

EXT. DRAGON SPIRAL TOWER - NIGHT

FADE IN on HILBERT as he stands in front of the DRAGON SPIRAL TOWER. IRIS and SHELDON the DEWOTT stand beside him. They stare into the sky. It's lit up with an ORANGE FLARE...

A BLOOD RED HORIZON.

HILBERT (V.O.)

So, I pretty much saw any hope of me defeating N fly away right in front of my face. Literally. Team Plasma's goal was coming to fruition faster than I expected... And that scared the hell outta' me.

IRIS

Hilbert? You okay?

Iris breaks him from his train of thought. Hilbert turns to face Iris. In honest candor.

HILBERT

No, this is the worst thing that could have happened. N won.

Hilbert takes Sheldon by the hand and the two take off, leaving Iris wistful. She feels his pain.

IRIS

Hilbert...

She follows after him.

INT. POKÉMON CENTER - NIGHT

HILBERT and IRIS put their Poké BALLS on the counter and the NURSE JOY of ICIRRUS CITY puts them on the rack and has them start healing.

EXT. ROUTE 8 - NIGHT

HILBERT, SHELDON, and IRIS move through ROUTE 8. MINCCINO pops out of his own Poké Ball and giddily grabs a stone. As he slowly starts to glow, Hilbert snatches the stone from him, having not noticed...

HILBERT

What are you doing, Minccino?
Don't touch things if you don't
know what they are...

He recalls a mopey-looking Minccino.

Through the canopy trees that overhang them, they can see smoke rising in the distance.

HILBERT (V.O.)

We knew whatever it was wasn't going to be pretty... But we just didn't think this night could get any worse.

EXT. TUBELINE BRIDGE - NIGHT

HILBERT, SHELDON, and IRIS walk over a hill that overlooks TUBELINE BRIDGE. It's destroyed, half of the bridge dangling into the water. Rescue helicopters swarm the scene, INTERNATIONAL POLICE members in cloaks and uniforms block the entrances on both sides of the bridge, calming down crowds of people who gather round to see what's going on.

HILBERT

What the...?

He looks up to the dark sky -- crackles of lightning continue to spark down. A bellowing roar can be heard. Hilbert winces.

ZEKROM (V.O.)

The stone... The stone...

Hilbert holds his forehead, gives a cry.

ZEKROM (V.O.)

Take the stone to the Pokémon League. Reunite them. Please.

Hilbert nearly collapses, Iris helps him up.

IRIS

Hilbert?!

Hilbert winces, as the voice disappears. That deep, haunting voice. Pained.

Hilbert's eyes snap open and he looks at Iris...

IRIS (CONT'D)

What's going on?

HILBERT

I need to get to Opelucid and pulverize the gym leader there.

Iris frowns. Out of annoyance or offense, we don't know exactly.

Hilbert sighs, taking her aside as she starts to rant. He doesn't want to attract attention from the others, but they all seem busy dealing with their own problems.

IRIS

After everything that's happened
you're still on about the gyms? I
don't think your little friends
will mind if you skip out on them.
You've got priorities, kid. You've
got the Dark Stone! You need to
get Zekrom and you need to fight N--

Hilbert and Iris have made their way under a tree a few feet away from the crowd. Hilbert lowers his voice, into a harsh tone, whispering loudly --

HILBERT

(interjecting)

Don't you get it?! THIS -- this
was Zekrom. The stones are split,
and Reshiram and Zekrom are
separated. It's the prophecy
coming to life, right here, right
now. Zekrom's got nothing to
control it, and he just told me to
bring the stone to the Pokémon
League okay? There's a-- a castle
there or somethin'. And the only
way to get to the League is to beat
the last gym and pass that entrance
exam...

IRIS

How did Zekrom TALK to you?

HILBERT

It was -- I can't explain it. I
dunno, in my head? I heard its
voice.

Iris looks very skeptical as Hilbert stares at her desperately --

IRIS

How can you be so sure? You're
just gonna believe random voices in
your head?!

HILBERT

How much other crazy crap has
happened these past few days, Iris?
Why is this so hard to believe?

Hilbert seems to be blowing up on her -- FREEZE-FRAME.

HILBERT (V.O.)

Yeah, yeah, yeah. I know. I was being a jerk. But I was frustrated... We both were. There was just too much going for either of us to really comprehend it all.

Hilbert turns to the water... Sees trainers climbing onto the backs of their Pokémon and riding them across the waves. Iris speaks, but Hilbert's not listening.

IRIS

Look, I'm sorry, but it's not really the most believable situation...

HILBERT

You see that?!

Hilbert points to the other trainers. Iris shrugs.

IRIS

That'd be great if we had a Pokémon who knew Surf.

HILBERT

Huh?

IRIS

Surf. It's a Hidden Machine, you've gotta teach it to one of your Pokémon.

Hilbert looks down at Sheldon, who just stares at the two humans curiously.

HILBERT

Well, Sheldon's a Water-Type. He'd probably be able to learn it.

EXT. HILL - CONTINUOUS

Hilbert rushes down the hill, approaching the officer directing the trainers across the lake. Iris sighs, rushing after him.

IRIS

Wait up...! God, you're such a kid.

Hilbert nearly jumps the officer, who leaps back at his sudden appearance.

OFFICER
Whoa, kid, you startled me.

HILBERT
I need to get a way across.

OFFICER
You need a Pokémon with Surf.

HILBERT
I don't have the Hidden thingy.

OFFICER
I can teach it to a Pokémon if you
have one that can learn the move.

Hilbert wraps his hands under Sheldon's armpits and lifts the Dewott toward the officer. Sheldon squirms in Hilbert's grasp and looks a bit pissed off. The officer takes Sheldon and examines the Pokémon. He pulls a disc out of his pocket and motions to Hilbert.

