The events of the night to follow their little bit of espionage was about as dull as one expected as the black haired sister bemoaned the lack of a good view while flying that she was hoping to get when tailing the trucks, only to be met with a thick wall of fog that obscured everything. Emily and Arai on the other hand of course went over the photos, taking note of many details that the white haired girl had managed to capture in the meantime. The three sisters sat in a late night restaurant—



■ Meditation [GODDESS OF VICTORY : NIKKE OST]

—getting a very late dinner as Mawlie and Tinkaton gazed at the phone to see the sights they missed while in their Pokeballs while the little covert operation was underfoot. The restaurant itself was a place that Arai had scoped out before while here in Kalos by herself. It was a clean place but a complete hole in the wall that for the time being had none of the law's eyes or ears in it, while the owner of the place made no pushes to let said eyes and ears in since the kind of people who came here to escape the prying hands of the powers that be were willing to pay the prices of the admittedly high-end food, keep things civil and pay a little extra to keep secrets. A perfect place to discuss what was to come next as the silence between the two more focused sisters was finally broken as Arai ended up sighing.

"Looks like tons of ground patrols. Even before Interpol attempted to intervene with the convoy, they were already putting a ton of security around the grounds. Curiously nothing resembling an air defense though. They don't seem to be expecting anything from above." the blonde haired girl remarked aloud as Emily looked at the photos for a moment and responded. "Interpol doesn't have a habit of striking by air. These old farts like to roll in by the ground and surround buildings with trucks and squads of men. Anything more clandestine seems outside of their range. These guys also clearly aren't worried about the **average Trainer** just flying in either and getting inside."

"Either overconfidence or they have even better defenses on the inside than the outside. Something to make them feel certain that even if some rogue trainer comes in through the air and tries to slip in or just bluntly charge their way through that they can quash them." the blonde haired sister then bounced back as Emily once again thought her response over for a moment before replying. "Even if it's true, it's still quite the flaw. Just means we can abuse their confidence and go by air. If the idea of a rogue trainer coming by air is known but not taken seriously they will still have SOME guards by the doors connecting to the rooftop, but nothing serious. So we can just make our own entrance in, or create some kind of diversion."

"Maybe, but for now there's more important things. This is going to have to be a multi-step plan." Arai replied as she parsed Emily's phone back to the first shot of the facility. "Step 1 is that you ideally get in, find some kind of administrator's office and take a digital shotgun and plug it into their computer so I can get a backdoor on an administrative PC. Such a PC should have schematics of the facility I can use to plot things out further. The tower they departed from here in Lumiose had basement levels connected to closed connection servers on-site. If this facility is anything like it, you will need to then get me into those servers. Once those 2 stages are done, we start doing things your way and you start tearing the facility apart from the inside-out. Admin PC backdoor will give me access to their entire remote network and the ability to drill more holes into the defense I can abuse so I don't have to even visibly log in with the admin credentials anymore and we'll have a good idea of what they're doing from that point onward." the blonde haired sister then finished as Emily visibly mulled it all over with a casual look on her face.

"So...get in, connect the shotgun to the admin PC, then go look for the closed connection servers and get you into those too and then I just start smashing stuff...I assume while I do that you'll be getting elevators ready to let me into the basement levels you mentioned are probably there?" Emily then ran by Arai to confirm, in which the blonde haired girl nodded in response. "That's the gist of it, but we're still going in rather blind. A non-issue since you seem to be a master of improvising, but still something to take into account. We've got basically zero intel on these people and I imagine our first foray into their shit is going to be a chaotic mess as we're stuck reacting to one new thing after another...so if things start going TOO south, I am going to be lending you my Abra. If shit gets beyond what you can manage you are to teleport out and haul it back to us." Arai then continued on, suggesting that Emily take one of her own Pokemon with, as a means of escaping a bad situation. She was always the more cautious one of the bunch, as where Emily and Mari saw just another group to stamp out, Arai saw a potential actual danger due to these people's ability to actually harvest and potentially harness and utilize Infinity Energy.

Emily sighed through her nose in response, her lack of argument with Arai's assertion of taking her blonde haired sister's Abra with as a means of quick escape making it somewhat clear she knew well as to **why** the suggestion was even made. All the same however, the white haired girl carried on, undeterred. "Sounds simple enough then I suppose." she finally replied after a brief silence as she then leaned back into her seat at the booth table they were sitting at. Both Mawlie and Tinkaton seemed somewhat visibly excited about this upcoming operation and the prospect of going on an offensive for once instead of scurrying around in the desert wastes of Orre as they have been for the past few months. They were either naive and unaware of the notion carried between the two sisters or they were much like their Trainer and utterly confident in their ability to get it done.

"Ugh...where is a waiter when you need one." Emily then grumbled as the actually rather full and lively late night restaurant seemed to be actually taking a bit to get a waiter to their table.

