pikachu, run to your left." This made no sense to the True Blue Pikachu.

"Huh, why?" he looked up, "aahhh!" and then used Agility to avoid one powerful attack. The attack hit all of True Blue Pikachu's opposition; unfortunately, only two actually were out. True Blue Pikachu had his back turned, he could feel the air that the Solar Beam had shoved out of the way against his tail. He swiftly changed his position, noting that the enemies were weak. "Thunder!" he shouted as electricity ran through all the Pokémon. Four of his opponents were fried, extra crispy and recalled. After a few seconds of heavy breathing and recharging, True Blue Pikachu turned to BulbaGarden, yelling hysterically. "Next time you could have given me more warning! You could have killed me! What were you thinking?!"

BulbaGarden gave a slightly hesitant reply. "I was supposing you were more visually and mentally aware at that moment," he shrugged. "Oh well, things like that happen." True Blue Pikachu's eyes were twitching in suppressed anger. Before he could vent some more, Mewn flew by and landed between the administrators.

"What should I do now?" she questioned with a smart salute. BulbaGarden was about to give a shrug when he thought of a plan.

"Okay, here is what you do."

Princess Wooper turned to a Tentacruel and tried a Water Gun. The Tentacruel dodged, a Kingdra behind it took the attack instead. It attempted to use Cut on Princess Wooper, she blinked and dove under the water, surfacing further away.

Seadra Reef blinded yet another Water type. Even with the several visual, paralyzing, and freezing handicaps that the two members were giving, it still took effort to bring down the Pokémon that were affected. "We are way outnumbered," groaned Seadra Reef. She squirted some Sludge at a Seel but she could feel her body running dry. Princess Wooper frowned then glanced up as she heard Dark Chromium Dragonite flying low, cursing at a Skiploom. She looked passed him as he skimmed by, seeing streaks of blue light moving and crashing. The lights paused so that way the distant figure of Lugia and Mewtwo could be seen.

"I'd say," Princess Wooper muttered, using Surf on a different Wooper.

<This is Mewn. BulbaGarden has ordered all members to move away from the lake and all members with electric attacks to please establish a position on the shoreline,> Mewn said in private telepathy to all Bulbasaur's Mysterious Garden members.

"Okay, you heard her. Let's get out of here," said Seadra Reef as she was already speeding towards the shoreline. The other Pokémon stared, not quite understanding the plan that was forming. Princess Wooper followed after Seadra Reef.

Chaka slashed at the Persian's face with a wild flurry of claws. It in turn tried to use Bite on her neck. *I'm busy, Bulba*, she thought as she kicked the Persian away and tried to use Bubblebeam. The Persian dodged, using Tackle to take Chaka down to the ground. Chaka raked the Persian's face once more. "I hope you have medical insurance," she laughed and tried to go for the jugular of her opponent.

The Virtual Meteor Master, Mewn, True Blue Pikachu, Dark Chromium Dragonite, and Effex had all positioned themselves on the shore. The Virtual Meteor Master was a Raichu, creating sparks. Mewn, True Blue Pikachu and The Virtual Meteor Master turned anxiously to BulbaGarden, he gave a nod. Mewn relayed the orders.

<If you can, aim your electric attacks through the air and out into the middle of the lake,> she paused. <Charge electricity.>

"Piiikaaaa . . ." True Blue Pikachu charged a Thunder.

"Raaiiii . . ." The Virtual Meteor Master mimicked True Blue Pikachu. Mewn had electricity forming around her. BulbaGarden was waiting to see if his plan would work.

Giovanni glared at the odd display, absolutely clueless to what was happening. He gave a worrisome glance at his Persian who was battling Chaka a moderate distance away. The Pokémon he had sent out were still battling strong. A Dragonite, an Umbreon, a Nidoqueen that had escaped The Virtual Meteor Master, a Tyrannitar, and one Dugtrio if it ever decided of coming out of the ground.

Giovanni held a pair of binoculars and watched the progress of Mewtwo, finding Mewtwo's fight with Lugia to be far more interesting.

<Fire!> Mewn yelled excitedly.

"Ccchhhuuuu!" yelled The Virtual Meteor Master and True Blue Pikachu in unison. Mewn shot off her Thunder at the speed of mach three so she could guide everyone else's electricity. This was needed for Effex in particular and his short distance Thunder Punch.

All the water Pokémon began to trash and scream as electricity rained from above. The water lit up with a pale yellow glow and the electricity surged. Princess Wooper could be seen jumping up the shoreline as the electricity tried to lick towards her and her wet body. Seadra Reef flapped and hopped up the beach as well, often trying to avoid electric charges.

"It's working," Effex cheered, hand still thrust into the water. He was trying his best to keep a continuous stream of electricity. Mewn was snatching Effex's attack with her psychic energy and forcefully directing it. Her own Thunder attack had already done its damage, she was playing controller now, sending electricity to where it was needed. There were frantic cries from the Rockets as they were recalling multitudes of Pokémon. The tides had totally turned in the Bulbasaur's Mysterious Garden members favor. But if Mewtwo defeated Lugia, all was doomed.

"Kkrrrookkkiiii, krrrk!" (Die, traitor!) said the opponent Krabby in full blown irritation. It scuttled towards Krabby who was also scuttling. Krabby nimbly dodged a Water Gun but was not yet close enough to inflict the serious damage she was use to. The opposition was preparing another attack when a Thunder Bolt took it out. Tigrin landed next to Krabby.

"Maybe you should help your counterpart. She looks whipped." Tigrin motioned to Vaporeon. "You lead."

Vaporeon was tired, bloody, and sore. Sure, she only had an Umbreon and a Jolteon to battle but the Umbreon was cheap and the Jolteon was very skillful. Vaporeon was breathing heavily, back turned just trying to regain her stamina. The Jolteon was ready to rumble as sparks flew. The Umbreon made a running leap. Vaporeon gave a glance and gasped.

“Kamikaze (Divine wind) kitty!”

“Hyper Beam!”

Tigrin came down on the Umbreon with a deadly Iron Tail. It yelped and flew into the sand. Tigrin landed next to it, scowling down at the Eevee evolution. Krabby knocked out the Jolteon and gave a satisfied look at her accomplishment. She left both the Umbreon and the Jolteon alone as they were recalled.

Vaporeon looked at her saviors and gave a grateful sigh. “Thanks, Tiggy, Krabby. I was nearly finished.” Vaporeon was smiling from ear to ear in delight. She looked like trash and felt like it as well but there was at least something worth smiling about. Princess Wooper hopped up the beach and sat next to Vaporeon. Seadra Reef approached with Jess. Jess was up and active, she seemed better than she was a few minutes earlier. Princess Wooper winked at them briefly then gave Vaporeon judgmental looks at her sores. A boom and a crash sounded above. Everyone looked up.

Lugia had been blasted and was falling. Smoke drifted around her as her body smoldered. Mewtwo made a motion, paw clasping Lugia’s pendant. He tore off the pendant, then flew away. Lugia was stirring back to full awareness as she heard Mewtwo speak to her.

<What a beautiful pendant . . .> Mewtwo’s telepathy trailed as he admired the pendant. <Too bad I’ll have to destroy it,> sneered Mewtwo. He clenched his paw, squeezing the pendant.

Lugia’s eyes shot open. *No . . .* She turned into a flying position. *He wouldn’t. He . . .* Lugia regained her dignity and flew towards Mewtwo. She faced Mewtwo with her wings outspread. <Stop. You can’t do this.> Mewtwo just grinned, surprisingly he had fangs. Lugia blinked at the fact that she noticed the stupidest of things. She had to channel her attention on Mewtwo. <You know our weakness, don’t you?> Lugia glared. Mewtwo responded by beginning to crush Lugia’s pendant. Lugia had a sickened face as she could hear the small sounds of resistance her pendant was making.

<“Of course I know your weakness,”> he stated to the assembly below. <“I knew it as soon as you transformed from that wimpy human into three Pokémon. You made it cemented with the bond that you and the two other Pokémon have. This pendant,”> Mewtwo held the pendant above his head, <“is what connects you three and makes you all transform. With one destroyed, the bond breaks and hopefully so does the owner.”>

Lugia lunged but Mewtwo dodged. Desperation was in her heart and her head. She had made the same assumption Mewtwo had about her pendant, yet the thought of what might possibly happen horrified her. *I can’t let this happen*, she thought.

Princess Wooper was jumping up and down madly. “I won’t let you hurt my friend!” She inflated her cheeks with water and shot at Mewtwo. The shots were shortfall but determination made her continue the shooting. “She’s my friend and no one hurts my friends,” she said in-between shots.

“Cool it, Princess Wooper,” Jess hissed, her eyes wide. “Think of what you’re doing!”

“I am thinking,” countered Princess Wooper as she looked over her shoulder at Jess. “I’m trying to distract Mewtwo.”

