

LT. SURGE

Oh they'll survive. Just get a little jolt.

(beat)

We know who you are, *Hilbert*. What you've done, what people you've killed. And we see you as a threat. Even if you weren't spying, getting rid of you is something the boss will be sincerely happy about doing --

(nodding to his Pokémon)

Discharge.

All three of them release a powerful ELECTRIC DISCHARGE, shocking Hilbert and Hareta. The zap leaves both boys on the floor in a sprawled-out position, smoke rising from their bodies.

Lt. Surge opens a door. They're very close to the ocean waves -- this is obviously some sort of bunker in the hull of the ship where storage is.

LT. SURGE (CONT'D)

(smirking)

Explosion.

Each of the three Pokémon starts glowing yellow -- Hilbert and Hareta exchange looks as Lt. Surge and The Mask of Ice take cover behind a shipping crate.

HILBERT

Oh shi--

BZZZT.

Each releases a massive amount of electricity that completely surrounds Hilbert and Hareta in a bright yellow light, shocking and zapping the hell out of the two boys. And then the Voltorbs and the Electrode create a contained EXPLOSION that sends the still jolting and writhing bodies of the boys out the open door --

EXT. OCEAN - DAY

-- and splashing into the ocean.

UNDERWATER CAM VIEW

As Hilbert and Hareta crash beneath the waves. Unconscious, they both slowly float up to the surface --

ON THE SURFACE

Surprisingly both boys' caps stay on. If they can survive constant electrocutions, explosions, etc., it's not too hard to suspend your disbelief with this, yeah?

PACHIRISU emerges from Hareta's cap, coughing up water. The tiny squirrel Pokémon crawls from underneath his cap and zips open his backpack, Pachirisu crawls inside. SKITTY and CROAGUNK are in there, and Pachirisu curls up beside the pair of them lovingly. Pachirisu then zips it up from the inside...

VIEW OF BOTH BOYS AS THEY FLOAT ALONG THE SURFACE,
UNCONSCIOUS...

FADE TO:

EXT. PROFESSOR OAK'S FISHING BOAT - DAY

ESTABLISHING. A small sport fishing boat dips up and down with the water as the waves slowly dance...

ON THE DECK.

Stands PROFESSOR OAK, a graying man with wise eyes and a kind demeanor about him. Slightly dim-witted which may make him seem rude, but he's well-meaning. A fishing rod in his hand, his smile reads excitement over the prospect of this trip.

PROFESSOR OAK
Wow... I think I've caught
something big.

Indeed, as he pulls on his rod, he's in for a struggle. The other person on board - a young man with a PIKACHU on his head and a more serious expression - is RED. He wears blue jeans with a red vest over a long-sleeved black tee.

RED
Bet it's just another old boot.

PROFESSOR OAK
No, I'm serious. It's heavy.

RED
A Poké Ball is heavy to you.

PROFESSOR OAK
Well then you try pulling on this!

Red shrugs -- Whatever. Challenge accepted. He starts pulling on the fishing rod so the Professor stands back, observing. Red struggles--

RED
 Wow, professor, you were right.
 This is tough!

And then with a powerful yank --

HILBERT is pulled out of the water. The fishing hook caught in the seat of his black pants, he soars through the air with a powerful scream, and crash lands on top of Red on the deck of the fishing boat.

PROFESSOR OAK
 Wow, that's no fish!

Hilbert looks around, confused. He picks at the hook caught in the back of his pants, yanking it off of him. He rubs his butt in pain.

HILBERT
 Dude, that hurt. Your stupid
 fishing hook was wedged up my damn
 asscrack.

Red smiles apologetically.

RED
 Sorry about that. Thought you were
 a boot.

BEAT.

There's a fleeting moment of perhaps recognition here for Red...

RED (CONT'D)
 Hilbert...?

HILBERT
 Huh? Do I know you?

PAUSE.

RED
 Uh. No. I just saw you on TV.
 About your win as Unova League
 Champion. Congrats, kid. That
 battle was wicked.

Red helps Hilbert on his feet.

HILBERT
 Ah, right. Thanks. I'm guessing
 you saw that I gave up that title
 too?

(MORE)

HILBERT (CONT'D)

To travel, and all I get for it is the shit beat out of me by some thugs.

(beat)

Where's the other kid? Already pull him up?

PROFESSOR OAK

You were floating in the ocean with another boy?

(childishly)

Gaaaaaay.

Red rolls his eyes.

RED

Don't mind him. Now, what were you say...?

