

Life of a Magikarp

Chapter 1: The Beginning

Hello. Welcome to the Pokemon Retirement Home. I am Max, the Gyarados, but I used to be a Magikarp. I have had lots of exciting adventures with my trainer, but now I am too old to fight. I see that you are new here. You are probably getting old too and have your own stories to tell, but I will tell you mine first, if you don't mind.

It all started in a large lake near a small town called Fishington. The town was the home of lots of fishermen, who caught fish Pokemon and kept them or sold them. My parents were both Gyarados, and I had two brothers and a sister, who were also Magikarp. Our parents told us that if we worked hard, we would eventually become Gyarados, like them. Magikarp are pretty weak, and we started by training against Ratatta, Caterpie and Weedle. They usually beat us and we had to run away, but we learned a lot from our fights and we all wanted to be Gyarados, so we kept fighting. But one day, I was exploring the lake with one of my brothers when a fishing rod with a Pokeball on the end hit me and I was dragged up to the surface of the water. There was a fisherman riding a Lapras and holding a fishing rod in front of me. Unlike most fishermen in Fishington, who liked to wear red and had green backpacks, this fisherman was wearing a black suit.

"It seems like I've found a Pokemon," the fisherman said, "Now it's time to catch it!"

I was horrified. My parents had told me about the fishermen of Fishington, who caught Pokemon with Pokeballs. Pokeballs shrink Pokemon down to fit inside them, and provide an environment that suits the Pokemon. The Pokeball is quite small and you are trapped inside it until your trainer lets you out

and forces you to fight other Pokemon. Sometimes they kept Pokemon for themselves and used them to help catch other Pokemon. They fishermen liked to use their own Pokemon to make wild Pokemon weaker, making them easier to catch. And sometimes they sold the Pokemon to Pokemon Trainers, who walked around the whole country, catching Pokemon for some Pokemon professor who wanted to find out more about Pokemon. I thought about sitting in a lab while scientists poked me with strange looking objects. It was a horrible thought. I decided that I would fight this strange man and try to avoid being caught by him, if possible.

Chapter 2: Show me your moves

Pokemon attack other Pokemon using moves, and each Pokemon can learn a maximum of four moves at the same time. I only knew one move: Splash. I jumped out of the water, managing to get three metres away from the surface. Then I dived back into the water, making a gigantic splash which soaked the man. I tried to swim away, but the Pokeball on the end of the man's fishing rod glowed red and an invisible force pulled me back towards him.

"It seems like this Pokemon wants to fight," the man said, "Go, Honchkrow!"

A big, blue bird with red rings on the insides of its feathers appeared. It had a white patch at the front which looked like a beard.

"Honchkrow use Wing Attack!" Yelled the man. The Honchkrow spread its wings and charged at me. It was using a Flying type move, which was super effective against water types. The Honchkrow ran right into me, whacking me with its wings. I used Splash again, but it seemed to have no effect against the Honchkrow. The man threw a Pokeball at me. I was shrunk until I could fit in it and it closed around me. I struggled to get out, but the

Honchkrow's attack had knocked the wind out of me. I couldn't stop the Pokeball's lid from falling down. CLICK! I had been caught.

I looked around. I was inside the Pokeball, which had created a small pond for me to swim in. I was quite small, so there was quite a lot of room to move around, but you could tell that the pond was artificial. It just seemed wrong. I explored the pond, but there wasn't much to see. I soon got bored of swimming around, but there was nothing else to do.

After what seemed like a century, the Pokeball opened. I grew back to my normal size. I was in a park in Fishington.

"Let's see what you've got," the fisherman said, "show me your moves."

I didn't move. I wasn't going to listen to this weird fisherman in the black suit. I looked around and saw the Honchkrow and another Pokemon next to the trainer. The other Pokemon was black with a pointed tail and a red nose and tummy. It had horns coming out of its head and the bones on its back were exposed. It looked a bit like a demon crossed with a dog.

"Use your moves, otherwise Honchkrow will get you with Wing Attack!" The fisherman yelled.

I looked at the Honchkrow.

"You'd better do what he says," the Honchkrow said, "I am Henry the Honchkrow, the leader of his Pokemon, and it is my job to punish anyone who misbehaves."

"But my only move requires water," I said, "I can't use it here."

"That's where the magic of Pokeballs comes in," said the other Pokemon, "Pokeballs allow the Pokemon in them to use their moves, no matter where they are. Just use your move, and the water will appear for you. I'm Daniel the Houndoom, by the way. And before you ask, don't try talking to him. Pokemon can understand their trainers, but trainers can't understand what their Pokemon are saying. And even if he did understand us, he probably wouldn't listen to us."

I decided to use my move. I didn't want Henry to attack me again. I jumped so high that I was actually higher than the trees. Then I fell back down and hit water that hadn't been there a few moments ago. SPLASH! The water went everywhere, soaking the man and his Pokemon.

"Did I do well?" I asked. But Henry, Daniel and the fisherman were all laughing at me.

Chapter 3: Sold

"That move sucks," said the fisherman at last, "All you managed to do was get us wet. It didn't even hurt! You're a useless Pokemon. I'll have to sell you. I could trick people into buying you for a lot of money by saying you were a rare Pokemon."

"Did I really do that bad?" I asked Henry.

"That's the worst move I've ever seen," said Henry, "And you call that a move? I'll show you what a *real* move looks like! Watch this!"

He took a deep breath and closed his eyes. Suddenly, I felt cold. I was in a dark room, all alone. I could barely see because it was so dark. I saw a

skeleton in the corner of the room and gasped. It was my own skeleton! Then I heard horrible laughter and footsteps coming down stairs. A door creaked and light poured into the room. I screamed, and opened my eyes. I didn't even know they had been shut!

"That move is called Dark Pulse," said Henry, "Did you like your little dream?"

Henry and Daniel laughed.

"You screamed really loud," Daniel said, "That's Henry's favourite move. I like to do things a more direct way. I'm going to use my favourite move now. It's Inferno, a fire type move, so it's not very effective against you. I'm going to use it against that tree instead." He pointed at a tree in the distance with one of his horns. "Here goes nothing!"

He opened his mouth and howled. A giant fireball appeared above his head and flew towards the tree, covering it in flames. A few seconds later, the flames died down. The tree was a pile of ash.

"Your move was pathetic," Daniel said, "You're lucky that our trainer is getting rid of you, otherwise we would have to kill you. Weak Pokemon don't deserve a place in our trainer's party."

The fisherman pressed a button on my Pokeball, and I was sucked back into it. A long time later, I heard voices outside.

"Hey, do you wat a rare Pokemon?" The fisherman said, "only five thousand Pokecoins!"

"That's a lot of money," another voice said, "what Pokemon is it?"

"It's a surprise," said the fisherman, "take it or leave it!"

I heard some coins jingling, and then there was silence. A few minutes later, my Pokeball opened and I was ejected. A little boy stared at me.

"Oh no, I've been conned!" He exclaimed, "this isn't a rare Pokemon, this is Magikarp, the Useless Pokemon! My teacher taught me about it at school. She told me to never catch a Magikarp because they are useless. I demand a refund!"

"Sorry, no refunds," said the fisherman. The little boy groaned and put me back in my Pokeball.

Chapter 4: Mum, I've been conned!

Time crawled by. I was still in my Pokeball, and really confused. So much had happened today! I hardly even noticed it when my Pokeball was opened again and I was ejected onto the floor of a small house.

"Mum, I've been conned!" Said the little boy, who was crying, "An old man sold me a Magikarp for five thousand Pokecoins. He said it was a rare Pokemon, and I believed him. What should I do?"

"Don't worry about it, Ben," said a woman who must be the boy's mother, "everyone makes mistakes. Go and train your Pokemon in the forest. You should go and visit your friend in Foresto City. That will cheer you up."

"But I lost so much money!" Ben exclaimed.

"Don't worry," said Ben's mum, "I'll give you one thousand Pokecoins, and you can get the other four thousand back by fighting other trainers."

"Okay mum," said Ben, "see you later! I'm going to Foresto!"

He put me back in my Pokeball and ran out of the door.

A little bit later, I was ejected out of my Pokeball again. This time, I was in a forest. There were two Pokemon next to me. One of them was orange, and the tip of its tail was on fire. It was standing on its back legs and had a round head, but apart from that, it looked like a lizard. The other one was brown and looked like a caterpillar. It had pink feet and a pink nose. It had one small stinger on its head and another one at the end of its body. Both of them were much smaller than Henry and Daniel. In fact, they were as small as me.

"I don't believe that Pokemon should be in their Pokeballs all the time," said Ben, "Pokemon should be allowed to see where they are going. Now that you have been caught, Magikarp, you can survive out of water. That is one of the good things about being caught. I am now going to introduce you to my other two Pokemon."

It seemed like Ben was a better trainer than the fisherman who had sold me to him, but he was still a trainer and I was still going to be his slave for the rest of my life. I thought Ben was trying to cheer me up, but it wasn't cheering me up at all.

"This is Carl," he said, pointing to the orange lizard Pokemon, "he's a Charmander. I learned a lot about Pokemon at school, and apparently Charmanders eventually evolve into Charizards, a really powerful Pokemon

that looks like a dragon! Carl was the first Pokemon I ever had, given to me by a scientist who studies Pokemon."

"Hello," said Carl, "Welcome to the party. By the way, you look like a clown."

I said nothing. This Carl had just called me a clown! How dare he call me that? He didn't even know me!

"Sorry," Carl said when he saw my face, "I'm not very good with words. I'm better at fighting."

"By the way, what's a party?" I asked.

"It's a human name for a group of Pokemon that a Trainer have with them," said Carl, "for some reason, humans like to take Pokemon with them wherever they go, but they never take more than six with them at a time."

"And this is Bill," said Ben, pointing at the brown caterpillar Pokemon, "he's a Weedle. Weedle eventually evolve into Beedrill, which is a bee Pokemon. They aren't that powerful, but Weedle evolves really quickly and I wanted to see what it looks like when Pokemon evolve, so I caught him when I saw him in this forest, on a tree."

"Hello," said Bill, "don't worry about Carl. He's a bully and he looks scary sometimes, but just ignore him. By the way, what's your name?"

"I'm Max," I said. Bill seemed friendly, but he would probably hate me when he found out what my only move was, just like everyone else.

"Welcome to my party," said Ben, "unfortunately, I can't think of any good

names for a Magikarp so I'll just call you Magikarp for now. My teacher told me that Magikarp are useless and said not to catch any, but you're in my party now so I guess I'll train you. I've heard that Magikarp eventually evolves into Gyarados, but it takes a long time to train them. My teacher didn't tell me what a Gyarados looks like. I guess I might find out one day! Now, why don't you guys show each other your moves?"

This was what I was afraid of. When I showed Carl and Bill my only move, they would both hate me. They would say I was useless, just like Daniel and Henry had.

Chapter 5: What I was afraid of

"Carl, you can go first," said Ben.

"Not this again," Carl groaned, "I hate this. I'm not going to do this again."

"Carl, what are you doing? Show them your moves!" Ben exclaimed.

Carl didn't move. Ben stared at him for a while, and then started crying.

"Look what you've done!" Bill shouted, "you made Ben cry! You should listen to our trainer!"

"Why do you have to be so obedient all the time?" Carl asked, "Pokemon shouldn't have to be slaves to their trainers all the time! You need to learn to stand up to him!"

"But he might punish us!" Bill exclaimed, "he's much bigger than us and he looks scary when he does that!"

"Okay fine," Carl said, "but I don't think Ben would really punish us. He's just a little boy. What could he do? Throw his teddy bear at us? Anyway, My first move is called Scratch." He extended his claws and scratched a tree, leaving claw marks on it.

"And my second move is called Growl," he said, "It's supposed to make the other Pokemon do less damage when attacking me, but it never works for me."

"Because you're too ugly, maybe?" Bill suggested.

"Shut up," said Carl, "anyway, this is what Growl sounds like." He growled softly.

"You haven't been talking for a while," Bill said to me, "are you okay?"

"I'm fine," I replied. Actually, I wasn't. I was thinking about what would happen when it was my turn to show them my moves. They would probably laugh, just like Daniel and Henry had.

"It's your turn now, Bill," Ben said.

"My first move is Poison Sting," said Bill, "it's quite weak, but it has a chance of poisoning the opponent." He lowered his head and headbutted the tree with the stinger on his head. There was a tiny mark on the tree, but it was hardly visible.

"My Scratch is way more powerful than that," said Carl. Bill ignored him.

"My second move is String Shot," Bill said, "I fire a line of silk out of my

mouth, which tangles around my opponents' feet and slows them down." He took a deep breath, and a line of silk came out of his mouth, like he had said. It wrapped around the tree a few times and then fell gently to the ground.

"Okay, it's your turn, Magikarp," said Ben, "I will enjoy finding out what your moves are!"

I somehow managed to swim over land, swimming in front of Carl and Bill. I was scared, but somehow summoned up the courage to speak. I didn't want to use my move, but I didn't want Ben to cry for some reason. He was an evil Pokemon trainer, but the fisherman had conned him and he was probably already sad. I didn't want to make him feel even worse.

"I have only got one move, Splash," I said, "it's not very powerful, but please don't hate me for it."

"It can't be that bad," said Carl, "it can't be as bad as Bill's Poison Sting, anyway!"

"Shut up," said Bill.

