

EXT. ON THE ROAD - DAY

HILBERT and SHELDON the DEWOTT are walking with IRIS, who has her AXEW lounging on her shoulder, through a grassy route.

HILBERT (V.O.)

My confidence was at its peak. I thought I was a superhero flying, looking down at everyone else as if they were ants --

INT. HILBERT'S TENT - NIGHT

NIGHTTIME dawns upon them. The tents are set up elsewhere now, HILBERT is in his as Sheldon sleeps, curled up nearby. Hilbert looks at a photograph. Himself, BIANCA, and CHEREN. Much happier times.

HILBERT (V.O.)

But then, that high was gone just as quickly as it came. My cape got caught in an airplane's propellers and I was sucked in -- chopped to bits, then when the engine exploded I was smashed into even smaller pieces. I just seriously took a nosedive into HUGE nostalgia mode that night. My heart ached, because I knew I was missing something. Iris was cool, but I missed my friends. My mom. I kept longing for the days when we used to be with each other everyday. Life on the road was much different. Exciting, but... definitely different.

As a single tear falls from his eyes and drips onto the picture, Hilbert is startled by a scratching at the tent's opening. IRIS'S shadow is visible. She whispers;

IRIS (O.S.)

Hilbert?

HILBERT

(sniffles)

Uh. Yeah, come in.

Iris unzips the tent. She steps in, glances around. She makes note of Sheldon's sleeping form, tip-toe'ing her way in and slowly zipping it back up behind her, as to not wake him.

IRIS

You... were crying?

Nosily, Iris notices the picture in Hilbert's hands. She takes a seat next to him. Peeks over at it as he tries, rather poorly, to hide it.

IRIS (CONT'D)
...Friends of yours?

HILBERT
None of your business, quite frankly.

IRIS
No need for the 'tude, Hilby. I just wanted to break the ice. We've been traveling with each other for two days now and we still know *nothing* about each other.

HILBERT
...Who the hell's Hilby?

IRIS
I guess you don't like that nickname.

HILBERT
Absolutely not.

Iris laughs.

HILBERT (CONT'D)
(beat)
Yeah. They're friends.

Hilbert nods, the two chuckle.

IRIS
Well, what happened?

HILBERT
It's gonna sound so stupid. They left when I SHOULD have, but shit happens you know? So I had to stay, they left. My Cross-transceiver has their numbers in it, but I'm... too nervous to call. They're probably like champions already and here I am, just got my first badge. It'd be embarrassing.

IRIS
You never know unless you give 'em a call. They could've gotten sidetracked.

(MORE)

IRIS (CONT'D)

Maybe you should call them. And if you're so embarrassed, tell a little white lie or something.

She winks at him, he nods.

HILBERT

Enough about my boring life. I'm curious to here why you're so intent on leaving your privileged life.

IRIS

The life everyone else would KILL to have, right? It's not as flattering as it looks. I'm just not fit for it. I'd rather walk in my grandfather's footsteps, not do all this. It's like tarnishing everything he stands for.

HILBERT

Your grandfather someone important?

IRIS

I guess you could say that. He's a powerful trainer and my parents think it's not ladylike for me to pursue being just like him, that I should do feminine things like make tea, dance, socialize, and look pretty. I'm not a freaking porcelain doll, you know? It's annoying. They just don't get me at all.

HILBERT

You sent that letter yet?

IRIS

Yeah. Just a half hour ago. I'm actually a little nervous for their response.

HILBERT

But it's for the best. It's your life, Iris, they can't control you forever.

IRIS

I guess we have more in common than we thought.

HILBERT

Yeah, despite totally opposite backgrounds, we're pretty much in the same boat.

IRIS

So I wrote my letter. When are you making your phone call?

HILBERT

Tomorrow morning. I promise.

Iris grins.

IRIS

Good. I'll let you get some rest then. See ya in the A.M.

Iris leaves, Hilbert zips up his tent behind her. He tucks away the picture into his bag and curls up into his sleeping bag, putting out the lantern that's giving off light.

HILBERT (V.O.)