OFFICER (CONT'D)
I need your Pokédex. Don't you
know how this thing works? I mean,
gym leaders usually give you TM's
as soon as you finish your battles.

HILBERT
What? TM?

The officer wants to facepalm, he really does.

IRIS
Technical Machine. Wait. You
never picked any up?

HILBERT
I'm lost.

IRIS
Usually the gym leaders give you
the badge and a TM. Why didn't you
get a TM from any of the seven gyms
you already beat?

Hilbert thinks back --

A THOUGHT BUBBLE appears on screen.

Shows Hilbert leaving the STRIATION GYM as the triplets
watch, CILAN trying to take chase after him, a DISC in hand.

This morphs to LENORA doing the same.

Then BURGH.

Then ELESA.

And then Hilbert waves the thought bubble away. It POOFS into nothingness.

HILBERT

I guess I just got too excited to stick around.

(beat)

That does happen a lot, to be honest. Whenever I'm excited, I sort of block out whatever else is going on around me and just go with the flow...

The officer just shakes his head. Whatever. He takes Hilbert's Pokédex and plugs the HIDDEN MACHINE disc into a slot at the bottom. Hilbert gasps.

HILBERT (CONT'D)

Oooh. So THAT'S what that's for!

The officer holds the Pokédex out, an ultraviolet light seems to SCAN Dewott. And then it makes a BEEPING noise and the disc POPS out. The officer takes the disc, pockets it, and hands Hilbert his Pokédex.

OFFICER

You're all set. Now your Dewott can ride the waves and carry you where you need to be.

Hilbert grins.

HILBERT

Epic. Sheldon, use Surf!

Sheldon concentrates -- and then a BIG WAVE suddenly SHOOTS from the water and SMACKS INTO HILBERT.

When the wave disappears, Hilbert's gone.

IRIS

Hilbert...?

HILBERT (O.S.)

Over here.

Iris looks up. And there's Hilbert, his hood hanging by a tree branch above them. He's dripping wet, but he gives a thumbs up.

HILBERT (CONT'D)
I guess Surf works then, huh.

OFFICER
Yeah, but your Dewott needs to be
IN the water for it to work.

HILBERT
Oh, right. Can someone get me d--

The branch SNAPS, unable to support his weight any longer.
Hilbert plummets to the ground. BAM!

Iris smirks, crossing her arms.

IRIS
Nah. You seem to be handling
yourself just fine.

Hilbert hops on his feet giddily, brushing himself off.

Sheldon climbs into the water and Hilbert stands behind him,
on land.

OFFICER
Hold onto Dewott's back. The
girl's riding with you?

Hilbert nods--

OFFICER (CONT'D)
She holds onto you.

Hilbert rolls up his pant legs before stepping into the
shallow water. He wraps his arms around Sheldon's waist. He
nods for Iris to come.

She does, and puts her arms around his shoulder. He smirks,
peeking back at her.

HILBERT
You know, you could wrap your arms
around my waist and wrap your legs
around my hips. I can hoist you up
like I'm giving you a piggy back
ride. It might be...
(pause)
...Safer.

His cocky smirk gets to Iris. She rolls her eyes.

IRIS
Cute. But no thanks. I think I
can handle myself.

She winks. Hilbert goes to say something when Iris interrupts--

IRIS (CONT'D)
C'mon, Sheldon, Surf!

EXT. LAKE - CONTINUOUS

Hilbert's eyes WIDEN as the water seems to CHURN around them, propelling them forward. He's yelling, holding on tight to Sheldon as the Dewott seems to take off through the water at a high speed... He slows down a bit and they're just gliding, but Hilbert's definitely taken aback. His hat lies sideways on his head. He shakes his head a bit to straighten it out.

HILBERT
Hooooly CRAP.

His eyes glower at Sheldon.

HILBERT (CONT'D)
Ya know, you should only be listening to me, right?

Sheldon gives an apologetic whimper.

IRIS
Sheldon trusts me. Isn't that right, buddy?

Sheldon gives a happy cry.

HILBERT
Yeah, well, from now on you only take orders from me. Don't matter who it is. Got it?

Sheldon gives a sharp nod as he continues churning through the waves...

HILBERT (CONT'D)
Good. We almost there?

Iris peers through the water, seeing land a few feet away.

IRIS
Yeah, not much longer.

EXT. ROUTE 9 - NIGHT

As Sheldon anchors onto the sand on the other side, Hilbert and Iris slowly step off of his back.

HILBERT

Sheldon's pretty damn strong,
aren't-cha? Carrying both of us
like that, I mean -- Iris's hair is
probably about fifty pounds itself.

Iris slaps him lightly on the arm.

IRIS

Shut up!

Sheldon snickers and joins them as they continue up the hill, where officers guide their path. Hilbert peers back at the destroyed bridge when he's half-way up the hill. It's a haunting image. He then turns back to Iris.

HILBERT

Geeze, this is insane. Can't
believe I went from some loser kid
to the chosen one.

IRIS

'Chosen One'? No one chose you.
You just happened to win the magic
lottery and end up unlucky enough
to grab that stone. You're still
that loser kid, you've just got a
huge responsibility weighing down
on your shoulders now.

HILBERT

(sarcastic)

Thanks for your confidence.

IRIS

Despite knowing the truth, I still
have faith in you. Who says some
loser can't be the underdog in this
right? Sure you don't have a huge
army like N, but you've had your
moments of bad-assery.

She winks at him.

IRIS (CONT'D)

So let's get to Opelucid and get
this over with, yeah?

Hilbert smiles.

HILBERT

Sounds like a plan.

They march over the hill, continuing on down the path toward OPELUCID CITY...