One's view drifts back from the sisters slightly as the sound of the somewhat lively restaurant overtake the senses. Any other chatter made by the 3 girls was lost in the noise of the room as the rest of the night was about as uneventful as one would expect considering the lack of anyone knowing of their involvement in this new little campaign just yet. But it also meant it was a bit of a bore as the events of the evening sort of just blurred by the 3 sisters at this point. Eventually a waiter came by, getting their orders, and a brief time later, their food had arrived and the 3 sisters and Emily's 2 Pokemon ate their fill and eventually parted from the restaurant. They made their way to the hotel Arai had been staying in and the moment they reached their beds, they were all out like a light from what Emily would call "The Itis".

[Music End]

Along with a certain book she suddenly got some time ago, Emily had also been having odd dreams ever since around a week or two ago. The dream involving Kyurem that was cut short before even seeing what the outcome of the first attack that came to mind even was before she ended up snapping awake that night and finding that book at her bedside afterwards. At first she assumed that book and that dream involving Kyurem was just nonsense, but when she woke back up again hours later that book was still there. Every day the contents of it seemed to shift and change, as did the dreams she'd begin to have. Every dream felt like information was being crammed into her head as completely unrelated things took place around her, and when she'd wake she'd see that new information was scrawled across the book's pages. More and more about how to actually harness and utilize Infinity Energy began creeping onto the pages with each night. She'd study the pages, reading closely the lessons they had to impart upon her rather than looking this gift horse in the mouth.

Our Mission - Jujutsu Kaisen Season 2 Original Soundtrack

This morning was no different. Emily woke up from another nonsensical dream of unrelated chaotic concepts while feeling like something was pouring into her brain, only to find more pages of the book had been filled and that the book itself got a little bit physically bigger. The new contents of the book at least gave her something to do in the meantime today as she awaited the night to make her strike against the facility they had discovered before.

Emily sat awake in her bed, letting a sigh out through her nose as she eyed the book over. The first night since she got it, the events that led up to its appearance were hazy at best. But after a few weeks she remembered the details with vivid clarity. Furia. Caliz. Raphael Cervantes. These words and names meant nothing to her, but their involvement gained her this book. A slowly expanding tome of information on Infinity Energy. The very energy that makes Pokemon and individuals like herself special and how she can channel it in ways humans could never have thought of due to both limited communication with Pokemon— but also the admittedly lacking intelligence of Pokemon as well compared to a human. She alone was a practitioner of something no one else could possibly gain a deep understanding of how to actually USE— and unlike Pokemon, she had the intelligence and creativity to do more than thought possible with it. She'd even asked scientists and researchers back in Orre about those names. Had them consult the deepest archives they were allowed to even touch. Nothing. The words straight up did not exist in this world, even behind locked doors and ancient ruins and yet they still existed in a way that still resulted in something she wanted. For now it would remain a mystery...

The white haired girl mulled these thoughts over, sighing through her nose again as she opened the book. She remembered the first time she ever did. It was a mere pocket book at best and now it was the size of a school text book with pages that gradually filled in with each passing night with bits and pieces of information. It taught her quite possibly the most important facet she had so far. And it was what resulted in that giant slab of steel she occasionally swings around as well...

Emily otherwise went about her day, doing usual day to day things with her two sisters along with Mawlie and Tinkaton as she studied the new contents of the book. Stores, Food, Sights, and so on and so forth. Despite how serious the situation ahead was to be, the girls remained confident that their plan so far was thorough enough and were already accepting that there'd no doubt be improvisation to be made part-way through due to a lack of intel they could gather right now at this very moment. The day honestly blurred along for Emily as usual, her focus remained more on the mission ahead tonight than anything else as she studied the new contents of her book before eventually tucking it away. Mari herself was having the time of her life here in Lumiose City— with this being her first time here and all. It was a stark contrast to when Emily herself first came to Lumiose City. It was a sprawling network of things for ordinary people with mundane interests, but little to nothing for people like herself that don't particularly have their eyes and noses to the ground as most normal people do. Emily was admittedly out of her element trying to go about regular day to day life, even with both of her sisters here with her— maybe even a bit lost even as she usually tried to fill her days with more important things.

You Jerk - Jujutsu Kaisen Season 2 Original Soundtrack

A lunch at a cafe that caught Mari's eyes. A stop at a clothes shop where Mari tried almost 2 dozen different things and only took a little under half of them, along with a few extras that she made a point to keep to herself. This of course set off Emily's "mischief alarm", but otherwise did not press her black haired sister about what said things were. The girls from there crossed into a trinket shop and at Emily's expense, Mari had all sorts of fun putting a variety of accessories onto her smaller sister. One thing in particular however was a white pair of cat-like ears which earned a grumble from Emily as it looked like one of the ears twitched and flicked in annoyance— as if it had magically come alive for a moment to display Emily's disdain before seeming to return to normal. Mari of course kept a lot of the trinkets she found as the 3 sisters then began to seek out dinner. Emily led the group this time around and brought them to an interesting, unexpected sight; a proper barbecue restaurant. It was named "Lazy Suzy - Smoked Barbecue". The girls made their orders to go, but before they'd go anywhere Emily would end up withholding Mawlie's until she completed a task. Naming what it is she wanted to eat.