Too late. Hilbert's all fired up and angry now.

HILBERT

(interjecting, to Oak)

No, you idiot! We fell off the S.S. Anne...

Professor Oak chortles ---

PROFESSOR OAK

Hohohoho. Is THAT what they call it now? "Falling off the S.S. Anne"?

HILBERT

No seriously. *We fell off the (bleep)-ing boat.*

Suddenly, Hilbert starts to dance around a bit. The Professor and Red watch awkwardly as Hilbert digs his hands into his pants.

RED

Wait... dude... Are you seriously jacking off right now?

PROFESSOR OAK

(matter-of-factly)

No, actually, I think he's *masturbating.*

Red does a facepalm---

HILBERT

No... There's something flopping
around in there...

PROFESSOR OAK

Well, yes. That'd be your...

He can't finish, as Hilbert pulls out a reddish-orange, medium sized fish with heavy scales. It has two stiff, three-peaked fins on its back and stomach which are both yellow. It also has long barbels. It flops uselessly in Hilbert's hands. This is a MAGIKARP.

PROFESSOR OAK (CONT'D)

...Magikarp. It's just your...
Magikarp.

HILBERT

Well, it's not mine, actually. I guess it just swam up my pant leg or something, I dunno. It doesn't seem very smart.

He lets out Magikarp into his lap. It flops around. Hilbert shrugs --

HILBERT (CONT'D)

Wow. This thing is stupid. Who would ever want one of these?

He throws it into the sea. From Hilbert's pocket a single Poké Ball rolls out --- he opens it and out pops his RAICHU. Raichu gives a snarky smirk. Hilbert looks worried as the rat's cheeks start to SPARK...

HILBERT (CONT'D)

Oh. Guess it's just me and you...
Raichu. You're the only Pokémon I've got left.

And then Red's Pikachu hops off of his shoulder and lands right in front of Hilbert's Raichu. The two lock eyes --- sparks LITERALLY connect their eyes. An intense rivalry.

RED

Oh, don't mind Pika. He's not a big fan of Raichu's... Tried to make him evolve, that didn't turn out too well.

He chuckles a bit and pulls on Pika's arm, pulling the yellow rat back.

RED (CONT'D)
C'mon Pika...

Pika blasts a heavy amount of electricity at Raichu. It knocks out the rat's evolved form in one hit! Hilbert stares on in amazement.

HILBERT
Did you just... knock out my Raichu in one hit? Jesus, your Pikachu must be strong as hell.

RED
(shrugs)
You can say that. I know a thing or two about battling, came back to visit the professor. He gave me my starter a few years back. Wanted to see how he was doing.

They hear SHOUTING. Red runs to the back of the boat and peers over the edge, into a giant net cast into the water to catch fish.

HARETA's caught inside, a bunch of chomping little piranha fish known as BASCULIN with their jaws snapping all over his body, and a single tiny crab called a KRABBY hanging from his face, with one claw clamped onto the bridge of his nose. He just gives a cheerful wave up at Red, unfazed by all of the Pokémon ripping at his flesh.

HARETA
Hi!!

EXT. PALLET TOWN MARINA - DAY

It's a tiny marina. Quaint, but efficient. A few boats parked here and there, but not many. RED ties up the boat to the dock while the PROFESSOR talks to HILBERT and HARETA, who have towels over their soaking wet bodies.

Professor Oak carries on:

PROFESSOR OAK
...I'm the professor here in Kanto, the name's Oak. But everyone just calls me the Pokémon Professor. You two fell overboard from the S.S. Anne?

Finally turning his attention to the Professor:

HILBERT

Yeah... Somethin' like that.

HARETA

There were these people and they thought we were spies so they electrocuted us until I peed myself and then they kicked us off the boat!

The Professor looks awe-struck for a moment. A WTF face indeed... And then?

He breaks into uproarious laughter, patting Hareta on the head.

PROFESSOR OAK

You've got a wild imagination there, young Trainer!

HARETA

(shrugs)

I guess so. But I don't see what that has to do with anything!

(nodding back to Red)

So who's that kid? Your son? You're kind of old to have a kid that young, mister.

PROFESSOR OAK

No, that's my favorite pupil. Pallet Town's prized trainer...

(scratches head)

...Erm, what is his name again?

In the background, Red, who can hear all of this, makes an extreme RAGEFACE.

In the air above them, FLOATS the KEYBOARD familiar to those who played the Pokémon RED & BLUE & YELLOW VERSION games appears. Hilbert reaches up with his arm and inputs the letters ---

HILBERT

(reading the letters as he inputs them)

His name's R-e-d. Red.