I took a deep breath and launched myself into the air. I was above the trees again, and I looked around. I could see a human settlement in the distance, but there was nothing else interesting to see. There were just trees, trees and more trees, stretching to the horizon in every direction. And then I was falling again. SPLASH! Water appeared out of nowhere, soaking Ben, Carl and Bill but not doing any damage to them at all.

Carl laughed. "That's amazing," he said, "it is worse than Poison Sting after all! You must be a completely useless Pokemon! It seems like Ben's teacher

was right!"

I looked at Bill, expecting him to be laughing as well. Surprisingly, he wasn't.

"It's okay," he said, "that move may be bad, but you will learn others eventually. Even Poison Sting isn't that good."

I didn't reply. I felt miserable. Even though Bill didn't hate me because I had Splash, which was a miracle, Carl was still laughing at me.

"If it cheers you up at all," said Bill, "Carl is a Fire type Pokemon. You are a Water type. If you ever get a Water type move, you will be super effective against him."

This cheered me up a bit, but I doubted I would ever get a Water type move.

"I see we have a lot of training to do, Magikarp," said Ben, "but don't worry. Through practice, you will learn a better move eventually."

Then another human walked up behind Ben. He was a man wearing a loose, black, shiny jacket. His hair was long and messy, and each strand of hair looked like a worm that was trying to escape from his head but had gotten hopelessly tangled with the other worms. He was pulling a large, bike along behind him, which was red but covered in brown mud. The bike smelled like someone's armpit.

"Hello," he said, "I am Biker Brent. Why are you talking to your Pokemon?"

"Pokemon are intelligent creatures," said Ben, "my teacher told me all about them at school. They speak a language that humans can't understand,

but they can understand us."

Biker Brent shook his head. "Teachers don't know nothing," he said, "I dropped out of school because it was boring, but I can tell you from experience that Pokemon aren't that smart. They just listen to your commands, like dogs. Anyway, I was looking for a Pokemon battle. Do you want to fight?"

Chapter 6: My first battle

"Okay, let's fight," said Ben, "my Pokemon need some more training, anyway."

"Okay," said Brent, "Go, Vulpix!"

A small, orange Pokemon came out of its Pokeball. It had curly hair, six curled tails and a white tummy.

"Go, Carl!" Ben exclaimed, "you can do this!" Then he turned around to face me and Bill. "Unfortunately, you guys can't fight yet," he said, "Vulpix is a Fire type Pokemon so it is super effective against you, Bill. Magikarp, you are a Water type Pokemon, but you don't have any damaging moves yet. When you get some, you will be super effective against fire Pokemon! Meanwhile, I have an EXP share. It's a device that allows all of you to learn from what happens in the battle, instead of just the Pokemon that fights. I'm going to turn it on now."

He took something out of his pocket which looked like headphones with an antennae on top. They were shiny and silver. He pressed a button and put it on his head. "Okay, we're ready to fight now," he said, "Carl, use Scratch!"

"Let's do this!" Exclaimed Carl. He charged towards the Vulpix and scratched its head. Blood ran down its face.

"Vulpix, use Ember!" Brent shouted. Vulpix opened its mouth and three small fireballs came out, hitting Carl in the tummy.

"Nice one, Vulpix," said Carl, "it's not very effective!"

"It's so violent," I said as I watched the battle, "what happens if Carl gets hurt?"

"Ben would use a potion on him," said Bill, "he gets out a bottle of weird, purple stuff and sprays it on our wounds. As soon as he sprays them on us, our wounds disappear. It's like magic."

I continued watching the battle. Carl kept using Scratch and the Vulpix kept using Ember. Despite being a Fire type Pokemon, Carl managed to get a small burn on his tummy. However, he was winning and eventually, the Vulpix fell over and closed its eyes.

"What happened? Is it dead?" I asked.

"No, it's just fainted," said Bill, "this is a friendly battle, so we don't kill other Pokemon, we just make them faint. Their trainer will have to use a revive on them, a yellow crystal that they have to eat like a pill. It makes them wake up. But look, there goes the EXP share!" He pointed at the Exp share with the stinger on his head. ZAP! It shot a laser beam, which hit Carl. Zap! It shot two more laser beams, which hit me and Bill. Suddenly, I could remember the whole battle clearly. I could see how Carl had defeated Vulpix. A vision of Carl's final Scratch played over and over again in my head. Then it faded

away.

"Wow, that was intense," I said.

"You'll get used to it," said Bill, "it helps you learn new moves and brings you closer to evolution though. Hopefully, after this battle, you will learn another move!"

"Go, Koffing!" Brent yelled. A round, purple Pokemon appeared. It was hovering in mid-air and it had a white skull and crossbones at the front of its body. There was smoke coming out of holes on its body. It smelled really bad. If Biker Brent's bike smelled like an armpit, this Pokemon smelled like *two* armpits. Armpits whose owners hadn't had a shower for years. The stink was so bad I almost fainted.

"Keep fighting, Carl," said Ben, "Bill, this Pokemon is not very effective against you, but your moves are also not very effective against it. Don't worry, you will get a chance to fight soon!"

"I hate fighting," Bill said, "when we fight, we never die because Ben always heals us. But it's still really scary."

"You're such a coward," said Carl, "look at this! This Koffing is going down!"

Carl ran towards the Koffing and jumped into the air, scratching it. When he scratched it, more smoke came out and he started coughing.

"And that's why we're called Koffing," said the Koffing.

"Koffing, use Smog!" Shouted Brent.

Koffing took a deep breath and sprayed lots of gas at Carl, who coughed some more.

"Are you okay?" I asked.

"Yes, I think so," said Carl, "but I feel a little bit weak."

"Oh no," said Bill, "your eyes have purple rings on them. I'm afraid you've been poisoned."

"Oh no," Carl groaned as he scratched Koffing again.

"Koffing, use Tackle!" Brent shouted. Koffing whacked Carl in the head with its whole body. The two Pokemon kept fighting, but Koffing seemed to be winning. Eventually, Carl fainted.

"Carl has fainted," said Ben, "I'll revive him. Unfortunately, it's not healthy for Pokemon to fight just after they have been revived, so you will have to fight, Bill. Use String Shot first, and then keep using Poison Sting until it faints."

"Wish me luck," Bill said. He crawled over to Koffing and looked up. Then he opened his mouth and a line of silk came out, wrapping around Koffing's head.

"Arrgh!" Koffing said, "I can't see!" It used Smog again, and a cloud of poisonous gas surrounded Bill, who didn't even flinch.

"Poison type Pokemon can't get poisoned themselves," said Bill. Then he

jumped into the air and headbutted Koffing with his stinger. Koffing tackled Bill, almost squashing him. Bill headbutted Koffing again, and this time Koffing cried out in pain, falling to the ground and fainting. The lasers from the EXP Share hit all three of us again, and I had a vision of Bill's last headbutt.

"Nice job," said Carl, I was so busy watching Bill that I hadn't been paying any attention to him. He was still alive, much to my relief, but he was still badly hurt and had a burn mark from Vulpix. At least he didn't seem to be poisoned anymore.

"Maybe Poison Jab isn't as useless as I thought," said Carl, "although I probably weakened that Koffing and did most of the work for you."

"You fought really well," I said, "I thought you were going to lose! That Koffing nearly squashed you!"

"Yeah, that knocked the wind out of me," Bill admitted.

Chapter 7: New moves, but not for me

"You won," said Brent, "here's your prize money. See you later! That was a great battle, by the way!" Brent gave Ben some Pokecoins, put his fainted Pokemon back in their Pokeballs, climbed onto his bike and disappeared. He had gone down the path, which went through the middle of the forest. There was a curve in the path, and now the trees were blocking the way so we couldn't see where he was. I was glad he was finally gone. His bike smelled horrible!

"Carl, you've been hurt," said Ben, "I'll use a potion on you." He sprayed a purple liquid on Carl's wounds, and they healed immediately. Maybe having a

trainer wasn't so bad after all. The battles were violent, but they were fun as well and if you were in them, you got healed afterwards. Perhaps Ben wasn't that bad after all. The fisherman was a bad person, but Ben was okay.

I was interrupted from my thoughts by a blinding light from somewhere to my left. I looked to my left and saw that Weedle was glowing white. A ball of light surrounded him, so bright that I had to turn my head away immediately. It was very noisy too. There was a deafening roaring sound that made it hard to hear anything else.

"What's happening?" I asked Carl. He didn't reply. He probably couldn't hear me over the roaring anyway. I repeated the question, shouting this time so that he could hear me. Carl opened his mouth to reply, but I couldn't hear what he was saying.

"What was that?" I asked.

"Bill is evolving!" Carl shouted. I could hardly hear him. Finally, there was a loud BANG and the bright light cleared. I could see Bill again, but he wasn't a Weedle anymore. He was yellow and oval shaped, with a hard shell and no legs. His eyes were big and black.

"Wow," Ben said, "so that's what evolution looks like!"

"I'm a Kakuna now, and I think I learned a new move," said Bill. His voice was muffled, as if he was behind a wall. There was a slow cracking sound, and his shell appeared to get thicker.

"I'll call this move Harden," said Bill, "It will make it harder for opponents to attack me."

"Wait a minute," I said, "how do you know it should be called Harden?"

There was no reply. Eventually, Carl answered for him. "When Pokemon learn new moves, they know what they should be called. The name just comes to them when they learn it. Weird, but true. By the way, I think I learned a new move, too! It's Ember, the same as the one that Vulpix was using!" He took a deep breath and sure enough, three fireballs came out of his mouth. They hit a nearby tree and it caught on fire. Part of the trunk was burned and turned into ash, but then the fire died down again.

"Awesome," said Ben, "you both got new moves!"

"By the way, did you get any new moves?" Carl asked me.

"I don't think so," I said.

"You really are a useless Pokemon, aren't you?" He said.

I noticed that Bill hadn't been speaking for a while so I asked him why. There was no reply.

"Sometimes, a Pokemon's behaviour changes when they evolve," said Carl, "maybe Kakuna just don't talk much."

Chapter 8: Left Behind

"Okay, let's go," said Ben, "we're going to Foresto City to see my friend, Frank. We can have another battle with him. He has an Omanyte and a Magcargo."

Ben started walking, and Carl walked along behind him. I swam after Carl, but then I realised that Bill wasn't with us.

"Where's Bill?" I asked.

"I'm over here," said Bill. He was still where he had been just after he evolved. "I can't walk," he said, "I don't have legs."

"Oh no, we'd better tell Ben," said Carl. He tapped Ben's leg with one of his hands.

"What's the matter?" Ben asked, "I hope you're not being naughty again, Carl." He kept walking forwards.

"It's no use," Carl sighed, "Ben won't listen to me. He says that I'm naughty and disobedient. It's true that I don't listen to his commands sometimes, but we don't have to be slaves. We should have more freedom. But Ben isn't listening to me, so you will have to tell him."

"Okay," I said. I swam in front of Ben, blocking his way.

"What are you doing, Magikarp?" Ben asked. Then Carl tapped Ben's leg again. Finally, Ben turned around, and Carl pointed at Bill.

"Oh no," Ben said, "I forgot that Bill evolved. Kakuna can't walk. I'll have to carry him. Thanks for telling me, Magikarp and Carl. You're amazing!"

Ben walked over to Bill and picked him up. Then they kept walking. After a while, Carl said, "why does Bill get to be carried? We still have to walk! He should carry all of us!"

"He can only carry one Pokemon at a time, otherwise he would drop us," said Bill, "and he's carrying me because I'm his favourite Pokemon. You are really naughty so he would never carry you."

"It's not fair," Carl complained. Bill didn't reply.

They kept walking, swimming or being carried through the forest until they saw a pokemon next to a tree. It looked like a green caterpillar with a yellow tummy. It had big, black eyes, red antennae and yellow circles on its back.

"Hello," it said, "I'm a Caterpie. I need to train some more, because I want to become a Butterfree. I would like to fight you."

"Look, it's a Caterpie!" Ben exclaimed, pointing at the Pokemon. "It seems like it wants to fight, too. This is the perfect chance for you guys to practice and learn new moves! Let's fight it!"

Chapter 9: Caterpie Chaos

"Go, Carl," Ben said, "Caterpie is Bug type. It's weak to fire, and you have a fire type move now. You should be able to beat it easily!"

Carl stepped forwards and used Ember. Three small fireballs came out of his mouth. The first one hit Caterpie's head, the second one hit the middle of its body and the third one hit it at the back.

"Wow, that's a powerful move," said Caterpie, "I think you gave me a bad burn there. But I bet you weren't expecting me to use String Shot!" Caterpie opened its mouth. A line of silk came out and surrounded Carl, who had to spend a while to untangle his feet from it. While Carl was untangling his feet,

Caterpie used Tackle, launching himself at Carl's face and hitting him right between the eyes. Carl used Scratch before Caterpie could retreat, leaving a scratch mark on Caterpie's back.

"You've been burned by my Ember," said Carl, "if you keep fighting, you will take burn damage and eventually faint. There are no revives in the wild. I suggest you go home and get healed."

"You're right," said Caterpie, "you were tougher than I expected. I'm going home. It was a great fight, I had a lot of fun! See you later!"

The Caterpie disappeared into the forest.

"It seems like the Caterpie has had enough," said Ben, "Carl, you were hurt a little bit by Caterpie's Tackle, but it is only a light bruise. It will heal by itself."