At first, Mawlie was annoyed, not enjoying being treated like an infant or pet but eventually grumbled and relented as her mouth began to form words. "Bar...bee...cue. Pound of...bris...ket. Mashed po-tay-toes. Brock-oh-lee." she slowly worded out, as Emily eventually handed Mawlie her own tray of food along with one to Tinkaton who simply laughed a bit at the routine. Mawlie speaking was nothing new— Emily had been drilling it into the Pokemon's head ever since she was a child. Mawlie's English wasn't perfect but she was otherwise perfectly understandable. She grasped typical conversation just fine but now Emily was working on getting her to be able to say **specific things** and recognize specific objects that she wants; like specific orders of food or how she recently taught Mawlie how to get them a hotel room when she simply passes out from being awake for too long.

"Lessons is annoying." Mawlie then remarked with a slight grumpy tone as Mari simply chuckled a bit in response while Emily and Arai simply looked at Mawlie as she continued speaking. Her voice was quiet and almost whisper-like— very clearly female— while also being **very** raspy as she voiced her disdain for said menial lessons. Onlookers nearby in the restaurant bearing witness to the speaking Pokemon, including the counter staff serving the food were visibly shocked in an "that's amazing" sort of way but were otherwise largely ignored by the 3 sisters and the 2 Pokemon present. The 3 girls and the 2 Pokemon departed the building, taking their orders of food with them as they went out into the city once again as one's view pulled away from the group and panned out to an overseeing view of Lumiose City as time began to rapidly pass by.

[No Music]

Night had finally come once again in Lumiose City as the 3 girls checked their clocks for the time. 10:24 PM. It was getting to be about that time.

"It'll take me about an hour to get there by flying. Keeping it somewhat low and flying at a moderate pace should probably make any possible radar systems think I'm just some regular bird Pokemon flying overhead and just landing on the roof. It's probably best if I get going right now." Emily started up as she withdrew Mawlie and Tinkaton to their Luxury Balls. She put said 2 Pokeballs into her pockets and pulled out another one and readied it to let out a Pokemon.

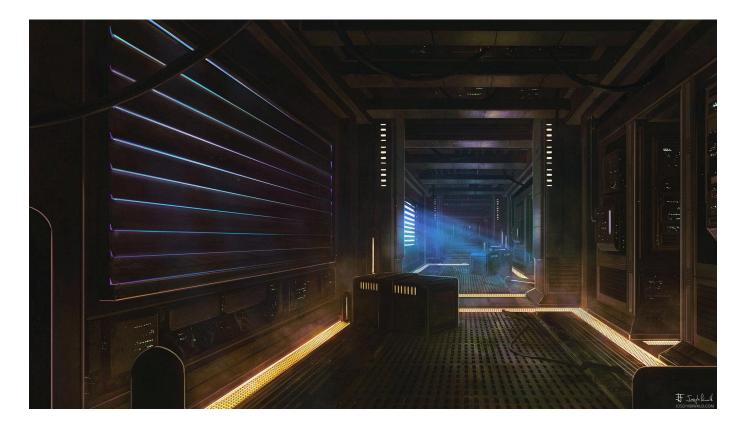
Rather than say anything, Arai simply handed Emily a plain Pokeball— one that no doubt contained the Abra she mentioned before— and nodded in response and also handed Emily a USB stick. No doubt the digital shotgun mentioned before. "Your extra PDA I made for you already has the means to upload the virus to let me take control of the closed connection systems. You just gotta plug it into one of the server stacks." she then finished instructing as Emily nodded this time and put the USB stick into one of her coat's inner pockets and zipped it up as she let her Hydreigon— Tiamat— out of her Pokeball and climbed onto her back and then took to the sky with a gust of wind blowing over her 2 sisters.

■ Team Rocket Hideout (Remix) | Pokémon Red, Blue, Yellow

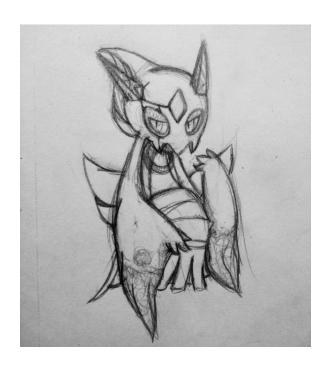
The flight there was about the exact same as the night before. The marsh between Lumiose City and Northern Kalos caused a massive wall of fog, causing Emily to need to navigate via her GPS system as she began following it towards the marked location of the factory she found last night. She arrived quickly to the wall of fog, but opted for Tiamat to slow down and fly a bit lower, in-line with her idea to pose as a mere bird pokemon flying through the sky in case these people had radar systems for whatever reason. Once Emily breached through the wall of fog, she had Tiamat stop for a moment and looked around the area they had arrived at. The security seemed just about the same as before on the ground, and upon inspection with some high-tech binoculars created by her blonde sister, Emily found a lack of guards on the roof of the building as well.