EXT. OPELUCID CITY - TOWN CENTER - NIGHT

The town center's stage is surrounded by the blue-hooded TEAM PLASMA grunts. On stage stands GHETSIS. Team Plasma's frontman and N's right-hand-man... Crowds of curious faces look at Ghetsis.

Ghetsis raises his hand into the air, toward the SMOKE and crackling ELECTRICITY where the bridge is, obscured by the trees.

The crowd's murmuring dies down -- curious to what he has to say.

GHETSIS

Our lord N has combined his power with the legendary Dragon-type Pokémon Reshiram and intends to create a new world. We herald the return of the hero of Unova, founder of this region.

(beat)

What happened on the bridge today was a combination of the foolish ignorance of a boy who felt the need to interfere with our plans, and the reiteration of a legend. If anyone furthers their attempts at stopping Team Plasma -- what happened today will happen again. More lives will be lost. More chaos will ensue.

There's a dark pause as everyone in the crowd laments...

GHETSIS (CONT'D)

Pokémon are different from people. They are living beings who contain unknown potential. They are living beings from whom we humans have much to learn. They are beings whose greatness we should acknowledge! Beings who should be freed from our oppression! We, Team Plasma, invite you to join us. We all want to create a new world where people and Pokémon are both free. Ladies and gentlemen, I ask you now... Please, release your Pokémon. And so I end my plea to you today.

(MORE)

GHETSIS (CONT'D)

Thank you one and all for your attention and I hope you consider my gesture... The extension of my mercy unto you.

Ghetsis turns -- leaving the stage solemnly. The crowd erupts into a murmur.

From the TREELINE between ROUTE 9 and OPELUCID CITY, HILBERT, SHELDON, and IRIS watch this. Hidden in the shadows. Though it's obvious that Hilbert's itching to get out and show himself...

HILBERT

I'm going over there.

IRIS

No. They'll grab you on the spot, Hilbert!

HILBERT

Not with the International Police everywhere--

IRIS

They're busy with the bridge, besides Team Plasma seems to have quite the connection if they're allowed to perform ceremonies like this...

HILBERT

Have you forgotten that Unova promotes free speech? They can do what they want, that's the sad part!

A slight song interrupts their banter, snapping their attention back to --

THE STAGE.

A tune is playing. Beautiful. But yes. HAUNTING.

The crowd's murmurs disappear and turn into melodic humming. It's very creepy.

ON HILBERT

He's had enough.

HILBERT (CONT'D)

This is crazy! What the --?

He goes to run as he sees the group gathering into a straight line and start marching toward the grunts, but Iris grabs him by the arm and drags him back. He tenses up and tries to wriggle free, but Iris proves stronger than him.

IRIS
Don't! It's the music that's
hypnotizing them--!

HILBERT
What?!

IRIS
There's a Legendary Pokémon. It's
called Meloetta. Its melodies are
sung with a special vocalization
method that can control the
feelings of those who hear it. I
have a feeling Team Plasma must've
gotten hold of it --

Hilbert is conflicted -- he inches back, finally giving in.

HILBERT
But--But how?

IRIS
I don't know. But we have to get
out of here -- I know where to go.

HILBERT
What?

IRIS
Just trust me!

Hilbert and Iris lock eyes. She takes him by the hand and he takes Sheldon's paw... The three of them rush through the trees and darkness...

EXT. HUT - NIGHT

ESTABLISHING.

A HUT on a hill at the outskirts of town. It's very comfortable looking despite its small size. The bustling city below can be seen from this hill as HILBERT, IRIS, and SHELDON climb it.

Iris is in front as she approaches the hut. Raps on the door carefully.

It swings open -- revealing DRAYDEN.

At least 80, white-haired with tortured eyes. He's seen plenty of horrors in his lifetime, and his hardened face isn't willing to sugarcoat it.

Drayden and Iris lock eyes -- there's a sense of confusion and WORRY in Drayden's face. But that warps into a genuine SMILE.

DRAYDEN

Iris. You're so... you're so grown-up.

IRIS

Grandpa...

She wraps him in a hug.

ON HILBERT AND SHELDON

They stand, watching. A smirk on their faces.

HILBERT (V.O.)

This was a pretty awkward moment. Sheldon and I just kinda counted how long the hug lasted to pass the time. I bet they'd last at least ten.

TIGHT on Iris and Drayden as they hug. Hilbert mouths to Sheldon -- "five. Six. Seven. Eight."

They break.

Hilbert gives a grumble, cursing under his breath as Sheldon sniggers.

FREEZE.

HILBERT (V.O.)

(beat)

...I lost. I had to promise to take Sheldon shopping after all this was over and buy whatever he wanted. I knew I'd regret that the moment I accepted that bet, but I was so SURE I'd win...

Drayden eyes the boy and his Pokémon, nodding to Iris.

DRAYDEN

These friends of yours?

IRIS

Yeah. His name's Hilbert. He helped me escape -- well. *Them.*

DRAYDEN

Your parents aren't bad people. They're just misinformed.

IRIS

Yeah, well, they need a reality check. I'm not a face for TV. I was born for *this*.

Hilbert's confused.

HILBERT

Would you, mind, uh -- giving me a 'Previously on...' recap here?

DRAYDEN

Yes. But inside. With what's going on down there, it's not safe to be here.

Hilbert and Sheldon follow Drayden and Iris inside. He shuts the door and we CLOSE on it as we hear the CLICK of it LOCKING.

INT. DRAYDEN'S HUT - NIGHT

HILBERT sips down a cup of coffee, sitting at a table. IRIS sits beside DRAYDEN on the other side.

DRAYDEN

I'm the gym leader of Opelucid City... This place has been taken over by Ghetsis and his hooded folks. I've been ill and I couldn't get on my feet very often the past few days... I don't think I'll be able to take up the gym any longer...

He looks to Iris... She can see it in his face. Her eyes light up.