The EXP Share did its magic, giving me a vision of Carl's final Scratch. When it fainted, Bill was surrounded by blinding light. He was evolving again!

"Duch, he's so hot!" Ben yelled, putting Bill down. BANG! The light faded, and I looked at Bill. He was now a bee! He had two pairs of transparent wings and was yellow with black stripes. His eyes were completely red and he had two blue antennae. Unlike normal bees, he only had four legs. His front legs had stingers on them, and there was a stinger at the back of his body, too. He was also slightly bigger than me and Charmander.

"Wow," he said, "I'm a Beedrill now! I can't believe I'm already fully evolved! Pokemon can evolve a maximum of two times, and most Pokemon only evolve once, or even don't evolve at all. I can't believe I am already fully

evolved. By the way, I learned a new move: Fury Attack! It seems to be a bit like Poison Sting, but it hits several times in a row and can't poison opponents." He attacked a nearby tree, moving his arms around wildly and making five small dents in it.

"I learned another move too," Carl said, "it's called Smokescreen. It should block my opponents' view, making them less likely to hit." He took a deep breath and opened his mouth. Smoke poured out, making it hard for me to see. Eventually, it cleared.

"I don't think I have learned any moves yet," I said.

"Carl and Ben, congratulations!" Ben exclaimed, "you both learned new moves again, and Ben is now fully evolved! Magikarp, I see that you haven't learned any new moves yet, but with practice you will learn some eventually. But I do have some good news. I finally thought of a good name for you. I'll call you Max!"

"What a coincidence," I said, "that's my real name!"

"It's a very big coincidence indeed," said Carl, "but do you know what would be even more surprising? If you suddenly weren't useless anymore!"

"I helped you to tell Ben about Bill being left behind though," I said, "you couldn't have done that yourself."

"Actually, when he was a Kakuna, Bill was pretty useless as well," Carl said.

One of Bill's stingers appeared out of nowhere and attacked Carl with Poison Jab. Carl wasn't poisoned, but it still did a little bit of damage.

"Hey, what are you doing?" Ben asked, "no fighting in my party, please! Now I will have to use another potion on Carl! These things aren't free, you know!"

"What was that for?" Carl asked as Ben healed him.

"Think about what you say before you spit it out," said Bill, "I used to put up with your rudeness, but now that I am fully evolved, I have decided it is time for this to stop. You need to treat me and Max with more respect, otherwise I will have to take action against you."

I stared at Bill in surprise. When he was a Weedle, he had thought that Carl was scary! Now he was actually standing up to him! I thought about what Carl had said about the behaviour of Pokemon changing as they evolve. This seemed to be true. Then I looked at Carl, to see what he was going to say. He said nothing. He probably had a lot to think about.

Chapter 10: An apology

After Carl was healed, we started heading towards Foresto City again. Ben walked in front, and Bill followed closely behind him, followed by me. Carl was at the back this time, and he didn't look very happy.

"Are you okay, Carl?" I asked. There was no reply.

"That was amazing," I told Bill, "you have changed a lot since you were a Weedle. It was amazing how you stood up to Carl. You were a bit violent, though."

"He deserved it," said Bill, "he was really annoying. He was already annoying

before Ben got you. In fact, I've had to put up with Carl being annoying since Ben caught me."

"By the way," I said, "you didn't talk much when you were a Kakuna. What were you doing? Were you thinking about something?"

"Actually, I was thinking about how I had behaved in the past and how I should behave in the future," said Bill, "when I was a Weedle, I was pretty submissive. You probably don't know this, but before you arrived, I was actually afraid of almost every other Pokemon I saw. For the first few days, I was absolutely terrified of Carl. I have decided that I should stand up for myself now, instead of letting other Pokemon push me around all the time. Also, Ben saved me. If he hadn't been there to help me when I couldn't walk, I would probably have been killed by another Pokemon, unable to defend myself from its attacks. I have been thinking about Ben, and I think we should all respect him and listen to what he says, because unlike some other trainers, he actually cares about us. He is a great trainer, and we should be proud of him."

"I used to think that all Pokemon trainers were bad," I admitted, "my parents taught me that all trainers catch Pokemon and use them as slaves to do their dirty work for them, and that Pokemon who were caught would live miserable lives in captivity. But they were wild Pokemon, so I guess they don't know that much about humans. The trainer who caught me actually matched their description perfectly, but after he conned Ben into buying me, and I spent a little bit of time in his party, I have realised that Ben isn't as bad as him. He even lets us come out of our Pokeballs and walk next to him. Compared to all the other trainers, he is amazing, just like you said. Also, unlike what my parents said, our lives as Ben's Pokemon are not miserable. Sure, we have to fight battles and we get hurt, but we always get healed

afterwards. They are fun and we also learn from them. And finally, perhaps most importantly, it is easier for us to survive together as a team. By working together, we can be stronger."

As I was talking, I noticed that Carl was moving closer to us. He had been trailing behind a minute ago, but now he was right next to us.

"I'm sorry for what I said," he said, "you're right, Bill, I need to think about what I am going to say before I say it. I'm sorry that I hurt your feelings and Max's feelings."

"It's okay," Bill said, "we're all still quite young, after all. Even our trainer is young. We all make mistakes, you just need to learn from them."

"Look," said Ben, "do you see those houses in the distance? We've finally arrived at Foresto City!"

Chapter 11: Fighting Frank

As they approached Foresto City, the Pokemon could see the houses more clearly. Most of them were made of wood, unlike the houses of Fishington, which were mostly metal. But as they entered the city, they realised that it was much bigger than Fishington. Fishington was just a town, but Foresto City was a city. It had at least three times the number of buildings Fishington had.

"I need to buy some more potions at the Pokemart," said Ben, pointing at a blue building in the middle of the city. It was one of the few buildings that wasn't made of wood. He went inside and we followed him. There was a woman at the counter and Ben bought lots of potions, some super potions and a few hyper potions from her.

"There are so many types of potions," I said, "what's the difference?"

"Super potions heal you more than normal potions," said Carl, "they're the orange ones. The pink ones are hyper potions, which can heal most fully evolved Pokemon to full health. As you grow and evolve, you need more potions to heal you. This is because you have more health, and the attacks of other Pokemon also do more damage to you."

After Ben finished buying potions, they went to Frank's house. It was a small house on the other side of the town. Behind his house, there was a road that lead to a shiny, white building.

"That's the lab," Said Ben, pointing to it, "the professor who gave me Carl works there. She's called Professor Fern."

Ben knocked on Frank's front door. Frank's dad opened it.

"It's Ben!" He exclaimed, "Frank! Come here! It's your friend!"

Frank appeared in the doorway. He was the same age as Ben, with red hair and a brown jacket.

"I see you have your Pokemon with you," he said, "let's have a battle in the park! And after that, I have a present for you!"

They walked to the park.

"This looks like a good place to battle," said Frank, pointing at a shady spot under some trees, "Go, Omanyte!"

A small Pokemon appeared. It was like a shellfish, with a white, spiral shell. Its head peeked out of the shell, and it was blue with several tentacles and two big eyes.

"Omanyte is water and rock type," said Ben thoughtfully, "oh no! It's resistant to all of your moves! But it is also super effective against fire. Go, Bill!"

Bill flew in front of the Omanyte.

"Bill, use String Shot," said Ben. A line of silk came out of Bill's mouth, surrounding Omanyte and preventing it from moving.

"Great work, Bill," said Ben, "now use Fury Attack!" Bill stabbed at Omanyte with his stingers over and over again, but it just hid in its shell. Bill only managed to make a few dents on its shell.

"Omanyte, use Bite," said Frank. Omanyte jumped up and bit Beedrill, biting one of its wings and creating a large hole in it. The Omanyte still had some of the sticky silk attached to one of its legs, which was slowing it down a bit.

"Bill, you're hurt," said Ben, "use Harden to avoid being hurt that much!"

Bill landed and held his wings in front of his body, very close together. When Omanyte used Bite again, it couldn't find anywhere to hold on to and Bill wasn't hurt as much. Bill then kept using Fury Attack and Omanyte kept using Bite. Despite Bill's Harden, Omanyte seemed to be winning. Eventually, Bill fainted.

"Go, Carl!" Ben shouted. Carl walked in front of Omanyte.

"Carl, use Scratch!" Ben yelled.

"Why does he always have to tell us what to do?" Carl asked, "and why can't I use Ember?"

"Ember is a fire type attack," I said, "Rock and water are both resistant to fire, so it would do almost zero damage. Rock is also resistant to normal, but water isn't, so Scratch will do more damage."

"Fair enough," Carl said, using Scratch. Omanyte fainted. The EXP Share zapped me and Carl, giving me a vision of Carl's final Scratch. It didn't zap Bill though. I guess it was because he had fainted, so it wouldn't work on him.

"What a shame," said Frank, "I was just about to get him with Water Gun, a Water type move! But never mind! Go, Magcargo!"

A red snail that seemed to be made of lava appeared. It had a grey shell made of rock and yellow eyes.

"Carl, use Smokescreen," said Ben. Carl took a deep breath and sprayed smoke out of his mouth. It covered the Magcargo, making it unable to see.

"Magcargo, use Shell Smash," said Frank. As the smoke cleared, Magcargo broke its shell in half with a CRACK.

"I'm a lot faster now," it said, "and it should be easier for me to attack! Watch out, Carl! I'm going to get you with Rock Throw!"

It opened its mouth and a small rock came out, hitting Carl in the head.

"Oh no," he said, "it's super effective." Then he fainted. The super effective move combined with the Magcargo's increased attack had combined to make a deadly super weapon that made Carl faint in one hit.

"I guess you win," said Ben, handing Frank some Pokecoins.

"You still have one more Pokemon left though," said Frank, "and it's a water type. Water is super effective against both fire and rock. You could beat Magcargo in one hit!"

"Max doesn't have any water type attack moves," said Ben, "he doesn't have any attack moves, in fact. You win."

"Okay then," said Frank, "what a useless Pokemon!"

Chapter 12: Finally, an attack move!

Ben used a revive and two potions on Carl. Then he gave the same to Bill.

"We lost," Carl said, "we weren't strong enough. I can't believe I was defeated by a snail!"

"Don't worry," said Bill, "everyone loses sometimes. We can't win every battle. We just need more practice, that's all."

"That was a good battle," said Frank, "Like I said before, I have a present for you. Three rare candies! Give them to your Pokemon to make them stronger! Don't eat them yourself though, they're poisonous to humans." He

handed three blue candies to Ben.

"Here you go," said Ben, giving us a rare candy each, "I'll let you figure out how to open them yourself."

Carl opened his one with his hands, using them to unwrap the paper. He put the candy in his mouth and ate it. Bill opened his candy with one of his stingers, using it to slice the whole thing open and eating the candy. I watched them eat, unsure how to unwrap my candy. I didn't have hands, and I didn't have sharp stingers either. Eventually, I decided to swallow the whole thing, including the paper. The paper tasted bitter, but it slowly dissolved in my mouth and I was soon able to taste the candy. It was very sweet, and while I ate it, I thought about my only move: Splash. It was pretty useless, and I needed a better move. I thought about Biker Brent's Koffing, and how it threw itself at Bill when he was still a Weedle. That didn't seem too hard. Maybe he could learn that move as well. What was it called? It was called Tackle, wasn't it? I wasn't sure. Then, I heard a voice in my head. *Magikarp, it is time for you to learn a new move, it said, It is called Tackle.*

Yes, it was definitely called Tackle. But where was this weird voice in my head coming from?

I am you, the voice said, as if it could read my mind, but now I must go. Good luck, Max. You are almost ready.

Ready for what? I wasn't sure, but I was really happy. I had finally learned another move! I was about to tell Bill and Carl when I heard a roaring noise from behind me. I turned around, and had to shut my eyes immediately. Carl was surrounded by blinding light. He was evolving! BANG! The light disappeared. Carl was slightly bigger now, as big as Bill. He wasn't orange

anymore, he was red. The flame at the end of his tail was bigger and brighter. His arms and legs were longer, and the claws on them were also longer.

"I'm a Charmeleon now," said Carl, "Unfortunately, I didn't get any new moves, but it's still pretty cool and I should be stronger now!"

"I got a new move," I said, "It's Tackle, just like the move that Biker Brent's Koffing had." I threw myself at a tree in the park, making it shake alarmingly.

"Congratulations, Max," said Bill, "you finally got a new move! Now you can finally participate in battles! Unfortunately, I didn't get any new moves though."

"Great work, Max," said Carl, "it's a shame you didn't get anything, Bill."

I was extremely happy. Now that I had an attack move, I wasn't useless anymore! I could finally defeat other Pokemon in battle!

"This is great," said Ben, "Carl, you're a Charmeleon now! You should be stronger in battle now! And Max, you learned a new move! Unfortunately, it's not a Water type move, but at least you can attack now."

"It's getting late," said Frank, "maybe you should stay at my house for tonight."

"Good idea," said Ben. Then he turned around to face us. "Unfortunatelly, you will have to get in your Pokeballs now," he said, "it's dangerous to have Pokemon inside houses. Carl, your tail has fire at the end of it, and the house is made of wood! The whole house would catch on fire!"