I had an idea in my head. It was so brilliant! I knew as soon as I'd wake up in the morning, I'd call Cheren and Bianca, and then Iris would commend me for my brilliant plan --

EXT. CAMPSITE - MORNING

CLOSE-UP of IRIS's face - she stares at the camera/at HILBERT in DISBELIEF.

IRIS

You idiot! You can't be serious?!

HILBERT (V.O.)

--Or she'd do the exact opposite.

Hilbert is confused by her reaction.

HILBERT

But... you said to lie to them.

IRIS

A little white lie. NOT tell them that you've beaten all the gyms and you'd see them in a week. You're telling me we have to travel through the entire Unova region in a WEEK?! You're insane!

HILBERT (V.O.)

Yeah that was what I told them. I'd meet 'em at the Pokémon League in a week, that I'd already gotten all my badges. Looking back after she told that to me, it started dawning on me how stupid it was. I think I said this before, but I'm not exactly the sharpest tool in the shed...

HILBERT

It'd be fun! You said you wanted to travel. Here's your chance to do it and make history in the process.

IRIS

I... I mean, it's stupid. It really is. But... You may have a point there. It could be fun, maybe.

HILBERT

That was fast. Are you bipolar?

IRIS

Not at all. Just a quick thinker.

She looks deep-in-thought. Sighs.

IRIS (CONT'D)

Fine. Let's do it.

HILBERT

So what's for breakfast?

IRIS

We're not eating. We're going.

HILBERT

What?

IRIS

If you wanna make it to Nacrene City and beat Lenora by the end of the day, we've gotta leave NOW. So let's GO.

Hilbert sighs and he helps her start packing up stuff.

EXT./INT. VARIOUS - MONTAGE

CUE -- "ROAD TO VIRIDIAN CITY" FROM THE SUPER SMASH BROS. BRAWL SOUNDTRACK.

HILBERT and IRIS arrive in NACRENE CITY. ESTABLISHING SHOT of the tiny, quaint little city.

HILBERT (V.O.)

The Nacrene City gym is rather annoying. Find one book in the massive library, it asks you to find another. Rinse and repeat for about an hour and then you can finally present your findings to the pleasant fellow at the staircase--

Hilbert carries a huge stack of books, barely able to stand as he holds them, while Iris looks amused. A buff guard stood at the staircase counts the books mentally, then gives a gruff nod. Not even a moment later, Hilbert collapses, all the books falling over, and his legs sticking up in the air. Iris giggles.

HILBERT (V.O.)

Then it was time for the battle.

Hilbert sends out his SEWADDLE.

We get QUICK CUTS of LENORA, the dark skinned gym leader, a pretty, sassy woman in her 40's, commanding her LILLIPUP, a tiny puppy Pokémon. Sewaddle battles the puppy. They exchange blows.

HILBERT

Sewaddle, use Razor Leaf!!

Sewaddle lands the KO hit by whipping her head and sending a barrage of sharpened leaves from her leafy headdress. Lenora recalls her Lillipup and sends out a tall WATCHOG, with creepy eyes that dig-into-your-soul. ECU of Hilbert's facial expression, he looks horrified. Trying to hide it, but not doing a fantastic job.

HILBERT (V.O.)

Watchog's have always scared me. I think it's those eyes. When Lenora sent hers out, I nearly crapped my pants.

Watchog lands a hit on Sewaddle, KO'ing her. Hilbert recalls Sewaddle and looks back at SHELDON, who stands at the wall with IRIS, nodding for the DEWOTT to come out and battle. Iris is, meanwhile, WARMING her egg by breathing on it.

HILBERT (V.O.)

When it knocked out poor Sewaddle,
I knew I couldn't send out Pikachu,
he'd just zap me and take a nap.
Sheldon was my last hope.

QUICK CUTS of Sheldon the Dewott using his DUAL RAZOR SHELL attack to slash at Watchog and knock it out. Lenora hands over the BASIC BADGE to Hilbert, he grins at it.

HILBERT (V.O.)

Another badge to my roster. Six
badges left, and six days left to
do it. So far so good...
(beat)
...Right?