It was either overconfidence or trying to appear as normal as possible. Patrols remained hidden in the forest below but anyone with a long range camera could potentially snap photos of armed guards on the open rooftop. Either way it left the roof open to land on, prompting Tiamat to continue flying forward at their middling elevation and moderate speed to remain as inconspicuous as possible until finally they eventually reached the rooftop with naught to signal their arrival with. Emily climbed off of Tiamat and returned the dragon to her Luxury Ball before tucking it away into her backpack while pulling out another.

The Luxury Ball opened, releasing Solara— her Volcarona that wore an odd Shelmet-like mask over her face— from within as Emily approached a door on the rooftop and knelt down by it. From there she rummaged through her backpack and pulled out what seemed to be a snake cam and slipped it under the door, taking a look inside and to see if a Guard would be on the other side.



A barely lit hallway, mostly illuminated by glowing bits in the floor and walls. Both grated windows were closed— not that any light would get through them anyway this night since it was still a new moon. A guard stood down near the end of the hall, looking directly at the door they'd be entering through as Emily sighed through her nose. She pulled another Luxury Ball from out of her pockets—



-and she released a Froslass from its hold. "Phase through the walls and go freeze that guard at the end of the hall. We don't need him raising the alarm as we melt through this door's lock." Emily then instructed as the Froslass silently nodded, fading from sight as she passed through the door. On the snake cam Emily could see the guard out of nowhere being frozen in a burst of non-lethal ice, acting as the indication to begin as she withdrew the camera and gestured to Solara to begin melting the handle of the door steadily and quietly with a small spout of flame from the moth's masked face.

After a minute or so the lock on the door was reduced to a mere goopy and molten slag that dripped through the now open hole in the door as Emily simply pushed the door open and began making her way down the hallway towards the frozen guard. She returned both Solara and her Froslass to their Luxury Balls, putting them away before pulling out another one once more and released Excelsis—her Aegislash. "Hmm…less frozen than I was expecting, but at least enough that this idiot can't make a sound." she remarked as she looked the guard over.



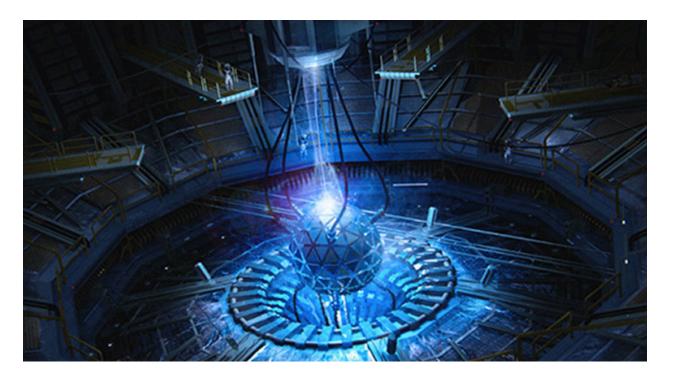
"...Fancy fucking get-up..." she muttered aloud as she stood upright and Excelsis appeared behind the frozen guard. Emily's sapphire blue eyes fixated on the mask of the guard as they visibly shifted from a sapphire blue to a royal amethyst color with a faint, momentary matching glow as she began to float up slowly and grabbed onto the sides of the frozen person's head. Emily could feel that the person within was shivering from the cold but otherwise gave him a cold, wide-eyed and animalistic stare with glowing purple eyes. Her hands began to glow, and the man began to make muffled screams from beneath his mask, limited by both the mask itself and his mouth being quite literally frozen shut.

Wisps of purple energy began to flow from the masked quard's head at the points of contact and into Emily's palms as they faded out of sight up her arms as the man's muffled screams reached their peak. In this very moment, Emily was synchronized with her Aegislash and was making use of his ghostly abilities. This MAN- as evident by the voice now- was having his very soul ripped out through his head and torn into mere pieces as she sifted through and violated it for mere PIECES of information as she discarded the rest. She was utterly remorseless, not visibly wavering in the slightest even as the man's muffled screams and howls got less and less human as she picked his very being apart with the assistance of her Pokemon. Not a single thought went into his well-being as eventually his screaming would come to a stop and Emily would return to plant her feet on the floor. With a blink of her eyes and a sigh, her eyes returned to their half-lidded, sapphire blue norm as she mentally sorted through the relevant information gained from what may as well have been inhumanely brain draining the man in front of her while the tatters and chunks of what may as well have been the man's soul were left drifting in the air around them and eventually pulled towards Excelsis as it consumes the rest as food, leaving no trace of their work here other than the now silent, frozen man next to them. The glow around her palms faded in the seconds to follow as Emily stared off at nothing in particular, getting her mental bearings before muttering aloud to herself. One of many abilities Emily was capable of through the connection with her Pokemon. She could to varying degrees- depending on what was needed- resonate with her Pokemon and share in their abilities thanks to her receptiveness to Infinity Energy. Though it was more like she resonated with their "Element" so to speak with her Pokemon itself as the proxy. If Emily were to be considered a pure Steel type by default, resonating with Excelsis would make her temporarily a Steel and Ghost type with access to the usual Ghost abilities and more in turn.