“He’s too high up to hit. You’re just wasting water,” Tigrin added.

“Lugia is my friend. I am not going to sit here and watch her get hurt,” Princess Wooper said with a serious facial expression. The Wooper meant it.

“Don’t act foolish,” Seadra Reef said in a worrisome tone. “The only ones who can do anything are Mewn, The Virtual Meteor Master, and Dark Chromium Dragonite.” Princess Wooper opened her mouth then closed it. She had nothing to say.

Mewtwo stopped dodging and faced Lugia once more. <“Time to end this game.”> His right paw glowed with his signature aura and the pendant started to crack along the weak points. Lugia’s eyes widened in terror. She tried to lunge but Mewtwo raised his left paw, creating a Barrier to block Lugia. From behind Mewtwo, Dark Chromium Dragonite was playing hero and tried to smash his way through the Barrier as well. His efforts were to no avail, Mewtwo just so happened to have been holding back the whole time. Mewn was next to Dark Chromium Dragonite along with The Virtual Meteor Master in Pidgeot form. All three of the members who could fly were looking at each other unable to do anything.

Lugia powered an Aeroblast as she snarled at Mewtwo. The attack was released but it slammed into Mewtwo’s Barrier only to not succeed in weakening his defenses. She could not do anything else now. Her body would not go any longer. She was out of attacks and the energy needed for those attacks. Weakness, utter sheer weakness. *Is this what it feels like to lose?*

Vaporeon was crying and yelling. She may not have been bright but she knew what was going on. Princess Wooper was sitting on Vaporeon’s tail to prevent Vaporeon from charging into the water.

“Vaporeon, if you go after Mewtwo . . . Let’s just say Lugia will have one more thing to lose!” Princess Wooper yelled over-top of Vaporeon.

“Mewtwo is a psychic Pokémon. He must know you’re here and will kill you first once he’s done with Lugia,” Jess wailed. She realized that Mewtwo probably would like to rub Lugia’s defeat in just by torturing Vaporeon and Krabby; after all, she had gone through some terrible abuse just from the Team Rocket’s psychic Pokémon. Jess figured Mewtwo was ten times worse.

“Lugia is in trouble!” Vaporeon did not care about consequences, she wanted to solve the problem, now! Krabby was far ahead of her.

Krabby had Slashed Tigrin just so she could get a clear shot at Mewtwo. Tigrin was lying in the sand a few feet away, her chest and upper left forearm were bleeding. Jess was almost instantly at Tigrin’s side. She used Recover on Tigrin to heal the injury. Krabby totally ignored that she had even hurt Tigrin. Krabby was powering a Hyper Beam, the glow from it was immense since Krabby was using the last of her energy focused into that one attack. She would have released the attack until Dragontear galloped over. Dragontear de-transformed and grabbed Krabby’s pincer, forcing her to shoot at a strand of trees.

“What the hell?” Krabby mumbled, she had been so focused on Mewtwo that she only noticed that she had shot at the trees when she felt the energy completely leave her with Mewtwo still unharmed. “You bitch!” Krabby used her free pincer and forcefully Cut the human Dragontear. She let go immediately, her hand went to stop the bleeding injury. Dragontear was nearly in tears but she stayed calm.

“If Mewtwo notices us, we’ll be killed. Lugia is losing and his focus will soon divert to us,” Dragontear’s eyes were narrowed, a lot of hate burned in her very dark brown eyes.

“Hey moron,” Krabby began with a sarcastic tone that her brother would use. “He knows we’re here. I’m just trying to save Lugia and her pendant with the last bit of energy I had, so stop fucking sniveling, ‘cause I don’t give a damn about you right now.” Dragontear and Seadra Reef were appalled. Not only had Krabby purposely attacked two Bulbasaur’s Mysterious Garden members, she had also cursed at Dragontear. Krabby continued, “I am so pissed with you. I could have stopped Mewtwo. Shit, now I’ll lose Lugia!” Reality would not sink into Krabby’s head. It was obvious to everyone else that Lugia was the only chance the members had of defeating Mewtwo. Krabby insisted that she wanted more than just a piece of Mewtwo. She wanted to slice him, dice him, and end his sorry life.

Lugia just glared at Mewtwo, one solid icy glare. Mewtwo returned Lugia’s glare, then grinned. <“Three . . . two . . .”> Shards of the pendant broke away and fell. Lugia could feel her mind tear away, her heart ripping in half, her stomach knotting. <“ . . . One!”> The pendant broke into hundreds of pieces that spread apart and fell to the water beneath. The pieces glowed with a pale blue light then faded. Lugia’s head pitched backwards and she screeched. The sound was long, so full of agony and sorrow. Her wings came to her side and with a groan she fell lifeless into the lake.

“Nnnnoooooo!!!” Vaporeon and Krabby yelled as Lugia’s pendant fell apart. Their hearts felt restrained, their lungs were tight making it a struggle to draw a breath. Krabby ended her yell with a gurgle as her body collapsed on itself. Krabby’s eyes were filmy and blank. Vaporeon’s yell trailed off into a sleepy tone before she softly sunk to the warm sand of the beach. Her eyes were closed while tears slowly spilled down her face. She appeared flush. Seadra Reef went into a panic. Dragontear and Tigrin forgot entirely what Krabby had done to them as they went close to see what was wrong. Jess was also there looking at the pair in concern. Further panic came from the other members.

Dark Chromium Dragonite looked at the chaos on the beach and turned to Mewn. “I’ll get Lugia. You, stop Mewtwo.” Dark Chromium Dragonite dove past Mewtwo and plunged into the watery depths. The Virtual Meteor Master watched Dark Chromium Dragonite disappear beneath the water’s reflection then dropped his Pidgeot form before quickly mimicking the form of Mewtwo. He forced himself to hover and joined Mewn. The Virtual Meteor Master gave a nod to Mewn.

<I say this will be a fair fight,> he smiled. Mewn made a face, a Mewtwo that smiled was a scary concept.

<Don’t do that,> she said in private telepathy. A finger was pointed at The Virtual Meteor Master’s face.

<Do what?> The Virtual Meteor asked with an innocent expression.

<All those faces! It’s creepy,> Mewn giggled. The whole time they were talking Mewtwo was staring at them.

<Yeah, I guess it would be. Mewtwo doesn’t do much when it comes to faces,> The Virtual Meteor Master smiled cheekily. <Sorry.> He corrected his facial expression so that way it was serious. <So, fair fight?> he asked as he looked over to Mewtwo with a grin that looked like he had picked it up from his Haunter form.

<Yep, it’s fair to me,> Mewn smiled.



Princess Wooper looked at Vaporeon then to Krabby. Both of them appeared to be severely ill and unconscious. Princess Wooper hopped over to Vaporeon, her Wooper head to Vaporeon's muzzle. She heard breathing but it sounded asthmatic.

"Wake-up!" Princess Wooper hollered right into Vaporeon's ear canal. No response. "Dragontear, Vaporeon needs help!" Princess Wooper had a pleading look though Dragontear had her back turned. Dragontear was trying her best to help Krabby. Understanding the internal structure of a crab was frustrating, especially with a lack of knowledge. "Dragontear, you can't help Krabby. Help someone who can be helped!" yelled the annoying voice of the Wooper called Princess Wooper.

"Huh, oh yeah," Dragontear peered over her shoulder to see Vaporeon. Dragontear crawled over to her friend. She pressed her ear close to Vaporeon's nose and was satisfied that she heard breathing. "Her breathing quality is poor," Dragontear informed. She put Vaporeon on her back and tilted Vaporeon's head so that way the airway was open. Dragontear checked her friend's breathing but it still remained of poor quality. "She might have something in her throat." Dragontear opened Vaporeon's mouth, peering inside. She did not see anything. Briefly Dragontear used a finger sweep motion but found nothing that could be blocking Vaporeon's airway. "I can't find out what's wrong," she mumbled.

"She isn't breathing well, and what is wrong with Krabby?" Princess Wooper demanded. She heard shuffling further up the beach and looked only to see True Blue Pikachu and BulbaGarden approaching. Effex, Optimus, Jess, and Chaka were warding off the still remaining opposition.

"Krabby's eyes are glazed. I don't think she's breathing either," Dragontear said distractedly. Princess Wooper needed to do something for Krabby.

"True Blue Pikachu!" she yelled. "We need to give Krabby a jolt!" True Blue Pikachu stopped in front of Princess Wooper, he gave a rather blank stare.

"You mean the drink?" he asked, having no clue. Princess Wooper sort of gave True Blue Pikachu a look that a person would give an idiot.

"Yes, the drink," she muttered sarcastically. "No, I meant electricity. I can't think of anything better for Krabby."

"Ohh. How many volts?" True Blue Pikachu questioned, showing some sparks. Dragontear was preoccupied but offered a reasonable estimate.

"Ten thousand volts on average. But since she is a water type, five thousand."

