

INT. HILBERT'S HOUSE - DAY

He's obviously talking to her, but we don't hear his words to her, just the narration.

HILBERT (V.O.)

I went home and Mom, who's a fantastic tailor, fixed up my clothes while I cleaned up the place. I made it look all tidy and she really appreciated it. That was when I decided to break it to her that I felt like I proved to her that I was ready to take off.

Hilbert sees it in his mom's face -- she's devastated. But she's coming to terms with it. Accepting. Slowly but surely in every inch of her body... Even if she doesn't exactly like it.

MOM

...I just don't want to be alone.

Hilbert blinks...

HILBERT (V.O.)

Ahh, now *that* made me feel like a total asshat.

MOM

But I don't... I'm so sorry, Hilbert... I don't want you to waste your life trapped here. I've been so selfish.

She hugs him -- she starts crying. Hilbert pats her on the back... He tries not to, but he does it. He hugs her. He grows more comfortable in the embrace, letting it all settle in...

HILBERT

It's OK, Mom... I haven't been any better. All I've thought about is how awesome leaving the house would be. I never really thought how awesome it was being here with you.

His mom smiles - giving a scoff - as she pulls out of the hug.

MOM

Please. Don't. I want you to go. You really proved to me today that you've grown up. A lot.

(beat, smiles)

(MORE)

MOM (CONT'D)

I want a progress report every night, OK? Use this thingamabob to call me.

She lifts up the Cross-Transceiver.

HILBERT

Of course.

On his smile--

EXT. NUVEMA TOWN - DAY

CUE -- "EMOTION" FROM BLACK & WHITE OST.

ESTABLISHING SHOT of the small town. Filled with tiny houses, each with a garden in front that's well taken care of. Not many Pokémon - or people for that matter - mingle around. It's so quiet. No wonder Hilbert was always so bored.

CUT to HILBERT AND HIS MOM'S HOME -- The door opens and HILBERT exits. He has a black and blue bag slung over his shoulders -- he stares back at the house.

HILBERT (V.O.)

Five months. It took me five months to come to this point. And... I actually almost didn't go. I almost turned back around and gave my Mom a big ol' hug and told her I wasn't ready to grow up, that I wasn't ready to leave her behind...

Hilbert's MOM slips out from the door -- stands on the porch. She smiles as she sees her son stood there. He gives a sigh. A wave to his mom... She flashes her arm -- showing off the X-TRANSCEIVER as a reminder for him to call her. He smiles, rolling his eyes at her.

HILBERT (V.O.)

But I didn't.

Hilbert TURNS around -- TIGHT on him as he moves along the dirt path, on his way onto ROUTE 1...

HILBERT (V.O.)

I decided to follow my dreams. A future of uncertainty, but one of hope...

FADE TO BLACK...

EXT. ACCUMULA TOWN - DAY

"EMOTION" FADES as we get an ESTABLISHING SHOT of ACCUMULA TOWN. It's rather tiny, so all the buildings are scrunched together in a half-square. A park lies in the center of town, where most of the activity is at.

HILBERT tries squeezing through a crowd of people.

HILBERT (V.O.)

This was my first time leaving Nuvema Town... It was strange because Accumula actually had people walking around. I knew it was coming, I just wasn't ready to process it all. But I knew I'd get used to it. I wanted to explore... Where I decided to go next really changed my life...

HILBERT sees a gathering of folk at the park in the center. Curious, he walks over, peeking over the heads of numerous people in his way.

On a mini stage that the people surround stands the man from the opening sequence - GHETSIS. He's very intimidating and bulky, but his aura is surprisingly warm and gentle. On either sides, baby blue-hooded guards push the crowd back.

GHETSIS

Good morning, to the people of Accumula Town. I have come here today to make a very... interesting proposition. I'm here to say... Let's free our Pokémon.

There's a lot of murmuring amongst the crowd. Ghetsis raises a hand, offering the crowd a smile.