Ben opened our Pokeballs and put us all into them. There still wasn't much to do in my Pokeball, but because of the EXP Share, I could still remember all of our battles clearly. I thought about everything that had happened that day. I wondered why the EXP Share didn't activate after Carl was defeated by Magcargo. I replayed all of the times when it had been activated in the past, but I still wasn't sure why. Then, I suddenly realised! The EXP Share only activated after one of our Pokemon made another Pokemon faint! Carl hadn't made the Magcargo faint, so it didn't activate.

After I finished thinking about that, I got a bit bored. There was nothing else to do, so I went to sleep.

Chapter 13: Stolen

When I woke up, I was still in my Pokeball. I had no way of telling what time it was.

"I wish I knew what time it was," I said.

"It's Eleven AM," said a voice.

"Who are you?" I asked.

"I'm your PAR," said the voice, "all Pokeballs have PARs, Pokemon Assistant Robots, in them."

"If it's Eleven AM, then why hasn't Ben let me out of my Pokeball yet?" I asked.

"I don't know," said the PAR, "he usually lets his Pokemon out quite early.

Maybe he's sleeping in?"

I considered this for a few minutes, but it didn't sound like Ben to sleep in. He was just a kid, and he was always excited. Why would he sleep in when he could be exploring the exciting world outside with his Pokemon? I was still thinking about this when my Pokeball was opened and I landed on a cold, stone floor. I looked around. Bill, Carl and Frank's Omanyte and Magcargo were next to me, and we seemed to be in some sort of prison cell. Ben, Frank and an woman in a white lab coat with brown hair were in front of us.

"Where are we?" I asked.

"Be quiet," The woman in the lab coat whispered, "or they will hear us! I am Professor Fern, by the way."

"We'll explain later, but first we have to get out of here," Frank whispered, "follow us."

We followed them, sneaking down a corridor. We went around a corner and up a set of stairs to a large room. There was another set of stairs going up at the other side of the room. We sneaked into the middle of the room and were about to head for the stairs when two men dressed in red shirts and black pants jumped out of nowhere. Their shirts had pictures of Pokecoins on them, which were surrounded by hands.

"Stop right there!" One of them yelled, "put those Pokemon back where you found them!"

"Run for it!" Professor Fern yelled. We ran up the stairs.

"Persians, after them!" Yelled the other guard from below us, "Intruders, beware! If the Persians don't get you, we will find you all and kill you! The Dark Fish will not rest until you are all dead!" Then I heard six meows and the sound of small feet coming up the stairs behind us.

"They've set the Persians on us," Ben exclaimed, "run for it!"

We reached the top of the stairs, where there was a trapdoor and a ladder. Ben and Frank put all of their Pokemon back in their Pokeballs, including me. I couldn't see where we were going anymore, but I heard them climbing the ladder.

"Ouch! A Persian bit my foot!" Frank yelled. Then I heard the trapdoor being closed and heavy breathing.

"They're very clever," Professor Fern said eventually, "The trapdoor to their secret base is hidden in the floor of a normal house in Foresto City. Nobody would suspect that this house is actually the entrance to the headquarters of a criminal organization! But we're not safe until we get out of this city. Run!"

Eventually, my Pokeball was opened and I was ejected onto the ground. I was on another path that went through the forest.

"So, what was all that about?" I asked.

Chapter 14: Supercon

"Sorry about that," said Ben, "in the middle of the night, I woke up because I heard footsteps outside my bedroom. I peeked out and saw a man holding all of my Pokeballs and Frank's Pokeballs. When he had disappeared down the

stairs, I woke up Frank and we called Professor Fern. Together, we followed the man until he went into a small, ordinary looking house. He went down a hidden trapdoor in the floor, which led to a giant, secret underground base. We managed to follow him without being seen. He was joined by three other men, and they talked about conning people into buying all of you for lots of money. Five thousand Pokecoins each, they said. They said that the Supercon criminal organization was going well. I assume that the Supercon criminal organisation is who they are, the ones who have the logo of the Pokecoin surrounded by hands. They also talked about The Dark Fish, their new boss. He was better and smarter than their old boss, who was caught by the police, they said. They locked you in a prison cell, but as they were walking away, the keys fell out of the pocket of one of them, and I picked it up. I unlocked the cell and let you out of your Pokeballs. You know what happened after that. They said that The Dark Fish won't rest until we are killed! What should we do?"

"Why can't we tell the police where their hideout is and get them all arrested?" Frank asked.

"Now that we know where their hideout is, they will probably move somewhere else," Professor Fern said, "it's worth a try, but I bet by the time the police get to the hideout, the criminals will be gone."

"So what are we going to do?" Ben asked.

"Supercon will be after us," said Professor Fern, "you need to leave this city and lie low until the police sort this out. You will also have a better chance of avoiding being caught if you split up. I am going to the main police station in Cloud City, at the top of a mountain. Frank, you go to Fishington and tell Ben's parents what has happened. Then go past Fishington, to the cities on

the other side. Ben, Supercon might know that you live in Fishington so it isn't safe for you to go back there. Head straight ahead along this path to get to Mudsplatt City. It's a city in the middle of a really muddy swamp. With any luck, Supercon will get stuck in the mud and be unable to follow you!"

"Okay," Ben said. The professor and the two trainers set off in their separate directions. I followed Ben, along with Carl and Bill. For a while, we walked in silence.

"This is bad," Bill said eventually, "Supercon are after us. We can't let them kill us!"

"I don't see why we can't just fight them and defeat their leader in battle," Carl said, "then we could get him arrested."

"We're not powerful enough yet," I told him, "me and you aren't even fully evolved yet! We need to train more and get stronger first. Besides, the police can probably catch Supercon by themselves."

"You're probably right," said Carl, "but I have a strange feeling that somehow, we will meet Supercon again."

I hoped he was wrong. I didn't want to meet them again. They said they were going to kill us!

Chapter 15: Psyduck

Eventually, the forest disappeared and we found ourselves in a really muddy, smelly swamp. I was okay because I could swim over the mud and Bill was okay because he could fly over it, but Carl and Ben had to wade through it and got really muddy.

"By the time we reach Mudsplatt City, I'll look like a Ground type Pokemon," said Carl, "I'll be completely brown."

Suddenly, a brown Pokemon jumped out of the swamp. It shook itself and mud came off, revealing that it was actually yellow. It looked like a duck that was standing on two legs. It had three hairs on its head, which were standing up. Its eyes were big, white and round. As we watched, it banged its head against a rock over and over again.

"What's it doing?" Carl asked.

The Pokemon realised we were watching it and jumped in surprise.

"Oh, hello," it said, "I'm a Psyduck. I have a terrible headache. I know, maybe a battle will cheer me up!"

"It's a Psyduck," said Ben, "but does it want a battle or not? I can't tell, I don't know what it is saying. Wait a minute, I know! Psyduck, nod if you want a battle."

The Psyduck nodded. "Your trainer is quite smart," it commented.

"Thanks," said Bill.

"Psyduck is Water type," said Ben, "Max, you should be resistant to it! Take it out with Tackle!"

I prepared to throw myself at the Psyduck, but before I could, the Psyduck opened its mouth and squirted water at me. It didn't squirt that much, but it

moved quickly and hit one of my fins. However, I could hardly feel it.

"Oops," said the Psyduck, "I forgot that Water Gun is not very effective against other Water types."

I used Tackle, throwing myself at the Psyduck and hitting its head.

"Duch," it said, "this is making my headache worse! Never mind, I'll just use Scratch." It scratched me with one of its feet, which I realised had tiny claws on them. Why would a duck have claws? It didn't make sense, but never mind. I tackled it again. We kept fighting for a while, but I had a head start of one Tackle and I seemed to be winning. Psyduck's scratches left several scratch marks on me, and a little bit of blood was coming out, but I had managed to make a big bruise on Psyduck's head with my Tackles and it had to stop fighting regularly to rub its head.

"I give up," it said eventually, "I should have used Scratch from the start. Strategic error. This fight has made my headache even worse! Never mind, it was a great fight and it cheered me up. Goodbye!"

It jumped back into the swamp and disappeared.

"Great work, Max," Ben said above the zapping noise of the EXP Share, "I'll have to give you a super potion now. It was a pretty close battle."

He sprayed the potion on my wounds, and the pain disappeared instantly. The scratch marks were all gone and it looked like I had never been fighting at all.

I had finally been in a Pokemon battle, and I had won! I was really happy.

Then, the voice in my head came back. *It is time, Max, it said, you are ready.*

Ready for what? Was I getting another move?

It is time to evolve, said the voice. Then I could only see white and I heard a deafening roaring noise.

Chapter 16: The new me

I closed my eyes to protect them from the light, but I couldn't protect my ears from the noise. I also felt weird, and I felt like I was growing longer. Eventually, there was a BANG and the light disappeared. I opened my eyes and realised that I was taller than Ben! I looked down and could see Ben, Carl and Bill below me. I spotted a lake in the swamp that was slightly less muddy, and looked at my reflection. I couldn't believe my eyes! I was blue, with three spikes coming out of my head and four sharp teeth. There were blue spikes and two tiny white wings on the sides of my head, and more wings along my body, which ended with a gigantic flipper. Although I was mostly blue, my tummy was yellow and I had yellow spots on my body. My body was long, like a snake. I gave an experimental flap of my wings and realised that I could fly!

Congratulations, the voice said, *you are now a Gyarados. And since you have sharp teeth, you might as well learn a Dark type move, Bite.*

"Wow," I said, "I'm a Gyarados! And I learned a new move too, Bite. It's a Dark type move."

I looked around for something to bite, but there was nothing in sight.

"Unfortunately, I can't show it to you, but it's fairly obvious what it does," I said.

"I learned a new move too: Scary Face," said Carl, "Basically, I make my face look really scary and opponents are so busy looking at it that they forget to attack." He made a really scary face, and sure enough, we all stared at him.

"Unfortunately, Pokemon can only learn four moves at a time, even wild ones," said Carl, "we just don't have enough memory to know more than four at a time, So I decided to replace Growl with it, because I never use Growl and it never works for me anyway."

"I didn't get any moves," Bill said.

"Never mind, you might get some next time," I said.

"Wow, this is amazing," said Ben, "Carl, you learned another new move! And Max, you finally evolved! So that's what a Gyarados looks like. You look amazing!"

Chapter 17: Double battle!

We kept wading or flying through the swamp until two more wild Pokemon jumped out of it. They were both light blue. One of them had brown whiskers, three dark blue lines on its tummy, two legs and a tail. It had no arms. The other one looked like a blue rabbit, with long ears and an oval shaped body. It had two arms, two legs and a long, black tail with a blue ball at the end. Its tummy was white, and its blue chest was decorated with white spots.

"I am Wooper," said the Pokemon with whiskers.

"And I am Azumarill," said the Pokemon with long ears, "we want to have a double battle. It's when two Pokemon fight on each side, instead of just one."

"It's a Wooper and an Azumarill," said Ben, "Nod if you want to do two single battles, one after the other, or nod twice if you want to do a double battle. If you don't want to battle, shake your heads."

The two Pokemon nodded twice.

"You're both Water types," said Ben, "Go, Max and Bill!"

I flew in front of them, and so did Bill. The Wooper was as small as Carl had been when he was a Charmander, and the Azumarill was the same size as Bill. I looked down at them. This would be an easy battle.

The Azumarill moved first. "I see that you are Flying type, Max," it said, "it's time for my Rock type move, Rollout!" It curled into a ball and rammed into me, going past me and turning around for another ram. It hurt a lot.

"That was super effective," said Bill, "are you okay?"

"I should be okay," I said.

Bill moved next. "Watch out, Azumarill, you are weak to Poison," Bill said, "finally, Poison Sting is actually useful!" He charged at Azumarill, stinging it with one of his stingers.

"Oh no, I'm poisoned," it said, "and that was super effective."

I moved next, using Bite on Wooper and biting one of its whiskers off. It screamed in pain.

"That hurt a lot," it said, but now I'll get Bill with Mud Bomb! It kicked a giant ball of mud at Bill with one of its feet.

"Oh no, the mud is in my eyes," Bill said, "I can't see!"

We all kept using the same moves on the same Pokemon. Bill kept missing because he couldn't see, and although Azumarill was taking Poison damage, every time it used Rollout, it seemed to hurt more. Eventually, I fainted because it hurt too much.

When I woke up, Carl was helping Bill to fight. The Azumarill had disappeared. The EXP Share had also activated.

"What happened?" I asked.

"The Azumarill gave up not long after you fainted," said Carl, "it was poisoned and would have fainted if it kept fighting. Ben switched me in to replace you, and now we're only fighting the Wooper."

"Before it left, the Azumarill got me with Rollout though," said Bill, "it hurt a lot and now I don't have much health left." He used Fury Attack on the Wooper, hitting it several times with his stingers and creating several red spots on its skin, where blood started to come out. Then Carl used Smokescreen, and the Wooper was covered in smoke.

"Oh no, I can't see," said the Wooper as it used Mud Bomb on Bill again. "Oh no, it's super effective," Bill said. He fainted.

"Oh no," said Carl, "Mud Bomb is super effective against me, too. I'd better make sure it doesn't hit me." He used Smokescreen again.

"Quick, we have to get Bill healed just in case we win," said Ben, "otherwise he won't learn anything from the battle." He quickly dropped a Revive down Bill's throat.