True Blue Pikachu nodded, "five thousand volts, got it." He walked up to Krabby. "This better work." True Blue Pikachu shocked Krabby. After a few seconds Krabby's pincers clacked and she was up and well. True Blue Pikachu shrugged in confusion. "No swearing? No insulting? No pinching? Maybe I should give you another jolt." He began to charge himself but Krabby held up a pincer.

"I'm fine," she murmured solemnly. Krabby sounded distant as she looked over anxiously at Vaporeon, at the same time looking at the sand as if she was trying to figure out something.

Dragontear was performing mouth to mouth resuscitation on Vaporeon until Vaporeon blinked and moved. Dragontear backed away, sitting on her heels as she watched in concern. Vaporeon turned to her side and began to cough fitfully. After a short period of time Vaporeon stopped coughing since her breathing was comfortable at that point. BulbaGarden was next to Dragontear and gave a large sigh.

BulbaGarden had ordered everyone to stay in their respected forms, and for good reasons. He needed everyone now. He also needed everyone alive. Furthermore, how could BulbaGarden explain to Vaporeon Lugia Krabby's parents if their daughter, or daughters died? Worrying about Lugia seemed pointless for all he knew; Lugia was a strong willed Pokémon but with what happened to Vaporeon and Krabby, Lugia was likely to be lying on the bottom of the lake, dead. He forced himself to think of what was going on at the moment.

Vaporeon sat up, looking around anxiously. A smile of glee crossed Krabby's face, she may be full of angst but the crab did have some heart. Dragontear blocked Krabby's view as she repositioned herself next to Vaporeon. Dragontear opened Vaporeon's mouth, watched her friend's chest movement, and checked a few other vital signs to make certain that Vaporeon was well enough to move. "Good, you seem healthy," Dragontear smiled. Vaporeon's ears drooped at the statement. Momentarily she glanced out towards the center of the lake.

"Is she dead?" Vaporeon asked with drooped ears. Her eyes did not show the same emotion, they looked just as empty as Krabby's did.

"Uh . . ." Dragontear bit her lip and looked over pleadingly to BulbaGarden for some help. He gave a small wince and a shake of his head. BulbaGarden had not expected Vaporeon to ask such a thing. She was so optimistic that at the moment her attitude was scary. Such a question, no matter how obvious the answer, was one that no one truly desired to field.

Konidias and Link74Bit were still in the party boat, each listening intently to the topic that had been brought up by Vaporeon. They were glad that they were not subjected to the question. Both of them believed that Lugia had not survived Mewtwo's shameless attack.

Dragontear and BulbaGarden both looked away. Vaporeon tilted her head not understanding. Krabby listened as well, also wanting to know the answer. Krabby was bright and should have noticed the obvious hesitation but it completely skipped right over her head. The question hang in eerie silence, even the lapping waves and distant noises of fighting Pokémon could not penetrate the silence. Finally Seadra Reef had enough and answered.

"Lugia is just resting in the lake," she took a small breather. "I checked," lied Seadra Reef. BulbaGarden nodded quickly, Dragontear made a meek smile. The lie had passed, undetected to Krabby.

"That's good," Krabby said and continued to stare out over the lake. Vaporeon smiled broadly then immediately sunk back into her distant state of mind. The empty look remained embedded in their eyes. The Bulbasaur's Mysterious Garden members looked at the pair, trying to figure out what was going on but failed to grasp the concept. None of them could make a connection as to what had happened.

*How hard is it to find a Lugia anyway?* Dark Chromium Dragonite thought to himself. His feet grazed the murky bottom of the lake. Light at this depth was scarce but still enough to tell the difference between one rock or another. He kicked slowly through the water, looking about with lazy interest. A large figure began to loom in front of him. Dark Chromium Dragonite halted as he was within less than a foot away. Lone behold, there was Lugia lying on the lake bottom, totally motionless. Dark Chromium Dragonite kicked one of Lugia's big feet. *Come on sleeping beauty. Wake up.* He bit her tail but Lugia still remained as motionless as the rocks that surrounded her. *So you want to do it the hard way? Your decision.* Dark Chromium Dragonite used Thunder, shocking Lugia and himself. He instantly regretted his decision and swiftly ended the electric charge. *Oww . . .* Lugia stirred, acting like the electricity was nothing at all. She moved her body as if she were a snake and faced Dark Chromium Dragonite with glowing irises.

Something was different with the glow of her aura. Lugia made a simple nod of her head and water began to swirl and mass around her form. Dark Chromium Dragonite backed away, pausing then noticed that he had to get out of the water quickly. He opened his wings, made a flap and was shooting towards the surface at top speeds. Lugia followed but from inside a large water spout.

Tigrin was looking back and forth between Princess Wooper and Krabby. "Will she be okay, Princess Wooper?" Princess Wooper made a check of Krabby, then gave a sneaky look.

"I bet I know what will cure her." Princess Wooper paced up to Krabby and started to make faces. "You're uglier than a warthogs rear." Krabby responded to that, turning around and returning the insult.

"Yeah, bitch? You look like the ass of a toad. Ugly and warty." The insult was not nice but at least Krabby was acting, if you could call it, normal. Meanwhile, Dragontear was working her charm on Vaporeon, mostly in the forms of hugs and reassuring words. Vaporeon quickly recovered, though instead of being infuriated like Krabby was, Vaporeon broke down into tears. She was wailing quite a bit. Krabby ignored the noise as usual, she was fuming, bent on revenge and no earsplitting noise would distract her.

Dark Chromium Dragonite shot out of the water, flying near Mewn and The Virtual Meteor Master. Before he could reach them, Mewtwo had blasted the pair with several attacks. Evidently, Mewtwo had only diverted the Mew-like Bulbasaur's Mysterious Garden members attack on each other. Dark Chromium Dragonite made a groan and then went off to rescue Mewn and The Virtual Meteor Master before they fell into the water and drowned. He dove beneath the falling Mewn, catching her on his back. Dark Chromium Dragonite followed through with the motion and caught The Virtual Meteor Master, who was in his Ditto form, in his arms. He angled his wings and gently swerved over to the beach, making a very ginger landing. The Virtual Meteor Master was deposited carefully onto the sandy beach. Konidias and Link74Bit had jumped out of the party boat and ran up to Dark Chromium Dragonite so they could retrieve Mewn.

"Mewn? Come on, snap out of it!" Konidias pleaded. Mewn opened her eyes but she seemed badly injured. Link74Bit was looking at The Virtual Meteor Master who made a similar response as well.

"Sorry, but we couldn't win," Mewn replied wearily.

"I really thought we had it in the bag," The Virtual Meteor Master added.

"Hey, it's okay. You two did great," complimented Link74Bit. Dark Chromium Dragonite made a couple of grumble noises. The thought of the strange appearance of Lugia's aura stayed in his head. Lugia may have been awake but it did not mean she was well. He refrained from speaking. Konidias sighed regrettably.

"They're out of attacks. I think the only three who have some juice left is Tigrin, BulbaGarden, and Chaka. They're all grounded and don't stand a chance."

"Finally, someone has my optimism in this group!" Dark Chromium Dragonite patted Konidias on the back, congratulating him.

"I see why Konidias didn't mention you," Link74Bit glared. "You don't attack that much."

"I never said I *wanted* to be caught up in this. It's not *my* fault," Dark Chromium Dragonite countered.

“I have a headache and I don’t even have a head!” The Virtual Meteor Master shouted at them. “Stop arguing. We’re still not out of options and we don’t need to act like enemies.”

“With what we have, I doubt we stand a chance,” Konidias mumbled mostly to himself. Link74Bit frowned. “We do, we just have to think a lot more.”

Mewtwo looked down at the Bulbasaur’s Mysterious Garden members, then to Giovanni. Giovanni had his megaphone and a Pokéball with his pitiful Persian inside. He raised the megaphone to his mouth. “I’ll give you one more chance to surrender. If you surrender you can be promoted to acclaimed levels among my Team Rockets,” Giovanni was quite smug sounding. Chaka was listening, her fangs biting on her lip. Jess was doing something almost as similar as Chaka. Link74Bit looked down at BulbaGarden, worried about the decision. BulbaGarden looked up in return.

“Surrender and be assimilated into Team Rocket or fight, be mutilated, and lose our dimension? Both have equal positives and negatives when you look at it closely,” BulbaGarden spoke tunelessly.

Konidias crossed his arms. “Assimilated. You get power, get to keep your life, and all you have to be is a traitor.” BulbaGarden gave a frustrated shake of his head.

“But do all the members want it?” BulbaGarden continued to gaze up at Konidias and Link74Bit, wishing the decision had not fallen on his shoulders. Konidias shrugged, Link74Bit answered vocally.