GHETSIS (CONT'D)

Please, please, just *listen*. We have co-existed with Pokémon for centuries. I think maybe the time has come for that to end. Trainers command their Pokémon to do what *they* want. They force them to do hard work like employees, not friends. What kind of expression does your Pokémon show when they accept your commands? Have you ever given thought to what your Pokémon want? Do they want to be with you, or do they want to be in their natural habitats?

(MORE)

GHETSIS (CONT'D)

Poké Balls and training are merely human inventions, not the natural way of the world.

Everyone takes a glance at their Pokémon. The crowd's murmurs grow quiet. SHOTS of different people, looking at their Pokémon in pure sorrow... Contemplating Ghetsis's words.

TIGHT on Hilbert. He's not falling for it. He looks down at SHELDON's Poké Ball as he unclips it from his belt...

GHETSIS (CONT'D)

To us humans, Pokémon are merely tools, powerful creatures with potential to be stronger. Pokémon do not exist to serve our selfish purposes! There's only one thing we can do, and that's... to release our Pokémon. Free your Pokémon. If you truly love them, you could see it. For the first time, we humans and Pokémon can truly be equal. Me and my friends are Team Plasma, a group making a difference. We will separate Pokémon from humans, giving them special sanctuaries where they can live in peace.

HILBERT

How do we know you're telling the truth? That you're not just stealing our Pokémon for YOUR own good?

Ghetsis turns a head toward Hilbert, he smiles kindly at him.

GHETSIS

We've already set up plenty of sanctuaries and as soon as we take your Pokémon, you can know where they're going. We'll allow visitations...

The crowd begins to disperse. Hilbert can hear some of their words --

MAN

...Well that's ridiculous.

YOUNG WOMAN

If someone people really think that way, then by all means...

Hilbert smiles to himself. N steps on stage, looking just as vacant as before.

CUE -- "N'S BATTLE THEME" FROM BLACK & WHITE OST.

N

Who's the one who challenges our
beliefs?

Ghetsis goes to speak, but Hilbert climbs onto the stage.

HILBERT

Me.

One of the Plasma grunts goes to grab for Hilbert, N raises a hand, signaling for him to step back.

N

It's OK. The kid and I just need a
little chat...

N steps toward Hilbert.

HILBERT

The name's Hilbert.

N

Well, Hilbert... Let me hear your
Pokémon's voice! We'll see if the
harrowing acts and troubles you
make your domesticated Pokémon go
through even match up to the fiery
spirit of a wild, *natural* creature.

HILBERT

Fine. You ready, Sheldon?

Hilbert tosses out SHELDON's Poké Ball and the little
Oshawott pops out, instantly putting his game face on, still
in its 'Samurott armor'. He leaps off Hilbert's shoulder and
onto the stage. N steps back. He whistles. Nothing happens
for a moment...

Seconds later, a black cat Pokémon creeps onto the stage.
Stands in front of N. It purrs, rubbing on his leg. He smiles
down at the PURRLOIN.

N

Fury Swipes.

HILBERT

Sheldon, Tackle!

Sheldon charges at Purrloin, who simply smacks him back with
its tail. Purrloin then POUNCES on the Oshawott, CLAWING
repeatedly and SLASHING at the tiny otter.

Hilbert looks HORRIFIED. CLOSE-UP of Ghetsis' face, he smiles as he watches the two battle.

HILBERT (CONT'D)

Water Gun!

Sheldon the Oshawott opens his mouth as Purrloin continues to slash at him, sending a bursting fountain of water out, hitting Purrloin in the chest. The cat FLIES through the air, SMACKING into the wall behind the stage and SLIDING DOWN.

It doesn't get up -- it just stays there. No one can see it. The crowd erupts in conversation...

Hilbert looks concerned --

HILBERT (CONT'D)

Sheldon, go check on Purrloin!

Sheldon trots to the edge of the stage, peeking over --

-- ONLY FOR PURRLOIN TO LEAP BACK INTO ACTION, KNOCKING THE TINY OSHAWOTT ONTO HIS BACK.

