

Day 3: Mistakes were made...

Dear Diary,

I messed up big time... but let me start from the beginning. I got a late start today because I slept in due to exhaustion. I was a little sore from climbing around in Viola's gym, so I did some afternoon stretching before grabbing a meal from the local store. You know, felt like a typical day except the sleeping in part. I took all my friends out onto route 4, which smelled heavenly, due to all the flowers.

The smells attracted a lot of bugs, and the first thing I ran into was a ladybug. It was totally lax, just watching me as I approached. I wasn't going to capture it at first, but I decided to give it a chance. Shooburt and then Whittley had to chase it a bit, because it was quick to flee, but in the end, the two got it turned around and it flew right into the pokéball I threw at it. That was a lucky shot. And so, I named her Lucky!

After that I kinda took it easy, admiring the gardens. Walked through the gardens, got yelled at by a haggard looking gardener... who then challenged me to a pokémon battle. I met several others, including a few more gardeners, some roller skaters skating around the fountain marking the center of the route, a few little kids, and some older pokéfans. The middling gentleman had his toddler with him, dressed up in an adorable pancham outfit. I actually stayed and talked with him after beating his pichu and pikachu with the combined efforts of Azzy, Lucky, Shooburt and Whittley. I let Bella take it easy for that battle. No sense sending a bird out against electric types.

Anyhow, I bid farewell to the gentleman and his child, it was time I got to Lumiose city. Just before I got to the building between the two, a pair of professor Sycamore's apprentices came to retrieve me. Apparently there was something important Sycamore had for me. But before that, one of the apprentices handed me a device similar to the one Viola gave me, which made me think to ask. Apparently you attach these devices to the pokeball and it somehow teaches them the move. I don't know *how*, exactly, but that's what they said.

Something was, and still is, wrong with Lumiose's power grid. There were black and brown outs going on all over the place when we got there and they haven't really stopped. I'm at a hotel in Lumiose writing this, by the way. Anyhow, Sycamore's apprentice led me to his research lab and for whatever reason, he wanted to battle me. He admitted he wasn't that great, and it was pretty honest, if I must say so. He had a few pokémon from the Kanto region, though. It was interesting enough, and when I beat him, he offered one of the three to me. I thought it would be a good idea to cover some of the weaknesses in my team, so I took the charmander, named him Norman. He looks like a Norman. Oh, Shauna and Calem were there, too. I believe he offered the other two to them, but I am not sure. I didn't stick around, the lights flickering and going off and on was giving me a bad headache...

I left and went to route 5. The first thing I found there was a broken road. It looked like it hadn't been worked on in a while, but it seems like this was done purposefully. There was a skate park to the north as well. I hadn't actually tried out the skates Rinka gave me, so I took this opportunity to take them for a spin. It was pretty nice, and the skills I had from a few months ago came back to me easily. I was grinding along the bars and even found some items. They had grass growing on them, so I doubt the previous owner would be looking for them anymore. Plus it was just a few trinkets that you could buy at any pokémart.

I stayed for a few hours and just got comfortable in the skates again. It was fun. I sent a text to Rinka to thank her and she responded with just a pair of emojis... A smile and a heart. She's cute. I decided to take a selfie with me in the skates. I was all sweaty and gross, but somehow I doubt Rinka would mind. She didn't. She even sent a picture back with her cheering.

It was getting kinda late and I wanted to get to the next town today, so moving forward I came across an adorable pair of twins. They were heading back to Lumiose on their own. Seemed kinda young to be traveling by themselves, but their pokémon were pretty tough.

Right after we parted ways, I saw, and then captured a Pancham. Cute but naive little guy. I named him Popochin, because it felt fitting.

And that's where everything went wrong.

I ran into Tierno up ahead. Or rather, he ran into me. He and Trevor were making their way to Camphrier and apparently caught up to me while I was talking with the twins and getting Popochin. Tierno showed me his 'dance moves' (he does the same exact thing every time he dances, everyone just seems to humor him) and then challenged me to a pokémon battle. He sent out his corphish and had it start dancing around while I was sending my pokémon out and recalling them. I guess I was being really indecisive about it. By the time I finally decided on Azzy, the corphish had already completed two swords dance moves, which somehow makes pokémon temporarily stronger... I sent Azzy off to make a quick attack, thinking it would be over quickly, but he didn't land the hit very well. It didn't do as much damage as I would have liked. And that's when it happened. Azzy has always been bad at dodging. I mentioned this before, but when the corphish got him in a vice grip... A sickening crunch could be heard. And Azzy went limp.

He died.

In a blind rage I sent out Popochin and had him beat the shit out of Tierno's corphish. I am not proud of it, but it didn't die... Unlike Azzy. But I can't really blame Tierno or his corphish. I was being indecisive about who to choose and wasn't watching what it was doing...

My other pokémon must have sensed my distress. They all came out of their pokéballs and mourned with me. Azzy was like the ring leader for them. But aside from me... Bella took it the

worst. She hopped over and started to nudge at his lifeless body. I told her that he was dead. I didn't need to take him to the pokécenter to find out this time. There was no mistaking the misshapen neck. Bella was either in denial or didn't understand. She grabbed his hand with her beak and gave him little tugs, as if to wake him from a deep sleep. I pet her, tried to console her, but she just kept tugging at Azzy's fingers.

It was too sad to watch. I called her back to her pokéball, along with the others and made my way back to the Lumiose pokécenter. I'm not sure what Tierno and Trevor did after that, but I am pretty sure I heard him apologize when I was leaving.

It was confirmed at the pokécenter. Azzy had passed on.

I took his body out to route 5 and let all of my pokémon say goodbye to him before I buried him among the flowers there. I returned to Lumiose, it was already dark, and started texting Rinka back and forth. Before I knew it, she was here with me and holding me as I wept. She is asleep next to me right now.

Bella is also sleeping in my lap. She had a good cry, too. Speaking of sleep, I am exhausted. I think I will leave it there for now, Diary.

Love you mon amie,

Yvette

P.S. It's only been three days, but I feel like I have been with my pokémon for many years. And I have already lost two of them. Should I give up my dreams of being a pokémon master?