

FREEZING DESTINY

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CHAPTER 1

The sounds of the outside world were muffled by the orange chemicals fueling the progress of life. A man in a white coat with extra winter proof padding was tapping on the reinforced glass that contained the chemicals. “Not to bad... but they haven't shown as much sign of progress since last month...” he mumbled to himself, constantly pushing up his glasses that kept falling off his nose.

He ruffled his short and thick blonde hair, writing a few of the readings off of the two containment units onto a chart. “Not as promising...” he mumbled once more. He placed a few notes on the side, then took off his coat and put on his black jacket with a red R on it. Just then, an intercom rang and then spoke to him, “Dr. Kach please make your daily report to the boss.” Dr. Kach smirked and stepped out of the crowded lab, locking the door behind him.

As the doctor walked into the conference room, he noticed that the boss wasn't alone. The whole board of directors was there, none of them looking happy. Kach made a quick bow to the boss, and then took his seat at the end of the table. He could feel the tension and the resentment directed towards him. There was a lone period of awkward silence, and then the boss rose from his side of the long polished glass table.

“Is there a particular reason that projects J1D3D-8 and EM3R4-7L have not awoken like you promised?” his voice was calm, yet cold. The doctor merely stood and pressed a hidden button on his chair. “Please direct your attention to the screen behind you.” Everyone turned and faced the screen that was directly behind the boss. Dr. Kach pulled out a remote and a slide show of charts and data were displayed.

“I have been working on these projects for some time. And with the partial success of R8X77-2F3 I” he was cut off by one of the members. “What do you mean success? It was a total failure! The clone escaped into the world and we've had no sign of him in months!” Dr. Kach looked as if he could explode at the comments, but he kept his domineer and corrected the member, “Partial success sir. We created life, have you all forgotten that? We succeeded in creating life from almost nothing, yes there were some... behavioral errors that were not taken into account, but that was merely the rough draft if you will.”

The board member frowned, but stayed silent, and Dr. Kach continued with the data. “As I was saying, with the lessons learned with that... experience, I had modified the next two projects. Project J1D3D-8 is showing great strength and power in poisons. And Project EM3R4-7L is showing good skills in mental abilities and powers of grass moves. I cannot be completely sure due to the fact that they have not woken.” He pressed a button on the remote and the slide changed to a video cam of the lab.

A gasp was heard from all of the members, excluding the boss and Dr. Kach who had his mouth open yet made no sound. What was showing on the screen were the two containment units that were supposed to hold the projects in discussion. The units were shattered and the liquid was soaking the tile flooring.

Not a minute went by before the door was broken in, shattering with the pressure of the creature that had broken it. Two green human like Pokemon stood at the door. The

lighter of the two had black stripes on his darker green tail, while the darker one had a lighter tail and black rings.

The boss stared at the twin creatures, a devilish grin on his face. Dr. Kach didn't waste time and rushed over to them, "Remarkable! You've awoken! And are in clear health, now tell me, do you have the knowledge I programmed in you?" The lighter one, clearly a male, glared at the man and brushed him aside. "I have come for Giovanni." It growled knowing English quite well.

The darker one pushed her brother aside with her light tail, "Easy brother." She said in a claming tone, and looked straight into the eyes of the man seated on the opposite side of the room. She held out one of her three fingers, pointing it at him, "That is him. I can tell by the way all these men fear him." Her smile never faded as she spoke.

The man stood and gave a humored chuckle, "Well doctor. It seems you have made them intelligent. But are they obedient?" The lighter growled and the white claws on each of his three fingers clinked as he brushed them past each other, getting into a battle position. The darker laid her hand on his shoulder, and shook her head, "Please brother, do not make a fool of ourselves before even our first mission." Then turning to Giovanni, "You want to see obedience? Give me a task and it shall be done." She said lifting her head proudly.

A cruel grin grew on Giovanni's face and silence greeted her words. "Well EM3R4-7L, or as Dr. Kach gave you... Emeral... You've made quite an offer. And I, a reasonable man of business, will not pass up this offer. I have but one task you must do." The male, growled at the silence that prolonged his task, "Well? Why do you leave my sister and me waiting?"

Dr. Kach spoke this time, "Jaded patience is something you must learn, like you fraternal twin here. And you should listen to me as well as Giovanni; I'm the one who gave you life!" Jaded turned and lifted the man with his lean looking arm by the throat despite the fact that Jaded was a good two feet shorter than Dr. Kach. "Do not order me weakling," Jaded glanced at his sister to see if the man had any respect from the men like Giovanni had. She shook her head no and he tightened his grip.

Giovanni waited for a while, seeming to enjoy the doctor's pain. After a while, he snapped his fingers and Jaded let go, dropping the exasperated doctor to his knees. Jaded grinned cruelly at him and then turned to Giovanni, "Obedient enough for you?" Emeral shook her head at her brother, but smiled none the less. "Well you may be anxious to go onto your task, but you do not know what the task is." Jaded had lost his last nerve and shouted, "Well then tell us!" Giovanni chuckled and then he finally told them of their mission. "Capture your lost brother, by any means necessary. Bring him back to me, dead or alive."

