

Synopsis

Yo what up, I'm a leaf. Oh!

You know, it seems the only time precipitation ever occurs in this world is in the form of apparent mega storms. Where are the pleasant april showers, the wet winter weeks? I mean, it doesn't look like TOO much of a storm, but the gang seem to think it is, which again indicates how rare rain must be. Not to mention several pokemon can control weather, it paints a somewhat dire picture, is all I'm saying. So where shall the twerps seek shelter from the storm?

WHOOOP! We have a mansion, everyone! Mansion times are here again! The bizarrely common filler location from the indigo league returns with a gothic vengeance! Man, it's been long enough that it's almost refreshing, plus this one certainly has... an aesthetic.

Holy crap, imagine pokemon vampires, I mean we already have pokemon pirates, why not? Or hey, pokemon vampirates? Alright alright, so yeah they knock on the door using a knocker I would kill for and will most likely look into 3D printing cost for, to avail, then pikachu is all

"Doors open, guys! Free trespassing!"

"Hooray!"

So they explore a vast abandoned location in a pretty accurate depiction of pokemon gameplay, let's be fair, when a scream is heard echoing through the corridors.

"Hey, that sounds like someone in extreme distress! Maybe we should call the Jennys?"

"No, let's barge in on it!"

"...barge in on it, don't know why I asked."

"Hey, that sounds like james! He must be getting tortured in this mansion!"

"Again?"

But surprisingly it isn't James, it's just some guy getting his back broken!

I don't care WHAT you call yourself, that noise followed by that scream is not good! And is that one getting freaking electroconvulsive therapy?

At this point I'm expecting the doctor here to tear off their coat and do a saucy dance number, but no apparently the place has been converted into a pokemon spa! ...with no

reception. And the lights off in every other area of the house. And no signage whatsoever YEAH I'M NOT BUYING IT RUN KIDS RUN! But Brock is unphased thanks to a raging... hormone cocktail and introduces himself.

"Oh okay. So, Mommy Issues, what brings you to my salon?"

"No time, doctor, you're needed urgently for the zubat scan!"

"Can you... not wait a few seconds?"

"No, the nurse accidentally called the move and now it's compelled!"

"Dagnabbit..."

Yeah, a freaking zubat scan! I guess that's a Zooming Uncomfortable Bat-based Axial Tomography?

Ah, I see, it's more like an ultra-sound...

Yeah, what Brock said. Although I'm pretty sure A: you'd need some kind of connection from zubat to the computer, maybe the bow's actually an antenna? But also B: there's a reason ultrasound devices are pressed against the skin! It's how the ultrasound actually sees inside you! From that distance all you'd see was "yep, that's a guy all right." Mind you I know I wouldn't want a zubat's mouth smooshed against my pregnant belly, so who knows.

Despite all that though. I have to say this is SO AWESOME. Pokemon abilities being used for medical purposes is my freaking jam, and the fact that it's so rough and set up in a freaking gothic mansion is just the cherry on the Alcremie. This place is dodgier than a billionaire's taxes and I love it. Speaking of...

And THAT'S not shady at all! "Don't worry my girl, you can just run the medical practise out of my mansion! Who needs that silly old certificate anyway?" Also this is no castle, don't know why people keep calling it that. Castles have outer walls, man! OUTER WALLS!

"And yeah, this is just freaking bonkers now that I say that out loud..."

ANYWAY, medical silliness, architectural inaccuracies and ethical dubiousness aside, we still don't really have a conflict, when's that going to come along?

There we go. So what's the score this time? Valuable medical equipment? Kidnap trained medical pokemon for ransom?

Ah. food. A classic...? Come on, you've got one of the most outstanding setups for a cool episode I've seen in ages, this can't be the main issue! Surely not! Well, I'll give them the benefit of the doubt as Brock's all

"Ha ha! Me as a doctor, can you imagine! Huh?"

Then the motto and WOW.

There's crap past the radar and then there's that! I'm dang sure I missed that as a kid, what a parental bonus! So the gang give chase and THERE we go! I KNEW it couldn't just be a food heist! Oh boy!

WHO WAS THIS PREVIOUS OWNER? "You got spunk, girl! Tell you what, I can make all your financial troubles disappear... if you can survive THE GAUNTLET! MUAHAHAHA I LOVE PHILANTHROPY!"

The worst part is that Anna still isn't explaining the deal. Dang it Pokemon, the ONE time you don't give us a long winded exposition explaining the location, and it's THIS one? Luckily Anna is smart and uses Zubat to scout ahead using echolocation (but not smart enough to keep a map on her at all times hmm) and then Brock helps by revealing more of the map by... getting Zubat to do the same thing in the same place at the same strength.

What is this, some kind of video game?

"Hey it's me, the leaf again. What do. By the way the storm's over."

So while the other twerps prepare to freaking Minecraft their way in to Brock. Team Rocket attempt to freaking Fall Guys their way out to the twerps!

fall guy line

Um... yeah! When was this made again?

