

Day 44: Tragedies, gyms, the secrets of mega evolution, a shiny new friend, and the annoying team flare

Dear Diary,

It's been a little while again, but I've just been too exhausted or depressed at the end of the day to write in you, sorry!

A lot has happened. The morning after I last wrote in you, Rinka's mother called with an emergency. Her father nearly got killed by a rampaging tyranitar near Terminus Cave on route 18. He's been in the hospital in critical condition since. It... doesn't look good. Best case scenario, he's in a wheelchair for the rest of his life. And that's only if he ever wakes back up.

Tyranitar are known to cause unbridled havoc whenever they surface, which is why there are pokémon rangers stationed near their territories. The stations are equipped with resonance tools, commonly called pokéflutes, that are supposed to put them into a trance so that they can be safely relocated back home, but this tyranitar was covered in worry seeds.

Apparently, a group of carnivore from route 19, which were carrying and spreading the seeds, migrated north causing problems all over route 18. Worry seeds are those weird parasitic plants that don't seem to do anything other than make the things they attach to unable to sleep. If it weren't for the fact that insomnia drives things mad, they would be nothing more than a bother. As it was though, the resonance tools were unable to put the tyranitar into a trance and so they had to put it down. That's no easy task. Tyranitar are extremely tough; and it caused a lot of damage.

Given my morbid curiosity, I had Rinka send me pictures and a video of the slain beast. The veterinary forensics unit allowed her in, since it was a wild, unclaimed pokémon, which was kinda cool I guess. The worry seeds looked like disgusting pulsating pustules all over its body. It was something someone with a weak stomach would have trouble looking at.

Oh, yeah... I didn't go with Rinka. Not because I didn't want to, Rinka just told me to keep going. I'm not sure why she didn't want me there, but I could sense that she genuinely didn't want me to follow. Did she not want me to meet her family? Then again, I wouldn't want her first meeting with mom to be right after an accident either...

Anyway, we've been texting and communicating via holocaster whenever we can, so it's not like we don't see each other. Plus, I am heading in that direction anyway.

Right, on that note... Geosenge town was probably my shortest stay yet. That one night was it. Haven't been back since. When I was on my way out, I ran into Korrina, the gym leader for Shalour city's gym. She's pretty hot, not gonna lie. I kinda threw hints her way as to my

attraction, but she was either unaware, or not interested. A shame, but not real surprising. She has a lot on her plate. (Plus I don't think she is into ladies.)

One of her two Lucario was really into me, though. He was the one that actually ran into me when I was leaving Geosenge. Korrina was just following him to see where he was running off to. Thanks to that, Korrina decided I was a good candidate to pass on the knowledge of mega-evolution. Yep, that's right. Her and her ancestors have been guardians of this knowledge for many generations, but they thought it was time for more people to know and to be able to research this phenomenon. But I had to first beat Korrina at the gym, which was easy enough.

Shalour gym focused around fighting types, and the gym itself had grinding rails and other skating friendly obstacles. It was pretty fun the way they set it up. In order to challenge Korrina, one had to catch up to and challenge all the other gym trainers to a battle first. I imagine they had some arrangement for those unable to do that, again. I guess the gyms are really trying to promote healthy, active youth. I can get behind that. A lot of kids these days are getting lazy and just using their pokémon to do everything for them.

Anyhow, I went through it pretty quickly. I was able to catch the gym trainers without much difficulty and defeating them in battle was even easier. Fighting types have a hard time against birds and other flying types, so Peter and Norman, even though he didn't have wings at the time, took care of the opposing pokémon without trouble. It was pretty fun watching Norman fly through the air and perform a maneuver only one human in history, Sasaki Kojirō, was able to do. The turning swallow cut, more commonly called an aerial ace by the people in this region, is something pokémon seem to do with ease, especially birds. The move is so fast at the very last second that it is pretty much impossible to dodge. Most fighting types get caught off guard, making it super effective.

Right, so I blasted through them all, got to Korrina, put the hurt on her pokémon, and got the badge and TM reward. Korrina then had me ascend to the top of the tower of Mastery to meet her. At the top, Korrina gave me a bracelet that had a special activation stone for mega-evolution. The lucario that was all over me joined my team, I call him Steve, and in his possession was lucarionite. This stone, when combined with the power of my activation stone, allowed for Steve to become mega-lucario. Korrina's and my lucario dueled and at the end, I was victorious once more. Korrina told me I could take the lucarionite with me and encouraged me to find more mega-stones and mega-evolutions.