IRIS

Are you... are you saying?

DRAYDEN

That your journey has finally come to an end? That you can take up the mantle here as gym leader? Yes.

(MORE)

DRAYDEN (CONT'D)

I think you're more than capable to be a Dragon-type master...

IRIS

Oh my god... Honestly, I can't believe this is happening.

HILBERT

Wait? Take up the gym leader spot? As in... stay here?

Iris nods giddily.

IRIS

Yeah!

Freeze-frame on her happy smile. SPLIT-SCREEN with Hilbert's unsure facial expression. Totally blindsided.

HILBERT (V.O.)

I had the most awkward feeling. What would she do without me? Who am I kidding -- what was I gonna do without HER? It was like I was laying down on a patio chair and a brick fell and hit me in my bare stomach. I couldn't explain how I felt to her in words... I didn't want to show weakness. But I knew that if this happened, we wouldn't be traveling with each other anymore and honestly? I knew I'd miss her.

BACK to Iris -- she's smirking.

IRIS

C'mon Hilbert. You want that badge to get to the League right?

She flips a Poké Ball out and catches it. That cocky smirk still plastered on her face and she rushes out...

Hilbert sighs, putting on a straight face, and follows her out.

HILBERT

Bring it on!

FREEZE-FRAME on Hilbert.

HILBERT (V.O.)
 Okay. I look confident, but in reality I was crapping my pants at that moment...

FREEZE-FRAME on Iris.

HILBERT (V.O.)
 I mean come on the girl's been waiting for this day her whole life. And she's pretty tough... I was worried.

INT. DRAYDEN'S HUT - GUEST BEDROOM - NIGHT

HILBERT (V.O.)
 That's why Sheldon and I decided to come up with a strategy. So we locked ourselves in Drayden's back room and decided to think somethin' up.

His cap flipped backward, Hilbert sits on the guest bed, cross-legged with a pen in his hand and a notebook on the bed in front of him. Sheldon the Dewott is sprawled out on his stomach, legs kicking in the air.

FREEZE-FRAME ON HILBERT, DEEP IN CONCENTRATION:

HILBERT used BACKWARDS CAP.

Serious shit is about to happen!

ON IRIS as she peeks in -- she looks surprised. Freeze-frame.

It's super effective!

Iris looks back at Drayden, who peeks in with her.

DRAYDEN
 He's been like that for ages now.

IRIS
 It's unusual for Hilbert, to think of actual strategies for a battle. Let's hope he doesn't develop *wisdom* teeth from this.

DRAYDEN

Don't be thinking about going easy on him because he's your friend. Give it your all.

IRIS

Of course. I never even considered it.

Drayden nods.

Hilbert lets out all of his Pokémon -- RAICHU, LEAVANNY, ARCHEOPS, MINCCINO, and KROOKODILE on the floor. They're all lined up...

He scans them back and forth, trying to rationalize which Pokémon to use. Raichu starts making noises and Hilbert nods.

HILBERT

You're right. The fire moves of Iris's Larvesta will have little effect on you, since you're an Electric-type.

Raichu does a fist pump, excited. Sparks fly from his cheeks. He wants this battle.

HILBERT (CONT'D)

On the other hand, what if she doesn't use Larvesta? This is a Dragon specialist gym after all. Your Electric-type attacks will be largely ineffective against Fraxure, or Deino...

Raichu sighs, looking disappointed.

HILBERT (CONT'D)

You know, this time I wanna give my other Pokémon a chance too. There's going to be plenty of time at the Pokémon League for all of you to shine, but Leavanny and Archeops could use more battles to level up. Sheldon will be very useful in this battle, according to my Pokédex he's nearly of level to learn Ice Beam. And since Ice attacks are super-effective to Dragon type Pokémon... I'd like to see Sheldon and Krookodile take part in this battle...

Hilbert's voice drowns out as we FOCUS on Raichu, who plops down on his butt and gives a heavy sigh.

INT. DRAYDEN'S HUT - BATTLE ARENA - NIGHT

HILBERT is pitting his Pokémon against each other -- SHELDON is facing RAICHU. Raichu is determined to win, but Sheldon is too. They exchange blows -- Hilbert seemingly deciding who to use for this gym battle...

HILBERT (V.O.)
So we decided to train, it helped
me strategically choose who to use
against Iris.

Dewott deflects one of Raichu's Thunderbolt attacks using his scalchop. He does a badass pose.

HILBERT (CONT'D)
Use Ice Beam!

Raichu watches, completely dumbfounded, as the massive creature in front of him creates an icy beam in its mouth and fires it right for him. Raichu is encased in a giant block of ice and Hilbert cheers. Raichu gives an annoyed grumble from inside the block as Hilbert celebrates his new powerhouse.

INT. OPELUCID CITY GYM - NIGHT

Iris steps forward. A large battlefield lies ahead of her. On the other side stands Hilbert.

In the stands are Drayden and Hilbert's RAICHU. Who seemed to have insisted to watch...

DEINO is sent out by Iris. It gives a taunting growl. Hilbert smirks. Not intimidated, but he finds it cute. Especially as he sends out --

KROKODILE.

Who gives a tiny beat on his chest. Hilbert does the same with excited laughter. The giant red crocodile gives a serious nod then focuses on his opponent --

Deino isn't fazed.

IRIS
Deino, use Dragon Rage!

HILBERT
Krookodile, use Fire Fang...

SPLIT-SCREEN:

-Deino curling into a ball. Charging up to get good speed and power as purple flames surround him.

-Krookodile glows red in the face, and its fangs ignite with a bright red flame.

END SPLIT-SCREEN:

WHOOOSH!!

Deino suddenly takes off. Rolling at immense speeds right for Krookodile...

HILBERT (CONT'D)

NOW!