"The Collective huh...? Human supremacist cult that views Pokemon as mere **fuel**." she muttered, going into silence for around half a minute, visibly thinking on the information presented to her. "...well they're smarter than Team Plasma to some degree. Any important information is definitely not known by any Grunts like these. They have a habit of only telling the 'Officers' anything and having said 'Officers' string these Grunts around without a clue of the big picture..." she pondered aloud once more as Excelsis looked down at his Trainer who rested her elbow in her palm as she held her other arm against her midsection while the angled arm toyed around with her hair in idle thought. "...admin office...admin office..." she continued to quietly blurt out as she audibly sorted through the new mental information given to her until finally returning to center and putting her arms at her sides, no doubt having found the information she was looking for in the sea of it she obtained just now. "Rather light security for an admin office, but it goes to show their hubris. Let's get moving, Excelsis." She then ordered her Aegislash as he seemed to become a mere shadow that slipped into Emily's own, returning those amethyst eyes to the white haired girl once again and they moved forward down the hall, leaving the frozen, soulless husk behind ever-so-callously.

■ Pokemon Red/Blue/Yellow | Team Rocket Gen 1 Medley (Viridian Forest, Silph Co., Game...)

Darkness takes one's view but for a few moments as one's vision returns to see Emily exiting through a door connecting to the hallway she was just in, up on a catwalk overlooking a rather high-tech facility that seemed to only be working on a singular thing. This entire facility's ground floor seemed dedicated to the development of what looked like some kind of power core.



Even from a few stories above the core, looking down upon it, Emily could feel it radiated Infinity Energy all over the factory floor as what could be assumed to be scientists on catwalks next to it stood by it with instruments to record data with. This Collective seemed to be developing some kind of Infinity Energy Power Core...but there was no way this much energy it was radiating wouldn't be felt for at least half a kilometer from the facility...unless they also knew how to properly insulate the building so even if you're in the next room over you don't feel it at all. It showed this *Collective's* understanding of Infinity Energy to a degree. It went beyond the simple knowledge that you can extract and harvest Infinity Energy from Pokemon like mere cattle to slaughter, but they also knew how the energy behaves and how it interacts with certain materials.

For the time being, Emily simply pulled out her phone and took a photo of the core. From there she tucked her phone away again and began looking around the room. Apart from the Power Core itself— which doesn't seem to power anything in this building at all considering it was likely still in an experimental phase— there wasn't anything noteworthy in this room. Eventually Emily spotted a door on the other side of the room that was connected to the catwalks she stood on.

From what she knew by brain draining that guard, that door led into the offices where a lot of the logistics folks did their work—including the site administrator—who was currently off-work while research crews continued their own work on the core into the night.

Emily scurried across the catwalks, treading silently thanks to the ghostly influences of Excelsis. Once she came up to the door she looked it over. The door had an old fashioned knob and lock system and upon testing the door, it proved to be unlocked. The lack of tight security in that hallway or on these catwalks made it clear how little they took the threat of a Trainer coming in here from the roof seriously, confirming one of the two theories they had last night. Emily quietly opened the door, slipping inside as she silently closed it behind her and immediately crouched around the side of a nearby wall as she began to survey the area. With the help of Excelsis she was able to essentially scan this entire floor for any signs of life- guards namely- much like how a Ghost Pokemon can seem to pretty much sniff out the lives of people and other Pokemon alike for their own twisted reasons. This entire floor was clear apart from a singular guard that seemed to be walking around with a flashlight on a very basic patrol. A deeper scan to the floor below however showed a heavily contrasting mental image. The floor below these offices were FULL of guards-indicating for a fact where they actually expected threats to come from. They were expecting Interpol to come in through the front door- if they were to come at all- and to try and do things the old fashioned way. Regardless of whether it was hubris or if this "Collective" group felt like a simple Trainer could never catch on to their operation at all, it casted a massive gap in their defenses to exploit.