He waits for Oak to respond. Nothing.

And then he reaches up and clicks the 'ED' button. The keyboard disappears in a "POOF!" and Oak finally responds:

PROFESSOR OAK
That's right! I remember now! His
name is Red!

The Professor peers over at Hareta, a puzzled look on his face.

PROFESSOR OAK (CONT'D)
So are you a boy, or a girl?

Off Hareta's confused, perhaps even frightened, look ---

INT. PROFESSOR OAK'S LABORATORY - DAY

HILBERT (V.O.)
I guess the story REALLY starts
here. My Pokémon are stolen. And
I'm trapped with a dork in a region
where some idiot named every single
town and city in a color theme
while the name of the region itself
has nothing to do with colors.
Why? I don't know.

HILBERT and HARETA stand off to the side in PROFESSOR OAK's laboratory as the Professor and RED stand by a table, chatting with some of the professor's geeky assistants. Hilbert leans in toward Hareta's ear, lowering his voice.

HILBERT (CONT'D)
Kid, you can't say anything about
what happened on that ship, okay?

Hareta looks up at Hilbert all wide-eyed, tilting his head like a confused puppy.

HARETA
Well why not?

HILBERT
Because those people might still be
after us. That creep in the mask
said that their leader has plans
for us... And if we lay low and
not make a scene, they might just
forget about us.

Hareta nods.

HARETA
Yeah. Okay.

The Professor turns his attention towards Hilbert and Hareta now.

PROFESSOR OAK
Do you two have any Pokémon?

HILBERT
Besides my Raichu? No. Not anymore.

The Professor looks at Hareta.

HARETA
I've got three.

Hareta zips open his backpack's pockets -- PACHIRISU, SKITTY, and CROAGUNK poke their heads out.

PROFESSOR OAK
If you want one of them, Hilbert.
Your friend seems well-equipped,
but you could use some help.

FREEZE on a view of the table -- three Poké Balls lined up.

CUE --- "PROFESSOR OAK'S LAB" from RED & BLUE:

HILBERT (V.O.)
If you lived in Pallet Town, you could start out with a rare Pokémon. You had your choice of Bulbasaur, Squirtle or Charmander while I had Unova's choice of Snivy, Tepig, or Oshawott... Nobody knows where he or the other regional professors get these rare Pokémon. My guess? Definitely black market. Anyway, these little guys all start out cuddly and adorable, but by level thirty-six, they all end up looking like something from Dungeons and Dragons.

RED
You should, kid, all that Raichu wants to do is zap the hell out of you 'til you crap yourself! Pika did that to me once. Wasn't pretty.

CUE AWKWARD SILENCE...

Hilbert approaches the table and picks up the last Poké Ball. He lets out the creature, revealing a CHARMANDER, an orange reptilian creature resembling a tailed bipedal salamander with some dinosaur qualities, particularly like those of theropods. Charmander has four small fangs visible on its upper and lower jaws with sharp claws on each hand with a cream underside. Its most notable feature is the flame burning on the tip of its tail.

PROFESSOR OAK

Do you two have Poké Balls? A Pokédex?

HARETA

No and no for me. My Pokémon were never officially caught. They're just my friends!

PROFESSOR OAK

They seem close enough to attempt capture.

Professor Oak digs in his lab coat pockets, pulling out two handfuls of Poké Balls. He hands one to Hilbert, the other to Hareta.

PROFESSOR OAK (CONT'D)

You should give it a try.

"OAK'S LAB" fades as Hareta lets Pachirisu, Skitty and Croagunk out of his backpack. He taps Pachirisu in the head with a Poké Ball, and it's dragged inside. The Ball locks in place instantly without a tinge of rejection. Rinse and repeat the process for Skitty and Croagunk. Hareta raises their Poké Ball's with a victory pose.

HARETA

Awesome!! Thanks, mister!

Hilbert goes through his bag while, in the background, Hareta inspects the Poké Balls of Pachirisu, Skitty and Croagunk curiously. Like he has no idea what to do with them. He shrugs and places them over his closed eyes, balancing on one leg as he does this. He laughs.

Hareta falls over and collapses out of frame. He gives a soft, but somehow still enthusiastic, groan--

HARETA (CONT'D)

Ow. That hurt!

Hilbert looks up as he pulls out the Pokédex from his bag. He smirks.

HILBERT

Yet you're still smiling.