Perfect timing. Krookodile CHOMPS its massive jaws right down on Deino, burning it. Then, Krookodile swings and lets go of Deino, sending the baby Dragon flying across the gym. Deino doesn't hit the wall and hurt himself, it instead BOUNCES OFF AND REBOUNDS RIGHT BACK AT KROOKODILE --

NAILING the crocodile right in the face with its powerful Rollout.

Iris laughs -- Hilbert winces.

Heaving forward before Deino can move, KROOKODILE slams both of his enormous arms at him. Recoiling, he fires back with a --

IRIS

HEADBUTT!

-- Powerful jab in Krookodile's face.

HILBERT

Stone Edge, Krookodile!

Jagged rocks form and are clustered in front of Krookodile, and then thrown forward. They all hit Deino. The tiny creature bounces away. Tired and worn out. Iris swallows --

IRIS

Destiny Bond.

Deino looks back at her trainer, worriedly. But Iris is adamant.

IRIS (CONT'D)

You heard me, Deino!

Deino closes his eyes -- nothing seems to happen. Hilbert looks confused.

HILBERT
 (to himself)
 Destiny Bond? Never heard of that one...

AT THE STANDS

Drayden watches, compelled by his granddaughter's decision.

DRAYDEN
 The boy seems clueless. Three more turns --

BACK TO THE BATTLE

HILBERT
 (yells)
 Heh. That was pretty. Pretty *damn useless*.

IRIS
 You gonna make a move or what, kid?

HILBERT
 Krookodile, use Dig!

Krookodile suddenly disappears into the floor of the gym. Iris and Deino look around, confused to where Krookodile is.

IRIS
 Deino, hold your ground.

Krookodile suddenly surfaces underneath Deino's feet, lifting him into the air with his bare hands.

IRIS (CONT'D)
 It's time for the big finale.

HILBERT
 Get up, Krookodile! Dragon Claw!

LIKE A COMPLETE BADASS, KROOKODILE'S CLAWS GLOW PURPLE AND HE SWINGS FORWARD---

--- SCRATCHING the hell out of Deino. And then Krookodile grabs the tiny dragon, throws it hard into the ground and scratches some more as dust surrounds them...

Hilbert's beaming as the dust clears and Deino is FAINTED.

Iris returns Deino -- without a flinch --

Hilbert notices this.

HILBERT (V.O.)

She just lost one of her three
Pokémon and she didn't blink an
eye. I knew I could trust my gut
when it told me there was something
up here --

SUDDENLY, the echoing of a haunting ANGELIC CHOIR emanates
throughout the gym. Hilbert and Krookodile are completely
entranced by it -- until the song SUDDENLY STOPS and
Krookodile FALLS. FAINTED.

HILBERT

WHAT?!

DRAYDEN

Destiny Bond connects the user and
the opponent for life -- Deino
fainted, so Krookodile did too. If
you had known that, you could have
switched out and saved your
Krookodile from fainting.

Hilbert is completely stunned. He retracts Krookodile into
his Poké Ball and he and Iris lock eyes -- Each waiting for
the other to send out their next choice of Pokémon.

HILBERT

Ladies first.

-- No, I insist!

-- How about at the same
time?

-- It isn't. Promise.
Ready?

IRIS

Not this time, Hilbert. You
go.

-- Stop being such a kid and
just send out your next
Pokemon!

-- This better not be a
stunt...

-- When you are.

Drayden seems UNAMUSED.

Finally, the both pull out a Ball -- AND THROW IT AT THE SAME
TIME --

SHELDON the DEWOTT stands against Iris's FRAXURE.

HILBERT

This should be good...

Iris smiles.

IRIS

This is the match-up you were hoping for, Fraxure.

Fraxure gives a confident grunt.

HILBERT

Let's start things off with Razor Shell!

Dewott leaps into a full-body tackle and SWINGS its twin scotchops right at the mid-section of the dragon. It's a quick swipe, and Fraxure falls over. The attack did a lot of damage, so Fraxure has a minor limp as he gets back on his feet.

IRIS

Fraxure, use Dragon Claw!

Fraxure leaps forward and slashes Dewott across the face with growing blue claws. Quickly, Hilbert counters --

HILBERT

Prepare an Ice Beam. Aiming for a K-O here!!

Dewott's mouth begins to emanate a icy blue light and chilly cold air emerges from inside the open crevices. Reactionary, Fraxure prepares for impact --

IRIS

No, Fraxure, don't give up!

Fraxure, however, ISN'T. Far from it.

A violent blueish-white light surrounds Fraxure, until the light disappears and a massive Dragon replaces its spot -- the mighty HAXORUS, a bipedal Pokémon with a darkish yellow-green color covering its back and most of the front, black skin covering its torso, tail tip, and thighs, as well as red talons and claws. It has large black and red scythe like tusks coming out of its upper jaw on the side of its mouth. Although its arms and hands are tiny, it has a formidable pair of legs armed with three red, taloned toes on each foot.

The same happens to Dewott as these two creatures SIMULTANEOUSLY evolve --- Dewott becomes a massive, quadrupedal sea lion like creature, a SAMUROT. He gives a mighty roar. Looking proud of himself. And Hilbert cannot help but smile at his friend's victory. He is finally able to call himself a Samurott and not pretend to be one! SHELDON IS ONE!

As the Ice Beam FIRES from Samurott's mouth, Iris instantly reacts after her moment of immense AWE.

IRIS (CONT'D)
Use Double Chop!

Haxorus charges forward --

Sheldon releases the Ice Beam --

But Haxorus leaps in the air, DODGING the attack, and SWINGS its head, hitting Sheldon with one of the axe tusks on its face, and then again with the other as the mighty Samurott falls.

Once Sheldon hits the ground, Haxorus gives a triumphant ROAR.