It was pretty awesome, I will admit. Though, I am not really a big fan of lucario, so Steve went to the box. I stayed in Shalour for a few days, enjoying the sea breeze. I went out to route twelve a few times. Some guy there gave me a lapras. He said it would be a shame to keep it, since he wasn't planning to stay near water for long. I named him Bartholomew. He is adorable, and I love surfing on his back. I actually haven't been using him for battle, though. It sucks that I can't carry more than six pokémon at a time because of league regulations. It's okay though, I still take Bart out every now and then to surf on or with him. Riding the waves is so much fun.

Anyway, before any of all that happened, though, I ran into a herd of mareep on route 12. Wouldn't have really been anything worth noting if it weren't for the fact that one of them had pinkish wool. I'd heard that rare mutations in pokemon can give them completely different colors from the rest, and I happened to find one. I wanted it, her, bad. I had to get rid of the others in her herd before I could capture her. I had Cordelia take care of them, since they became hostile when I got near. After taking the other four out, I got her. Marissa the mareep. I think her fur literally shines. I was so excited about it, I immediately started training her.

She was pretty weak, but she got caught up fast. I went back around and got her trained up with her special powers and overall ability to take hits. During that process, she evolved twice. It took a few days, but she is caught up to the rest of them now. I also had the rest of my team fight some wild pokémon. There were some tough ones on route 12. The miltank and tauros were particularly tough and provided valuable experience. Harvey ended up evolving into a hippowdon, as well. He is pretty hardcore now.

If you haven't been keeping up, Diary, my team consisted of charmeleon, vaporeon, fletchinder, roselia, hippowdon and ampharos at that point. That's Norman, Luke, Peter, Cordelia, Harvey and Marissa, respectively.

Okay, so after a few days at Shalour, I moved on. I went through route 12 and the skiddo farm. I rode around on one of the skiddos a few times, finding a few nice items. Mainly, a shiny stone. Not just a randomly shiny rock, but the shiny stone that has special properties and makes certain pokémon evolve. Certain pokémon like roselia. Yeah, that's right. Cordelia is now a roserade. And she's not the only one who has evolved further since Shalour.

I got through route 12 without issues, though I did stop by Azure bay for a moment. I didn't run into any wild pokémon there, but I DID run into a guy who just happened to have a mega-stone. He had no idea what it even was until I got close and it started reacting to my bracelet. It turns out the stone was ampharosite. Marissa actually discovered this for me. She nosed at and really wanted to hold the stone, so I let her have it. And then I had her mega-evolve to see what she became. The fur loss from evolving into ampharos seems to get reversed during the mega-evolution process and she gets a beautiful mane and fluffy tail. She is so cute and pretty, I wish she could stay like that forever. And I hate that I do, but I love the color pink, so Marissa's different coloration makes her that much more huggable and lovable to me.

Anyway, Calem called me the day I arrived in Coumarine and said he wanted to see mega-evolution for himself, so he said he'd meet me in front of the gym for a duel. He had to have been nearby, because if I recall correctly, he was there really fast. Either that or I spaced for several hours or something.

I showed him Marissa. We dueled. Marissa kicked his team's ass. Overall it was pretty standard for duels with my friends. Aside from that one time with Tierno... Sorry Azzy... And on that note,

I'm sorry Guysir, Whittley, Shooburt, Popochin, Caliburn, Magnesium, Wendy, and last but not least, Manny. I know it's no consolation to you now, but I hope you are proud of how much better I have become at raising pokémon. If any of you inspired Peter to pester me from beyond the veil, thank you.

Oh crap, getting emotional here...

Ahhh, right. Coumarine gym. Another really fun and physically intense gym. Inside, there were a lot of ropes. Some for swinging and some for climbing. The gym is basically a garden that is built on a tower. And using that theme, the gym trainers and the gym leader, Ramos, use grass types. Fortunately, grass type pokémon have many weaknesses to exploit. Strictly speaking, most are weak against extreme temperatures, bugs, poison, and birds or other flying types. I had no issues taking their teams down. Between Peter and Norman, with a little help from the rest of the team here and there, there were enough strong moves to take advantage of. The gym was definitely one-sided.