CHAPTER 2

~The forest beside Hearthome City~

The air was soft and gentle in contrast to the storm that raged nearly a month ago. The grass flowed with the breeze in-between a cliff side and lush forest. The forest was still recovering from the inferno that was caused by the storm, and the people of the town next to it were confused as how the blaze was stopped that night of the storm. Now Pokemon

ran and played enjoying the sunshine of the afternoon.

One Pokemon however was watching over them, standing tall on the top of the cliff side. His blue tail twitched as a breeze flowed past it, his short and dense black fur rippling. He blinked his navy blue eyes, and clenched his blue paw. He stood like a human, but looked like a Pokemon. Suddenly, he looked up; he sensed a powerful creature approaching. He glowed softly and his body shifted, to that of an Absol standing watch. A moment after, a pink streak flew by and sad memories filled the Pokemon's mind.

He shifted back into his first form a look of regret on his face. (*Must I always conceal myself from those I care for?*) He spoke with his mind, and a Stunky padded up to him. The Pokemon looked up at him with eyes of a friend. *We both know this is the way it must be R8.* He could hear the Stunky's thoughts just as he could any other Pokemon who willingly opened up their mind to his. R8 sat down next to the Stunky, (*Yes I know my friend. It's just... would it be so bad as to see one of them? In a different form?*)

The Stunky sighed and shook its little purple head. *No. It's too dangerous. Besides, you are a guardian now. You have duties to accomplish in place of Absol.* The Stunky referred to the Absol R8 had met the night of the storm, the Absol was the protector of this place, and R8 stepped up to replace him when Absol was killed by a bolt of lightning. R8 sighed, knowing his friend's thoughts were true. He looked up at the pale blue sky, a few fluffy white clouds dotting the canvas of the world.

He closed his eyes in thought, (*I suppose you are correct. But I feel so alone sometimes...*) The Stunky nudged his head on R8's leg; *Remember you have a whole forest of Pokemon who are your friends. You are never alone R8. Never.* With those final thoughts, the Stunky got up and padded off to the forest, leaving R8 to gaze at the clouds alone.

Never... R8 thought in his head, preserving his friend's words like they were a precious memory. With a big sigh, he got up and transformed into a Staraptor and flew off to survey the forest. He glided easily on the wind, enjoying the peaceful feeling he got while flying. Suddenly, a huge net slammed onto his back, tying up his wings and making him plummet down to earth. His impact made a small crater in the ground, and Pokemon started to surround him. He cried out as loud as he could, warning all the other Pokemon to stay away.

His cry was sad, but he knew something was wrong, and he didn't want to endanger the others. He had little energy left, the impact had drained a lot of it, and this net that he was entangled in was somehow absorbing any energy he put out. Then a loud noise started to echo in the silent forest. The wild Pokemon all shivered in their hiding places, and only R8 in the Staraptor form was left out in the open.

He lifted his head in the direction the noise was coming from, it was growing and soon a small tank was visible coming from the direction of the city. It stopped just a few feet from him, and two men hopped out, holding some weird looking tools. They wore tan shirts and brown kaki pants. Each man had a blue tinted visor, with a camera on the side.

They came closer to him and he could tell that the camera was pointed at him. Then one with a rough looking hair cut and a small beard started to speak. "Yes boss, we found a good looking Staraptor for the client. We have it trapped in a net, but it doesn't

seem to struggle." A pause as the man listened to the receiver end of the visor, he nodded occasionally. With one more nod and a "yes ma'am" the men started to come closer. R8 squawked at them and flapped his wings, trying again to get out, but it was in vein.

The one with the beard held down his wings from behind, while the other one put a metal ring on his beak. The beardless man chuckled, "Looks like we've got this one captured. Hehehe, this one's going to have a rough time. Working as servant day and night. Oh well." He shrugged with little pity in his voice, and then he turned to the other man, "How much you want to bet this runt of a Staraptor lasts a week?" The man who still had his wings pinned looked up at the younger man with disgust, "Idiot. We're known for finding GOOD Pokemon. Not runts, besides," he motioned to R8's eyes, "See the fire that blazes in his eyes? He's gazing at you bud. Give 'em one good chance at you and you'd probably be bawling like a baby. THAT I give less than 5 minutes in a fight with this guy."

The younger man ignored him, "Whatever old man." He said and walked off back to stand by the tank. The older man narrowed his eyes and whispered to R8, "If I get that metal ring off your beak, would you bite him and not me?" R8 gazed into his eyes and sent out his thoughts, (*Only if you move away fast enough.*) The man's eyes widened in surprise as he heard R8's thoughts, but slowly took the metal ring off of his beak. The second the ring slipped off the smooth beak, he leaped back, and R8 used a lot of energy to flap his wings to get him off the ground. He was gliding long enough to hit the young man, and he bit at the man's arm as he flailed to get him off.