The Wooper used Mud Bomb, but it missed Carl completely, and Carl used Scratch to scratch the Wooper, because it was resistant to his Ember. When the smoke cleared, they could see a scratch mark on its tummy. Wooper used Mud Bomb again, but still missed.

"The smoke got in my eyes," it said, "I still can't see properly."

We watched the fight in silence. If the Wooper hit Carl with two Mud Bombs, Carl would faint, and Carl needed lots of Scratches to defeat Wooper. But as we watched, the Wooper continued to miss. Smokescreen had done its job. Eventually, the Wooper walked away.

"It was a great fight," it said, "but I'm too weak to keep fighting now. It's a shame I couldn't see properly because of your Smokescreen, Carl. See you later."

It jumped back into the swamp and the EXP Share zapped us again.

"Great work, team," said Ben as he used potions on all of us, "it was a close battle, but we beat them in the end."

Chapter 18: Tornadoes and Poison

It's time for another new move, said the voice in my head, it is called Twister. It's a Dragon type move. You can make a small tornado! Isn't that cool?

"I think I got a new move," I said, "It's called Twister." I took a deep breath and a small tornado appeared in the swamp. For a few seconds, it picked up mud and slowly moved away from us. Then it died down and the mud fell back into the swamp.

"I got a new move, too," said Bill, "it's called Venoshock. It's a Poison type move, and if the Pokemon I use it on is already poisoned, the damage is doubled! It's stronger than Fury Attack, too. Watch this!"

Bill flapped his wings and a purple liquid appeared. There was a lot of it, and it was all squirted into the swamp, dying the mud purple. "I decided to replace Harden with it," he said.

"I didn't get any new moves," said Carl.

"Great work, everyone," said Ben, "I see you are getting some more attack moves, Max. And you will be much stronger now that you have Venoshock, Bill. Hopefully you will get some more moves next time, Carl."

They kept moving through the swamp. Now they could see Mudsplatt City in the distance. The houses were made of wood, and they were very dirty and covered in mud. At the edge of the city, there was a pond that was different from all of the other lakes and ponds in the swamp: It was completely clean. They saw a fisherman sitting next to the lake with his fishing rod. He was wearing an orange hat, an orange jacket and brown pants.

"Welcome to Mudsplatt City," he said, "I am Fisherman Fred. This is the only clean pond in the whole swamp, and it's usually full of fish, but today I haven't caught anything. It's getting a bit boring. Maybe a Pokemon battle

would cheer me up."

"Okay," said Ben, "let's battle!"

Chapter 19: Fisherman Fred

"Go, Goldeen," said Fisherman Fred. A white fish appeared. It had a big orange patch on its back and part of its tail, as if it had been sunburnt, blue eyes and a long, white horn on its head.

"Another Water type Pokemon," said Ben, "Go, Max! Use Bite!"

I used Bite on the Goldeen, almost biting its whole tail off.

"Goldeen, use Supersonic," said Fred. I became aware of a humming noise coming from somewhere behind me. I turned to look behind me, but there was nothing there and the humming sound still sounded like it was behind me. The humming sound was almost unbearable now. I couldn't concentrate on attacking. I tried to use Bite again, but accidentally bit my own tail.

"It's time for Horn Attack," the Goldeen said, jumping out of the water and hitting me with its horn. It was surprisingly sharp and hurt a lot. I tried to use Bite, but every time I used it I kept biting my own tail, and the Goldeen kept using Horn Attack. However, the humming noise eventually went away and I was able to concentrate on attacking again. I kept biting the Goldeen, who eventually fainted. I was on low health, but I had won!

"What just happened?" Fred asked, "I'm sure Horn Attack does more damage than Bite."

"It does," said Ben, "but Gyarados is stronger than Goldeen, therefore the

attack becomes more powerful."

"Never mind," said Fred, "Go, Remoraid!"

A small, light blue fish with three dark blue stripes on each side of its body appeared.

"Max, you're wounded," said Ben, "you may be able to fight again in this battle, but I need to use some potions on you first. Bill, go and fight the Remoraid!"

I flew over to Ben to get healed, and Bill flew onto the field to replace me. I noticed that Ben had to use two super potions on me now.

Bill used Venoshock, covering the Remoraid in poisonous liquid. The Remoraid shook it off, but some of it had gotten through its skin.

"Oh no," it said, "the poison is making it hard to breathe. But I bet you weren't prepared for Psybeam, a Psychic attack!"

It fired a pink laser out of its mouth, which hit Bill.

"A super effective attack," Bill said, "oh no."

"Bill, switch out," said Ben, "Max is ready now."

I replaced Bill on the battlefield. But as I was getting ready to use Bite, the Remoraid used Psybeam again. I used Bite on it, and it used another Psybeam. We kept fighting for a while, but eventually, the Remoraid fainted.

"You are doing well so far," said Fisherman Fred, "but are you ready for *this*? Go, Relicanth!"

Another fish appeared. This one was bigger than the other two, slightly bigger than Carl and Bill. It was still smaller than me though. It was in two shades of brown, lighter at the front and darker at the back. I used Bite on it immediately.

"Duch, that hurt," it said, "time to use Harden!" Its skin seemed to get a bit thicker and harder. I used Bite again, but this time its skin felt like rock and my teeth probably hurt more than the Relicanth.

"It's time for Rock Tomb," it said. It opened its mouth and three boulders came out, one after another. They all hit my head. It was a super effective move! I used Bite again, but it used Rock Tomb again. I hurt too much to keep fighting. I fainted.

When I woke up, we were in Mudsplatt City, outside a blue building that I recognised as the Pokemart. Even in the city, the ground was really muddy. Who would want to live here?

"What happened?" I asked.

"We won the battle," Bill said, "now Ben is about to buy some more potions and revives from the Pokemart, but he wants to see if we have any new moves first."

"But what happened in the battle?" I asked, "how did you win?"

"After you fainted, Bill was sent in," said Carl, "but all of his attacks were

not very effective against the Relicanth, and Rock Tomb was super effective against Bill. He fainted eventually, without doing much damage. I knew that I was weak to Rock too, so I used Smokescreen first and hoped it wouldn't be able to hit me. All of my moves were not very effective against it too, so I kept using Scratch on it. It hit me once and I only just managed to avoid fainting. If it hit me again, I would have fainted, but luckily it didn't. It kept missing and I was able to finish it off in the end. It was a really close battle."

"What are you talking about?" Ben asked, "did you get any new moves or not?"

Chapter 20: Spikes and Fangs

It's your lucky day, Max, said the voice in my head, you get two moves today. The first one is Ice Fang. It's a bit like Bite, but if you make your teeth colder, it will do slightly more damage. Weird, but true. The second move is Aqua Tail. What is that mighty tail that you have for? It looks pretty, but you don't actually use it for much except for swimming. But did you know that you could create a massive wave simply by swinging that tail? You should try it!

"I learned two moves," I said, "the first one is a bit like Bite, but you somehow make your teeth colder and it does a bit more damage. It's called Ice Fang. The second one, which I will show you now, is called Aqua Tail."

I swung my tail around, creating a massive wave that swept through the mud and knocked a few people off their feet. When they got up, they were completely covered in mud. They looked angry and tried to search for where the wave had come from, but when they saw me, the angry expression was replaced by fear and they ran away from me.

"Oops," I said, "anyway, I decided to replace Splash and Tackle with them," I said.

"I got a move too: Fire Fang," said Carl, "it's like Ice Fang, but instead of making your teeth cold, you make them hot to burn your opponents! I decided to replace Scary Face with it, because I never actually use that move."

"I got a move as well," said Bill, "Toxic Spikes. It makes new Pokemon that the opponent switches in get poisoned. It doesn't effect the Pokemon who is currently on the field though. I replaced String Shot with it. I'll use it now."

A giant spike appeared at the end of one of Bill's stingers, and he pushed it forwards. It landed on the ground in front of us, and we could see that the spike had a purple liquid at the end. If a Pokemon stepped on it, the liquid would be injected into their blood.

"Okay, I'm going into the Pokemart then," said Ben, "you guys stay here. You're too big to go into the Pokemart now. But congratulations, Max! You finally have a Water type move! This is great!"

Ben bought some more super potions, hyper potions and revives. He didn't buy any ordinary potions though. I guessed it was because we had so much health now that they would be very ineffective. He left the shop and was walking towards us when a man wearing a brown jacket and brown pants stepped in front of him.

"Hey, do you want to buy a Ground type Pokemon?" He asked, "he's quite powerful, so I think three thousand Pokecoins is a good price."

"How do I know I can trust you?" Ben asked, "a man in Fishington tricked me into buying a Magikarp for five thousand Pokecoins."

"Open the Pokeball and have a look," said the man, "if you open a Pokeball without pressing the button, the Pokemon is not ejected."

Ben opened the Pokeball. I flew over him and looked over my shoulder. It was the first time I had seen the inside of another Pokemon's Pokeball before. Inside the Pokeball, there was a grassland with several trees. In the middle of it was a Pokemon that looked like an elephant. It was light grey with a dark grey trunk and long, dark grey ears that were red on the inside. It had two tusks on the sides of its head.

"He's a Donphan," the man said, "his name is Dave. He was my best Pokemon, but now I'm too old to look after Pokemon. You can have him if you want."

"Okay," said Ben, giving the man the three thousand Pokecoins. The man gave him Dave's Pokeball and walked away.

"This is great," said Ben, "I have another Pokemon to add to my party! Let's find out what his moves are. Hopefully, he doesn't have Splash."

"Is he crazy?" I asked, "why would an elephant have Splash?" I laughed, and so did Carl. Bill didn't laugh.

"You shouldn't tease your trainer like that," he said, "it just isn't right."

Ben was about to let Dave out of his Pokeball when he heard two voices from around a corner.

"I'm sure he's in this city somewhere," said the first voice, "we followed him all the way from Foresto City. He must be here!"

"Let's just check around this corner, and if he's not there, we'll tell The Dark Fish that he's not in this city," said the second voice.

"Oh no, Supercon!" Ben exclaimed, "quick, everyone get in your Pokeballs! We have to get out of here!"

I got in my Pokeball and I heard Ben running down the street.

"There he is! Get him!" The first voice yelled.

Chapter 21: Dave the Donphan

Eventually, Ben let me out of my Pokeball. We were on another path heading away from Mudsplatt City.

"What happened?" I asked, "are the criminals from Supercon still chasing us?"

"I can't see them," said Bill.

"If they're chasing us, we'll fight them and beat them up," said Carl.

"That actually sounds like quite a good idea now," I said, "we can't run away from Supercon forever."

"We'll fight back when Ben wants us to fight back," said Bill, "meanwhile, we should keep running away. After all, we are powerless without Ben and he is

powerless without us, so we should stick together."

"I managed to outrun those criminals from Supercon and I lost them in one of the streets of Mudsplatt City," said Ben, "there were two of them, and they had three Meowth and three Murkrows. They were too stupid to send them out though, otherwise they would have caught us. I think we are far enough away from the city that they won't be able to spot us now, although The Dark Fish may have sent more people out to find us. We have to be very careful, because anyone on the street could be one of his spies. Now let's find out what Dave's moves are. I'll let him out now." Ben opened Dave's Pokeball, and Dave was ejected out. He was about the same size as me.

"Welcome to my party, Dave," said Ben, "first, you should show me your moves, so that I can plan ahead for battles."

"Okay, I'm going to show you my moves now," said Dave, "but first, I am Dave, Who are you?"

"I am Bill," said Bill, "this Gyarados is Ben and the Charmeleon is Carl."

"My old trainer was amazing when he was young," said Dave, "but he got old and he's too old to look after me anymore. I got really bored in his party towards the end, because we didn't go out very often. What's your trainer like?"

"He's still just a boy," said Bill, "but I think he is probably the best trainer in this country. He lets us out of our Pokeballs almost all day, and he's really nice. Unfortunately, we're being chased by a criminal organization called Supercon who want to kill all of us, but that's probably not that big a problem for a giant elephant like you."

"I'm not sure how much of what you said about your trainer was true," said Dave, "and some Pokemon make things up to make their trainers seem better, but if everything you say is true, this is a paradise. Anyway, my first move is Fire Fang. I see Carl is a Charmeleon, so he probably already knows that move and I don't have to explain what it does. The second one is Thunder Fang. I have never fully understood how it works, but you put electricity on your teeth to give your opponents an electric shock when you bite them. My third attack is Horn Attack, which is pretty straightforward. I just stab my opponents with my tusk. The fourth one is Bulldoze, the only one that I can show you at the moment." He stomped on the ground. He was quite a heavy Pokemon, and his stomping created a mini earthquake. Ben had to hold on to me to avoid falling over, and Carl fell into one of the swamp's muddy lakes. When he came out, he was covered in mud.

"Sorry," said Dave.

"It's okay," said Carl, shaking off the mud. Part of the mud hit me on the nose, and another part hit one of Bill's wings.

"Mud fight!" I shouted, using my tail to throw some more mud at Dave. Within seconds, there was chaos and everyone was throwing mud at each other. Some of the mud hit Ben as well.

"Hey, calm down everyone!" Ben yelled. We all stopped.

"Dave, do you only have one move?" Ben asked, "no, that can't be true. The swamp isn't the best place for showing off moves, unfortunately. I guess we'll have to do it the hard way. I will list every move that Donphan can move. Every time we get to one that you know, nod."

After a while, Ben found out what all of Dave's moves were and we kept wading or flying through the swamp. Eventually, the swamp ended and another forest started.