N

Crunch.

Purrloin BITES down on Sheldon's chest, picking up the otter and shaking him around, then throwing him limply to the ground. Hilbert's Oshawott doesn't get up. He's KO'D.

Hilbert LOST -- He looks on, DUMBFOUNDED as "N'S BATTLE THEME" fades here.

HILBERT

I -- That Purrloin is *insanely* strong. There's no way anything can win against that thing.

N looks up from Purrloin, at Hilbert.

N

You're right. You can't win. And the reason you can't win, is because you always shut your Pokémon in those Poké Balls.

Hilbert pulls the Pokédex out from his back pocket, as it scans and collects Purrloin's data. N's face falls.

N (CONT'D)

Is that... a Pokédex?

N suddenly charges at Hilbert, GRABBING him by the arm, bringing him close to his face. For the FIRST TIME, there's some EMOTION in his voice...

N (CONT'D)
 (filled with venom)
 Because of this thing... Many, many
 of my friends were shut up in Poké
 Balls.

HILBERT
 GERROFF ME--!

Hilbert SHOVES N off of him, falling on his bum. He looks up at N.

N
 Pokémon get captured just for the
 desire to fill up this monstrous
 tool. It's like a damn competition,
 and then the poor Pokémon just get
 locked up in the PC storage if
 they're not deemed "useful" or
 "cool" enough by the trainer. Isn't
 that what happens?

Hilbert doesn't know what to say. He looks over at the crowd. People are already handing over their Poké Balls to Plasma grunts, looks of sadness, but acceptance, on their faces. He mutters to himself...

HILBERT
 ...No...

He picks up Sheldon, cradling his unconscious Pokémon in his arms.

HILBERT (CONT'D)
 (shouting to the crowd)
 What are you doing?!

N
 The right thing. Thank you,
 Hilbert... For helping me prove my
 point.

Ghetsis claps N on the shoulder proudly - walks him backstage. Hilbert remains on the stage, in a state of confusion.

FADE TO:

INT. POKÉMON CENTER - DAY

CUE -- "POKÉMON CENTER" FROM SUPER SMASH BROS. BRAWL OST.

HILBERT is sat at one of the couches in the lounge, the hustle and bustle around him just passes by. He's trapped in his own little world, obviously deep-in-thought.

HILBERT (V.O.)

So, my first day out and about and I'm embarrassed in front of a huge crowd of people. I felt like just going home and quitting right there and then. I waited for word on Sheldon, if he was OK after the beating he received from N... And I just kept thinking that maybe he was right? No. He wasn't. I kept telling myself that, but *damn*, were they persuasive...

NURSE JOY

Hilbert?

Breaking him from his train of thought, one of the NURSE JOYS, pink hair, 20's, cute, notices Hilbert jump a bit.

HILBERT

Um, yes?

She gives a cheery smile.

NURSE JOY

Your Oshawott is all healthy and ready to go.

She walks over to a tray, and picks up SHELDON THE OSHAWOTT, handing him over to Hilbert. The two buddies hug. Sheldon, however, looks devastated by this defeat. He removes the Samurott armor and ditches it in the nearest trash bin.

HILBERT

What was that for?

Sheldon looks up at Hilbert, tears welling in the tiny otter's eyes.

HILBERT (V.O.)

Sheldon felt he was not fit enough to be labeled by the name of a mighty Samurott, so instead of disgracing his idol, he wanted to carry on and train to be worthy of a Samurott.

(MORE)

HILBERT (V.O.) (CONT'D)

He had my blessings, because as cute as he looked in all that extra armor, it really was holding him back. I needed to find a way to cheer him up though...

HILBERT

Whattya say to no more Poké Ball? You can hitch a ride on my shoulder, in my bag, or wherever, from now on.

Sheldon gives a happy cry, instantly clambering onto Hilbert's shoulder.