“I wouldn’t be surprised if Jess and Chaka surrendered. They both are Team Rocket fans since the very beginning. As for everyone else,” he gave a solemn shake of his head, “they probably all feel defeated and don’t want to be beaten any more.” Optimus and Effex walked over, having dealt with most of the scarce Pokémon problems. Both heard the debate between the administrators.

“You make the decision Bulba. I personally don’t care,” Optimus said.

“I don’t think anyone cares anymore,” Effex added.

BulbaGarden switched his gaze to the sand. All the pressure was on him. “But how do I know if I made the right decision?”

“Mewtwo,” spoke Giovanni through his megaphone. Mewtwo took that as a command and began to charge a dangerous looking Shadow Ball. Giovanni addressed the Bulbasaur’s Mysterious Garden members. “If you don’t come to a decision soon, Mewtwo will make it for you.”

BulbaGarden was in shock. He did not know what to choose.

*I am totally unnoticeable beneath the water’s surface. Even with my cyclone swirling around my body, I still remain unnoticed. I lay in wait. I am a Lugia, totally oblivious to Mewtwo, to Giovanni, to everyone. I can hear BulbaGarden clearly . . . at least I believe that is him, the green leader. I can hear him pause. He is uncertain. He will stutter, that I do know. A Bulbasaur is brave, a great leader, but wise? Hmm, never struck me as wise. I know I am wise. I am a Lugia after all. Still, BulbaGarden has many fates entangled in his vines. Too many fates, two options, but too many fates . . . I bet they think I am dead. I am not dead, no. I am a Lugia, mere mortal wounds cannot slay me. But they must think I am dead, which means my fate does not rest with the Bulbasaur. I made my own fate, I will make my own now. I am a Lugia, I will make my own decisions too . . . Ah yes, Mewtwo. I will control his fate soon. The fate he gave me, will soon be his. I just have to wait, but not for long. I have patience before I strike. I have lots because I am*

*a Lugia . . . and he a Mewtwo. Now if he would just move, just a bit. Maybe he will use an attack. Great cheer, he is creating an attack. He will soon use it. Then I can strike . . . just like he struck me. Yes . . . I will control you Mewtwo! I will take your body, soul and mind as exchange for what you took from me! I will make you pay, and pay dearly you shall!*

“Time’s up! Make your decision!” Giovanni yelled, the megaphone wailed a high note. Every one of the Bulbasaur’s Mysterious Garden members listened with heavy hearts. They were each hopeful of BulbaGarden’s decision. Most did not want to join Team Rocket, but most did not want to lose their lives either. BulbaGarden did not want anyone’s life put on his head. He had lost Lugia and that was enough. BulbaGarden’s face was apologetic, he could not make that choice.

“I don’t know what to pick,” he stuttered. Giovanni started to laugh in the stereotypical bad guy fashion. If BulbaGarden were Batman, and Giovanni were The Joker, The Joker would have Batman locked up tight, hanging perilously over a pit full of sulfuric acid. Mewtwo, who would be The Joker’s powerhouse accomplice, would also be holding the remote that would drop Batman into the acid. Of course by then, Batman would have Robin to bail him out. Unfortunately for BulbaGarden, he was not Batman.

Mewtwo needed no orders or prodding to do what he had to do. His paw slowly made the motion, about to chuck the Shadow Ball. Mewtwo moved forward.

*Now it is time.* Lugia shot out of the water, her cyclone knocking the unprepared Mewtwo from the sky and into a grove of trees. The Shadow Ball he had been holding, vanished.

“Yay, it’s Lugia!” Tigrin cheered. Mewtwo sighed in relief. Princess Wooper gave a joyful laugh. The rest of the Bulbasaur’s Mysterious Garden members each expressed their own form of happiness. Vaporeon and Krabby were among them, but the emptiness still remained in their eyes.

Lugia heard the noise, the cries of joy and forcefully ignored it all. Her head twisted to gaze upon the last amount of opposing Pokémon. Her eyes narrowed and the aura that Dark Chromium Dragonite had seen earlier, flickered around her. What had alarmed Dark Chromium Dragonite, alarmed the members. Originally Lugia’s aura was blue and mild of action, now it crackled around her, tainted with black, burning with hate. The same darkness surrounded the Pokémon; Lugia gave a snarl and the Pokémon were gone.

Konidias was skeptical about what he had just seen. He had ‘his’ binoculars slung across his shoulder. Once removing it he peered through, glancing at a spot where a Stantler and a Teddiursa once stood. A pile of what resembled ash, lay where the Pokémon had been. Konidias’ hands shook before dropping the binoculars entirely. “Oh God, she cremated them, every signal one. Oh God.” Konidias’ knees wobbled beneath him. Jess and Vaporeon went pale at the mention of what Lugia had really done. They would have regurgitated if there was something in either of their stomachs. Everyone shared the same gut-wrenching feeling. Even Krabby herself was sickened, and she considered herself as Bellona, the goddess of war.

Dragontear shook her head at all the karma Lugia would receive. Chaka stated what was already confirmed. “Lugia has officially reached the point of insanity,” she said to the group. Chaka glanced at Lugia and noticed, just like everyone else did, that Lugia was about to fly above their heads.

“De-transform and duck!” shouted True Blue Pikachu. He was worried that Lugia would turn on them. If they were human the chances would be more slim. The response was fast. Lights

flashed, Mewn, Tigrin, and Jess floored and blinded some of the Bulbasaur's Mysterious Garden members. The others made less dramatic transformations to their human forms. The only ones who did not transform out were Vaporeon and Krabby. It was unknown to them if they even could anymore.

The members hit the sand. Lugia's wing tips brushed against Seadra Reef's head. Lugia passed by, her tail hitting the rescue boat and sending metal sheets and splinters in every direction. Lugia headed towards the direction in which she last saw Mewtwo.

Princess Wooper stood and adjusted her hair. Mewn made a dramatic fuss as she attempted to fix her ponytail. The Virtual Meteor Master was cleaning his glasses and everyone else was brushing various articles of clothing in order to remove them of dirt. At least none of them were hurt. The same could not be said for the Pokémon Lugia had so callously destroyed.

Mewtwo was crouched, casually checking for injuries along his body. Though his face did not portray the emotion, he was infuriated. *How could I have been so careless?! If I had paid even some remote attention to that Dragonite, the Lugia would have perished, then I would not be in this position at the very moment.* Mewtwo sprang up to his feet, glowering at the trees. He needed to find Lugia and dispose of her sorry, arrogant carcass. The sooner, the better.

A loud crashing noise was heard as trees were toppled and chopped in half. <“Mewtwo? Where are you?!”> Lugia sang in a roaring sing-song manner. She crashed heedlessly into yet another tree. Mewtwo looked at the bulky shape that was drawing nearer every second. Lugia toppled over a type of coniferous pine, then a maple tree, then another pine. By now Mewtwo realized what exactly he had done to Lugia.

*Perfect, Mewtwo gloated. The bird has become mentally incapacitated. With such impaired judgment, she will not be able to battle properly. No wonder . . .* Mewtwo's musing was cut short when Lugia landed ahead of him. Her beak was not even a centimeter from Mewtwo's muzzle. With one swift motion, Lugia could rip Mewtwo's head off. Even when Mewtwo knew the grimness of his placement, he ultimately refused to back-down.

Lugia grinned sadistically as the now deep, tainted blue of her aura flickered around her. Mewtwo scowled while he gathered his energy around himself. Lugia's expression changed to match a thought she had then she began to threaten Mewtwo. <“You will pay for what you did, Mewtwo,”> Lugia growled in hostility. Mewtwo growled as well.

<“And you will die a painful death,”> he retorted. Mewtwo forced his energy around his right paw and used Mega Punch on Lugia just to give himself some needed distance. Lugia stumbled from the strike and crashed into a boulder. The bird was too enraged to even consider that hitting the boulder was painful. Lugia screeched in such a way that it just did not sound human or like a Pokémon of any kind. Mewtwo shifted his weight and moved as the predicted movement of Lugia's was dodged. As Mewtwo moved out of the way, Lugia flew past and hit yet another tree. <“Demolishing the forest, I see,”> Mewtwo laughed as he shook the light spray of splinters off his body.

<“You may laugh now, o' great fool, but I will be the one to show you who will indeed have the last laugh.”> Lugia hovered slightly above the ground and did a three hundred and sixty degree turn with her tail extended. Mewtwo was halfway through a Teleport when Lugia's tail made contact. Lugia gave a giddy screech of delight.

Mewtwo made a gasping noise as the strike dazed him. The force of Lugia's tail sent him flying through the path Lugia had created and out over the beach. Mewtwo recovered from his daze right when he was about to crash into the sand. He made a spiffy handspring, then back-

flipped, all at the same time regaining his composure. Mewtwo then went into a tense fighter stance.

“I never thought Mewtwo was acrobatic,” Effex remarked, checking his shades to make certain he was not seeing things.