Hilbert with Sheldon at his side, and Iris with AXEW in her hair, move through the beautiful PINWHEEL FOREST, filled with plenty of MONSTROUS-SIZED, but nonetheless gorgeous, TREES acting as a canopy over their heads.

HILBERT (V.O.)

We made it through Pinwheel Forest
quicker than we anticipated...

The group travels across the massive, breathtaking SKYARROW BRIDGE, heading toward a city with an amazing skyline, filled with towering skyscrapers and the usual hustle-and-bustle noises and congestion of a busy city.

HILBERT (V.O.)

...Leading to the Skyarrow Bridge
and Castelia City. The bridge and
that city are just so amazing. A
country boy like me only dreamed of
the neon signs and business
lifestyle that goes on in cities
like Castelia, and it was
everything I expected.

EXT. CASTELIA CITY - SUNSET

HILBERT, SHELDON, IRIS and AXEW arrive in CASTELIA. Hilbert is AMAZED, completely BREATHLESS, at the huge city. He just tries to take it all in, staring at the towering buildings ahead of him.

HILBERT (V.O.)

I decided to get some training in
when some random bystanders asked
me and Iris to a double battle.

CUE -- "WILD POKÉMON BATTLE" from BLACK & WHITE OST.

CUT to Hilbert and Iris stood side-by-side, across from another pair of trainers. Hilbert has his PIKACHU out, Iris her SERVINE. Pikachu glares at Hilbert angrily, cheeks sparking, but a grass cloud-like Pokémon called WHIMSICOTT swoops in to smack Pikachu with a VINE WHIP.

This snaps Pikachu's attention toward his opponent. Hilbert shouts a command and Pikachu unleashes a powerful electric discharge, shocking the two Pokémon - WHIMSICOTT, and a chubby two-legged fire-type pig called PIGNITE.

Servine swoops in and uses a Vine Whip across Whimsicott's face. Pignite charges forward and releases a blast of fire from its snout, only for Pikachu to jump forward and land a life-risking tackle onto the pig. Pignite is knocked out!

Iris commands her Servine to rush at the Whimsicott, it does so and starts dancing. Sharpened leaves shoot out of Servine, like a swirling tornado, the petals sharpening and cutting and slicing at Whimsicott as they blow a round crazily. When Servine quits spinning, Whimsicott drops, unconscious.

Iris and Hilbert high-five. Servine leaps at Iris happily, wrapping her in a big hug. Hilbert and Pikachu share glances, Hilbert gives Pikachu a thumbs-up, Pikachu just turns his head. Hilbert sighs and returns Pikachu into his Poké Ball.

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

Sheldon and Sewaddle were getting along with me fantastically, but Pikachu? Not so much. I tried my best to do some bonding with him while we chilled in Castelia for a bit, but it never worked.

Hilbert lets Pikachu sit on his shoulder as they walk through Castelia, through a crowd of people. Pikachu just smirks and unleashes a huge burst of electricity, SHOCKING Hilbert.

Steam rises from his body and he sighs as passing people laugh. Even Iris giggles a little, he just gives her the finger and she helps him up with the roll of her eyes.

PROFESSOR JUNIPER (O.S.)

Hilbert, it seems that every time we see each other you're being electrocuted.

It's that instantly recognizable sly tone. Hilbert sees PROFESSOR JUNIPER stood a few feet away, stood next to a woman with long black hair who looks permanently stuck in a dreamy state.

HILBERT
(grumbles)
Good to see you too, professor.

PROFESSOR JUNIPER
There's been a bit of a problem...

FENNEL
Thieves! Thieves, I tell you.

PROFESSOR JUNIPER
This is Fennel, a fellow professor
and friend of mine. She found a
way to revive extinct Pokémon. One
of the ones she managed to bring
back was an Archen.

Iris looks up from admiring her Pokémon Egg---

IRIS
I've heard about those. The bird
that couldn't fly.

Juniper nods.

PROFESSOR JUNIPER
Well, Team Plasma decided they
wanted it without asking --

HILBERT
What way did they go?

