

Day 51: The infuriating team flare and reuniting with Rinka.

Dear Diary,

I've been having that strange nightmare still. I have a separate journal that I am using to keep track of what goes on there. I actually felt pretty rested the last couple mornings, unlike previous nights I had it. I'll keep you updated if it starts to go away or if I somehow become lucid there, but as far as actual contents of them, I'll leave that for the journal.

A couple mornings ago, I started out from Dendemille town, it was still cold as a casteliacone. I threw on an extra layer of clothes and headed over to the frost cavern to see what was going on. The mamoswine that normally escorts people on route 17 was there just outside of the cavern, and seemed very distraught. The caretaker for him said that it was unusual behavior that he'd never seen before and that he couldn't, in good conscience, allow people to ride him. That and he couldn't even get him to leave the frost cavern area. I told him I'd go investigate. Why not? Everything else seems to be coming down to me to handle... And yes, it was team flare again.

First off, I saw a dropped item in the snow across the waterfall there and took Luke over to the other side to grab it. On the way back across, a floatzel lept up from the water and surprised us. I caught her, though my team is pretty solid at this point, so I just sent her to the box. She is adorable, though. I named her Louella.

After that, since I got splashed and it was so unseasonably freezing there, I snuggled up with Peter to dry off and keep warm. Thank Arceus for pokémon. I'd hate to think how that could have turned out if I didn't have a warm fire type with me. Speaking of which... I was reading over some of my old entries and couldn't always remember who I had on my team at the time, so I am going to start writing which of my friends I have with me in each entry now.

Currently:

Dremora the malamar

Harvey the hippowdon

Luke the vaporeon

Marissa the ampharos

Peter the talonflame

Slimella the sliggoo

I wish I could say I had fun going through the frost cavern, but I really didn't have time to enjoy myself. There were several other trainers there, which I had fun battling with, but the constant penetrating cold made the overall experience hard to enjoy. Plus there were lots of places where it was all ice and I had to basically skate across. I almost fell several times. I kept Peter out of his ball and near me, just in case something happened and to keep warm.

Right, so team flare. I found them in the depths of the cavern chasing and attacking an abomasnow, the big frost tree pokémon. In its agitation, its ability to call up hail and snowy weather was only growing in strength. Team flare was causing all the issues by irritating pokémon into a fury. The abomasnow looked exhausted, as if they'd been following and attacking it for days.

I kicked their collective ass and sent them packing. The leader of this pack, Mable I think she called herself, said something really disturbing to me... She went off talking about how they were catching all of the pokémon to keep them from others and that they were doing it to ensure that team flare, and only team flare, will survive. They sounded like cultists who think the end of the world is upon us. And considering the energy stealing and now mass pokémon capturing... I think they might actually be really dangerous zealots.

I don't think this is the last I'll be seeing of them. I can pretty much guarantee it.

The rescued abomasnow thanked me by giving me a mega-stone. I could tell it was a mega-stone because it immediately started glowing when it got close to my mega-bracelet. Considering the abomasnow was holding it, I can only assume it is for abomasnow to mega-evolve. I haven't captured or befriended an abomasnow, and that one left after it gave me the stone, so I'm not sure I'll ever be able to use it. But it is good to know that abomasnow can mega-evolve.

After that little encounter, I went back to Dendemille and saw the guide escorting the mamoswine back to route 17. It must have sensed or knew something was wrong with the abomasnow since it looked much more relaxed since I stopped team flare.

I took a ride on him. Route 17 was basically a huge snow drift after all that mess, though I doubt it is much better even without all that. Mamoswine plowed through the snowbanks and occasionally stepped on pokémon. They were usually pretty upset about it and attacked. It was mostly delibirds I ran into. And I think I might have accidentally killed the first one I ran into. I sent out Marissa to weaken it a bit, but even with the punch she threw, she must have hit it just right, because it crumpled like a sack of potatoes and disappeared into the snow, never resurfacing. I hope it just decided to retreat... I didn't end up catching anything there. The only other pokémon I ran into was a sneasel.

I finally made it to Anistar city, to Rinka. She was thrilled to see me, but she looked awful. Don't get me wrong, she was still beautiful, but she couldn't have been sleeping well. Her eyes were bloodshot and there were bags under them that gave her true feelings away. When she saw me, she smiled so big and then burst into tears. She's been putting on a tough face for her mother, since she was a mess, and hadn't really had an opportunity to process her own emotions. We sat there in the hospital for a while, and I just held her. Even though he wasn't awake, Rinka introduced me to her father and we talked about how we met and such. When her

mother came back from getting things at home, I got to introduce myself to her while Rinka was sleeping on my lap.

I could tell Rinka's mother still hadn't fully accepted that Rinka was a lesbian. It's one thing for a child to tell their parents that they are gay, it is a whole different thing when they get to see it for the first time. And just by seeing her reactions and her uncertain tones and body language, I knew I had to be the first girlfriend Rinka has ever introduced. Well... I ended up introducing myself because Rinka was passed out in my lap, but you get the idea.

It's a bit unnerving to be in a hospital for extended periods. Rinka and her mother have been there in shifts, wanting at least one of them to be there if he wakes up. I've been with them the last couple days, watching Rinka train her pokémon near the hospital and with other random trainers that stop by. Her pokémon have grown quite a bit! Probably even as much as my own.

And on that note, I went and got Norman and let him and plusle reunite. It was the sweetest thing I have seen in a long time. Because Norman had evolved to a charizard, plusle had this moment of trepidation on his face and hid behind Rinka. But when he peeked from behind her, he immediately got this incredibly happy look on his face and launched himself into Norman's chest.

Anyway, we are both going to go challenge the Anistar gym tomorrow. Rinka wanted the distraction, plus she felt motivated after seeing how much all of my pokémon grew.

It's that time again, Diary.

Love you mon amie,

Yvette

P.S. I didn't tell Rinka about the team flare garbage. She has enough to worry about for now and until it crops up again, It's not important enough to worry her over... I hope...