“And I never thought we’d be playing the Pokémon version of the Animorphs,” Dark Chromium Dragonite grumbled and crossed his arms. Princess Wooper turned to yell at him.

“I like Animorphs!”

“Okay, sorry,” Dark Chromium Dragonite said as he winced. His ears could not take that much abuse.

Mewtwo was waiting anxiously for Lugia. He had underestimated her and would no longer make mistakes. Lugia would have argued against Mewtwo as she strutted calmly out of the damaged pathway of trees. She seemed calm and peaceable, Mewtwo knew that Lugia was crazy and her expressions were entirely misleading. He understood that Lugia was waiting for the moment to attack, and Mewtwo was very wary. Since Mewtwo had chosen to ground himself, and Lugia seemed to understand how to move on the ground, he was in trouble. Lugia stopped her jaunty advance.

“Back away very slowly,” BulbaGarden whispered urgently. If Lugia heard BulbaGarden, at least she seemed not to care.

<“Do what you want, but I will get my vengeance,”> Lugia sneered broadly towards Mewtwo. She mocked the idea that Mewtwo was going to even to try to fight her. As she had surmised, he was doomed. <“I am a Lugia, and nothing, not you, can stop me.”> With no warning she charged at Mewtwo, attempting to ram him. Lugia did not have the build for running and it was nearly terrifying to see a giant hybrid of a bird and porpoise charge as she did. Mewtwo did a Hi-Jump Kick right at Lugia’s face when she was within reach. Lugia fell, stunned to the sand. Mewtwo then powered up a Shadow Ball, one of his remaining few, and attacked Lugia with it. The attack sent Lugia back a few feet. Mewtwo positioned himself at Lugia’s feet and scoffed.

<“Revenge? It is definitely a pathetic attempt.”>

Lugia was laying on her back and getting more angry by the second. <“Shut your mouth!”> she snapped and rolled over to her belly. Mewtwo hovered behind her, adding insult to already accumulated injuries.

<“Face it, Lugia, you have lost. You are not in any state to fight me,”> he sighed in mock disappointment. <“Fighting you is just a waste of time.”>

Giovanni overheard what Mewtwo had said and pulled out the prototype Dark Ball. Lugia was weak and would not be able to resist capture. She had proved her fighting skills and seemed appropriate to be used by the most elite of his executives. “Mewtwo, hold the Lugia,” ordered Giovanni with the aid of his megaphone. Mewtwo nodded, about to use Psychic as a form of restrain.

Lugia was so mad. She felt like she was sitting there, just waiting to be captured. She could see Giovanni give the ball to one of his Team Rockets who had a Pokéball shooter with her. Lugia was not amused by this and for a while she did not give much care to it until Mewtwo constricted her with Psychic. She fought and struggled against Mewtwo’s hold but her attempts at physical movement were to no avail. The Dark Ball was then shot from the shooter.

“Try to move!” Jess yelled.

“Move you great fucking birdie bitch!” shouted Krabby.

Lugia continued to ignore the Bulbasaur’s Mysterious Garden members. All she heard was Giovanni’s laugh and the whirling sound of the Dark Ball as it was flying towards her. The Dark Ball was so close, then time seemed to stand still. Mewtwo was grinning at the idea of Lugia’s inevitable defeat. Giovanni was still laughing mildly. Then there was the Dark Ball. Lugia roared and the tides turned in the matter of a second. Her muscles strained and she broke Mewtwo’s hold on her. Her head moved so that way she caught the Dark Ball in her jaw and crushed it. Light crackled momentarily from the wrecked ball before the metal and rubber pieces of it skittered across the sand. Her energy laced around Giovanni, pupils dilated entirely. With so much hate forced into the motion, she did not require any conscious thought to pick up Giovanni with her mind and fling him speedily at some of his employees. Then she pitched her entire body into one fluid motion, her body contacting Mewtwo as he was nearly flattened into the sand. And all of that was done in a matter of a second.

Lugia now had one of her giant feet resting on the chest of Mewtwo. He was stunned and in a very bad position. Lugia could force all her weight onto one foot and crush Mewtwo. She knew that despite his strong mind, his physical stats would not save Mewtwo from being crushed. Not only that, but like Lugia, they both had no actual attack energy left. It did not mean that neither had energy, it's just that they had used the energy necessary for attacks. She was happy at the notion of it, even as Lugia looked down at Mewtwo as he tried desperately to squirm beneath her massive foot. Lugia brought her face closer to Mewtwo’s and began to speak.

<“How does it feel to be the weak one? Helpless. Taken advantage of. The quote, ‘under-dog’. Hmm, any response?”> Mewtwo’s response was to try and use Bite on her. Lugia drew her beak back. <“I see. Then that is how it shall be!”> she said sternly, her foot lifting off of Mewtwo, ready to deliver hundreds of pounds of pressure onto Mewtwo’s chest cavity.

Vaporeon screamed as she heard this. Her intelligence kicked in and she used Agility. Putting herself between Mewtwo and Lugia’s foot was risky but she saw no other option. “Stop!” she cried out in desperation. Lugia put her foot next to her other, resuming a normal standing position and gave a startled and maddened look. Vaporeon was crouched defiantly on Mewtwo’s chest which puzzled both Lugia and Mewtwo. Mewtwo thought that he should have been dead by now if it were not for the witless Vaporeon. “Please, stop it,” Vaporeon whimpered as her watery green eyes looked up at the snarling face of Lugia.

<“What are you doing, you sorry excuse for intelligent life?!”> Lugia hollered at Vaporeon. Vaporeon’s eyes began to water at the edges. With gentle consideration she got off Mewtwo but her forepaws still rested on his upper torso. Lugia continued to express her rage while Mewtwo rolled his eyes. Mewtwo assumed that when he destroyed Lugia’s pendant, that he had tampered with the brain of Vaporeon along with.

“Stupid Vaporeon, she jeopardized everything,” Chaka said with clenched fists.

“Vaporeon probably has a reason,” Seadra Reef muttered.

“Did you hear what you just said?!” exclaimed Optimus. “Vaporeon is dumb! She probably has the brain the size of a pea.”

“Shouldn’t we just go in there and snatch her?” Effex questioned, stepping slightly forward. Dragontear grabbed his arm.

“You shouldn’t approach any animal, especially when they feel threatened or aggressive,” Dragontear warned in a convincing way. Lugia was catching parts of the conversation but still proceeded to ignore it. Vaporeon on the other hand heard, and did not like it much either. But



thankfully she was a little too busy to wail at the idea of herself being as dumb as an average brick.

Vaporeon shook under Lugia's gaze. She was nervous and scared of what Lugia had done earlier. Despite that, she began to rattle off her ideas. "Mewtwo doesn't know any better. He was born to battle. After the movie, he gets better. You have to give him a chance!" she pleaded hopefully yet her words fell on deaf ears. Lugia was not convinced.

<"He was made to be a killer. I am a Lugia. I have the right to kill him before he would ever kill me.">

"Than you have to kill me too," Vaporeon stated arrogantly, wincing. Lugia could not figure out why Vaporeon was so defensive, nor could the Bulbasaur's Mysterious Garden members. They were standing a couple feet away, waving their harms, mouthing words, and trying in vain to persuade Vaporeon to move.

<"I will kill Mewtwo. You mean nothing to me. Truly you are a waste of my time,"> stated Lugia with a blunt attitude. Vaporeon started to shout at Lugia since obviously the bird was not listening to her.

"Everyone needs a chance. Forgive and forget, Lugia!" Vaporeon paused, tears were now vividly streaking down her blue cheeks. "If you kill Mewtwo, you'll be no better than he was," she paused again. "You've changed. You only try to get back at people. You killed all those Pokémon. Mewtwo didn't kill anyone. You're worse than he is!"

*I am not bad*, Lugia thought to herself. *Lugias are never bad*. She still remained unconvinced. <"Harboring the enemy warrants that you must die."> The Bulbasaur's Mysterious Garden members gasped. Vaporeon scowled.

"How many have to die before you're happy?! Mewtwo is not bad. The Pokémon are not bad. Everyone has some good inside, even you should know that! You're just a big bully who likes to kill things," Vaporeon shouted at Lugia. "Yeah, you're a big-meanie-poo-poo-head," she stuck out her tongue as she finished, " 'cause only big-meanie-poo-poo-heads kill things!"

"Murder . . ." Krabby called out from behind in a haunting tone. She caught onto Vaporeon's rouse. "Killer . . ." she continued. "Blood has been shed . . . blood! The seas cannot cleanse thee of thy blood . . ." Krabby would have chuckled if only she could remember lines from Shakespearean plays. "Pokémon doth not sleep . . . Lugia doth not sleep . . . Murder!"

Lugia could be seen reminiscing. Her face became anguished and she moved away. <"What have I done?"> she asked quietly before slumping to the sandy beach and becoming lost in her thoughts.