NURSE JOY

Have a safe journey, we hope to see you again soon.

HILBERT

Wait, you want my Pokémon to get hurt?

Her response is mute. Just a pasty smile and wave goodbye. Hilbert backs up out of the Pokémon Center, creeped out. As he leaves, the SONG FADES OUT TOO...

EXT. EMPTY FIELD - DAY

HILBERT, SHELDON THE OSHAWOTT, and PIKACHU are in a large, empty, beautiful field. Hilbert and Sheldon do push-ups while Pikachu just sits there, looking glum with his arms crossed.

HILBERT (V.O.)

From then on, in light of the discovery that the Unova Nurse Joys are homicidal, I vowed to treat my Pokémon with respect and dignity so they would have to visit that possible-murder-zone less. Whatever training methods I'd put them through, I'd put myself through too. And it wasn't *just* that I needed a bit more bulk on me to impress the ladies, I seriously just wanted to see what it felt like.

FADE to them doing jumping jacks. Then FADE to them running laps around the huge field.

CLOSE-UP of Hilbert as he RUNS, he's flying around that field.

Pikachu ZOOMS around the field, grinning, totally happy that he's beating Hilbert. Hilbert looks back at Sheldon, who's struggling.

He is about to say something, but he trips over the root of a tree. Oshawott passes him, giving what sounds like a laugh as he does. Suddenly, a bug Pokémon with a leaf mane around its head and tiny stubby little feet with an adorable face LEAPS down from the tree above, BITING onto Oshawott's face. Hilbert's Pokédex gives an electronic ring. He checks it and it shows him the data for this bug Pokémon - it's called a SEWADDLE.

The Sewaddle suddenly DIVES out of the tree and LAND on Sheldon's face, biting into the Oshawott. Sheldon PANICS, running around wildly. Hilbert sits back up, rubbing his pained head, to see Sheldon being attacked. He chases after Sheldon, who runs around, no set path in sight.

HILBERT (CONT'D)
Sheldon, STOP, WAIT--!

EXT. FILM SET - DAY

A pretty girl with dark skin and a massive head of hair, who's dressed in primitive looking toga-esque wraps, stands behind a camera, next to the cameraman. This is IRIS. She carries a POKÉMON EGG.

Three Pokémon dance around - one of them is a tiny dragon, called AXEW. The other is a blue duck called DUCKLETT and the last one is a SERVINE, the evolved form of SNIVY, a longer, taller version.

Suddenly, they hear shouts from the CAMERAMAN on the other side of the shot, he's looking at something behind the SET.

CAMERAMAN
Hey, kid, we're filming a show
here, get off the --

DIRECTOR
Who's trespassing?

CAMERAMAN
Him, over there!

The director and Iris walk over where the cameraman's standing to get a better look. In the distance, HILBERT chases after SHELDON, who still has SEWADDLE chewing on his face. They're running right for the set...

DIRECTOR
 Hey, kid! Make like a drum and *BEAT*
IT--!

CUE -- "WILD Pokémon BATTLE" FROM Pokémon RED AND BLUE.

TIGHT on Hilbert -- he totally is blocking out the crew and their existence. Totally focused on Sheldon -- who CRASHES right into the set, TEARING through the greenscreen behind Iris's Pokémon.

IRIS
 No!

DIRECTOR
 Stop them!

IRIS
 Ducklett, use Wing Attack!

Ducklett swoops into the skies, giving a sqwak, before diving down, wings glowing. It slams right into Sheldon, the impact of which knocks Sewaddle off of Sheldon's face. Sewaddle hopped back up. It's not down and out yet.

Hilbert rushes over to catch up to Sheldon.

HILBERT
 Sheldon, you learned Razor Shell,
 so use it on Sewaddle!

Sheldon totally ignores Ducklett, who continues flying after him. He grabs the shell from his belly, detaches it, and THROWS it at Sewaddle, hitting the tiny bug in the chest.

Hilbert sees Sewaddle hit the ground, looking dazed. He pulls out a Poké Ball.