Emily's course of action from here was clear; the hallway itself was pitch black as only mere vestiges of gold lights from the lights mounted on the outside of the factory itself came in through some of the windows at certain corners while the rest of the hallways of this floor remained completely dark. The one guard that was up here was on the opposite end from Emily, prompting her to move forward in silence as she looked to escape this slightly lit up section of the hallway she was in and to get into the pitch black darkness between her and the patrolling guard. With the mental map of this floor available to her, Emily slipped into a room that was unlocked in the pitch black hallway, leaving the door open as she stood a small distance inside of it and waited. A minute or so passes and Emily begins to hear footsteps coming down the hall as the illumination of a flashlight extends past the doorway. One's view switches to at the end of the hall opposite from the guard as he begins to visibly walk down it, with the flashlight itself indicating his position while he is utterly unaware of what is now lurking there with him.

The guard eventually passes in front of the doorway Emily slipped into and suddenly the glow of the flashlight is gone—smothered in darkness— as he can be heard letting out a muffled sound of surprise before the sound of a body being callously yanked into a room is heard. A muffled yell just barely can be heard from out in the hall before a sudden and horrific **crunch** snuffs it out. The white hair of the young girl can be faintly seen in the dark hallway as she audibly closes the door to the room she was previously hiding in before slipping down the hallway in the direction that the guard came from. First stop was to be the administrator's office to connect the digital shotgun, to give Arai access to the system and begin making herself a backdoor for later.

At the other end of the office floor, Emily eventually came up on what was supposedly the administration office according to the memories of the man she basically reduced to a mere husk mere minutes ago. The door was locked but the door had a basic knob system much like the others on this floor and in turn it had a basic key lock that could be picked, prompting her to rummage through the various pockets in her coat until eventually finding a simple lockpick set in one of her coat's inner pockets and went to work on the lock on the door.

After a few moments the door clicks open and Emily slips inside, closing the unlocked door behind her as she makes her way around a desk she finds inside and turning on the computer on it as she plugs in the USB "shotgun" stick and then activating an earpiece.

"I'm in, got the admin PC on and the shotgun plugged in." Emily then said quietly as Arai's voice came through on the earpiece. "Accessing already...might be a bit though...administrator types being the unorganized fucking slobs they are means I have to manually dig a bit. The sheer volume of shit in here alone would make an Interpol Officer suspicious that this is no ordinary, small-time manufacturing plant." she replied and then remarked on what she was finding so far. "Yeah no shit, I saw a fucking Infinity Energy Reactor on the way through to this office. They're trying to make something that can generate Infinity Energy on its own." Emily then added on, prompting Arai to raise her voice a bit as this news came as something of a surprise to her. "Ehh?? Ex-fucking-cuse me?? Repeat that again, cause it sounds like you said they're working on an Infinity Energy REACTOR."

"You heard me correctly." Emily then replied back plainly as Arai groaned on the other side of the comm.

"How in the fuck is that even supposed to work? Even my own limbs still need a flow of Infinity Energy from myself to function properly despite my own attempts at something more self-sufficient." Arai then questioned, clearly finding it vexing but also irritating that these outright **goons** were making progress in a research she herself was not able to find an answer for.

"If I had to venture a guess, it'd probably draw on natural surroundings. We feel Infinity Energy faintly permeating the entire world around us in a thin veil. I imagine such a Reactor will forcibly draw that natural energy into itself and basically be an outright blight on the planet itself as it bleeds it dry like a fucking **leech**." Emily then hypothesized based on her own understanding of Infinity Energy in this moment as Arai simply let out a sound that seemed to be a mix of a grumble and a sigh at the same time and was heard tapping away at her keyboard once more. That one theory alone would probably be why this 'Collective' made progress and she herself didn't. It was a step she was unwilling to take.

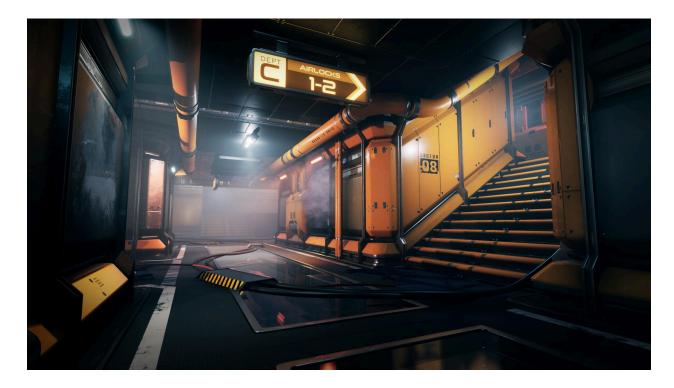
"Right, well I drilled myself into their overarching system and basically got myself a corner in their digital framework that my little backdoor won't be found in. The infrastructure is almost bogglingly insane but the security is a fucking joke. I can make some fake credentials to access important stuff later. I found the floor plan for the building. There ARE elevators that no doubt lead down but the admin's PC has none of those records. Whatever's down there isn't trusted even with a manager or some type of foreman position it seems." Arai then got back on track as Emily unplugged the "shotgun" USB stick and tucked it away for the time being.