PROFESSOR JUNIPER
Don't do anything stupid, Hilbert,
I've already contacted the Castelia
City authorities...

HILBERT
Which way, professor? You can't
risk them getting away!

PROFESSOR JUNIPER
You're right. They went for the
docks. We could all separate?

Hilbert nods. SHELDON, his Dewott, leaps onto his back, arms wrapped around Hilbert's shoulders. The four of them take off through the streets, pushing through the rampant crowd of faceless faces.

EXT. LIBERTY PIER - DAY

IRIS marches along LIBERTY PIER, looking through the faces in the crowd. AXEW sits on her shoulder, both search for anyone in TEAM PLASMA garb.

EXT. CRUISE DOCK - DAY

FENNEL has her MUSHARNA floating over her shoulders, a big purple curled-up psychic Pokémon with an eerie lavender smoke floating from its head.

EXT. UNITY PIER - DAY

HILBERT and SHELDON shove people around on the pier. They look at them with odd looks.

HILBERT (V.O.)

Okay, maybe we were a little direct with people. But I really wanted these Plasma jerks to get what was coming to them. Who could blame me, right?

Two figures in Team Plasma robes are climbing into a tiny black boat up ahead. Hilbert locks his eyes on them --

TARGET SIGHTED.

EXT. PRIME PIER - DAY

PROFESSOR JUNIPER hears shouts from the next pier over. She instinctively spins around --

PROFESSOR JUNIPER

(exasperated)

I told those kids to *stay behind...*

She rushes in the direction of Hilbert's shouting voice.

EXT. UNITY PIER - DAY

HILBERT stands at the edge of the pier -- the two Plasma agents desperately try to start the motor boat. In a cage nearby is the ARCHEN. A scrawny little bird. It squawks pathetically.

Hilbert looks at Sheldon -- they both nod to each other. With a running LEAP, they stick the landing -- The boat rocks as their heavy weight crashes down on it, they balance it out quickly so they avoid toppling in. The Archen's cage tips and ROLLS right out of the boat.

ON THE PIER; PROFESSOR JUNIPER charges through the pier, pushing through gossiping passerby. She stands there, SCREAMS.

PROFESSOR JUNIPER
HILBERT, YOU'RE INSANE!

BACK on the boat;

The two Plasma grunts look surprised as the boat starts to speed away -- they glower at Hilbert as Sheldon DIVES into the water --

GRUNT 1
You ignorant child... You've been a thorn in our side for a while.

HILBERT
And whattya gonna do huh? I thought Team Plasma was all about peace.

GRUNT 2
That bird was never meant to be alive. It was extinct for a reason, it doesn't BELONG here. We are gonna put it out of its misery, kid!

HILBERT
Out of its misery?! You were gonna KILL it?!

GRUNT 2
Re-fossilization. It's humane.

IN THE WATER, Sheldon uses his twin scalchops to slash at the cage, but it starts to sink. Archen flails around, weakly chirping.

Sheldon tries to get the bird to calm down, but it won't. As Sheldon finally slashes open the lock and the door to the cage opens, Archen shimmers in a white glow.

IN THE BOAT; Hilbert and the grunts' attention is drawn to the white glow in the ocean. TIGHT on Hilbert's face as the wind picks up and he's forced to hold his hat down with his hand...

ON UNITY PIER; IRIS and FENNEL run up, joining PROFESSOR JUNIPER on the dock. They watch in awe...

BACK IN THE WATER; the cage EXPLODES in a FURY of METAL and WATER.

A large, hairy, monstrous BIRD rises from the water, giving a vicious roar. Archen has evolved into a fierce ARCHEOPS. Raises into the sky, spreading its wings victoriously, water splashing around it.

BACK IN THE BOAT; Hilbert wrestles with the grunts as they try to hold him down.

HILBERT (V.O.)

I had to weigh my options... Stay here and get kidnapped by some random guys who could be child molesters for all I know... Or leap into the water and get my clothes all wet. Honestly, I couldn't choose what to do. These pants had already been threw enough hell.