He THROWS the Ball -- TIGHT on the Ball as it SPINS through the air.

HITS Sewaddle in the head.

And DRAGS the bug inside.

The Ball SHAKES. And SHAKES. And SHAKES. And then it LOCKS with a red GLOW. Hilbert GRINS and RUNS over to the Poké Ball, picking it up with a smile.

"WILD POKÉMON BATTLE" fades as Iris and the director approach Hilbert. He recalls Sheldon the Oshawott into his Poké Ball. Iris's Ducklett lands on her massive head of hair.

DIRECTOR
You just ruined our movie!

HILBERT
(giddy)
Do I look like I care?! I just
caught a leafy bug thingy.

IRIS
Ugh, you're such a child! It's
called a *Sewaddle*---

DIRECTOR
You can't just get away with this
young man. You're gonna have to pay
for all the damage done to our
sets!

HILBERT
(slyly, glaring at Iris)
I'm just a kid remember? I have
like, absolutely NO money.

IRIS
Then he can work it off. Personal
assistant perhaps?

DIRECTOR
To you? How is that gonna help ME?
It was MY equipment after all.

IRIS
Supplied by my family's company.
He'll work for ME.

The director scoffs.

DIRECTOR
You want him, you can have 'em.
Seems to be too much of a handful
for me anyway.

IRIS
I'm guessing today's shoot is over?
We'll try some other time.

The director sighs. He looks at Hilbert.

DIRECTOR
Thank you. For ruining the show.
How am I gonna explain this to the
bosses at HQ--?

He continues rambling on, but nothing he says can be made out as he walks off. Iris looks at Hilbert, she gives a wink and lowers her tone.

IRIS
Thanks for that.

HILBERT
Erm, is that sarcasm?

IRIS
Not at ALL. I'll explain more later
when you're acting as my
(using "air quotes")
"personal assistant".
(pause)
But for now, let's just say I
wasn't exactly thrilled to be here.
I don't know how I could ever repay
you for what you did today.

He's so confused with her right now -- but that's not the first thing on his mind.

HILBERT
So -- Am I your personal assistant
or what? The air quotes seriously
threw me for a loop.

IRIS
Relax. You're acting like a
complete child...

HILBERT
You said you owed me one, so what's
in it for me?

Iris thinks --

IRIS
I'll sit on it. But let's just say
I can be a VERY useful ally on your
side, especially if you're
considering challenging all the
Gym's.

Hilbert eyes her as she moves along. She grabs him by the arm.

IRIS (CONT'D)
I don't know what you think you're
doing standing around. You're
coming with ME.

Iris drags Hilbert off-screen.

EXT. STRIATON CITY - DAY

IRIS and HILBERT enter STRIATON CITY. It's much bigger than ACCUMULA, much more populated and a lot less stiff in the building layout department.

EXT. ALLEYWAY - NIGHT

A NEON-LIT street illuminates, reflecting in the puddles littering the ground. A woman with a scarf around her head avoids a man who chases after her -- MR. GREEN and MARIA.

MR. GREEN

Please -- Maria wait --

MARIA

Mr. Green, we were never destined to be together --

MR. GREEN

What are you saying, Maria?

MARIA

We would be so much happier if we weren't judged by our social statuses -- a prim and proper woman like me -- cannot be with a man like you. It's clearly not accepted...

MR. GREEN

But our Pokémon. They're in love despite it all.

PAN over to see two AXEW together. One with a pink bow on its head. They're holding each other close. The screen FREEZES...

PULL OUT:

EXT. HOTEL - DAY

IRIS and SHELDON the OSHAWOTT are sat in front of the screen of a laptop, which is sat on top of a picnic table, admiring the PAUSED film, a handkerchief wiping the tears from her eyes. She shares it with Sheldon, who's also crying.

IRIS

My little Axew. His acting is just... *superb*.

In the background, HILBERT sits on the floor, legs crisscrossed, nailing down the tent poles. He rolls his eyes.