IN THE STANDS

Raichu's cheeks start to crackle. He's growing PISSED. Electricity spurts out and he falls over. Gets back up, but he's GLOWERING.

DRAYDEN
This battle agitating you? Making
you anxious?

Raichu gives a sullen nod.

BACK ON THE FIELD

Sheldon gets back up. Hilbert BITES his LIP. He's getting NERVOUS --

HILBERT
Razor Shell, Sheldon, find the gap
in Fraxure's armor!

Samurott's massive head gear is used to slash right in an opening between Haxorus's armored plates. Haxorus tumbles and hits the ground.

But as Hilbert and Sheldon both give a happy smirk, Haxorus rises --

IRIS
HAXORUS, USE GUILLOTINE!

The AXES on Haxorus's face GLOW and he pins Sheldon in the gut. With a mighty effort, Haxorus LIFTS the Samurott into the air using just his cheek and then TOSSES him away like a ragdoll. Sheldon hits the wall and slides down, landing on his chest. UNCONSCIOUS.

DOWN.

OUT.

Hilbert recalls Sheldon and sighs --

He stands in his place on the field. Puts a hand under his chin and DELIBERATES.

IRIS (CONT'D)

Hilbert?

HILBERT

Wait, just a sec.

Iris puts a hand on her hip and shakes her head...

IRIS

What's with the sudden need for a strategy?

HILBERT

(to himself)

I don't have any Pokémon that are super effective toward Dragon types. Haxorus is too strong. Archeops has DragonBreath, but I don't think that'll do much.

(under his breath)

This one is like that and *that one* is like that, so... Oh, I dunno...!

Raichu suddenly LEAPS from the STANDS -- electricity CRACKLING from his cheeks -- and UNLEASHES a Thunderbolt on Hilbert (surprise, surprise), SHOCKING THE SHIT OUTTA THE KID.

An explosion of SMOKE occurs after a few seconds of the shock, clouding Hilbert. Once it clears, Hilbert is criss-crossed. His clothes have a charred, blackened tint to them, as does his skin. And he looks dazed. Raichu's just taking deep, heavy breaths.

And then totally SCREAMS right in Hilbert's face, knocking him out of his dizzied trance.

HILBERT (CONT'D)

Aghhh-- What was THAT for?!

Raichu grumbles a bit. Hilbert seems to understand. He sighs, patting the electric rat's head...

IRIS

What's going on? Tough love? Well it's interrupting our gym battle. Choose your next Pokémon or I'll have to disqualify you.

HILBERT

I thought I had to use my head and think of a proper strategy.
 (diving into "heartfelt speech" moment)
 But I'd forgotten that...
 (ruining it immediately)
 ...my mom dropped me as a baby, so strategies aren't really my thing.

Raichu, not satisfied, SHOCKS Hilbert with another SHARP JOLT.

HILBERT (CONT'D)

Alright, alright. I forgot that battles need to be one with the Pokémon and you have to work together and love each other and blah blah blah. All that good old mushy cliché stuff. Satisfied?

Raichu shrugs. *Good enough.*

IRIS

He might be but I'm not. Hurry up!

HILBERT

Let's do our best together, okay, Raichu?

CUE CLICHE MUSHY MOMENT as Hilbert takes Raichu's hand, Raichu smiles, and the two stand up and prepare to fight.

Iris smiles.

IRIS

Aw. Adorable.

As if a demon just exploded out of her --

IRIS (CONT'D)

NOW KICK THEIR ASSES, HAXORUS. USE DRACO METEOR!

Haxorus's mouth emanates with blue, misty light. A giant ball of twisting energy shoots forward towards Raichu.

HILBERT

Raichu, use Thunderbolt to blow up
that Draco Meteor!

Raichu shocks a massive Thunderbolt attack right into the core of the Draco Meteor. The Draco Meteor EXPLODES -- right in Haxorus's face.

Haxorus gives a mighty cry and tumbles over.

HILBERT (CONT'D)

Let's take advantage of this and
use ThunderPunch while he's down!

Raichu's fists glow with an electric charge, and he rushes forward and repeatedly punches Haxorus.

HILBERT (V.O.)

Haxorus fainted, and we had one
more to go.

Iris sends out her LARVESTA. We watch as Raichu and Larvesta exchange a few blows --- An electric attack here, a Fire attack there.

And then we cut to Raichu giving a MEGA KICK attack right into the little fire moth's face.

IRIS

Larvesta, use Inferno!

The entire gym is alight with flames. Hilbert blocks his eyes with his arm, screaming out:

HILBERT

Brick Break, Raichu!

Raichu looks around for the fire bug, can't find it anywhere. Larvesta intercepts Raichu with a Silver Wind, beating the flames away and right into the rats face. Raichu tumbles back, but gets up quickly as the flames disappear and Larvesta is visible again. Raichu has its fist glow a brick red color. He rushes forward and PUNCHES Larvesta, knocking it OUT.

The dust clears. Raichu is pulled in for a hug by Hilbert, and this time, even though Hilbert expects it, Raichu DOESN'T ELECTROCUTE HIM.

IT'S A FRIGGING MIRACLE.

Hilbert smiles as they break the hug and he returns Raichu into his Poké Ball.

Drayden gets down from the stands and hands Iris the BADGE. She walks over to Hilbert and presents him with it.

IRIS

Hilbert... Great battle. As usual.

HILBERT

(awkwardly)

Yeah. You too. And, uh, tell Haxorus I said congratulations. I know he always wanted to fully evolve, so... Yeah.

They don't know quite what to say -- So Hilbert gives her an awkward wave. She awkwardly waves back. And then he heads for the door. Drayden looks at Iris, puzzled.

DRAYDEN

You -- Don't even say goodbye?

Iris looks at the door that Hilbert just left through -- and follows him out.