Right after I beat Ramos, Peter evolved into talonflame. He looks so cool, though he is still the same silly bird deep down. Speaking of which, I don't think I mentioned it... I had to put Bella in the box because she started to randomly attack Peter. I really hated to do it, but she left me no choice. Any time the two of them were out at the same time, regardless of what was happening, she would chase down and attempt to maul him. She hasn't been the same since the furfrou attack. I am having mom look after her for now, until I can figure out whether she can be rehabilitated or if I just need to release her back into the wild.

I, myself, can say I am mostly recovered from that incident. I met several people in Coumarine with furfrous and rather than avoid them, I purposefully went up and asked if I could pet and play with them. It really helped ease my mind knowing that not all of them are so vicious.

I spent a week there, in Coumarine. I was hoping that Rinka would call with good news and be able to catch up... but yeah, that didn't happen. I spent that week just flying from town to town and occasionally outside to fight some wild pokémon; Norman evolved into charizard. I went clothes shopping a bit and got some cute new clothes when I wasn't playing with my pokémon, both in my league party and my box.

The day before I started travelling again, I took all of my pokémon, save for poor Bella, out for a picnic. Norman looked so lonely, sitting off to the side by himself. I am certain he is missing his little lover, Rinka's plusle. He's usually pretty mellow, unless hostile pokémon are around, but this was different. He looked so dejected. I went over and sat in his lap (even though he is shorter than me, and short for a charizard) and just kinda kept him company. That improved his mood pretty well. My pokémon and I ended up napping in a big snuggle pile until the afternoon. That was a really great time, I'm glad I decided to do it.

That little moment with Norman kinda helped me make the decision to get going, too. If I'd have kept delaying and waiting for news from Rinka, I'd still be there. And Rinka was already mad that I was waiting for so long.

From the time we left Coumarine, things got annoying. It had been over a month and most of Lumiose was still in the dark. Guess who got the power back on? Yeah, it was my pokémon and me. I don't know how the police didn't get involved, but that ostentatious team flare had taken control of the power plant on route 13 and was siphoning power. I mean, they did technically have some hostages, but they never threatened them or threatened anyone, really. They just told them to stay out of their way and everyone just nodded their empty heads.

Sorry, that's a little harsh. Team flare did supposedly bust in and have pokémon out and ready for battle. But why did no one call the police? My guess is that someone got paid off. Team flare is always going on about having lots of money, so I am guessing the leader is a really rich person with their claws deep into the government, but I have no way to confirm it. Nor the desire.

Let's start from route 13, though. It's like the badlands of this region. Pretty much a desert with no distinguishing features other than the power plant. I ran into some neat pokémon, though. I ran into a dugtrio first. She was weird, but I love weird, so I caught her. Named her Burnadette. And yes, I spelled it that way on purpose. I have a theory about what diglett and dugtrio are underneath the ground, but no one has ever tried to confirm anything. I think it's actually like a giant hand with the fingers as the surfacing heads that is all you see. It's a stupid theory, but as good one as any. It also would explain why dugtrio's three heads are inseparable. Though it would be just as easy to say that the three heads are all attached in a similar fashion to dodrio.

Theories aside, I also ran into gibles and trapinches. Nothing too exciting, but pretty cool nonetheless. There were several entrances to the power plant, but all except one were sealed off. The remaining one required a keycard that I happily lifted off of a team flare grunt just outside. I went inside and found a bunch of bored workers sitting around that all claimed team flare told them not to leave. Judging by the fact that everyone looked well fed and the garbage cans were empty, someone has been taking care of them.

The whole thing was ridiculous. I'm getting angry again just writing about it. There had to be at least seven team flare members in there. All of them were just loafing around until I made my presence known. I gave them all a proper beating while on my way to the heart of the power plant. There, I ran into a team flare admin, so he called himself, and one of their scientists, Aliana. They both were surprised to find me there. Which means that there was no communication between them and the grunts. How are they supposed to be a team again? Seriously, from the lack of communication to the fact that most of them don't even know what team flare is supposed to be doing other than the extremely vague "making the world beautiful again", I'm not even sure why they are even a thing.