HILBERT
 (sarcastic)
 Yeah. He was fantastic.

Sheldon sneaks a click at the screen, turning the film back on. He plops back down, INTRIGUED by what's going on on-screen. Iris looks through FOLDERS upon folders filled with papers, her frown tightening up with every turn of a page.

IRIS
 It's just really horrible how the film's going down under. We're in the red again thanks to the low budget.

HILBERT
 (rolls eyes)
 Oh, come on, so behind the gaudy glitz and glamor of "show biz" is an unprofitable job?

IRIS
 The budget's too low for us to even stay in a hotel, if you haven't noticed.

HILBERT
 Not low enough to give your Pokémon a fantastic suite.

He points up -- PAN up the side of the HOTEL BUILDING -- STOPPING at a WINDOW. Iris's Pokémon -- AXEW, DUCKLETT, and SERVINE -- are all hanging out in a PENTHOUSE HOTEL ROOM. Absolutely gorgeous in there.

BACK with them: Iris just smiles. She polishes her POKÉMON EGG.

IRIS
 It's natural for the production to pay for *my* Pokémon's room. You see, they're actors. I'm just their manager.

It's totally normal for her. She doesn't care.

HILBERT
 What's gonna' hatch from that egg anyway?

IRIS

I don't know yet. It'll be a Fire-type though, and my parents were bragging about how rare it is so I'm pretty excited. You see, for an upcoming movie we are filming, I need a trio of Fire, Water and Grass types that aren't starter Pokémon. Ducklett, Servine, and then... Mystery over here.

HILBERT

Then what's with Axew? Isn't he a Dragon-type?

IRIS

Axew was my starter. A gift from my grandfather, I've raised him since I was a child...

Brushing past this, she changes topic.

IRIS (CONT'D)

Is our tent almost ready, maid?

Hilbert's eyes narrow at Iris, that seriously annoyed him.

HILBERT

I thought I wasn't really your personal assistant. Whatever happened to the air quotes? I have a name. So use it.

Iris chuckles.

HILBERT (CONT'D)

Something funny?

IRIS

Your name. I just keep thinking about how it sounds like the name of someone whose parents hated him.

Hilbert frowns as he continues pitching up the tent.

HILBERT

(mutters to self)

I don't even know why I'm doing this...

IRIS

Hey! I paid for all the equipment you destroyed, removing all charges they would've pressed against you in court. So I think I deserve a little credit here.

HILBERT

You...

(beat)

Wait. You did WHAT?

IRIS

I paid for it. You heard me.

HILBERT

Why?

IRIS

Because you were my ticket OUT of there. I've always wanted to travel, but my parents have been just so...

HILBERT

...Suffocating? Smothering?

IRIS

All of the above.

HILBERT

My mom was the same way.

IRIS

I'm just tired of it. I've always wanted to explore, they know I'm athletic but it worries them. They want me to continue the business they've made but... it's... honestly not my thing.

HILBERT

Your Ducklett seemed very good in battle. I can see you having a lot of potential in that area one day.

IRIS

I had interest in doing *something* involving battling, yeah.

HILBERT

So you're using me?

IRIS

I saw you were on a journey and I took advantage of it.

(smiles)

Besides, you're kinda cute.

HILBERT (V.O.)

How could I say no to that? I mean, sure, it was abrupt and out of nowhere, but she was so beautiful. And she just called me cute.

HILBERT

I mean -- It's not like I mind.

IRIS

So you'll let me come with?

HILBERT

What about your parents?

Iris waves her hand carelessly.

IRIS

I'll write 'em a note and have Ducklett deliver it... Once I'm gone, as long as I tell them I'm off, they can't do anything about it.

FADE TO:

INT. STRIATON CITY GYM - DAY

HILBERT stands in the STRIATON GYM -- face to face with three IDENTICAL TRIPLET BROTHERS. CILAN, CRESS, and CHILI. The place has a glass roof so all of the SUN can leak in and a rocky field for the gym battles.