Hilbert stares into the sky and sees the Archeops FLYING toward the boat, a purple FLAME glowing in its beak. It opens its beak as it swoops over the boat -- WHOOOOSH --

The flame shoots out in a streak of light, hitting the boat's motor. It explodes. The grunts and Hilbert are sent flying through the air.

HILBERT (V.O.)

I thought at that point I was going to die.

Hilbert has his eyes shut as he HURTTLES through the air -- only for him to stop falling abruptly -- his eyes FLUTTER open and he looks up --

He's being carried by the Archeops, its feet wrapped in Hilbert's hood and carrying him by it. The grunts are left in the water, yelling for help.

HILBERT (V.O.)

But, obviously I wasn't. I mean, that woulda been anticlimactic, amiright?

Archeops swoops around and FLIES into the city...

HILBERT

Whoa, whoa, whoa, big bird. You could set me down at the pier...

The Archeops interrupts with a loud SQUWAK and continues FLYING...

EXT. CASTELIA CITY - CITYSCAPE - CONTINUOUS

ARCHEOPS carries HILBERT with it, Hilbert looks worried as he peeks around. Archeops CRASHES through an office building -- dragging Hilbert in with it.

INT. CASTELIA CITY - OFFICE BUILDING - CONTINUOUS

ARCHEOPS gives a victorious squwak as it flies through the office, tearing through desks. People shriek and panic, running away in fear as poor HILBERT is dragged across the ground, his legs smacking around the floor and walls with every turn, and his body being hit by numerous objects. Archeops CRASHES through the window on the opposite side of the building, GLASS explodes everywhere --

EXT. CASTELIA CITY - CONTINUOUS

ON THE GROUND; IRIS throws out a Poké Ball, letting her DUCKLETT out. FENNEL and PROFESSOR JUNIPER follow her.

PROFESSOR JUNIPER
Where did it take him?

IRIS
I don't know, but Ducklett's gonna find him. Right!?

Ducklett gives a salute with its left wing and flies off.

IN THE SKY; TRACK SHOT of Ducklett as the tiny blue duck soars through the skies, spotting Archeops on a building...

EXT. CASTELIA CITY - ROOF - CONTINUOUS

HILBERT lies flat on his back on the roof of this building - the enormous prehistoric bird stood in front of him, walking toward him. ARCHEOPS nudges Hilbert's trembling legs with its massive mouth, giving a tiny little growl.

HILBERT (V.O.)
Yeah I was scared. But so what?
Who wouldn't be, that enormous thing made me want to soil myself.

Archeops sniffs Hilbert's face -- he closes his eyes --

HILBERT
Down boy, down...

Archeops roars angrily. Hilbert backs up.

HILBERT (CONT'D)
Girl then? You're a girl?

Archeops quiets.

HILBERT (CONT'D)
I take that as a yes then...

Hilbert starts growing more comfortable with Archeops, leaning in to pet her head softly, stroking her fur. Archeops in turn sniffs Hilbert's hat. He laughs. Ducklett flies over and lands on Hilbert's shoulder, giving an angry glance at Archeops.

HILBERT (CONT'D)
No no no, Ducklett, everything's fine, we're fine...

Hilbert takes out a Poké Ball. Holds it up. Archeops sniffs it curiously.

HILBERT (CONT'D)
Do you... Do you want to relax?
Take a little rest?

Archeops taps the ball with its face and is suddenly wrapped in a bright red light and DRAGGED into the Ball. It barely shakes before LOCKING in place.

EXT. CASTELIA CITY - OUTDOOR CAFE - DAY

HILBERT, IRIS, PROFESSOR JUNIPER and FENNEL sit at a nicely-decorated outdoor cafe. Hilbert hands Archeops's Poké Ball over to Fennel.

HILBERT
Archeops is yours right?

Fennel shoves the Ball away quickly, back toward Hilbert, who's taken aback.

FENNEL
Archen was panicking, scared when I had her. She didn't belong in this era but with you she relaxed. She trusts you because you saved her life.
(beat)
She's yours, Hilbert. Take care of her, okay?

HILBERT
Tha--Thank you so much.