I beat Aliana and she told me that they got what they needed and were just storing extra at that point anyway, so it wasn't a big deal that I just wrecked their entire outfit. I told her to get the fuck out and then had the power plant workers get everything back to normal. Some were grateful for me 'saving' them, but I don't think they would have met resistance if they just tried to walk out, honestly.

Man, I can feel my blood pressure rising just from thinking about it. How many countless people were without power for a month now because of these idiots? More than half of Lumiose City and the surrounding area? And nobody did anything about it? How obvious would it be to check the freaking POWER PLANT when that much of an area goes dark?

Ugh, time to move on before I get worked up. So many emotions writing this, sweet mother of Arceus...

Okay, so. I went to Lumiose to watch them turn the tower back on. Clemont, boy genius, is the leader of Lumiose gym. Lumiose gym IS the tower. So naturally, I ascended. This gym focused a lot less on physical strength. In fact, there were not even stairs to climb, just elevators that took me up the floors. On each level, however, they challenged my pokémon knowledge, giving me the silhouette of a pokémon or a simple description, and I was supposed to supply them with the corresponding pokémon. It was way too easy. I was hoping for a bit of a challenge in that regard, but was quite disappointed.

It was still fun though.

They had it set up like a game show where you had three choices and had to challenge a gym trainer to see if your answer was correct. I got them all right, but asked Clemont's little sister, the hostess of this pretend game show, if I could challenge the other trainers anyway and she said it was fine. So that's what I did. Each floor had three trainers, though they all only had one pokémon. The gym focuses on electric types, by the way, so I used Harvey to take control of the fights. He made it even easier.

At the top, I fought against Clemont's team of pokémon, consisting of a magneton, helioptile and emolga. Piece of cake. Oh and, since Clemont was the one who supposedly made sure the power was running to the city, I asked him why nobody went to check on the power plant. He started avoiding eye contact and just shrugged at me. Clearly something was up there, but I didn't really care enough to press him about it.

I stayed in Lumiose for a few more days after that, checking out the various stores and buildings that were in the blackout areas. The last thing I did before continuing on was buy some more clothes and show them all off to Rinka over the holocaster. That was just the day before yesterday.

Yesterday, I spent the day travelling across route 14 on my way to Laverre town, where I am currently! I ran into the most adorable little goomy. She was too cute not to take with me, and despite having to weaken her a bit in battle, she seemed eager to join me. I named her Slimella. Yeah, it's another stupid name, but I love it. She was pretty adamant and was capable of taking a few hits, but I went off and trained her attack strength and speed. She's really weak right now, but I know that she will evolve into a tougher pokémon. If it hasn't been established by now, I am pretty much a pokénerd. I studied everything about pokémon while I was in school as a way to prepare myself for the moment mom let me be a pokémon trainer... And I hope to someday discover new pokémon so that I can teach others about them.

I discovered Trevor and Calem hanging out on route 14. And by hanging out, I mean, uhh, literally? I'm not sure if they are into exhibitionism or what, but I think they just thought they were more hidden than they were. The whole gang was supposed to be meeting there to go check out this one scary house hidden away on the route. It turned out to be really stupid. It was just some old man telling a story in this house that didn't have electricity. Tierno, Trevor, and Shauna all got unnerved, but I couldn't help but shake my head. Calem didn't stick around. He said he wanted to play with his pokémon, but I think he was just a little embarrassed about me finding him and Trevor in the act. Trevor was less worried. Though, when everyone else was leaving, he apologized to me. Not sure why, but I just told him to be a little more aware of his surroundings next time.

So yeah, I think that was all that you missed since I last wrote in you. I got to Laverre town and took a quick peek at the clothing shop, but haven't really done much else yet. Planning on checking out the gym tomorrow. I heard it is full of gorgeous ladies in furisodes and set up like a doll house. I'm looking forward to that tomorrow.

For now, though... Goodnight, diary.

Love you mon amie,

Yvette

P.S. Writing about all these emotional events made me get all emotional again... I think I caught Norman's sads. I miss Rinka. I hope either her father gets better and she catches up or I can make it to where she is soon.