Cilan has tidy green hair, Cress blue hair that droops over his left eye, and Chili has spiked-up, wild red hair. They each wear aprons, as the gym acts as a mini-cafe as well.

TIGHT on Hilbert -- he's all fixed up. His clothes are back to normal and his hair is no longer static-y. SHELDON the OSHAWOTT is sat on his shoulder.

HILBERT (V.O.)

The next morning I decided to challenge the Striaton City Gym.

Cilan stepped forward to greet Hilbert. He grinned.

CILAN

Welcome to the Striaton City Gym.
It is run by me, Cilan, and my
brothers--

CHILI

--I am Chili. We will decide which
one of us you will battle!

CRESS

It depends on the type of Pokémon
you have...

Cress takes a curt bow.

CRESS (CONT'D)

The name is Cress, by the way.

CILAN

Ah, so you chose Oshawott I see.

CRESS

I guess that means I'm out.

CHILI

Me too.

Chili and Cress step back -- Cilan remains. He smiles at Hilbert and removes his apron, tossing it at Cress, who manages to catch it last-minute and fold it up.

CILAN

I guess it's me and you then.

Cilan unclips a Poké Ball from his belt. He simply opens it with a quick double-tap on the top, and a green monkey with a bushel of grass on its head pops out. It's called PANSAGE.

Hilbert scans it with his Pokédex as Sheldon hops from his shoulder and onto the battlefield.

CILAN (CONT'D)

Hmm, choosing a Pokémon with an
intense disadvantage against mine?
This doesn't taste right...

Hilbert frowns as Chili, acting as the referee, lifts a flag and blows a whistle. Hilbert doesn't waste a second.

HILBERT

Sheldon, use Razor Shell!

CILAN

Pansage, Bullet Seed!

Pansage opens its mouth, unleashing a barrage of seeds. Sheldon removes the shell from its chest, holding it up in the air and using it to shield its face. Hilbert grins as Sheldon then swings the shell with a massive effort, slashing Pansage across the chest.

CILAN (CONT'D)

Dig, Pansage.

Pansage burrows its way underground on the rocky battlefield. Sheldon looks around, nervous. He runs over to Hilbert, hopping in his arms. Hilbert lifts Sheldon up.

HILBERT

What are you doing?

Sheldon starts to pout. Hilbert walks onto the battlefield, setting Sheldon down, and pushing him forward. Sheldon tries to fight him, looking scared. Cilan watches, amused.

HILBERT (CONT'D)

I need your help, Sheldon. You're the strongest Pokémon I have. I trust you more than anyone else. You can do this.

Sheldon looks happy that Hilbert's said this. His confidence boosted, Sheldon gives a nod, standing up straight, hands on his hips. Hilbert laughs.

HILBERT (CONT'D)

All right! Now, Sheldon, use Water Gun to make the ground muddy. I'm sure it'll be easier to find Pansage that way, the ground will break wherever he's at if it's wet!

Sheldon likes this plan -- he sprays the water around the battlefield, spinning around like a sprinkler.

Suddenly, from beneath Sheldon, Pansage BURSTS through the muddy ground, spinning like a DRILL, hands above its head. The impact THROWS Sheldon through the air.

HILBERT (CONT'D)

NO!

Sheldon hits the ground, covered in mud. He looks down and out. Cilan smiles.

HILBERT (CONT'D)

Sheldon, use Razor Shell! You can do it!

CILAN

Pansage finish this off with Bite.

Pansage LEAPS at Sheldon, BITING onto the top of his head. With a sqwee, Sheldon PANICS, running around the field like a maniac, just like he did when SEWADDLE did the same thing.

Hilbert does a literal facepalm, not wanting to watch anymore.

CILAN (CONT'D)

Your Oshawott doesn't want to give up. But it's not fighting. I find it amusing...

Hilbert looks up -- to finally see Sheldon SHAKING Pansage off of his head. Pansage skids to the ground.