"And where's the closed connection server room?" Emily then bluntly asked, focusing back on the task at hand once more as she shut off the PC now that Arai basically bore herself into the internet accessible systems of this group. Namely to keep the group from connecting the dots that they've been digitally breached by an outright hacker at all, and so that they can be left with the assumption that any digital infiltration was made with something like a Rotom instead since it seems this "Collective" has no stock in Pokemon Trainers whatsoever.

"Closed connection server room is on the first floor in the northeast corner of the factory. You're currently in the Northwest corner on the 2nd floor." Arai promptly then answered as Emily was now the one to groan in irritation. "The entire first floor is **crawling** with **dozens** of guards."

"Well it at least confirmed their disposition. You ended up being right, they have a bad case of hubris and basically assumed some rogue trainer would never be a threat, let alone find them and know that this was a place to bother infiltrating to begin with and only accounted for Interpol going loud and proud through the front door with battering rams and armored trucks." Arai then remarked as she was heard tapping away at her keyboard once again. "There's a hallway that leads down to the first floor, it's a side hallway that is hardly patrolled. But you're gonna want to speed things up a bit. They noticed that 2 upper floor guards have gone silent and are sending someone up to check on them. You'll no doubt erase him too but that'll put you on a clock. Cause if that third guard doesn't respond within a certain amount of time they're gonna go full alert. You'll need to get into that server room fast, I'll create a blackout and you create some chaos during it while I get the elevators open- and make sure you put some explosives on that Reactor before you head down. So you can detonate it from the basement and teleport out with Abra once you're done—we don't need that shit reaching fruition. Then before the lights come back on, you get down those elevator shafts and find out what's down below. I'll tap you into their comms while you make your way down, so just get moving." Arai then continued on, explaining Emily's current situation at the moment, prompting the white haired girl's eyes to flash to their royal purple hue once more as she takes another scan of the wing of the building she's in. There was indeed a veritably empty set of halls at the very corner of the north eastern wing and there was a guard making his way directly to said halls to come up to the second floor while other guards below seemed to just get more active in general.

Emily from there would promptly dash out of the office, closing the door behind her as she headed to the stairwell leading down to the first floor as one's view remains in the office and the sounds of her boots meeting the floor get further and further away.



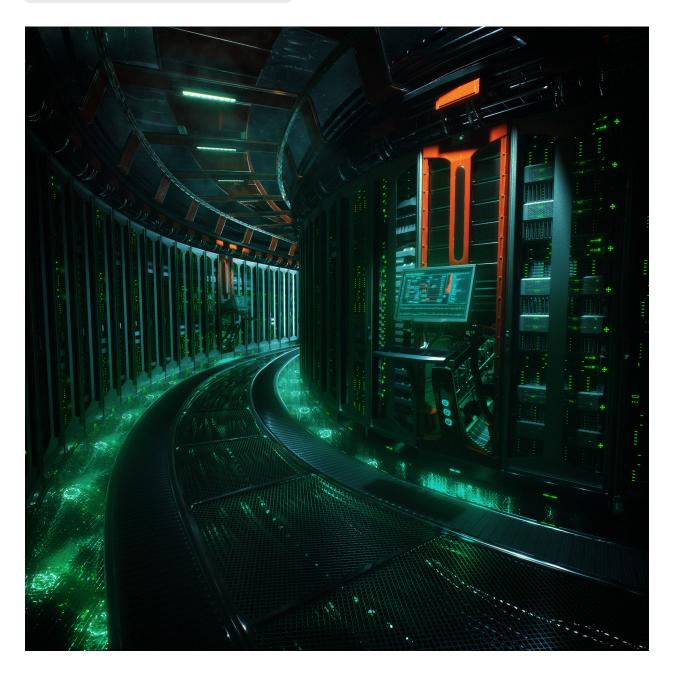
The guard in question, dressed much like the other 2 disposed guards so far was in a white cloak that wrapped around an ornate, black internal outfit with a strange mask as he carried a rather odd looking rifle in his hands and made his way down the hall towards the stairwell leading up to the second floor. His posture, lack of having his rifle readied and his stride implied a lack of concern, no doubt figuring this odd silence was nothing major and that this would be a quick check-in and then back to his post. Just as he rounded the corner leading up to the latter portion of the stairway however his mask was wrapped in a solid, black, but purple tinted mass that wrapped around his helmeted head and upper body as it yanked him up the stairwell with considerable speed and force while any sounds he made were heavily muffled. The muffled struggle would be heard for a few moments— escalating ever so slightly before another gruesome **crunch** came from up the stairs. Moments later, Emily came down the stairs, eyes still that royal shade of purple as she stood near the bottom of the stairs, hiding behind the wall as a faint, purple pulse emanated from her feet for a few inches and then vanished.