"I have no idea where we are," said Ben, "I just picked a random path and ran down it. I didn't have much time to think; the Supercon agents were chasing me. Let's just hope we're not heading back to Foresto City."

Chapter 22: Cloning City

We walked through the forest, having a surprisingly uneventful and boring journey. Eventually, we saw a sign that said WELCOME TO CLONING CITY. It was a weird name for a city, but at least we hadn't accidentally gone back to Foresto City. As we walked through the city, we realised that it had been destroyed! All of the buildings were in ruins. They used to be metal skyscrapers, but now they had all fallen over and there was rubble everywhere. There was one building that was still standing at one side of the city, which had been surrounded by barricades.

"I wonder what happened here," Ben said, "but I guess we'll have to go to that barricaded building to find out."

They approached the barricaded building. There was a man with black hair and big, round glasses on the other side. He was wearing a white lab coat, like Professor Fern.

"What happened here?" Ben asked.

"Oh, it's a Pokemon trainer!" The man said, "finally, I'm saved! I'm Professor Conifer. You'd better come inside." He opened a gate in the barricades and

let us in.

"What happened here?" Ben asked.

"Cloning City used to be a great city," said the professor, "the building we are in is the first building that was ever built here, the lab. We built the lab to research Pokemon, and try to find a way to clone them. The whole city sort of sprung up in front of the lab, because we needed food and didn't want to walk all the way to Mudsplatt City to get it. So far we have only managed to clone really common Pokemon like Rattata and Pidgey. But one day, one of the scientists suggested that we should try to clone Mew, a really rare Pokemon. I said that we weren't ready to clone something so powerful yet, and it could be dangerous, but the other scientists didn't listen to me. They cloned Mew anyway. Somehow, the cloning process went wrong and Mew died. But that's not the worst part. The clone of Mew had been created, but there was some sort of mutation and it split up into two Pokemon. The first one is Ditto, a Pokemon that can turn into any other Pokemon it sees, due to the only move it can learn, Transform. Then it can use the other Pokemon's moves! The second one is Mewtwo, a giant Pokemon that looks a bit like a cat standing on its back legs. Unlike Mew, who is a kind, gentle Pokemon, Mewtwo is selfish and only cares about itself. It also likes attacking humans and Pokemon for no reason. The Mewtwo broke out of the lab, killed all the other scientists and destroyed the city."

"That's a very sad story," said Ben, "what do you want me to do about it?"

"Take the Ditto with you," said Professor Conifer, "his name is Tim. Attack the Mewtwo and make it faint. Don't try catching it; it would probably attack its trainer and it might even be powerful enough to escape from its Pokeball. Just make it faint, and then you can keep Tim."

"Okay," said Ben, "I'll take Tim with me and defeat this Mewtwo."

Professor Conifer gave Ben a Pokeball. "Good luck," he said.

Chapter 23: Finding Mewtwo

Ben walked out of the barricades, and we followed him. Ben opened Tim's Pokeball and let Tim out. He was completely purple, with two eyes and a mouth but no other features. He was just a pile of purple goo with a face! He wasn't even that big; he was even smaller than Bill and Carl. I couldn't believe that this Pokemon was joining our party!

We crept through the city, expecting the Mewtwo to be around every corner. Ben, Dave Tim and Carl had to walk through the rubble, and our hearts beat faster every time they stepped on something. But as we walked further and the Mewtwo still hadn't appeared, we started to calm down.

"This will take forever," Carl complained, "Professor Conifer forgot to tell us one important piece of information: Where the Mewtwo is."

"I can't wait to fight the Mewtwo," I said, "I'll bite its arms off!"

"It's probably really weak," said Dave, "we probably won't even get scratched!"

Although we were saying brave things out loud, deep down we knew that we were just saying them to stop ourselves from feeling scared. Professor Conifer's description of the Mewtwo made it seem like the most evil, powerful Pokemon in the world, more powerful than all of the members of Supercon combined. Would we be able to beat the Mewtwo, or would it

defeat all of us in battle?

"If it actually has the move Scratch, it will be really easy," said Tim, "Anyway, I would like to know more about you and your trainer."

In our hurry to catch the Mewtwo, we had completely forgotten that Tim had joined our party. We quickly introduced ourselves and talked about Ben.

"I'd like to see you use Transform," I said, "it sounds cool."

Tim stretched his body into a long, snake-like shape. Then his body colours began to change and he grew new limbs until he looked just like me.

"Wow," I said.

"I'd like to see you use Transform," Tim said, "it sounds cool." Now he was also using my voice. This was getting a bit creepy.

"Wow," said Ben, looking behind him, "Tim, you're so cool! You look just like Max!"

Tim turned purple again and shrunk back to his normal form.

We kept searching the city for a long time without finding Mewtwo. Eventually, we walked around a corner and came to a clearing made completely out of rubble. Here, the buildings hadn't just been pushed over, they had been broken up into tiny little bits. In the middle of the rubble, surveying the scene, was a Pokemon about the same size as me. It was pinkish white with a purple tail. It looked like a cat standing on its back legs, but without the whiskers. Its hands and feet looked like human hands and

feet, but with only three fingers or toes, respectively. Its purple eyes were sharp and calculating, and they narrowed when it saw us. Standing in the middle of the clearing made by its own destruction, it was extremely intimidating. We slowly retreated, moving backwards, out of the clearing. But suddenly, it jumped into the air and landed behind us with enough force to make the windows on a nearby building shatter.

"Well well well," it said, "what do we have here?"

Chapter 24: Fighting Mewtwo

For a long time, we just stared at the Mewtwo while it stared at us. We were all too frightened to speak. There was something weird about the Mewtwo that made you afraid of it but wasn't visible. It was like there was fear in the air. Eventually, Ben broke the silence.

"We have come here to defeat you," he said.

"And what makes you think you can do that?" The Mewtwo asked, "I am more powerful than you can imagine, and I will rip you all into little bits. It will be interesting to find out what's inside. I've always wondered what a Donphan's stomach looks like. Or maybe it will be a Gyarados's spleen this time."

I shuddered. I certainly didn't want to be ripped apart!

"But if you want to battle," the Mewtwo said, "I will fight you. I am just warning you, you will probably lose."

"We want to fight," said Ben.

"Very well," said the Mewtwo, "which one of you is my first victim?"

"Normally I would send you in, Max," said Ben, "but I want to see you fight, Dave. Start by using Bulldoze to slow it down, and then get it with Horn Attack."

"I heard that," said Mewtwo, "but are you ready for this? I will copy your moves with Me First. You don't stand a chance!"

Dave prepared to stamp his feet, but the Mewtwo beat him to it, making the ground shake. Buildings collapsed and fell over when the Mewtwo stomped. Dave used his own Bulldoze attack, which made the Mewtwo fall over and hit its head on a nearby building. It got up quickly, as if it hadn't been hurt by the fall at all.

"Nice try, Dave," said the Mewtwo, "but it's time to finish you off with Psycho Cut." Two giant, purple swords appeared in its hands. It used them to cut Dave's trunk, causing part of it to fall off. Dave screamed in pain and fainted.

"Who's next?" The Mewtwo asked.

"It's your turn, Max," said Ben, "Use your super effective move, Bite."

I flew in front of the Mewtwo and prepared to bite. The Mewtwo used Psycho Cut again, and this time half of my tail fell off. Pain shot through my body and I felt like I had been struck by lightning. Swallowing my fear, I fought back with Bite, and this time it was the Mewtwo's turn to scream.

"A super effective attack," it said, "you got me there. But Future Sight will take you by surprise!"

It raised its arms in the air and fired a purple laser beam into the sky. It was far above us now, but I had a feeling that it would come down again, and somehow it would hit me. I prepared to use Bite again, and I knew that one more Bite could finish the Mewtwo off. However, the fear overwhelmed me again and I couldn't attack. I was petrified by the Mewtwo; unable to move or attack. I watched as it prepared to use Psycho Cut again.

"Max, what are you doing?" Ben asked, "use Bite! Finish it off!" But I could hardly hear him and was too scared to do what he said. I watched as the Mewtwo used Psycho Cut, almost cutting me in half and making a very deep cut.

"A critical hit," Mewtwo said. Then I fainted.

After I fainted, I must have been revived almost immediately. Ben used a hyper potion on me and amazingly, the cut healed and my tail grew back. Carl was on the field now, and he was preparing to use Fire Fang when the purple laser beam that the Mewtwo had fired suddenly hit him. He fainted immediately.

"Pathetic," said the Mewtwo.

"Bill, you're weak to Psychic," said Ben, "I guess I have no choice. Go, Tim! I hope you're good at fighting, because you're our only hope now." He quickly revived Carl, who was very confused.

"What just happened?" He asked, "I was perfectly healthy, and then I suddenly fainted? It doesn't make sense!"

"Maybe the giant purple laser beam that came out of the sky could explain

that," said Dave, who had also been healed.

As soon as Tim got onto the field, he used Transform, turning into another Mewtwo.

"Hey, I know you," said the Mewtwo, "you're that ugly thing that was in the cloning machine with me. You may look like me, but you will never be as powerful as me. I know you are weak inside. Prepare to be defeated! Psychic types are resistant to other Psychic types, so I'll use Swift."

Five star-shaped rays shot out of Mewtwo's palm and hit Tim. Tim used Swift as well, and his star-shaped rays hit Mewtwo. They kept fighting like this for a long time, but eventually, Mewtwo collapsed.

"Oh no!" It yelled, "this can't be happening! No, no, no! I can't have lost! I will have my revenge! I WILL BE BACK!" Then it collapsed. The Exp Share activated and everyone breathed a sigh of relief. The fear, or whatever it was, was no longer in the air and I was starting to feel a little bit silly about being afraid of the Mewtwo.

A few minutes later, Professor Conifer hurried around the corner.

"That Mewtwo was so loud I could hear it from the lab," he said, "congratulations! You killed it! I will have to go to Mudsplatt City and arrange for someone to dispose of the body. Since the Mewtwo is quite powerful, it will also probably give you more experience than other Pokemon you defeat in normal battles. You will probably all have new moves, apart from Tim, who can only learn Transform. By the way, which city do you come from?"

"Fishington," said Ben, "we came here via Foresto City and Mudsplatt City."

"You'll be looking for the north exit then," said Professor Conifer, "it's straight ahead from here, and it goes to Cloud City. It's one of the biggest cities in the country and contains the main police base and the Pokemon Retirement Home."

I wondered if we would meet Professor Fern in Cloud City. She said that was where she was going, anyway. If we got there, we might even be able to hide in the main police base until Supercon were caught!

Chapter 25: A city below a city

"So, did you get any new moves?" Ben asked, "after you show each other your moves, we will go to Cloud City."

It's time for a new move, said the voice in my head, *Crunch. It's like Bite, but stronger. It's simple, All you need to do is bite harder.*

I was about to speak when I heard the roaring noise. I didn't have to turn around to know what was happening: Carl was evolving! BANG! I turned around. Carl was now as tall as me, and looked like a dragon! He was orange again, with sharp teeth and sharp claws. He had two mighty wings, and he flapped them experimentally, revealing that the insides of them were blue. The flame at the end of his mighty tail was now as large as Bill.

"I'm a Charizard now," said Carl, "and I learned two new moves. I'll use them on that building over there. The first one is Wing Attack and the second one is Flame Burst. I replaced Scratch and Ember with them." He opened his wings and charged at a building that had fallen over, shutting them at the last second and hitting it. A big crack appeared in it. Then he fired a small fireball out of his mouth, which exploded and turned into a big fireball when

it hit the building. A large part of the building melted under the intense heat.

"I got a new move too," I said, "it's called Crunch and it's basically a more powerful version of Bite. I replaced Twister with it. Watch this!" I bit a corner of the building, and the piece that I bit crumbled to bits, leaving a huge hole in the side of the building.

"I got two new attacks," said Bill, "Pin Missile and Poison Jab. I replaced Poison Sting and Fury Attack with them." He fired five spikes at the building, shattering a window. Then he flew over to another window and shattered it with one of his stingers.

"Poison Jab can also inject poison into the opponent," said Bill.

"I didn't get any moves," said Dave.

"I can't get any more moves," said Tim, "bad luck, Dave. You might get some next time!"

"I see that most of you got new moves," said Ben, "this is great. You need strong moves just in case we run into Supercon again. Wait a minute... Oh no! Talking about Supercon, there's a Supercon agent right there. But he hasn't seen us yet. Let's follow him and see where he goes."

We followed the Supercon agent until he reached one of the buildings that had fallen over. Then, he pulled a trapdoor open and went down a ladder. Ben peeked down the trapdoor.

"Oh no," he whispered, "another Supercon base. In this base, there is a whole giant room cut out below Cloning City, and it has its own buildings in

it. It's like a city under a city."

"It's a good job we finished the new Supercon base just in time," said a voice, "apparently, some kids and a scientist named after a tree found our base and the scientist told the police. Luckily, The Dark Fish and the other Supercon agents in that base were able to come here before the police searched the place."

"What are they doing?" Dave asked.

"Be patient," said Bill, "wait until Ben finishes looking first."

"I want to have a look," said Carl, walking towards the trapdoor. SMASH! One of his wings hit part of the building. Glass flew everywhere.

"It's one of the kids! He found the base!" Another voice yelled, "get them!"