EXT. OPELUCID CITY GYM - STEPS - NIGHT

Hilbert stands on the steps outside the gym. Staring up at the starry sky reflectively...

HILBERT (V.O.)

I wanted to say goodbye. But I honestly didn't know how...

EXT. OPEN FIELD - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Green leaves spin around Iris's Servine as she does a sort of rhythmic dance.

HILBERT (V.O.)

...I always had this sort of indifference around her.

Hilbert's LEAVANNY propels into the air, crosses her arms and gives a powerful cross-shaped cut -- called X-SCISSOR -- across Servine's chest. Just then, the sharpened petals hit Leavanny and sent her flying back.

HILBERT (CONT'D)

Leavanny, use Shadow Claw!!

Leavanny rushes forward, her arms glowing with a dark purple aura. She slashes at Servine, with Servine using PROTECT to make a barrier around herself, SENDING Leavanny backwards...

HILBERT (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 I always tried to be strictly
 plutonic. Or a dick. Depended on
 my mood. But that's not really how
 I felt. I was grateful she was
 there for me. As a mentor. As a
 friend.

EXT. WATERFALL - DAY (FLASHBACK)

HILBERT sits in his swim trunks at the edge of a pool. A waterfall pours down. IRIS strips out of her clothes, revealing a bikini. Hilbert just stares.

She peers at him -- recognizing his eyes on her -- he just turns away and whistles. Very slick.

She just smirks. She heard him, but she doesn't care. Honestly, she's flattered.

HILBERT (V.O.)
 And ya know, eye candy was just an
 added bonus.

EXT. CAMPFIRE - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Hilbert stands by a portable stove, trying to cook. The whole thing lights on fire, their food completely toasted.

HILBERT
 Ohmygod, I burnt dinner.

Panicking, Hilbert and Sheldon (as a tiny Oshawott) run around the stove in circles, freaking out.

Iris arrives. She sighs -- sends out her DUCKLETT -- who proceeds to use Ice Beam and freeze Hilbert, Sheldon, and the oven in a giant ice cube. Iris beams, satisfied.

IRIS
 Fixed!

HILBERT (V.O.)
 She was a trooper. I mean, she had
 to deal with me. Like the time I
 burnt dinner. Or, rather, one of
 the *numerous times I burnt*
dinner...

INT. HILBERT'S TENT - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

HILBERT lies on his air mattress inside the tent, fully-dressed in his usual outfit and his cap hanging on a post next to the bed, letting his messy hair hang over his eyes.

IRIS lies on a mattress beside his, also in her usual clothes. Her long hair is out of its bows, letting it flow even longer than usual.

They're curled both up on the mattresses, no blankets, just a pillow plushing their heads.

HILBERT (V.O.)

...Or even worse, the one time we had to share a tent because she was too tired to put hers up and I just didn't feel like helping her.

Iris moves a bit on her air mattress... It makes a squishy noise. Hilbert giggles, she rolls her eyes.

IRIS

That was just the mattress, weirdo...

Hilbert curls up on his mattress. As he moves his body into a more comfortable position, a suspicious ripping noise can be heard.

THAT was definitely NOT JUST THE MATTRESS.

CUT to Iris -- her eyes widen a bit.

ON Hilbert -- he winces in embarrassment...

ON Iris -- who turns back at him, suspicious.

HILBERT

(LYING)

(deadpan)

...Just the mattress.

Iris shrugs. She buys it, and flips around, snuggling and shutting her eyes to go to sleep.

IRIS

Goodnight.

HILBERT

Nighterino.

FREEZE-FRAME on Hilbert as a victorious smirk crosses his face.

HILBERT (V.O.)

(duh)

...I was lying. She didn't say anything though, so she either bought it or didn't care.

(MORE)

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

(beat)

Good thing she didn't say anything, though... I mean, honestly, if you can't rip ass in your own humble abode, is there anything sacred left in this world? I bet she just respected that. That's how much of a trooper she was.

EXT. OPELUCID CITY GYM - STEPS - DAY

BACK to present-day. HILBERT and IRIS stood on the steps of OPELUCID CITY, together. Ready to say goodbye.

CUT to shots between CLOSE-UPS of their faces.

Their respective reactions to the goodbye...

HILBERT (V.O.)

Yeah, looking back, we had some good times together. It was weird having to say goodbye because it was so abrupt that it didn't feel real.

IRIS

G--Good luck. With everything.

HILBERT

Good luck leaving this town without getting barbecued by a giant legendary Dragon Pokémon, you mean?

IRIS

(smiles softly)

I did say 'everything' didn't I?

They chuckle -- Hilbert grows suddenly serious.

HILBERT

Did you think of me as a friend? Or did you just see me as your excuse to leave your horrible, privileged life so you can follow your dreams?

His brutal honesty hits her hard. She sighs -- Decides to return him the same courtesy with her honest answer...

IRIS

At first it was just an excuse. You were my ticket out of there, but... I do care about you Hilbert.

(MORE)

IRIS (CONT'D)

I always thought it was you that didn't care.

HILBERT

Well, I do.

(beat)

I'm happy you got to live your dream, though. You're a gym leader now. Congratulations.

There's something dry in his voice, but a tinge of sincerity.

He's happy for her, but not for himself.

She smiles softly.

IRIS

You're just trying to be macho, aren't you? I've seen you cry before, it's okay if you wanna let it out--

HILBERT

Oh, shut up.

Hilbert suddenly leans in and kisses her. It's very surprising -- but very romantic and satisfying.

When they break, she seems taken aback. So much so that she smacks him across the cheek. And LAUGHS.

IRIS

You hopeless romantic.

Hilbert rubs his cheek, a cocky smirk on his face.

HILBERT

Hell, I might never see you again. Might never have another chance.