Iris joins them at the table, sipping her Moo Moo Milk. She pours a bit of it onto her Pokémon Egg, hoping for it to warm up and hatch.

IRIS
 (to herself, softly)
 Gosh, this egg requires a lot of
 work...
 (shaking her head)
 Whatever happened to those Plasma
 punks?

PROFESSOR JUNIPER
 They're in the local jail right
 now.

They all carry on with a chat together but their dialogue's muted. All we hear is the narration;

HILBERT (V.O.)
 That was a tremendous
 accomplishment for me. I mean, a
 Pokémon that's been dead for
 thousands of years in my
 possession? Talk about insane!

FADE TO:

INT. CASTELIA CITY GYM - DAY

ESTABLISHING SHOTS of the honeycomb-themed gym. The whole place even drips with honey.

HILBERT stands on the battlefield, his SEWADDLE fighting against a DWEBBLE, a tiny hermet-crab like Pokémon in a large rocky shell.

BURGH, the gym leader, stands on the other side. Dressed in flamboyant and jaunty clothes with a hardy smile. He strikes a pose and commands his Dwebble to attack.

HILBERT (V.O.)
 I immediately went to the Castelia
 Gym --

The dialogue is muted and all we hear is the narration. Hilbert commands his Sewaddle to battle -- Sewaddle leaps forward and shoots a barrage of sharpened leaves at the crab, it is her Razor Leaf attack.

HILBERT (V.O.)
 -- Decided that little Sewaddle
 could use some training.

SHOTS of the two Bug-types exchanging blows. A tackle here from Sewaddle and a Slash there from Dwebble. Sewaddle performs a Bug Bite attack right on Dwebble's face, then leaps back and kicks it back with her tiny balled feet.

Dwebble flies backward, landing on its back, unconscious. Burgh retracts the shelled bug and sends out his next Pokémon, Sewaddle's final evolutionary form, LEAVANNY. A long, stick-like Pokémon with sharpened leaves as 'claws' and a friendly, welcoming face. Leavanny strikes a pose along with Burgh. Hilbert and Sewaddle exchange looks.

HILBERT (V.O.)

If those triplet gym leaders were ambiguously gay, Burgh was just plain ousted.

Sewaddle fights against Leavanny fiercely, Sewaddle uses her String Shot to wrap Leavanny tightly in some binds as he flies at her with a Tackle attack, throwing her back.

Sewaddle tries desperately to fight the binds, then SUDDENLY, she begins to glow. EVOLUTION. The shadow of Sewaddle is replaced by a moody-looking, wrapped-in-leaves cocooned form with a draping dress of leaves behind her, called SWADLOON. On Hilbert's beaming face...

HILBERT (V.O.)

The timing there couldn't have been more perfect...

CUT to Leavanny's CLAWS slashing at the String Shot, breaking free.

HILBERT (V.O.)

...For Burgh.

Leavanny flies at Swadloon like a rocket, repeatedly slashing at the tiny cocooned bug. Swadloon lands, giving an angry look. She swings her draped blanket of leaves, revealing a SHARPENED portion that SLASHES Leavanny across the chest.

BURGH

Swadloon replaced her whimpy Razor Leaf with a simply *gaw-geous* Leaf Blade!! How remarkable!

Leavanny falls with a thud, DOWN AND OUT -- Hilbert runs forward and SCOOPS Swadloon in a tight hug. Swadloon returns the favor by spraying String Shot all around him, wrapping them even tighter together in a hug. Hilbert just laughs hysterically.

FADE TO:

EXT. CASTELIA CITY - DAY

HILBERT marches proudly with SHELDON at his side, and IRIS behind him.

HILBERT (V.O.)
With my third badge, a new Pokémon,
and an evolved Swadloon, I was
ready to go. More confident than
ever...

INT. GYMNASIUM - DAY

Hilbert is in sportier clothes. Shorts and a t-shirt.