CILAN (CONT'D)

Pansage, turn the blessing of the sun into power!

Pansage opens its arms as it stands up, DRAWING in the sunlight to its body... It begins to glimmer, a BALL OF SUNLIGHT FORMING IN-BETWEEN ITS PALMS...

Sheldon stands up weakly... He gives a whimper. He's losing. Hilbert's nervous as all hell now, gritting his teeth as he speaks;

HILBERT

Sheldon, you can do this! Use your shell to deflect it and use Fury Cutter!

Sheldon forces himself to keep standing- DETACHING his SHELL and READYING it as Pansage BLASTS a beam of SUNLIGHT AND POWER right at Sheldon --

The shell does its job well -- DEFLECTING it. But it pushes Sheldon back as it does. Sheldon does his best, BRACING -- LOCKING his tiny FEET into the MUDDY GROUND -- STANDING HIS GROUND.

An EXPLOSION OF LIGHT surrounds Sheldon. Hilbert looks HORRIFIED -- The attack HIT?! But the light fades -- and his Oshawott isn't there anymore. In its place is a light blue colored otter, taller, with pointed black ears, and a large, dark blue frilled abdomen with a place for two shells --

Both are in the Pokémon's hands, though, and it uses both to block the attack and completely deflect it, SLAMMING the sunlight right into Pansage's face. The monkey falls back as the newly-evolved SHELDON runs, SLASHING at it repeatedly.

Hilbert checks his Pokédex to see that his Sheldon evolved into a DEWOTT. He GRINS as Dewott finishing slashing, and Pansage lies there, UNCONSCIOUS. He won!

CILAN

You... You beat me. What a surprise. You are very strong...

He recalls Pansage into its Poké Ball and approaches Hilbert, presenting him with a badge. Hilbert WRAPS his newly-evolved Dewott into a HUG.

HILBERT

Thank you so much, sir! I can't believe it.

Cilan turns around, away from Hilbert -- talking as he clips the Poké Ball back on his belt and puts his apron back on.

CILAN

In the Unova region, we are still novice Gym Leaders. Which means the other Gym Leaders are much stronger than we are, so be prepared to face a much bigger challenge with the others. We still have a lot of hard work to do as well, we don't deny it. You shouldn't either, so just keep that in mind...

CHILI

Uh.... Bro...

CILAN

What!?

Cilan spins around and sees that -- HILBERT AND SHELDON HAVE ALREADY DASHED THEIR WAY OUTTA THERE, the front door swinging shut. Cilan's brothers chuckle while we get a CLOSE-UP of his frowning expression.

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. HOTEL - DAY

HILBERT flaunts his badge proudly as he approaches IRIS. He does a victory dance. She just giggles.

IRIS

Congratulations. First badge is quite an achievement...

HILBERT

(all peppy)

Time for you to take your tent
dowwwwn and for me to check your
Pokémon out of the hotel because
we're leaving.

Hilbert marches toward the tent, ready to pull it down when Iris SNATCHES him by the hood. He starts choking him as she drags him back toward her, turning him around and locking eyes with him. She smirks, raising an eyebrow.

IRIS

We are?

HILBERT

(gasping for breath)

Uhh, yeah. So... let me go... So
we can... go get it.

Iris DROPS him, he falls flat on his face. He gets up, glaring at her.

HILBERT (CONT'D)

What's your problem?

IRIS

My problem is that I don't take
orders from a *kid*.

HILBERT

Is that like your catchphrase or
something?!

(beat)

Besides, I'm no kid. We're
literally what, a few months apart?

IRIS

Fine, but still. You're a kid.
Don't tell me what to do. *I'll* go
check the Pokémon out, *you* pack up
all our stuff. Got it?

HILBERT

(frowns)

Fair enough.

IRIS

Thank you for being such an
understanding *assistant*.

She giggles and turns on her heel, entering the hotel as Hilbert begins packing their things.