

Day: 21 All aboard the training train

Dear Diary,

I'm sorry I haven't written in you for over a week. After the whole incident with Manny, plus getting a preview of Cyllage gym, my friends, my lover, and I have been in training. The Cyllage gym is a huge rock wall. Apparently, the gym leader waits atop for any trainer that can make it up there. While both Rinka and I are pretty athletic, we wanted to get ready. Mostly, though, we wanted to get our pokémon ready.

While beating up on wildlife wasn't exactly worthwhile for experience, it was worth it for the effort. Bella and Peter would chase down the fastest of the fletchlins and bunnelys while pitting their strength against the strongest sentrets and croagunks. While their overall strength remained about the same, their top speeds and hardest strikes definitely improved.

I also got Harvey to toughen up on the croagunks and sentrets... but he's not fast enough to catch the bunnelys and fletchlins. He is really adorable when he comes back looking at me all proud with his tail wagging, though. Since he wasn't fast enough, I had him fight lots of bugs in santalune. They didn't really do much except maybe make his skin a bit thicker. He definitely takes hits better now... doesn't look like he hurts as much when the speedy ones smack him first, at least.

I trained Cordelia and Luke a little differently... Oh! I forgot to tell you about Luke. I went up to route 10 with Rinka to enjoy the scenery and an adorable eevee boy started rubbing up against my legs, very cat-like. I invited him to the party and he seemed more than happy to join. I knew eevees were extremely volatile, as far as evolutions go, so I took it upon myself to win a waterstone from this weird balloon game they have for pokémon... Anyway, Luke is now a vapoleon. I figure since I lost Azzy, I needed a good water type pokemon to round out my team.

I took Cordelia and Luke over to route 7, found more roselia to fight for them. It was trying for Luke, but vapoleon are great at soaking up hits. I'm not sure how the... special attacks? Well, the non-physical attacks that pokémon use, but I guess it is just natural powers. Special powers. Anyway, having them fight against the roselia enhanced their own special powers, which they thrive on. I don't know how, really, I just know that it works. I... admittedly, I did read a few articles about it before, but I'll be damned if I can remember what it was.

I decided to have Cordelia test her speed like I did with Peter and Bella, she wasn't quite as fast, but it was so fun watching her prance and skip along after them. As for Luke, I had him out with Harvey fighting bugs. I figure I'd enhance his already massive hit taking capabilities.

I haven't done anything with Norman yet. I'm not sure where I want his efforts focused yet. I know that the charmander line typically focuses on the special powers, but I know that they can

be pretty powerful, physically, as well. I'll probably end up focusing on special powers, but I've yet to start his training, so I guess we'll see how I feel when the time comes.

As for Rinka, she took a slightly different approach. One that I find admirable. She actually had them all out of their balls and following her on her skates. If they moved faster than her, which they all inevitably did, then she used weights and had them wear or carry them to slow them down. It was fun to watch.

Oh! Oh!! I completely forgot about the ancient pokémon we received.

Turns out we didn't find anything new, but that's okay, because we got a couple of good ones. My old amber contained the DNA of an aerodactyl and Rinka's jaw fossil contained DNA for a tyrunt. Unfortunately, the sail fossil I received didn't have sufficient remaining genetic data to process, so they couldn't revive it. They did say that it was most likely an amaura, but there was no way to say for certain.

I feel kinda bad, but I haven't given him a name yet. When I first saw him breaking from his shell, I was filled with excitement. And he gave me such an expectant stare, too... I don't know. I mean, he is adorable and I love him already, but pokémon league regulations say we can only carry 6 pokémon at a time, and he just doesn't seem to have a place on the team right now. I was going to use him for a bit to see how well he could do, but then Luke came along to offer balance.

Rinka says not to worry too much about it. I have been trying to think of something I like for him, but so far the only thing that comes to mind is Feldspar, and I'm not sure how I feel about it.

On the note of Rinka, we've grown a lot closer and have given the thing we have a title. We are lovers. We both talked about it and have come to the conclusion that neither of us are really one to be bound by limitations, so I guess you could call it an open relationship. We set the ground rules for each other and came to an agreement and I think we'll both be happy.

We are also planning to challenge the gym tomorrow, which is why I am writing in you today. I think everyone is ready.

Big day tomorrow, so I better get to bed. I know Rinka and I will be up way too late if we don't get in bed now... Goodnight, Diary.

Love you mon amie,

Yvette

P.S. Rinka's tyrunt is the most adorable thing... I thought they were supposed to be scary, but I can't see how something so adorable could be scary.