He, Sheldon, Pikachu, and Swadloon train in a gym. Hilbert lifts weights with Sheldon at his side, Swadloon does stretches using her Silk String, and Pikachu runs the treadmill. Outside, through the massive glass window, we see his humongous ARCHEOPS doing laps around the huge track inside. Hilbert waves to her, she gives a loud SQWAK in return.

HILBERT (V.O.)
We went to train at the local
sporting gym...

EXT. CASTELIA PARK - DAY

Iris and her Axew practice Axew's Dragon Rage attack in an open field...

HILBERT (V.O.)
...While Iris and Axew went and did
who-knows-what.

Axew once again fails, chomping down and causing a massive pulse to surround his body, throwing Iris to the ground. She looks at the little dragon, who stares back at her apologetically, and then starts to laugh. She stands, pets him on the head.

IRIS
You will get it soon...

INT. LOCKER ROOM - DAY

HILBERT wipes down his face with a towel, he is back in his regular clothes. Throwing on his jacket, he exits the locker room.

EXT. ROUTE 4 - DAY

HILBERT and IRIS move through the DESERT together, both wearing safety goggles and both have scarves wrapped around their faces, as sand blows in all directions.

Hilbert sees a huge gathering of Pokémon. He smiles, excited.

HILBERT

I think it's about time we had another friend to add to the team...

IRIS

(skeptical)

We'll see how these Pokémon feel about you attacking them.

Hilbert sends out his SWADLOON. The nearest Pokémon is a DARUMAKA - a red, circular Pokémon. Above its eyes are yellow curly eyebrows and its face is orange. Three yellow ovals are on its abdomen and a curvy yellow line is on its back. Its paws are orange and have three digits each.

HILBERT

Leaf Blade!!

Swadloon whips around her blanket of leaves that drapes behind her, sending a sharpened segment of the blanket in Darumaka's direction. Direct hit! Darumaka flies backward, and the other Pokémon - small brown crocodiles with black eyes called SANDILE and lizards with saggy skin that resemble the look of sagging pants called SCRAGGY - look disturbed by the potential battle. Hilbert doesn't seem to notice all of their reactions. Iris does, though.

IRIS

(nervously)

Uh... Hilbert.

Hilbert is about to throw a Poké Ball at the dazed Darumaka, but the enraged group of Pokémon approach from behind.

IRIS (CONT'D)

HILBERT, TURN AROUND---!

As Hilbert and Swadloon turn, their eyes widen as the Sandile and Scraggy send attacks flying at them in all directions, chasing Hilbert around. The Sandile's chomp their teeth at him and Swadloon, while the Scraggy kick furiously. This is buying enough time for the fainted Darumaka to recover and flee. As the entire flock of Pokémon flee, Hilbert and Swadloon stop running. They stop, Hilbert puts his hands on his knees and pants like a tired dog.

HILBERT

(dejected)

Wow... that was disappointing.

One particular Sandile, oblivious to the entire situation, has its head stuck in the sand. Its feet kick furiously in the air.

Grabbing this opportunity, Hilbert smiles.

HILBERT (CONT'D)
YAHOOOO! A Pokémon!
(beat)
Swadloon, use Tackle!

Swadloon propels herself from the ground, full body slamming the back of the Sandile. It goes flipping out of its place in the ground, landing right on its head with a grumble. It then manages to get onto its feet, and tries to regain an awareness of its surroundings. As it is doing so, Hilbert takes the opportunity. Iris watches excitedly ---

HILBERT (CONT'D)
Swadloon, Leaf Blade!

With one fell swoop, Swadloon briskly swings her draping blanket of leaves, sending the sharpened portion in Sandile's direction, slashing it across its belly. The dazed croc lands on its back. Hilbert quickly throws a Poké Ball, and Sandile turns into a red blob of energy that is soon drawn into the red-white sphere. The ball lands on the ground, and starts tethering back and forth. Hilbert, Swadloon and Iris watch quietly, waiting for the indication on the Poké Ball to signify Sandile's capture. The ball drops and shakes, Hilbert waits in anticipation. Will he be able to catch it?

The red light soon disappears, and the ball stops moving. Hilbert has caught Sandile!

HILBERT (V.O.)
Shortly after catching Sandile, we
arrived in Nimbasa City...