"Well, I guess that is better than nothing," Konidias sighed heavily.

"Yeah," agreed Vaporeon. She got off Mewtwo, allowing for him to stand. He was also thinking but unlike Lugia, he was not in quite a stage of regret.

<"Team Rocket,"> Mewtwo spoke to the Rockets. He shot agitated glances at the somber Lugia. <"I am out of energy for my attacks. Your Pokémon have lost, some have been destroyed. The humans have shown their valor and skill in their fighting and will likely have us dealt with promptly if we continue to stay here."> Mewtwo stopped speaking as he awaited a remark from Giovanni. Despite the fact that he lost his fight, Mewtwo did not feel that his pride had been injured. Giovanni felt the same.

"Conquering anywhere besides the Pokémon World is somewhat unreasonable. Upon returning to the Pokémon World all Rockets are advised to heal or capture Pokémon so that the operations can continue to run smoothly. No one, under threat of forced resignation, will speak of this loss," Giovanni yelled at his group through the megaphone. A lot of "yes, sir" sounded from

the group. "Mewtwo, get it over with," Giovanni shouted through the megaphone at the Pokémon. Mewtwo nodded as a blue glow surrounded the Team Rockets and their vehicles. Suddenly they vanished in the blink of an eye.

"They're gone," Link74Bit sighed in exhaustion.

"So, we won . . . We won!" Tigrin cheered as she looped arms with Mewn in glee.

"You guys did great," Jess commented, feeling as if she did not contribute. BulbaGarden put a hand on Jess' shoulder.

"It really was a team effort, everyone contributed," BulbaGarden smiled.

True Blue Pikachu whispered into BulbaGarden's ear. "What do we do about Vaporeon, Lugia, and Krabby? We can't just leave them as they are."

"I don't know really. We'll have to think of something."

Vaporeon was looking at Lugia, she felt sorry for all the nasty insults she gave to Lugia since Lugia looked really sad. Krabby felt a tinge of guilt too and was thinking it to Vaporeon.

"Krabby thinks you're depressed. Are you?"

<"Tell Krabby to not worry about me. I'm fine,"> Lugia told Vaporeon mindlessly.

Vaporeon took in the information. Krabby shouted her gratitude as she caught it on Vaporeon's wave length. Lugia watched Vaporeon skip off, completely unconcerned with everything.

Vaporeon had recovered from the emptiness, so did Krabby. They had each other to rely on, to share thoughts and feelings. Lugia did not have the commodity of what Vaporeon and Krabby had anymore, that was now lying in the silt at the bottom of the lake. Most of her life, her happiness, was lying in that silt. Mewtwo had not succeeded in taking her actual life, but he had deprived her.

Lugia looked around, feeling lonely and ashamed. The Bulbasaur's Mysterious Garden members were chatting to one another, all of them sneaking peeks at Lugia. She knew they were afraid of her. Lugia was afraid for the same reason that maybe she would snap for no reason and turn on them. Bored, she counted several piles of ash just to see how many deaths she had given.

She knew she was being selfish to think of herself. The Bulbasaur's Mysterious Garden members had to get home and it would be a brutally long way back to Canada Place if she did not intervene. Lugia briefly took energy from the lake to power a few attacks, not because she was trying to kill anything. <"Everyone, I'll be taking you back to Canada Place."> The response was with audible hesitation. The ground glowed with Lugia's normal aura color and the Teleport happened.

"We're back," Tigrin announced with a smile. Indeed everyone was back on the main level of Canada Place at the most northern part of the deck. Konidias showed his relief by collapsing to the deck in mock exhaustion. A lot of the members could have keeled over from actual tired or stress factors. Lugia watched them from behind a concealing Barrier made for herself, Vaporeon and Krabby. People who glanced over would not be able to see the Pokémon. Mewn stepped into the Barrier and knelt next to Vaporeon. She had heard some of the members mention a very puzzling question earlier.

"So, how do we fix your problem?" she asked as she looked at Vaporeon with a straight but anxious face while crouching in front of her. Vaporeon's ears sagged.

"I don't know," Vaporeon answered sheepishly. Briefly a thought crossed her mind.

"Hmm, we could . . . Never mind," giggled Vaporeon.

Krabby took to poking Mewn's side comically. "Why are you asking that dumb ass?"

"Dumb butt?" Vaporeon sniffled, "... Me?" she started to cry.

"See?" Krabby pointed to Vaporeon. "I'm smarter than she could ever be."

"Okay, how do we fix the problem?" Mewn sighed in exasperation as she repeated what she asked Vaporeon. Mewn was the only one who had the patience and the least amount of fear to be around Vaporeon, Lugia and Krabby right then. Krabby stared irritably up at Mewn.

"Don't ask me. I'm not *that* smart."

Mewn slapped her head. "You were suppose to tell me something else."

"Like what, 'the ceiling'? I always do that."

"Oh, so you're the one!" Dragontear hollered from a distance. She hated that comment with a passion, especially coming from Vaporeon Lugia Krabby.

"Yeah, duh. I like to annoy the hell out of people," Krabby chuckled wickedly. The Virtual Meteor Master joined Mewn by her side. He decided to offer a suggestion.

"I'd first see if any of them can transform. If not, we'll work from there. We might have to gather the pieces of Lugia's pendant." The Virtual Meteor Master obviously liked his idea. The others stared at him, liking his logic at least and calm attitude.

"Those pieces are on the bottom of that lake!" Chaka called. "How are you going to get them?"

The Virtual Meteor Master smirked over at her. "Easy. Mewn is a strong psychic Pokémon. And if you didn't see it, I got a copy of Mewtwo's form. Should be easy."

"I remember the last time you said that, and guess what happened?" Mewn hinted sarcastically.

"Better to be riled for the fight than acting like losers," The Virtual Meteor Master muttered. Mewn shrugged.

"Okay, Vaporeon, Lugia, crab thing," Mewn giggled quietly as Krabby foamed at the mouth. "You three, try de-transforming." She glanced at Lugia in worry as the bird's shoulders heaved.

"<De-transform,>" Lugia muttered. Nothing. "<De-transform!>" she roared. The Bulbasaur's Mysterious Garden members nearly jumped out of their skin. Nothing happened still. Lugia shook her head sorrowfully and proceeded to gaze out at the bay and Stanely Park. The Virtual Meteor Master noticed from where he was the tears streaking down Lugia's silvery skin. Lugia was miserable.

Optimus edged closer, adding his opinion. "Guess that didn't work." Vaporeon and Krabby looked at him as if he were finally the moron. They then glanced at each other, sharing personal thoughts.

"Just do it you two," The Virtual Meteor Master ordered with crossed arms. The pair glanced at each other again, this time with very little confidence. Vaporeon rubbed her nose along Krabby's horns at a thought that Krabby must have sent. A blue light surrounded them and merged between the two, forming into a taller, single figure. In place of Vaporeon and Krabby was Vaporeon Lugia Krabby, or more like Vaporeon Krabby since Lugia could not merge. The odd quirk was that Vaporeon Krabby did not look really like Vaporeon Lugia Krabby either. Dock off two inches of height, add three inches of wavy, roan red hair, change the eyes to dark green, add tanned skin and a more feminine figure, and there was Vaporeon Krabby.

"That's VLK?" Princess Wooper gave a weird look.

“She definitely looks . . . different,” Konidias said as he scanned Vaporeon Krabby from head to toe with his eyes. Vaporeon Krabby noticed and responded with a light giggle. Her voice was less monotone and was generally appealing.

“I have a new look,” she said as she did a very delicate twirl, ending with the placement of her hands on her hips. The green army jacket made her look a little dwarfed and the tight T-shirt she was wearing was very uncomfortable by the looks of it. Briefly her eyes flashed as she noticed the guys staring in a way that she just did not like. “Or do you all have something wrong with it?” she snarled aggressively. The mood change was extremely sudden. Vaporeon Lugia Krabby was known for sudden mood swings without warning but the moods were not to such extremes.

Effex was nodding in the back, mumbling, “I like the old Vaporeon Lugia Krabby.”

Vaporeon Krabby’s eyes flashed again with the sudden sharp focus of her eyes. She stomped up to Effex, pushing BulbaGarden, Optimus, and Chaka aside as she did. Her hand reached out and grabbed Effex by his shirt collar and lifted him slightly above the deck.

“I am Vaporeon Krabby, and you better get use to it or else!” Vaporeon Krabby growled as she drew him close. “Understand?” Effex nodded and Vaporeon Krabby dropped him. Dark Chromium Dragonite was the closest to Effex and was there, offering a hand to help Effex to a standing position. Vaporeon Krabby looked down with disdain. No one could figure out what was going on. Vaporeon Lugia Krabby was a weak, frail person. She did not resort to violence and could not possibly cause harm to anyone. Yet somehow Vaporeon Krabby just hoisted Effex without any effort, for relatively no reason. “Don’t worry, I wouldn’t really hurt a cute guy like you,” she winked slyly. Effex made a bit of a face at that as Vaporeon Krabby had obviously gone through another mood swing. He stood up only to have Vaporeon Krabby lick him across the face and skip away.