"You idiot!" Bill exclaimed, "look what you've done now!"

Tim transformed into a Charizard. "I want to have a look," he said, hitting the building with one of his wings.

"Stop it, Tim," said Carl, "it was funny the first time when you did it to Max, but that joke is getting old now."

"Everyone get in your Pokeballs!" Ben yelled, "we need to get out of here!"

We got in our Pokeballs. I heard Ben running through the rubble, and someone climbing up the trapdoor's ladder. I hoped that he could get out of sight before we were caught.

Chapter 26: Golbat Attack

"Phew, that was close," Ben said after a while, letting us out of our Pokeballs, "I managed to get out of sight of the trapdoor before the Supercon agents could climb out of it. However, they might know which direction we are heading in and chase us, so we need to hurry."

We quickly walked through the forest, which gave way to a path that went up a large mountain. It was mostly grass with a few small bushes. The top of the mountain was obscured by clouds, so we couldn't see Cloud City. Maybe that was why it was called Cloud City; because when you looked at it, you could only see clouds. The city was probably above the clouds. There was also snow just below the clouds, so it was probably cold up there. We kept moving up the mountain, knowing that we could be being chased and had to get to Cloud City before we were spotted. There were no trees to hide us here. If Supercon decided to pursue us, they could spot us easily. We had to move quickly; there was no time for talking.

We were about halfway up the mountain when a giant bat swooped down and landed in front of us. It was blue with purple wings and two feet but no arms.

"I've been looking for blood to suck for ages," it said, "finally, I have found it. Your trainer's blood will be very tasty indeed."

"Oh no," said Ben, "it's a Golbat. Golbats like to suck human blood, and they aren't very friendly to humans. Go, Dave! Use Thunder Fang!"

Dave stood in front of Ben.

"You're not sucking Ben's blood," he said, "you'll have to get through me

first."

"Then we will fight," said the Golbat, "I will use Leech Life."

It suddenly bit Dave and held on for a long time.

"Tasty blood," said the Golbat. Blood dribbled out of Dave's wound.

"Time to die, Golbat," said Dave, biting it on the foot as it retreated. Sparks of electricity flew out of his teeth, electrocuting the Golbat.

"A super effective move," said the Golbat, "nice one. But Leech Life also heals me."

It bit Dave again, and sure enough, one of its wounds disappeared. Dave fought back with another Thunder Fang, and this time the Golbat fell out of the sky.

"Oh no, I'm paralysed," it said, "I can't fly. I'm out of here!" It slowly walked away, covered in bite marks and unable to move its wings due to paralysis.

"Let it go," said Ben, "it won't bother us again. But wait! Why isn't the EXP Share working?" He took it off and looked at it. Steam was coming out of it.

"Oh no, it's broken," he said, "it must have malfunctioned. I will have to get it fixed."

We were about to start walking again when a man wearing a green jacket, brown pants and a gigantic blue backpack appeared. He had been walking down the mountain while we were fighting the Golbat.

"Hello, I'm Hiker Harry," he said, "I've been walking all day and need a break. Let's battle!"

Chapter 27: Hiker Harry

"Unfortunately, my EXP Share is broken," said Ben, "but let's battle anyway."

"Okay," said Harry, "Go, Nosepass!"

A Pokemon made of stone appeared. It was grey, with black eyes and a large, red nose. It had two arms and two legs.

"Nosepass has a magnetic nose," Harry explained, "I use it as a compass to work out where I going."

"A Rock type Pokemon," said Ben, "rock is weak to Ground. Go, Dave!"

Dave, who had been healed after fighting the Golbat, walked in front of Ben.

"I'll get you with Thunder Wave first, to paralyse you," said Nosepass. A small spark came out of its nose and hit Dave. Dave tried to move, but couldn't.

"Oh no, I'm paralysed," he said, "but watch out! I have Bulldoze!"

"Rock Slide time," said Nosepass. It picked up a large boulder and threw it at Dave's head. Dave didn't even flinch.

"That's not very effective," he said, "it's time for a super effective move now!" He used Bulldoze, jumping in the air and causing the ground to shake.

Nosepass fell over and hit its nose on the ground. Blood came out of its nose.

"Oh no, I have a nosebleed," it said as it got up and threw another boulder. Dave jumped, and the ground shook again. The Nosepass fell over again and fainted.

"Go, Sandslash," Harry said, "use Dig."

A Pokemon that looked a bit like a hedgehog appeared. It was brown with sharp claws and spikes on its back.

"It's a Ground type, weak to Water," said Ben, "Go, Max! Use Aqua Tail!"

I flew in front of Ben and flicked my tail. A giant wave appeared, washing over the Sandslash. It fought to stay on its feet, gasping for air.

"That was super effective," said the Sandslash, "but you won't be able to get me when I use Dig!"

It dug a hole and disappeared underground. I waited for a long time, but it didn't appear again. Then, it suddenly burst out of the ground from under me and threw some rocks at me. They missed.

"You're too high up," it said, "I can't hit you."

I used Aqua Tail again, and another wave washed over the Sandslash. It was carried away by the wave and fainted at Hiker Harry's feet.

"You're doing well so far," said Harry, "but are you ready for Machamp?"

A blue Pokemon with big, bulging muscles, four arms and two legs appeared.

"A Fighting type," said Ben, "weak to Flying. Go, Carl! Use Wing Attack!"

Carl swapped positions with me and I watched the battle from behind Ben.

Carl used Wing Attack, swooping down and whacking the Machamp with one of his wings.

"Yes, that's right, Carl," said Bill, "use your wings to hit Pokemon, not buildings."

"Shut up, Bill," said Carl.

"That was super effective," said the Machamp, "but not all of my attacks are Fighting type. Time for my favourite Normal type attack, Strength!" It jumped up and punched Carl in the nose. Carl roared in pain. He used Wing Attack again. This time, the Machamp fell backwards when it was hit and fainted.

"That's weird," Carl said, "he didn't show any sign of being hurt at all."

"Maybe he was just hiding the fact that he was wounded," said Tim, "maybe Fighting types do that sometimes."

"Go, Golem!" Harry exclaimed, "use Earthquake!"

A large Pokemon that looked like a boulder with two arms, two legs and a head appeared. The arms and legs had claws on the ends and were brown. The head was brown, too.

"Golem is Rock and Ground type," said Ben, "Go, Dave! Hang on a minute, I'll give you a Paralyse Heal. It will cure you of paralysis. Drink this." He took a bottle filled with yellow liquid out of his bag and poured the liquid down Dave's throat.

"I feel much better now," Dave said, walking in front of the Golem.

"Earthquake time," said the Golem, stamping on the ground with his feet. The ground shook just like when Dave used Bulldoze, but it was a stronger earthquake. Luckily, Dave was a heavy Pokemon and managed to stay on his feet.

"Time for Bulldoze," said Dave, "I believe you are weak to ground." He stamped his feet and the ground shook. Golem slipped and nearly fell down the mountain, because he was a round Pokemon. Golem used Earthquake again, and Dave replied with another Bulldoze. This time, the Golem fainted and actually fell down the mountain. Its round body didn't help, and soon it disappeared into the forest.

"Oh no," Harry said, "not again! I've got to catch that Golem!" He gave Ben some Pokecoins and ran down the mountain to search for his missing Pokemon. Ben healed us, and we continued our ascent.

Chapter 28: Captured

Eventually, we walked or flew above the clouds. We saw Cloud City ahead of us, but it was surrounded by stone walls so we couldn't see the houses on the inside. It was really close now, only about half a kilometre away.

Suddenly, a group of thugs jumped out of the clouds and surrounded us. They had several Meowths, Persians and Murkrows, and they were wearing

black pants and red shirts with a picture of a Pokecoin surrounded by hands on them. Another man jumped up from behind a bush. He was wearing a black suit and a black mask over his face.

"Freeze!" He shouted, "don't move! I am The Dark Fish, leader of Supercon! If you or any of your Pokemon move, we will kill you all!"

The gates of Cloud City opened and ten policemen ran out, followed by Professor Fern and Frank.

"Leave him alone," said one of the policemen, "you're under arrest!"

"If you take one more step, the boy dies," said The Dark Fish. I thought I had heard him before, but I couldn't remember where.

The policemen stopped. They had no choice. Ben was surrounded, and the Meowths, Persians and Murkrows were ready to attack.

"Okay, I have a deal," said The Dark Fish, "we will take the boy to our new base in Cloning City. Follow us, and bring the whole police force. He will fight one of my minions to see if he is strong, and if he is strong enough, he will fight me. If he loses either battle, I will kill him and sell his Pokemon, and you must leave us alone forever. But if he wins both battles, we will let him go free with all of his Pokemon and you can arrest all of us. You would outnumber us; it would be easy. And if you refuse the deal, the boy will die anyway. If you choose to accept the deal, we will go there immediately. The boy will have the rest of the day and the night to rest, and the battles will begin at dawn tomorrow."

"I guess we have no choice," said one of the policemen, "Professor Fern told

us to make sure Ben doesn't die. We accept the deal."

"Okay Ben," said The Dark Fish, "put your Pokemon in your Pokeballs. We don't want them attacking my minions while they are escorting you to our base, do we?"

We got in our Pokeballs. I thought about what would happen if we lost. Ben would die and we would get sold to other trainers, who might not be as nice as Ben. We had to win this fight, otherwise we were all doomed.

"Is something bothering you, Max?" My PAR asked.

"Leave me alone," I said.

"Maybe I could cheer you up with some happy music," said the PAR. I sighed. It was going to be a long day.

Chapter 29: Before the battle

A very, very long time later, Ben let me out of my Pokeball. I was in a large, black room with no furniture apart from a tiny bed that looked as comfy as a hedgehog's back. There were iron bars for one wall, like a prison cell. Ben's other Pokemon were there, and so was Ben himself.

"We have to stay in here until the battles," said Ben, "the door is locked. We need to win this fight. Our lives depend on it. Look, there's the Pokemon Arena out there. We're going to fight out there." He pointed outside the prison cell. There was a huge stadium there, and it was circular with seats along the outside and a big field in the middle. The field had the Supercon logo in the middle with the words POKEMON ARENA under it.

"The prison cell is under the seats," said Ben, "and don't try to break out, Carl. The bars aren't made of steel; they're made of a very rare and almost unbreakable material called Unobtanium. I bet that behind the black paint, the walls, ceiling and floor are made of it too."

Carl turned around. He had been using Flame Burst on the bars, with little success. The small fireballs exploded into bigger fireballs, like they were supposed to, but the bars of the prison cell didn't melt or change in any way.

Frank and Professor Fern appeared outside our cell.

"Good luck Ben," said Professor Fern, "this is a very important battle. If you win, everyone who works for Supercon will be caught and will never bother anyone ever again. But if you lose, not only will you die, but we will be unable to arrest the Supercon agents. Without the police looking for them, Supercon would become extremely powerful and they might even be able to take over a few cities. This battle will decide the fate of the whole country. Whatever you do, you must win. You should get some sleep now, and your Pokemon should sleep, too. It's a big day tomorrow."

"Yeah, good luck," said Frank, "please don't die. We have to go now; the police force are sleeping in a different building." They walked away.

"Let's get some sleep," said Ben, "like Professor Fern said, it's a big day tomorrow." He got in the bed and eventually fell asleep. We slept on the floor, in front of him. I had trouble falling asleep. I kept thinking about The Dark Fish. Who was he? Had I met him before? I would have to wait for tomorrow to find out.

Chapter 30: The Supercon Minion

"WAKE UP!" I rubbed my eyes and looked in the direction the sound was coming from. One of the Supercon minions was outside our cell, holding a megaphone.

"WAKE UP BEN!" He yelled, "IT'S DAWN! IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO FIGHT ME!"

Ben yawned and got up. "Come on guys," he said, "it's time to fight."

The Supercon minion opened the prison cell's door and let us out. We walked onto the arena and saw a giant crowd in the seats. Policemen and Supercon minions were sitting down to watch the fight. I spotted Frank and Professor Fern in the crowd.

"Go, Ben! You can do it!" Frank shouted.

"I'm still sleepy," said Carl, "I can't believe we have to fight at dawn. Why can't we fight at midday? We're not used to getting up at dawn, which makes it harder."

"Did you hear The Dark Fish yesterday?" I asked, "I think I have met him before, but I can't remember where."

"Maybe he's a beekeeper," said Bill, "I hate beekeepers."

"No, he's probably a fireman," said Carl, "I hate firemen."

"Maybe he's a fisherman," I said, "I hate fishermen."

"Don't be silly," said Dave, "fishermen don't wear suits."

"Maybe he's wearing a suit to disguise who he really is," said Tim, "when I use Transform, you wouldn't recognise me unless you saw me transforming. The Dark Fish could be disguised as well."

"Okay, it's time to fight," said the Supercon minion. He was in the middle of the field, and The Dark Fish was behind him, still wearing his mask. "Go, Persian! Use Slash!" A Pokemon that looked like a cat appeared. It was yellow, with sharp claws, a red dot on its forehead and brown eyes.

"You haven't fought for a while, Tim," said Ben, "go and fight that pussycat!"

Tim moved in front of the Persian and used Transform, turning into it.

"You're such a copycat," said the Persian, "because you're copying a cat. Get it?"

"Is that joke original, or did you copy it from someone, copycat?" Tim asked.

"Hey, I'm not a copycat, you are!" It exclaimed.