Hareta gets on his feet, putting the Poké Ball's in his backpack.

HARETA

Why wouldn't I be smiling? This is exciting!

Hilbert turns his attention back to Professor Oak, handing him his Pokédex.

HILBERT

I dunno if it survived the fall into the ocean, but it's survived plenty before. Electric shocks, explosions, being frozen in an ice block...

The Professor checks out the Pokédex as Hilbert's voice drones in the background, listing the incredible amount of harm that's come to him in the past... And then the Professor speaks again, ending Hilbert's ramble.

PROFESSOR OAK

It's working perfectly. What region is this from? The technology is remarkable.

HILBERT

Unova.

PROFESSOR OAK

With the hot lady professor? Blonde hair, nice tits, juicy ass? Lucky, lucky. Far boat ride, huh? The two of you brothers?

HILBERT

No. Just met him, actually.

PROFESSOR OAK

(not caring, to Hareta)
Where are you from, son?

Hareta does a full-body shrug.

HARETA

Dunno.

PROFESSOR OAK

Well that's strange... But okay...

Professor Oak opens up the back of Hilbert's Pokédex and pulls out a chip. He inserts it into the Dex. On the screen appears "DOWNLOADING". And then the number goes quickly from 0% to 100%.

PROFESSOR OAK (CONT'D)

There ya go. Now your Pokédex can recognize Pokémon from the Tohjo continent, and if you didn't know, Tohjo includes Kanto and Johto combined. Since they're on the same giant island. Oh, and I signed you up for the 'Nuzlocke' challenge.

Hilbert takes the Pokédex while Professor Oak hands Hareta a brand-spankin'-new one.

HILBERT

Nuzlocke?

PROFESSOR OAK

It's like the real-world version of 'Hard' mode in a video game.

HILBERT

Well, un-sign me up, then, I really don't...

PROFESSOR OAK

No, I insist. It's going to be interesting to see how you do.

Hilbert ushers them out the door.

EXT. ROUTE 1 - DAY

HILBERT, and HARETA step onto ROUTE 1 --

CUE: "ROUTE 1" from Pokémon RED & BLUE.

HILBERT (V.O.)

I wasn't too happy about this new arrangement. I had to keep Hareta attached to my hip so he would keep his mouth shut. To top things off, my best friends were taken from me. And just as I figured, the moment we stepped onto Route 1, a new chapter in my big journey--

Hilbert and Hareta step into the tall grass. They spot CATERPIE and WEEDLE trotting past, two generic looking bug-type Pokémon. PIDGEY flies by. A small bird. Doesn't catch their eyes. Then a RATTATA walks past, a purple rat with big teeth.

HILBERT (CONT'D)

Hmmm, that rat thing looks a little tough. Not as boring as the other guys, I guess.

Hilbert pulls out a Poké Ball and prepares to catch it when...

...Hilbert is shocked by electricity! He falls over, steam rising from his body as Rattata flees...

HILBERT (CONT'D)

Wha--- What was that for?

He hears a BEEPING coming from his pocket and pulls out his Pokédex.

POKÉDEX (V.O.)

A 'Nuzlocke' challenge permits only the capture of the first Pokémon seen on a given route. All unauthorized capture attempts will be punished. Also, *down with foreigners.*

It then gives a robotic little snicker.

HILBERT

But... that was the first Pokémon I attempted to catch on this Route. That's what a 'Nuzlocke' is? I seriously don't get it!

POKÉDEX (V.O.)

A 'Nuzlocke' challenge is one where a trainer must release any Pokémon that faints in battle, as fainted Pokémon in the 'Nuzlocke' trainer's mind must be considered dead. If a release does not occur, punishment *will.*

HILBERT

Why would Oak think I'd want a Nuzlocke challenge? Are you serious right now? I'm still confused over how that was my first Pokémon encounter on Route 1...

HARETA

Actually, I have to agree with the zappy Pokédex here. We saw...

...a thought bubble appears over Hareta's head and plays over the Pokémon they just saw: WEEDLE, CATERPIE, PIDGEY, and then RATTATA.

HARETA (CONT'D)

...Three other types of Pokémon before we saw Rattata.

POKÉDEX (V.O.)

The stupid boy is correct.

HARETA

Yay!

Hilbert still lies in a steaming pile. He gives a sigh.

HILBERT (V.O.)

...Yep. It got worse.

INT. PROFESSOR OAK'S LABORATORY - DAY

PROFESSOR OAK is sitting alone in his LAB, sipping on a beer. He sees HILBERT and HARETA through his window. He laughs deeply at Hilbert's misery.