IRIS

Hilbert, we're friends. Of course we'll see each other again.

Hilbert sighs.

HILBERT (V.O.)

Awkward silence...

Yes. Very awkward. Hilbert breaks it with AN AWKWARD--

HILBERT

Goodbye, I guess.

IRIS

Bye.

Hilbert goes to leave -- going down the steps.

IRIS (CONT'D)

Oh, wait!!

Hilbert turns around.

IRIS (CONT'D)

I'll give you my Cross-Transceiver number. We never did exchange since we've been together since we met. That way we can... keep in touch. I'm here for you whenever you need me.

Hilbert smiles. They prepare to exchange numbers.

EXT. ON THE ROAD - DAY - MONTAGE

HILBERT is on the road. Hilbert flicks his hood over his head and looks rather shady. Passing by numerous trainers and Pokémon...

HILBERT (V.O.)

And so that was that. We exchanged numbers and then I left... I had remain on the downlow, because Ghetsis had his men on the lookout for me...

EXT. POKÉMON LEAGUE FESTIVAL - DAY

Hilbert walks up a large amount of stairs, through large crowds of people. He reaches the top of the hill the stairs led up to. A massive crowd is gathered and cheering ahead. Tents are set up all over for the trainers staying, while there are some sideshows are rides and festivities.

Hilbert wades through the crowd and takes in the sights. Music is playing, people are playing games, and a few zoom overhead flying on their Pokémon. Hilbert peers up -- it's a mid-air race.

He approaches a sign-up tent.

HILBERT (V.O.)

...But I felt safe at the Pokémon League. Or maybe at this point I didn't care. I just wanted this all to be over. I wanted to be with my friends.

There, Hilbert sees two faces he wasn't expecting.

His own MOTHER and PROFESSOR JUNIPER.

HILBERT (CONT'D)

Mom?

The two embrace, his mother laughs.

MOM

You didn't think I'd miss this, did you?

HILBERT

And the professor?

PROFESSOR JUNIPER

I was curious to see how well my three stars would do. Have you seen Bianca and Cheren by the way? I know they're already here.

HILBERT

Not yet. Hopefully soon though.

After signing up, Hilbert leaves the tent, his mother and Professor Juniper following.

As the three move along the campsite, they finally meet up with CHEREN and BIANCA. The three friends have a happy reunion while Hilbert's mom and Professor Juniper watch the jubilant moment.

INT. POKÉMON LEAGUE FESTIVAL - TENT - DAY

Hilbert is stood inside this tent with Cheren and Bianca, all three ready to battle. Juniper and Hilbert's mom are seated nearby, chatting and sharing coffee.

HILBERT

Alright, losers. I came all this way, we're not just gonna stand around.

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

We barely had time to chat. I was confident when I finally met up with them and I was anxious. And for good reason. I mean, everything I'd been through? Their journeys must've been cakewalks in comparison. I wanted to kick some butt.

Bianca sends out her EMBOAR, a bulky pig that stands on both legs. As it stands on its feet, it looks into the skies and releases a FLAMETHROWER burst from its nostrils and pounds both fists together with a roar.

Cheren tosses out a Poké Ball and lets out SERPERIOR, a long grassy snake with a very smug, I'm-better-than-you expression on her face. She wraps around a pole to show off and then slithers back over to her trainer's side.

The three Pokémon and their trainers stand in a triangle against each other -- Hilbert SMIRKS.

He looks over at his SAMUROTT. Who looks down.

HILBERT

I know you're not happy about losing to Haxorus, but it was a tough battle. You are a Samurott, you don't have to pretend or dream anymore, buddy. So get out there and show 'em all what you've got!

Sheldon smiles as Hilbert strokes the bundle of fur above its lips that resemble a regal white moustache. And he gives a proud roar. Hilbert laughs.

HILBERT (CONT'D)

That's more like it, Sheldon!

BLACK.

CUE -- "RIVAL BATTLE" from BLACK & WHITE OST.

THREE WAY-SPLIT SCREEN -- A BIG 'VS.' SIGN IN THE MIDDLE:

HILBERT/SAMUROTT.

BIANCA/EMBOAR.

CHEREN/SERPERIOR.

CHEREN

SERPERIOR!! Use Dragon Tail!

Serperior whips around the room, her tail SWEEPING past Emboar and Samurott, smacking them onto their faces.

HILBERT

Alright, Samurott, get back up and use Megahorn on Serperior -- and make sure it HURTS!

BIANCA

Emboar, show 'em what you got
buddy! Use Heat Stamp on Serperior!

CHEREN

Hey, why are you guys ganging up on
me? I knew a three way battle was
illogical.

The music continues as the creatures exchange blows -- Making
the entire tent a mess. The beds are thrown around, shelves
tossed about, and glass shattered. The dust is cleared and
the battle's over --

All three trainers and all three Pokémon lay sprawled out on
their backs, they all give sighs...

BIANCA

This is realllllly familiar.

Hilbert smirks, looking around the chaos in the room...

HILBERT

Yeah, well at least it's not my
room that was destroyed this
time...

He looks over at a shelf that's on fire.

HILBERT (CONT'D)

Or my butt that's on fire...

BIANCA

(laughs)

We can fix that, right, Emboar?

Emboar gets on his feet and sprays fire from his nose with a
determined look on his face. Hilbert gets on his feet, with
a nervous chuckle.

HILBERT

Nooooo, you guys are good...
Sheldon, use Hydro Pump!

Samurott unleashes a twisting beam of WATER from his open
mouth and it smashes into Emboar.

RUMBLE RUMBLE RUMBLE. The loudest noise ever comes from
outside. They all stop. Stand straight and still.

ON Hilbert, Who suddenly springs into action -- returns
Sheldon into his Poké Ball and moves for the entrance of
the tent. Opens up the flap and exits --