Effex rolled his eyes and rubbed his cheek in a bit of disgust. “What was that?”

“Yeah, she just does that,” Princess Wooper said with a slight shrug of her shoulders. “Don’t ask.”

Dark Chromium Dragonite snickered quietly, the face on Effex was as some might say, ‘a Kodak moment’. “You’re the real ladies’ man,” he teased.

“Oh be quiet,” Effex grumbled, still rubbing his cheek. The Virtual Meteor Master and Mewn exchanged eye contact.

“I say, fix the broken pendant and change Vaporeon Lugia Krabby back to who she was. She’s scaring the heck out of me!” exclaimed The Virtual Meteor Master. He caught sight of Jess and Tigrin behind him with Lugia. The girls were coaxing Lugia, which was not as ironic as what Lugia was doing. Lugia was having a ball, thrumming contently and liking the obvious attention. The Virtual Meteor Master was almost furious with it. “You two aren’t helping,” he told Jess and Tigrin, taking charge of the Vaporeon Lugia Krabby fiasco. “Lugia is acting like a Pokémon. If you keep petting her, she might be discouraged from becoming a human. And I think we want her as a human.” Tigrin heard and paused from her stroking and shouted back at The Virtual Meteor Master.

“If you hadn’t noticed, she’s stressed.” And with that, Tigrin resumed her previous activity. Tigrin had no idea how stressed Lugia was.

“I noticed. Lugia was crying since she can’t transform,” he said that and immediately regretted it coming out of his mouth. Lugia seemed to have a portion of pride left, and the statement was indeed personal about Lugia.

“Then she does want to be human,” Jess said, furthering what Tigrin had said and making light to The Virtual Meteor Master’s contradiction. Lugia had the back of her head turned to look at the bay, the steady rise and fall of waves and the boats that cruised by. The arch in her neck lowered significantly.

<“I wouldn’t worry yourself, Meteor Master,”> Lugia muttered with her head still turned. <“They’re not discouraging me, just keeping me relaxed. It is better this way than any other way,”> she hinted with a dry tone. Seadra Reef walked passed Mewn and started to gingerly pet Lugia’s wing in fascination. The feathers were soft, the skin was smooth, it was very interesting in a way. The Virtual Meteor Master groaned in mild irritation. He knew people could listen to him, but felt like since he was who he was, he was basically ignored.

Princess Wooper was dealing with her own type of irritation. She had to be one of the few people that was not naturally alarmed by anything Vaporeon Krabby was doing at the moment. She felt it was her duty, as a friend of Vaporeon Lugia Krabby, to keep the new and not improved version of Vaporeon Lugia Krabby under control. The Virtual Meteor Master and Mewn announced their transformations and began changing, much to the delight of Vaporeon Krabby. Princess Wooper suddenly lost her position as Vaporeon Krabby was staring at The Virtual Meteor Master and Mewn who were both using their powers.

“It is so pretty,” Vaporeon Krabby said with wide eyes in stunned fascination.

“At least it’s keeping her entertained,” Princess Wooper spoke wistfully.

While Vaporeon Krabby continued to gape at the psychic energy, the other Bulbasaur’s Mysterious Garden members formed snippets of conversation. Most of the topics were deliberately controlled to avoid talking about what happened a few minutes ago. In the background of the group, True Blue Pikachu could be heard remarking about Effex being whooped by Vaporeon Krabby. Effex was insulting True Blue Pikachu for being in a similar predicament with Vaporeon Lugia Krabby. Link74Bit was trying to shut both of them up since he just did not want to hear it.

“Fifteen minutes you say? Four limos, one to that Port place, another to Surrey and two to the Vancouver International Airport. Thanks.” Chaka put away her cellphone, glad that it was working for once. “Hey, Bulba!” She grabbed the attention of the webmaster. BulbaGarden walked over after talking to The Virtual Meteor Master.

“You need something?”

“Nope. Just telling you that four limousines will be here in fifteen minutes. Will everyone be ready by then?”

BulbaGarden nodded. “Mewn and TVMM are nearly done collecting the pieces and starting to put them all together. They say they’ll be done in less than three minutes.” Chaka was skeptical. “I don’t know how they know.”

“Yeah, but that fast?! I thought they had no energy,” said Chaka, her expression was thoughtful.

“Apparently going back and forth between forms regenerates energy and minuses wounds,” said BulbaGarden.

“BulbaGarden, we’re nearly done, can you get Vaporeon Lu . . . err, Krabby to change back to her other forms?” asked Mewn while still focusing on the pieces between her and The Virtual Meteor Master. Vaporeon Krabby was back to being entertained by Princess Wooper. BulbaGarden nodded calmly and proceeded to walk over to Vaporeon Krabby.

“Vaporeon Krabby, I want you to transform and get your pendants ready.”

Vaporeon Krabby made a mock salute and arrogantly answered him. “Yes, sir! Bossy Bulba, sir!” Princess Wooper was beside Vaporeon Krabby and turned away in embarrassment. BulbaGarden was not pleased to hear what he had.

“I am *not* here to listen to you insult me or anyone else. Just do as I say, no attitude and everyone will be happy.” His expression made Vaporeon Krabby’s blood boil and at the same time made her want to cry. BulbaGarden put a reassuring hand on her shoulder. “I’m sure you can handle my request.”

“I can handle anything,” she responded in a snotty fashion. She removed her pendant and broke up into two separate pieces of light with relative ease.

“Bring it on!” Krabby clacked her pincers as if the request were a challenge.

<“You have to wait till we’re done,”> The Virtual Meteor Master said. He began talking privately to Mewn. <I hate puzzles. They are so pointless. How are you even putting your half together?> he asked as he looked at his pathetic chunk of pendant pieces in contrast to Mewn’s.

<I thought you knew that each piece has a special bit of energy that matches to the edges of the others. It works if you sense them all at once. I bet you’re trying to see what fits where,> she told him as she finished her half. It was perfect, except for the other missing half.

<How do you know so much about this?> The Virtual Meteor Master caught on to Mewn’s suggestion and was progressing quickly.

<I just know,> she said as she saw his pace quicken. <Finally, you’re speeding up.> Mewn sneaked an insult in. <For such a powerful Pokémon, you’re pretty dumb.>

<Hey! Brains don’t come with the form. How am I suppose to know what to do?> The Virtual Meteor Master yelled at Mewn, she had a wry, mew-ish smile.

<Have you ever thought of asking me?> she smirked. The powerful Pokémon answered with a meek, ‘<No>’.

<It doesn’t matter anymore. We’re done,> The Virtual Meteor Master smiled as he portrayed the completed pendant with a wave of his paw. Mewn grabbed it and let it dangle from her paw.

<Great work.> Mewn switched to regular speech. “Lugia I have your pendant. It is fixed for you.”

<“You are?”> Lugia questioned with a whirl of her head to see the pendant dangling from Mewn’s paw. Her eyes seemed tearfully full of joy, like the completed pendant was a beacon. Lugia concentrated her mind on the pendant and it Teleported just to appear snugly around her neck where it ought to be. There was a smile in Lugia’s eyes now, she had her pendant back.

The Virtual Meteor Master and Mewn de-transformed and watched. They both smiled at each other despite the fact that they no longer could communicate their thoughts. Both of them were highly proud of their achievement. The rest of the members watched Lugia anxiously as her pendant glowed with a soft, blue light. Vaporeon and Krabby looked up at Lugia, not knowing what they really were suppose to do.

“Lugia, if you’re done getting acquainted, could you de-transform?” Link74Bit interjected, sounding as if he were between asking and ordering. BulbaGarden or any of the other administrators would have said the same.

“Lugia, good luck,” Dark Chromium Dragonite said encouragingly. Chaka was nodding in agreement with him. Lugia returned a respectful nod to them.

<“I will,”> Lugia told them. Her eyes fell upon Vaporeon and Krabby. <“On my signal of ‘mark’, de-transform.”> The response from Vaporeon was confusion until Krabby confirmed it

for her. Vaporeon beamed a smile. <“Mark.”> Fingers were crossed as the three were shrouded in blue light and merged in the center. It took a couple of seconds till the blinding light faded.

Vaporeon Lugia Krabby stood in place where the three lights condensed. She stared off into space blankly for a couple of moments. Physically everything was fine but mentally remained questionable. Briefly she smiled rather weakly at the group before her knees wobbled beneath her and she collapsed from possible shock. Jess, who was the closest, reached forward and caught Vaporeon Lugia Krabby, collapsing to the ground along with.

“Something happened!” Jess shouted as she looked at Vaporeon Lugia Krabby, having not a clue what to do. The physical state seemed to remain steady just by mere looking. Breathing was calm and relaxed of nature, so she was alive.