PROFESSOR OAK

Stupid foreigners. Think they can just steal my Pokédex idea and make it their own and improve on it and change it up with their own region's Pokémon. The bastards. Now their spawns shall suffer!

He gives a grumpy, drunk grumble and then takes another chug of beer. And then he passes out, snoring immediately.

EXT. ROUTE 1 - NIGHT

HARETA is sound asleep, wrapped in a sleeping bag. HILBERT decides to sneak off into the night, alone. He starts tip-toeing off.

EXT. VIRIDIAN CITY - NIGHT

HILBERT steps foot into the outskirts of VIRIDIAN CITY, a small suburban town leading into the impressive urban center.

HILBERT (V.O.)

It was a jerky thing to do retrospectively, but he annoyed me and I just wanted some alone time...

HARETA (O.S.)

Good idea!!

Hilbert jumps. He spins around, sees HARETA stood behind him, grinning.

HARETA (CONT'D)

Going into town at night. When all of the Pokémon are sleeping and all the trainers that just stand in the bushes staring out, waiting for other trainers to battle, have gone home!

HILBERT (V.O.)

Well, I didn't get it anyway, sooo... yeah.

HILBERT

Erm... yeah, but actually, I was just trying to leave you.

HARETA

Huh?

HILBERT

I don't know how to put this... maybe I just think that I'm better off traveling alone?

HARETA

Well I'm not. You're nice, and a good battler, I think we'd make a great team!

HILBERT (V.O.)

Now I started to feel bad. This kid actually thought I was his friend. Sure, he was a bit off, but he wasn't a bad dude.

Hilbert goes to say something but an image nailed to a post draws his attention--

HILBERT

Holy crap.

HARETA

What?

Hilbert points at two photographs --

HARETA (CONT'D)

Wow, we gotta find those people and tell 'em they look a lot like us. Isn't it cool to find a look-a-like in a whole other region of the world...?!

Hilbert facepalms.

HILBERT

Those people are *us*.

Pointing at the words in bold red letters: "WANTED FOR MURDER".

HILBERT (CONT'D)

And the police are after us. Crap. Whoever we ticked off on the S.S. Anne must really be powerful -- They framed us for assassination!

HARETA

You think they did this? But we didn't do anything wrong!

HILBERT

Being an idiot has again landed me in serious trouble. Now we have no choice but to stick together, kid.

Hareta's fear disappears and the color flushes back in his face as he gives an excited grin.

HARETA

Yay!

HILBERT

We've gotta remain calm and cool, okay? We're wanted by the police, so...

Hareta wraps his red scarf around his mouth, concealing part of his face. Hilbert nods --

HILBERT (CONT'D)

Good start.

He takes off his cap and puts it in his bag, lifting his hoodie over his head. Without the hat, he looks a lot different.

HILBERT (CONT'D)
How's this? Do I look different
enough?

Hareta nods. They continue moving through this city.

Hilbert's eyes are set on the GYM. It's a large, Gothic-style building with gargoyles on the outside. Very intimidating and sinister for the region's first gym... There's a handwritten note:

"Very sorry. I'm out ~~taking over the world~~. Getting milk. Be back soon.

- Viridian City Gym Leader"

A hand taps Hilbert on the back.

OLD MAN
Hey! You two!

They jump and spin around to look back at the OLD MAN. He has crazy eyes, and obvious dentures.

OLD MAN (CONT'D)
Wanna know how to catch Pokémon?!

HILBERT
Actually, sir, I've already caught--

OLD MAN
Nonsense! Come 'ere...

The old man, with surprising strength, grabs the boys by one of their arms and drags them off --

-- Toward a nearby tree. The old man stares at the tree. Hilbert just looks over at Hareta, who is actually INTRIGUED and WAITING for this old guy's demonstration...

The old man suddenly gasps and points at a tree branch. Very DRAMATIC CLOSE-UP...

OLD MAN (CONT'D)
O'er there... Ya see it? That be
one o' dem legendaries. *MEW!*

The old man suddenly reaches into his mouth and YANKS out his dentures. He throws them at the tree. They bounce off and hit the grass at his feet.

OLD MAN (CONT'D)

MEEWW---!

And then he just falls asleep while standing up. Hilbert looks over at Hareta, shaking his head with a sigh.

HILBERT

...Let's just go.