The older man laughed whole-heartedly and watched him get all cut up. After he caught his breath he walked over and picked up the squirming R8. "See what I meant?" the older man put the ring back on R8's beak, much to his disdain. Then both men climbed back into the tank, and the old man put R8 in a cage, taking off the net as he did so. R8 could see outside the windows, and he frowned as he saw all the hiding Pokemon, watching him get taken. He turned his head in shame that he was caught so easily.

He still hadn't regained any amount of energy enough to change form or teleport. *I'm sorry I let you all down... Please forgive me.* The old man turned on the tank and started to drive off; leaving the forest behind, but they were no heading for the city. They were heading off into a hidden area that R8 had never seen before. The young man looked at R8 in hate and smirked as he gave him a shot, making him feel sleepy. He tried to stay awake, but found he couldn't keep his eyelids open, and slowly, he passed out.

CHAPTER 3

~Secret Base, Bottom Floor~

A strange buzzing sound woke him. He snapped open his eyes to find that he was still a Staraptor, and then the memory of being taken flooded back. He looked around and noticed that he was in a metal cage with some sort of clamp holding his wings in place. Men in the same suites as before were hustling around, trying to get work done. The buzzing that woke him was from some Pokemon who were training.

He called to a green Sandshrew, and it came over to him. He decided that instead of talking, he'd send him his thoughts. (*Please, tell me where am I? I must get back to the forest...*) he waited for a long time, and then the Sandshrew laughed at him, "You're stuck

here now!” he said with his high pitched language.

R8 felt fury inside him, and through the bars he pecked at the odd colored Pokemon, causing it to roll away, holding his head. R8 felt smug until he noticed that he was just as weak as before, and he still didn't have enough energy to teleport or change form. He couldn't tell what time it was, and didn't keep track of how long he watched the other Pokemon train. He couldn't help but be impressed at their skill, but shocked that they pushed themselves rather hard, so much so that they got serious injuries from some attacks, yet still went on fighting.

Then a movement near him interrupted his thoughts, a woman walked into the room, wearing a long maroon jacket that nearly touched her black shoes. She had a visor on and it covered her face except her mouth. She had short and spiky red hair, and all the others saluted her as she walked by. *She must be in charge around here...* he thought to himself.

She walked over to the area where the Pokemon were training, after a moment or two, she snapped her fingers and a man rushed up with a ball like object. R8 got a flash from when he had first met Karen, and remembered that she had something a lot like it. The man threw the ball at a Pokemon, and it was engulfed in red light, the ball flew back to the man, and he gave it to the woman.

R8 felt sorry for the Pokemon, he remembered how trapped and alone he had felt in the ball, and wondered if it felt the same just now. He was so engulfed in his thoughts that he didn't see her approach to his cage until she was right at his level. “Well well well. You are going to get me a lot of money Staraptor. You look tough, but can you beat my trained Pokemon?”

R8 didn't want to fight, and was even more uneasy since he had no idea who his opponent was. He just gazed steadily at the woman and was silent. The woman smirked, clearly pleased with his bold stare. She stood and ordered a man to let him out of the cage and onto a battle field.

A moment later, he was standing on a battle field, still bound by the clamps. The leader was standing directly opposite of him, holding the sphere. She ordered a man to take off the clamps so he could fight. He swiftly obeyed, and soon R8 was free. *Free but still weak*, he thought. With an arrogant smirk, she threw the sphere into the air, and it opened, red light spilled out, and a form materialized. It roared as soon as it was free, its eyes full of thirst... for battle.

The leader stood, standing with pure confidence, next to a roaring Garchomp. R8 was frozen stiff with fear. *I can't beat a Garchomp! Not in this condition!* The woman motioned with her hand, and the Garchomp immediately stopped its roaring. “Kujo, attack that Staraptor without mercy!” she ordered and waved her hand to signal 'go'.

Kujo sprang forth; his wings letting him glide the air in a speed almost unmatched. R8 barely had enough time to fly up in time, Kujo's head flying into the space he was but a heartbeat before. *If I keep dodging, maybe I can make it!* R8 thought as Kujo flew and aimed a giga impact at him.

The leader watched pleased, enjoying the show her Garchomp made. “Kujo, finish this... sandstorm now!” Kujo roared and landed onto the battle field, he then flapped his wing like arms, and thrashed his tail about, causing a huge sandstorm.

In all the sand flying about, R8 couldn't see a thing, and knew that he would not be able to dodge any attack made if he couldn't even see his opponent. Kujo was even

faster now, hitting R8 multiple times, sending him flying about like a ping-pong ball. R8 tried many times to get away, but Kujo kept slamming into him, one after another.

He didn't know how long his beat down lasted, but he felt it wasn't soon enough when the woman called Kujo to stop. With the barrage over, R8 collapsed to the ground, exhausted and in pain. The woman walked up to him, and R8 struggled to lift his head to meet her gaze, his body bloody and broken. She smiled cruelly and put her hand to hold his head. "There now, you won't dare to defy me now. If you do, I'll just let Kujo teach you your place again. Get used to being beaten to get stronger, because you're not leaving any time soon."