“Probably too much strain,” Seadra Reef commented as she leaned over at to look at Vaporeon Lugia Krabby, whose head was resting on Jess’ knee.

“We might have to carry her,” True Blue Pikachu said.

“The limousines will be here in a few minutes,” BulbaGarden informed the group.

“Shouldn’t we call an ambulance?” Konidias asked, thinking that Vaporeon Lugia Krabby was in really poor health.

“You probably don’t,” said Dragontear who was checking over Vaporeon Lugia Krabby. “She’s fine.”

“Okay, can I carry her?” asked Optimus, figuring that someone had to do it and it might as well be him.

Dragontear held up her hand. “No, I can carry her. She’s a twig.” Dragontear demonstrated as she scooped Vaporeon Lugia Krabby up in her arms, seeming to not be burdened by the weight. “See?”

“I can carry her too,” Princess Wooper pointed out.

“Well, I have her,” Dragontear smiled.

“So then, can we leave now?” True Blue Pikachu looked back and forth amongst the members, they seemed relatively tired now and dispirited. BulbaGarden breathed in heavily and tried to not act weary.

“Of course we can,” he replied with a smart adjustment of his army helmet. “We have a long way to go before we get to the street.”

“Not more walking!” Jess complained. Tigrin gave her a shove in the back.

“At least this time you’re going home,” she laughed. Seadra Reef was walking beside Tigrin with her binoculars in her right hand and Tigrin’s laptop under her left arm. They were the most lagging in the group. She paused for a second to glance at the setting sun behind Stanely Park. It had been a long day.

There was a waiting period of a couple minutes before the fancy transportation arrived. As most departures, there were many good-byes and other things along those lines. The day was too harsh to desire remembrance. Maybe it was the fighting, the death, the inconceivable being conceivable, whatever it happened to be, no one wanted to touch upon it. BulbaGarden realized the graven feelings amongst his fellow members and the fictional level of everything. Asking an oath amongst the members present was the best solution, besides possible therapy later in life. Even Vaporeon Lugia Krabby partook in the solemn oath of silence as Princess Wooper voiced for her unconscious friend. BulbaGarden furthered the oath by one more step, and it really was one thing no one wanted to think of.

The destruction of the pendants, all of them. The powers they had were likely to cause harm in one way or another. The people who did not want their pendants at all, mostly Dark Chromium Dragonite, Jess, Chaka, and BulbaGarden himself, promptly announced and agreed to their destruction. Dragontear protested the thought the most. She dreamed of being so close to a horse as she had been as a Rapidash. Parting to her was a very sweet sorrow and despite persuasive techniques, her mind was not suade. True Blue Pikachu also voiced his mind, oddly enough, he liked being a yellow fur-ball. It was sort of funny in a way, and seemed relatively harmless based on his nature.

Tigrin, Mewn, and The Virtual Meteor Master had to have their pendants disposed of. Their powers were varied and a threat, especially since both Tigrin and Mewn very much adored the power and their forms. They all reluctantly handed their jewelry to someone else who would destroy the pendants for them. The other person who should have had their pendant destroyed, but would not, was Vaporeon Lugia Krabby. They knew she was a menace with her Lugia form. What stopped all of them from taking it away was the fact that the lose of the Lugia third had devastating consequences. It came down to the decision if taking it would do more harm than good. The collective decision was that it would do more harm and it remained looped around Vaporeon Lugia Krabby's neck.

The air remained heavy as no one spoke to each other for a few moments, each holding something in their hand that they could not use and had to break on their return home. The awkwardness became nearly unbearable until the four limousines screeched up to the curb. Suddenly there was bustling and organization, more heartfelt good-byes to others. Mewn, Princess Wooper, Dragontear and the unconscious Vaporeon Lugia Krabby piled into one and were the first to leave just as BulbaGarden finished telling them that he wanted to see them on the bulletin boards soon.

It was as if I was on the party boat again, waking up only to find Dragontear and Mewn looking over me like worried parents. Princess Wooper was seated close to me but I did not see her in my direct area of sight. Mind you, I heard her very well.

"Hello Ness, wassup?" Princess Wooper joked as she moved around the long seats and was also looking at me from above. That would be one of the few moments where she could ever exalt her height over mine.

"Uhh," I moaned as I saw the ceiling above me. "The ceiling," I answered with a groan. My head was throbbing unbearably. I never had a hangover but I assumed it felt as it did right then. "Where are we?"

"In the limo, going home," responded Princess Wooper. "You're getting dropped off first."

"Huh? . . ." I stared at her blankly. "Oh, it's over?"

"She's coherent," Dragontear muttered, mostly to herself, almost amazed that I somehow managed to create the speech pattern for one of my generic, rehearsed answers.

"Yeah, sort of. Blades, my head really, really hurts . . ." I whimpered and winced. Somehow the typical exaggeration of words could not sum up to how much my head ached.

"That's the normal VLK," Mewn said in a perky fashion. I responded by chuckling in a fake manner and snorted in contempt.

"Normal, bah." I looked away. I had not been thinking of much until all the memories came back. I felt torn apart and put back together with scotch tape. There was this noticeable



boundary I could just feel between my thoughts and it made my mind seem distant when I wanted to think of something else. It felt weird, and it hurt to think to begin with. I looked at Mewn, Dragontear and Princess Wooper. Wait, why was Princess Wooper wearing Chaka's pendant and why was Mewn wearing Effex's? "Where are your pendants?" I asked.

"Oh that," Mewn said briskly. "We're holding onto theirs and breaking them."

"What!?!?" I exclaimed in an absolute fevered panic. I bolted upright and started trying to get a hold of mine. It came to my hands and I held it dearly to me. My friends were watching me as I seemed to treat the piece of jewelry as some sort of comfort item.

"We knew you'd do that," stated Dragontear who was the least startled.

"Do what?" I muttered.

"Your pendant, you would go crazy if you didn't have it."

"No I wouldn't! I am perfectly sane, thank you very much," I snapped at her while still holding tight to my pendant.

"You're doing it now," Dragontear pointed out to me with a gesture. I paused to stare at my pendant. She was right.

"Look, I'm scared," I protested. "You have no idea what happened!" My eyes were watering since I was frustrated. I did not bother to hold them back and started to weep. "I . . . we . . . oh, blades beeping," I said senselessly as I tried to figure out how to think, how to associate my thoughts. Having three consciences and then having them compiled into one as a broken jumble was complicated. ". . . I fought . . . I murdered . . . Part of me was lying on the bottom of a lake . . . alone! How am I suppose to act, huh? Tell me that one, Dragontear!"

Dragontear's eyes narrowed, she could not tolerate me a lot when I was ranting. I had forgotten that I had Cut her as a Krabby, swearing at her as I did. Princess Wooper and Mewn took her place instead.

"We don't have the answers," frowned Princess Wooper.

"Everything will be okay," Mewn said as she hugged me. My lip quivered. I noticed Dragontear looking at her arm, rubbing the still trickling injury. She had wrapped it as best as she could but her blood always clotted slowly. I could tell she was mad then I remembered that part too.

*' . . . I'm just trying to save Lugia and her pendant with the last bit of energy I had, so stop fucking sniveling, 'cause I don't give a damn about you right now . . . '* I recalled in my thoughts. "Blades . . . Dragontear, I didn't mean it." I looked at the carpeted floor, my head was hurting more and more as I thought about it. "I wanted to save the Lugia side, and I was trying so hard . . ." my voice trailed off. I could not make many strong statements.

"I don't want to talk to you right now," Dragontear snarled and sat on one of the other seats, looking away from me. My shoulders sagged in response and I glanced outside as Mewn and Princess Wooper explained the concepts behind the oath they had made for me. I bobbed my head like a bobble head doll in the back of the rear window of a car. Outside I could see one of the bridges that stretched across the Fraser River, the one about a minute away from my home.

The ride became silent and uncomfortable. Alienation was common to me but as it was now, I felt like a foreigner in a different country. Nothing was spoken until the chauffeur opened the door in front of my house.

"Have a good evening, miss," he said.

"Bye VLK!" Princess Wooper and Mewn called with waves. Dragontear looked away.

"Bye, it was nice seeing you," I mumbled quietly. The door shut and the vehicle pulled out of the driveway. I walked up across the familiar lawn, beneath the two giant birch trees I had

known all my life. Casually I rang the doorbell, since I never had house keys of my own. The familiar face of my father welcomed me at the door.

“How did your event go?” he asked in his mild mannered way.

*Everything was awful. I was turned into three creatures, ran around, got into this huge fight to protect the world, went crazy, killed things. Did I mention I hurt my friends and now they are afraid of me? Heck, I'm afraid of me. So how was your day?* That was what I thought, but I would never tell him that.

“Oh, just fine,” I lied.