INT. NIMBASA CITY - NIGHT

HILBERT and IRIS arrive in NIMBASA CITY. ESTABLISHING shot of the bright lights. A large FERRIS WHEEL spins around in a clockwise motion while small sideshows and games surround it in a huge park area.

HILBERT
Oh my God. Look at all the COLORS!

FREEZE-FRAME on Hilbert's surprised expression, going googly-eyed over the lights. Iris stands in the background, rolling her eyes.

HILBERT (V.O.)

I was a country boy exposed to neon lights to the first time. This reaction was natural, trust me.

Hilbert runs through the carnival, separating from Iris. Iris frowns --

IRIS

Hilbert, wait!

She tries fighting through the crowds of people but can't find Hilbert. She moves toward the brightly-lit ferris wheel, only ending up bumping into someone who waits in line --

IRIS (CONT'D)

Oh, I'm so sorry...

He turns around. We recognize him...

N

That's quite alright.

It's N. He smiles at her. These two haven't met yet, and Iris seems charmed. He turns around, his attention focused ahead. CLOSE-UP on his face as his lips curve into a pursed smile.

The line moves up -- CUT to Hilbert as he spins his arm and THROWS -- Knocking a whole tower of cans over with the Poké Ball-colored baseball. The vendor presents him with a prize.

VENDOR

It's called a Heal Ball! Very rare.

Hilbert frowns at the pink Ball.

HILBERT

I'm a dude. I'm not gonna use this.

He frowns and puts it in his bag, sulking off disappointed.

HILBERT (V.O.)

I nearly trashed it right then and there. Pink just wasn't my style...

CUT back to Iris and N, the line moves up to where they're the next two. The person operating the wheel looks at N.

FERRIS WHEEL OPERATOR

You two together or separate?

Iris goes to speak but N clasps his hand over hers with a smile.

N
Together.

Iris looks speechless, she goes to say something but is entranced by N as he turns to face her. She simply gives an uncomfortable smile as the operator ushers them into one of the gondolas.

INT. FERRIS WHEEL GONDOLA - NIGHT

Their GONDOLA is up above the city at this point. N stares down at the brightly-lit buildings and the crowds. IRIS frowns in her place on the other side of the gondola.

IRIS
You seemed so eager to hop on this Ferris wheel with me. I thought it was like, a date or something, but you're just sitting there being all emo and silent.

N
(softly)
I love Ferris wheels... The circular motion... The mechanics... They're like collections of elegant formulas.

Iris just stares at him, in awe and perhaps even growing fear.

IRIS
Uh-huuuuh...

Her AXEW pops out of her massive head of hair and stretches out on her lap, giving a yawn. N eyes the little dragon with pure delight.

N
You've raised your Pokémon well. I can tell by just looking at it that you two have a unique bond.

N reaches out for the Pokémon egg in Iris's lap. She moves over, uncomfortable, but he lays a hand on it. Smiles.

N (CONT'D)
Your egg is very warm. A Fire-type. It should be hatching soon.

IRIS
What do you want?

N
(beat)
I am the newly-throned king of Team
Plasma...

Iris stares at him, completely taken aback. She holds her
Axew close to her chest.

N (CONT'D)
I need someone to be by my side. A
personal confidante per se. I have
Ghetsis, but he's far too busy
being our frontman, visiting
different cities...
(pause)
I always... thought I could use a
queen.

IRIS
(disgusted)
Never. Your people sicken me. You
may think you have good intentions
but your methods make you an
extremist group who's a danger to
everyone.

N winces at these words -- his fist shakes.

N
You... You can't mean that. You're
far too beautiful, far too *pure* to
mean that.

His eyes are alight and Iris looks slightly frightened. As
the gondola comes around toward the docking point again,

IRIS
Like I said -- I don't want
anything to do with this.

Iris holds on tight to Axew and her Egg, and HOPS out the
gondola window--

IRIS (CONT'D)
Toodles!

--She lands on her feet outside. As she RUNS off, we CLOSE
on N's raging face.

N
Damn it!