

Xander's Meanders #8 – Route 4

[Pokédex chimes as it powers up.]

[Two people argue indistinctly in the background. Birds chirp and wind blows across the microphone.]

Xander: Uh, hey everybody. Um, Xander here.

So we just got outta Mt. Moon, and we're on our way to Cerulean City again, and I just happened upon two people screaming at each other?

They look- they have, like, kar- well, they're in, like, karate- yo- I don't- they're karate people. I'm gonna go see what's goin' on. This should be interesting.

[Shoes crunch on grass. The two arguing people get louder as **Xander** gets closer.]

Man: —shrug off a punch. It's in every movie!

Woman: Well, have you ever played—

Xander: Uuuh, 'scuse- 'scuse me! Excuse me. Excuse me, hi.

Man: WHAT?

Woman: What?

Xander: Oh! Sorry. Um, hi.

Man: Listen, buddy.

Xander: [quiet] Oh.

Man: We're in the middle of a conversation here.

Woman: Yeah.

Xander: Uh, well, my name's, uh, Xander and I heard that, and I just was coming over to see what—

Man: How much better kicking is than punching?

Xander: Huh?

Woman: Oh.

Man: Because it is.

Woman: Oh, here he goes.

Xander: Oh is that this—

Man: Because it is!

Woman: Oh, here he goes!

Xander: Is that- is that was this is about? You guys are arguing if- over whether kicking—

Man: Kicking—

Woman: Because punching is *clearly* the way to go.

Xander: Oh.

Man: Wrong. Wrong! You have to kick!

Woman: No.

Man: You have to kick!

Woman: No.

Man: I mean it's the only way to win the fight!

Woman: You can't— There's no aim in that!

Man: All the best in the fighters in the world have been kick fighters!

Xander: Well, the—

Woman: Are you kidding me?

Man: All the best fighters in the world be kick fighters. No I'm not kidding you.

Woman: There's no aim in kicking!

Man: There *is* aim. There's a lot of finesse!

Woman: And if you slip, you fall on your ass!

Man: Have you ever kicked somebody's head off?

Woman: Oh.

Xander: Ok- excuse me, if I could- well, I've- I've never really fought anything before and I'm jus—

Man: Well, listen buddy. If you're gonna start, you gotta start with *kicks*. Master the kicks and you master fight.

Woman: Uh-uh. Uh-uh.

[Woman shakes her head.]

Man: Who're you arguing with?

Woman: If someone get into your face, you gotta just knock 'em out.

Xander: Okay—

Man: Don't give 'im the false information! He's a young, impressionable kid! You don't know what you're talking about!

Woman: What're you gonna do, kid? And shoes. What about shoes? What kind of shoes do you have to wear?

Man: You don't have to wear shoes if you've got form!

Xander: Well, I—

Woman: If I'm wearing fresh kicks, you think I'm going to kick someone with them?

Man: Oh, so you're into aesthetics. It's all about functional strength.

Woman: Oh no, honey.

Xander: Well, I'm curious. Okay, why d'y- why d'you think kicking is better than...

Man: You have any idea how many arms-worth of strength there are in your legs? It's like you've got three and a half arms in your legs.

[**Woman** makes vague disagreement noises.]

And you can— That is *decimating*.

Woman: No.

Xander: Well—

Man: That is decimating with the proper form. Something *you* wouldn't understand.

[**Woman** scoffs.]

Xander: Okay, well, then what- what- what're- punching's better? What're—

[**Man** groans in disgust.]

Woman: You know how much power you can throw back with a punch versus a kick?

Man: Blech. Uck.

Woman: You walk into the family room. A coffee table's right there. You're telling me that you're not gonna get your fingers stuck in that? No. It's always a toe!

Man: Wrong. Wrong. You know, the feet are very, very adaptable—

Woman: That's not—

Man: —I've never had a foot injury.

Xander: So you- you kick people. How many people have you—

Man: Oh, I've kicked people's *heads* off, buddy.

Xander: [*Travis stifles laughter*] Oh. Oh.

Man: I have kicked people's heads *off*.

Woman: Oh, please. Have you ever *punched* someone's head off?

Man: I haven't because it's impossi—

Woman: That's where the gratification is.

Man: Nah, I think you're making that up. Fake news.

Woman: No, man.

Man: No, not a thing.

Woman: I'm tellin' you.

Man: No. Wrong. Wrong. Kicking is definitely the way to go.

Woman: No.

Man: Fake news.

Xander: How- how- how long has this been going on for?

Man: My life.

Xander: *[Travis stifles laughter]* Oh.

Woman: Oh, real nice.

Man: Is that- you know, that's it, no I'm bringing it back there!

Woman: Okay, real nice.

Man: I'm taking it there! I'm taking it there!

Woman: All the way back there.

Man: This has been going— You've been talking shit nonstop!

Xander: Hold up—

Woman: Okay.

Man: I bet you were a Hitmonchan fan!

Xander: So are you—

Woman: [laughs mockingly] This is so funny [claps].

Xander: Not—

Man: You like Hitmonchan? It's all about *Hitmonlee*!

Xander: Okay I have a clarifying question. D'y- are you- are you partners or did you just run into each other?

Woman: No, I just don't—

Man: It's called frenemies. Alright?

Woman: I just don't know any more.

Man: It's frenemies, is what it is.

Woman: I just don't know nowadays.

Man: It's- it's the polar opposite of a bromance. It's a frenemy.

Xander: Okay.

Man: That's what it is.

Xander: Okay.

Woman: Do friends just kick?

Man: Friends forgive and I'm forgiving you. For bullshitting people nonstop! You're- entire time I've known you! Punching won't do anything against a group!

Woman: Oh, you wait!

Man: You can engage—

Woman: I'll show you!

Man: —six people with the proper kicks!

Woman: I'll show you!

Xander: Wait, what?

Woman: This is the gun show, baby.

Man: [irked] Oh no. Oh no.

Xander: Are you gonna hit me? Please don't- please don't hit me. You like you're goin—

Woman: I'm not, but, like—

Man: No!

Woman: —if the situation were someone wanted to get in a fight and all I had were my fists, what d'you think I would do?

Man: What is the situation you only have your fists?

[Travis stifles laughter.]

What is that situation? You need the legs to throw punches!

Woman: They are when you can't find weapons!

Man: It's objectively true!

Woman: I'm not gonna throw legs!

[Man groans.]

I need my stability.

Xander: Well, have you gu- have you guys ever thought about just fighting each other and then—

Man: I would win. So it would be really embarrassing for them.

Woman: Oh. Ohhohoho.

Man: It would be very embarrassing.

Xander: You're- so you're both fighters and you think the other one is- but you're not actually fighting, you're just arguing about it.

Woman: One of us is a fighter.

Man: Haven't you ever been on Reddit? This is life.

[Beat.]

Xander: Alright, well...good luck with all this. I was hopin' maybe see some stuff, but...

Man: Yeah, get outta here.

Woman: Yeah.

[Feet crunch on grass as **Xander** leaves.]

Man: Kids don't understand.

Xander: Okay.

Woman: Yeah.

Man: You can't teach a kid these days.

Woman: Yeah, that's the problem.

Man: You have to be a magician to—

Xander: Okay, I can still hear you! I can still hear you!

Man: [distant] Uh-huh. Kick the ground away from 'em!

[Travis stifles laughter.]