So after a few more shenanigans it looks like we're in the home stretch, so Brock tries for a home run with Anna, and it seems to be working!

Working... a little too well! Er...

UM...

BROCK YOU ARE LIKE MAYBE 16 AT MOST DON'T YOU DARE TALK ABOUT GOING ON A HONEYMOON WITH A GROWN WOMAN IN MY PRESENCE MOVING ON NOW NOW NOW

Oh thank heavens it was a hallucination brought on by oxygen deprivation and cabin fever. I mean, it's not good that he's in that state but- aw you get it. So the exit is in sight, team rocket try a last ditch heist...

what does this do

"It's a pair of zubat and wow I can't even muster up an explanation, this is just pathetic."

Then pineco makes itself useful by EVOLVING sorry sorry, last time I swear, by self destructing, Team rocket attempt a LAST last ditch heist of pikachu, Brocks zubat makes itself useful by SELF DESTRUCTING I mean evolving into one of the scariest pokemon out there. Seriously, have you read how much blood it can take in one bite? Then pikachu makes this face...

"Aw you done Muk'd up now, bro..."

And the day is saved, Brock's dreams of helping anna are crushed with a glorious record scratch...

And they leave the good doctor behind with the mansion's deathtraps never explained, consarn it!

"Time completed: 11 minutes. Did you get the data you wanted, Doctor?"

"It was sufficient, prepare the next specimens."

Thoughts

This episode was a lot, in nearly every sense of the word.

And yet, despite throwing so much at us, it also managed not to be about anything, which was really disappointing. Don't get me wrong, I'm extremely glad the mansion was more than just a pretty setting for a food chase, but if ever there was a setup for an awesome story told organically through environmental storytelling it's this one! We could have learned why there was a maze or why the owner gave the mansion to Anna or FOUND THE PREVIOUS OWNER AS A SKELETON IN THE CORNER okay, maybe

not that one, but still, you have such an intriguing and entertaining setup with this little payoff I feel like I'm watching a Stephen King adaptation!

It's double jarring when you consider that the two gimmicks presented in this show really don't blend organically. Like both of these premises are easily separate episodes, you guys can see that, right? You have a pokemon spa, and then you have escaping a murder mansion. Now, these two COULD combine into a freaking awesome and unique coherent story BUT IT DOESN'T. The spa plot ends as soon as they fall down the trap door and doesn't come back except as something to explain why Anna has a computer and a echolocating zubat, which he could just as easily have had if she was a ghost hunter or something!

Instead both plots just feel par baked, with the spa explained but not explored, and the mansion explored but not explained. I get that sometimes it can be tricky to fill out time with only one central idea, and it can lead to long, rambling and redundant sentences that are redundant and rambly while also being sentences that extend time and also are redundant and rambly for the sake of extending your script and not much else, rambling and redundant as they are. But still, Spa plus mansion? You gotta earn that one.

Despite that and the other nitpicks in the synopsis though, everything else about the episode was just a hoot. I'm biased of course since they used pokemon in new ways and I can't get enough of that, but even without that the pace was good, the gags were pretty consistent, the locations were unique and it was nice for zubat of all mons to get some screen time. It's the kind of episode I would have loved as a kid but gives me pause as a grown up. Hoo boy, this is tough as I did enjoy it more than a Great ball would imply but it doesn't seem right giving it an ultra ball. I guess it's a great ball but it's a really strong one. I just want to give SOMETHING at least an ultra ball this season!

Trivia

Not much today but I will say that mareep giving that guy controlled shocks was NOT electroconvulsive therapy, just as a disclaimer so people don't get the wrong idea, I just said that for a gag. What's actually happening is mareep is administering Electrical Muscle Stimulation, or EMS. It's a real thing where low currents cause muscles to flex involuntarily for a variety of purposes like strength training and rehabilitation for immobilised patients. So if this guy is getting the latter, he'll be the first and only disabled character in Pokemon! Ha ha... huhhh...

Also, most of you have probably heard of ultrasound but as I mentioned that's a real thing too, great for tons of diagnostic purposes, not just for prenatal baby pictures! How

it's implemented here is a little misleading as mentioned before but I am glad that they at least mention it so kids might look it up out of curiosity. Though I'm pretty sure you don't get confused from listening to ultrasound, so using supersonic for it doesn't seem right...

Lastly, while we're on the zubat line, remember how I said I've always been freaked out by Golbat? Well that wasn't a gag, even with the drifloon taking kids and the beware breaking spines and the Yamask stealing souls, Golbat is still the only pokemon that gave me pause in my desire to live in the pokemon world. In both the game and the show it's said to take 300 ccs, or 10 ounces, of blood in one bite. That's almost as much as a typical blood donation and there are whole CAVES of these things! I just...
shudder no. I regularly donate plasma and still I say nope to that. Nope right off.

Patrons

And so, Suede continues onward, desperately curious and frustrated by the events that just unfolded. It's been so long since a genuinely good episode, but maybe the next one will finally be a hit. Or who knows, maybe it's yet another miss.