"But we look exactly the same, so nobody can tell who is the real Persian and who isn't," said Tim.

"Whatever," the Persian said, "you have a big mouth, but can you fight? It's time to find out. My trainer says I should use Slash, but I will do what I want to do. I'm going to use Bite." It bit Tim on the nose.

"Stupid cat," said Tim, "Slash is stronger than Bite. I'm not even bleeding!" He scratched the Persian with his claws and blood dribbled down its back. "Now *that's* how you fight! I can't believe I'm better at fighting as you than

you are!"

"Maybe that was a bad idea," said the Persian, "but I'll get you with Slash this time!" It scratched Tim, drawing blood.

Tim and the Persian kept using Slash for a long time, and they both gradually got weaker and weaker. Eventually, the Persian fainted, but Tim was covered in blood and looked very weak.

"Go, Absol!" The Supercon minion yelled. Another Pokemon appeared. It was a quadruped with white fur, and its skin was dark blue. The skin was exposed around its face and its tail. It also had dark blue claws and red eyes. It had one horn sticking out of the side of its head.

"A Dark type Pokemon," said Ben, "weak to Bug. Go, Bill! Tim, come back. I need to heal you."

Bill flew in front of the Absol.

"Are you ready to die?" He asked, "because it's Pin Missile time!" While Ben was healing Tim, Bill fired five spikes out of his mouth. They all hit the Absol on its neck.

"That was super effective," it said, "but I also have a super effective move. Go back to to your beehive, honey bee! It's time for Psycho Cut!"

Two pink swords appeared in Absol's front paws. Somehow, Absol could hold them without opposable thumbs. It got up on its back legs and cut Bill's wings off with the swords. Bill fell to the ground, hitting his head.

"A Psychic attack," said Bill, ""sneaky, but you weren't fast enough." He used Pin Missile again, and this time, one of the spikes hit the Absol in the eye. It fainted.

"Go, Weavile!" The Supercon minion shouted.

A purple Pokemon with a yellow dot on its forehead appeared. It had sharp, white claws, a red scarf, red ears and a red tail. It was standing on its back legs.

"Dark and ice type," said Ben, "Bill, come back and get healed. Go, Carl!"

Carl flew in front of the Weavile. "Ice type?" He asked, "nice one. I hope you're prepared for Flame Burst!" He fired a small fireball out of his mouth, which hit Weavile's tummy and exploded, becoming a giant fireball. The Weavile was set on fire and waved its scarf at the flames to put them out. The damage had already been done though.

"I hate fire types," it said, "but it's time for Dark Pulse. Sweet dreams, dragon. But wait, you're not a Dragon type, so you can't be a dragon. You're an imposter!" Carl closed his eyes. A few seconds later, he screamed and opened them again.

"Pathetic," said Bill, who had been healed.

Carl used Flame Burst again, and this time the Weavile was pushed backwards by the explosion and fainted.

"He's tough, boss," said the Supercon minion, walking away, "good luck."

"I see you have defeated my minion," said The Dark Fish, "but he was always weak. It will not be as easy to beat me. Prepare to be defeated!"

"My Pokemon are strong," said Ben, "strong enough to beat you."

"You may be strong," said The Dark Fish, "but strength is not everything. To win a Pokemon battle, you also need to be smart. I believe I have met you before. And from my experience, you're not very smart."

"What do you mean, you've met me before?" Ben asked, "I don't remember you!"

The Dark Fish chuckled. "That's because I'm wearing a mask," he said, "it's time to remove it." He slowly removed his mask, revealing his face. Ben gasped. I stared at him for a few seconds, not quite believing what I was seeing. Then, I gasped too.

Chapter 31: The Dark Fish

"I remember you," said Ben, "you're the one who gave me Max when he was still a Magikarp!"

"Yes, that was me," The Dark Fish said, "you bought him for five thousand Pokecoins, I remember. Those were good times. Very good times indeed."

I stared at The Dark Fish. He was the one who had caught me. He and his Pokemon had been really mean to me, and now I was angry. I wanted to kill all of his Pokemon and get him arrested immediately. I opened and shut my mouth a few times. Maybe if I was fast enough, I could use Crunch to bite him in half now.

"Are you okay, Max?" Tim asked.

"I don't know," I said, "I hate that man. He's the one who caught me and sold me. He was really mean to me when I was his Pokemon. In fact, I feel like biting him in half. I should have known it was him all along! There were so many clues! His minions talking about selling Pokemon for five thousand Pokecoins, his black suit and his voice!"

"That is just another reason to fight him," said Dave, "but don't attack him. We are going to have a proper, fair Pokemon battle. You can have fun and enjoy killing The Dark Fish's Pokemon in the battle, but it is against the rules to kill the other Trainer."

"I guess you're right," I said.

"I see you have Max in your party," said The Dark Fish, "he is a Gyarados now, and he looks stronger, but I know that he is still weak and pathetic inside. Anyway, I don't think we have introduced ourselves properly yet. My name is Percy. What's yours?"

"I'm Ben," said Ben, "and by the way, how come you're the leader of Supercon now?"

"After you left for Foresto City, your parents called the police," said Percy, "the police caught me and were going to take me to prison, but some people who worked for Supercon attacked the policemen with their Pokemon and killed them. When I told them why the police had arrested me, they were impressed. I had sold a Pokemon for more than ten times its actual value, and they had only managed to sell Pokemon for three or four Pokecoins above its actual value. Their old leader had been arrested and they needed a

new one, so they offered to protect me from the police if I became their leader. I accepted, and Supercon has done really well under my leadership. We sold a woman who was afraid of rats a Rattata for five thousand Pokecoins and we sold a man who had bird flu a Pidgey for five thousand Pokecoins. But that's enough talking. Time to battle! Go, Umbreon!"

A Pokemon that looked like a black fox appeared. It had yellow stripes and rings all over its body. "Max won't recognise this Pokemon," he said, "because I caught it after I sold him to you."

"Another Dark type Pokemon," said Ben, "Go, Bill! Use Pin Missile!"

Bill flew in front of the Umbreon and used Pin Missile. Five spikes hit the Umbreon's tail and it screamed in pain. The Umbreon approached Bill slowly, and Bill watched it for a long time. When it didn't attack, Bill opened his mouth and prepared to launch another attack. Suddenly, the Umbreon pounced, catching Bill off guard and hitting his head.

"Feint Attack," said the Umbreon, "it always works. And now it's time for Quick Attack!" It ran towards Bill again with lightning speed, moving so fast that I could hardly see it. It tackled Bill, knocking him to the ground.

"Two attacks in a row," said Bill, "it sounds like cheating, but you're still going to lose." He used Pin Missile again, and several spikes hit Umbreon's tummy. It fainted.

"You're doing well so far," said Percy, "but that's about to change. Go, Lapras!" A blue Pokemon with curly ears, a grey shell, a white tummy and four flippers appeared. "This is the Pokemon I caught Max on," he said, "it actually wasn't mine at the time, I just borrowed it from another fisherman."

But now I have stolen it, and it is mine now!"

"Water and ice type," said Ben, "keep fighting, Bill!"

"Poison Jab time," said Bill, stabbing Lapras with one of his stingers. Purple rings appeared around the Pokemon's eyes.

"You seem to have poisoned me," it said, "but you are wounded. You will not win this fight. It's time to use Sing."

It started singing.

"I feel sleepy," said Bill.

"No!" I yelled, "you have to stay awake! We have to win the battle!" But it was too late. Bill lay on the ground and fell asleep.

"Now he is at the mercy of my Hydro Pump," said Lapras. It fired a long line of foaming water at Bill. It moved really fast and there was a lot of it, making a pool of water around Bill. Bill fainted.

"Go, Max," said Ben, "get it with Crunch."

"Oh, the useless Pokemon," said Percy, "this will be interesting."

I flew in front of the Lapras, determined to prove that I was not a useless Pokemon. The Lapras started singing, but I ignored it and used Crunch, biting one of its flippers. A lot of blood came out.

"It's time for Ice Beam," said the Lapras, firing a light blue laser beam at

me. It hit me in the head and I felt extremely cold for a few seconds. I tried my best to ignore it and used Crunch again. We kept fighting for a while, and I was getting really tired, but the Lapras was getting weaker too. It was still poisoned and the poison was making it weaker. Eventually, it fainted.

"Impressive," said Percy, "maybe Max isn't as useless as I thought. But here's another Pokemon that Max will recognise. Go, Daniel!"

Daniel the Houndoom was ejected from his Pokeball.

"Well well well," he said, "look who it is! It's Max, the useless Pokemon! You've grown a lot, but that doesn't change anything! Splash won't help you now! It's time for Inferno!"

Daniel howled and a large fireball appeared above his head. It flew towards me, but it was moving quite slowly and I dodged it just in time. The floor of the arena below where I had been flying was set on fire. One of the Supercon minions quickly put it out with a hose.

"So, you think I'm going to use Splash, huh?" I asked, "well, you're *wrong!* I hope you're ready for Aqua Tail!"

I moved my tail towards him and a giant wave washed over him. He yelped like a small dog.

"A super effective move," said Daniel, "at least you have learned how to fight properly now. I still can't quite believe you actually did damage to me. But anyway, let's try this again." He used Inferno again, and I dodged it easily.

"Stupid dog," I said, "don't you realise that Water is resistant to Fire? Well,

it's too late now. Prepare to be defeated, mutt!" I used Aqua Tail again, and Daniel was washed away by the wave, hitting the far wall of the arena. He fainted.

"I think I was quite polite to him," I said, "I even waved goodbye."

"Nice one," Tim said.

"I seem to have underestimated your Pokemon," said Percy, "but the battle isn't over yet. Here is another Pokemon Max will remember. Go, Henry!"

Henry the Honchkrow appeared. "Hello Max," he said, "so, you beat Daniel? I'm not surprised. That lasy dog has been losing a lot of battles recently. You're serverely wounded, so if your trainer has half a brain, he will probably switch you out now. It's a shame we won't get to fight, because I wanted to prove how much better than you I am. Look at those tiny wings you have! It's a miracle you can fly!"

"Come back, Max," said Ben, "go, Dave! Use Thunder Fang!"

I flew back to Ben and he used a Hyper Potion on me. Dave replaced me in front of Henry.

"Time for Dark Pulse," said Henry, "I wonder what dreams you will have, Dave!" Dave fell asleep. A few seconds later, he screamed and woke up.

"What the hell!" He yelled, "they turned my tusks into spearheads!"

Henry laughed an evil laugh.

"You have no right to think such evil thoughts!" Dave yelled, "you will pay for this! Are you ready for Thunder Fang?" Dave charged at Henry and bit his tail. A few sparks of electricity hit Henry. Henry tried to raise his wings but couldn't.

"Seriously?" He asked, "I'm paralysed? This can't be true! I can't believe it!"

Dave used Thunder Fang again and Henry fainted.

"Oh no," said Percy, "I seem to have underestimated you. How is this possible? I only made one Pokemon faint!" Two policemen appeared on either side of him and grabbed his arms. "Oh no," he repeated.

Chapter 32: The End

While Ben was healing us and reviving Bill, the policemen were busy arresting everyone who worked for Supercon.

"You did it!" Frank shouted, running towards Ben, "you beat Percy! I knew you could do it, Ben!"

"Congratulations, Ben," said Professor Fern, "you saved the country and brought down a criminal organization."

"It was easier than I expected," said Ben.

"Are you happy now that Percy has been arrested?" Dave asked.

"Yes," I said, "I've never been happier."

"We did this as a team," said Carl, "all five of us worked together to defeat

Percy, and we succeeded. This is why we are strong; because we work together as a team."

"Yes, we make a great team," said Bill.

"We're the best Pokemon team in the country!" Tim yelled.

Eventually, all of the Supercon agents and policemen left the Supercon base, and we were left alone with Ben, Frank and Professor Fern.

"Let's have another Pokemon battle," said Frank, "I evolved my Omanyte into an Omastar and caught a Flareon! I also have Shuckle and lots of other Pokemon with shells. I can't wait for the rematch!"

"Okay, we'll have another battle," said Ben, "but not yet. I need to go home and see my parents first. I've been away for several days, and they're probably worried."

Ben went back to Fishington and took us with him. His parents were very glad to see him. Then he went to Foresto to battle Frank, and we won. Ben got someone in Foresto to fix the EXP Share and we had lots of cool adventures together. Ben grew up and got a job as a policeman in Cloud City, so we finally got to see what it looked like. It looked amazing and all of the buildings were made of metal. There were lots of tall skyscrapers. Eventually, we all got old. Ben was an old man, and we were getting old, too. Ben couldn't look after us anymore, so we went to the Pokemon Retirement Home, which is where we are now. It is quite a nice retirement home, and we can relax all day here. It's nice and quiet, and we can watch the kids playing outside. We remember that Ben was like that once. The fight against Supercon is a long time ago now, but every night, we still have dreams about

it, and all of the other adventures we have had.

It is funny how I used to be a weak, pathetic Magikarp, and then I became a really strong Pokemon. I think there is something very important that can be learned from my adventures: If you never struggle, you will never improve. I was weak when I was a Magikarp, but I never gave up and I eventually became more powerful than the Pokemon who had teased me in the past.

Anyway, see you later. It was a long story, and I'm feeling rather tired after that. I'm going to sleep. Goodbye.

The End