EXT. VIRIDIAN FOREST - DAY

Hilbert and Hareta walk through Viridian Forest. It's a dark, creepy atmosphere here with a faint fog covering their way. Hilbert dips an OLD ROD into a nearby pond and fishes out... a MAGIKARP.

HILBERT

Another one of these things? Is it like, my spirit animal or something, for Arceus's sake...?!

He checks the Pokedex as he hangs onto the rod with his other hand.

HILBERT (CONT'D)

Considered the world's weakest Pokémon, huh? *Of course.*

And he chucks the Magikarp back into the water and puts the Old Rod back into his backpack.

A pair of kids with nets in their hands pop out from the nearby bushes and startle Hilbert. Hareta doesn't blink, however. A "!" appears in a thought bubble above both of their heads...

BUG CATCHERS

(in unison)

DO I SMELL TRAINERS??

HILBERT (V.O.)

Those two kids were Bug Catcher's looking for a double battle. I was pretty jumpy because of the whole "Wanted" poster deal, but Hareta insisted---

CUE --- "TRAINER BATTLE!" from Pokémon RED & BLUE. HILBERT stands with his CHARMANDER, while HARETA commands his CROAGUNK.

The two Bug Catcher's command a METAPOD and KAKUNA, respectively.

BUG CATCHER DOUG
Kakuna, use Harden!

HILBERT
(under his breath)
Heh. Harden.

BUG CATCHER CHARLIE
My Dick can use Harden better than
your Kakuna!

HILBERT
Wait. *What?*

BUG CATCHER CHARLIE
Richard's the name of my Metapod
but he prefers Dick! C'mon, Dick,
show 'em what you got. HARDEN,
DICK, HARDEN!

Hilbert's in a fit of intense giggles. His Charmander looks
back at him, confused.

HARETA
Come on, Croagunk, use DRAIN PUNCH!

Croagunk rushes forward, its front left palm glowing a brick
red. Croagunk's palm connects with Kakuna's face and starts
to glow as it ABSORBS Kakuna's energy and heals itself!
Hareta jumps around excitedly ---

HARETA (CONT'D)
Yay!! What an attack!

HILBERT
Charmander, Scratch Doug's...
Dick.

Hilbert giggles at this (Hareta remains clueless) while
Charmander rushes forward and SCRATCHES the Metapod.

HILBERT (CONT'D)
Charmander, Ember!

HARETA
Croagunk, spit that nasty stuff...

HILBERT
SLUDGE BOMB.

HARETA
YEAH! Do that!

The two fire their attacks in unison and the two cocoons are knocked out. The Bug Catcher's are in pure awe as they recall their beloved Bugs. Hilbert gets on one knee to congratulate his Charmander.

HILBERT

That was awesome, dude. I think we're gonna be great pals, little guy--

Suddenly looking from adoration to taking offense, Charmander blasts a large blast of fire from her mouth. Hilbert's entire body is gray, charred and barbecued. He blinks, then shakes off the charcoal from his face.

HILBERT (CONT'D)

Guess you're not a "dude" or a "little guy" then, huh? I was gonna name you Charlie, but how about -- *Charlotte?*

The FLOATING KEYBOARD, identical to the one from the original trio of BLUE & RED & YELLOW Pokémon GAMES, pops up out of nowhere again. Hilbert jumps back a bit. He sighs. Starts to type in 'CHARLOTTE' name. Then when he's done, Hilbert presses 'ED' and the keyboard disappears in a "POOF!"

HILBERT (CONT'D)

I guess that means it's official now, Charlotte.

The little Charmander looks excited and happy. Hareta begins to wander away, staring at green cone-like Pokémon known as PINECO that are in a nearby tree. There are about a dozen.

BUG CATCHER DOUG

Don't go near them. Those are Pineco, and their signature move is Self Destruct.

Doug's warnings go unheeded as Hareta approaches the tree, making clicking noises with his tongue. The Pineco ruffle their leaves back in reply. Just as Hareta reaches out to touch the Pineco, he trips on a tree root. As he falls, his head smacks the tree harshly. The Pineco shake and fall, landing on Hareta with a smoky explosion. Once the smoke clears, all the Pineco are unconscious and Hareta's covered in grey soot and dirt, his butt in the air and face in the ground. He notices one of the Pineco fell in the cargo pocket on the right leg pant of his jeans. Without even sitting up, Hareta pops it on the head with a Poké Ball, and it gets dragged inside. The Ball shakes, shakes -- then locks in place. Jubilant, Hareta lifts up the Ball with a dizzied, but genuine, grin.