This entire wing was basically mapped out in her head at this point with these frequent scans of her surroundings...another trick she was able to make use of with the help of Excelsis. It seemed no one else was around in these halls and no communications got out from the one she just snatched. She had time then before people started going on full-alert.

With the info Emily had on hand from both Arai, the scans and what she got from the poor sap who's soul she basically tore to ribbons for information, she knew exactly where to go for the server room, prompting the white haired girl to bolt down the hallway directly across from the stairwell and disappear from sight.



After a minute or so after running down a number of hallways, Emily eventually came up on a door. Her sprint slowed to a stop as she looked it over, gently levitating up to see through the window, confirming it was indeed the server room before meeting the floor with her feet once again and picking through her pockets. A few moments later, Emily pulled out a phone wrapped in a carbon fiber case and pointed it at the console next to the door much like a remote, prompting an automated hacking system built into the phone— no doubt made by Arai for Emily's use— to tap into the door's security as it visibly went to work as indicated by the screen visualizing it's infiltration in the way of rotating key points to line up with paths along a circuit until all of them are connected. Once it was done, the door slid open, letting Emily inside and closing behind her once she was in.



A veritable hive of servers was now all around the white haired girl as the low, green lights washed over her, making her snow white hair look like an obnoxious green as her coat became a blue-green in color as the glowing royal purple eyes she had at the moment remained unchanged. Emily slowly walked through the corridor, slowly rotating around as she looked it all over as despite her lack of affinity for technology— even she knew how big of a deal this data center was. "Jesus christ...I've seen mega corps with more money than they know what to do with and even they don't have a set up like this...who in the fuck is providing these people with this stuff?" she muttered aloud to herself as she eventually returned to focus.

Froslass once again came out of her Luxury Ball as Emily brought her backpack in front of herself and began digging through it.

"Go covertly place these explosives near that reactor I saw, just throw them wherever is close to it but hidden and don't get spotted. I doubt that shit's gonna be stable, 3 of these bricks of explosive should be enough to make the thing rupture and make its own explosion and wipe itself out." Emily then muttered to her Pokemon, pulling out 3 admittedly worryingly large bricks of what was likely C4 and handing them off to Froslass. Another situation of 'if you throw enough money at someone they'll sell a 15 year old just about anything'. Or possibly the explosives were made by Arai. Either way, Froslass nodded without a singular doubt and faded into the floor along with the bricks of explosives, leaving Emily to now look around the server room for something to interact with. "Arai, you're gonna wanna see this shit." she then remarked aloud, no doubt meaning for it to be heard over their comm as she pulled out her more usual phone and began taking video of the data center she was currently walking through only to then get a sudden, loud response.

"What in the fuck is all this?! How much server space does some shitty group like this need just for Reactor research?!" Arai almost comically remarked, much to Emily's visible, but straight faced and almost just as comical annoyance as she had such an outburst directly in her ear.

"I asked myself the same thing in a way..." Emily then sighed as she panned around some more with the camera on her phone. "So where the hell do I access into?" she then asked as Arai was now the one to grumble and sigh a bit on the other end of the comm. "Honestly I don't fucking know, point the hacking PDA at that terminal along the wall on the right and I'll see if I can access anything through there." she then instructed as Emily held her phone in one hand and the carbon fiber cased PDA in the other as she pointed it at the terminal like a remote. Once again the screen of the PDA went to work and eventually Arai was in.

"Connection made, make sure to keep the PDA on so I can stay connected." Arai then said as Emily put it back in her pocket but did not deactivate it for the time being. "Fucking christ...and I thought the overarching network infrastructure at a glance was insane. Even the tip of this data center's iceberg is insanely large and complex...definitely gonna need to get Rotom to help me sift through it..." Arai commented aloud as on her end she could be heard letting a Pokemon out of a Pokeball, followed by electrical sounds in the background as Rotom no doubt went into an extra computer Arai had around to help sort through everything. Moments later a text to speech voice could be heard.

"Item of import found. Likely reference to **Emily** within." the voice said over the comm as Arai could be heard shifting slightly, not saying anything for at least half a minute as she no doubt looked over at the screen of the computer she had Rotom using. "I'm sending a file to your phone Emily. Seems these people are vaguely aware of you. Emphasis on vaguely." she then said as Emily's phone dinged and the file came through, prompting the white haired girl to open it and as her sister and Rotom started digging through the database for what they needed for phase 2 of this plan.

It was an audio file, a documentation of some sort by what is no doubt a member of this group as they have a distinctly young male voice. Whoever recorded this couldn't possibly be a day over 16 from the sounds of it and yet they're tangled up in a group like this...

[We intended to make contact with the neo-royalists of Unova...but it seemed our inaction and hesitation to make ourselves known to them led to catastrophic results. They radicalized and formed a group named **Team Plasma**. They acted boldly, rashly and in an almost...idiotic...and high profile manner. Their rhetoric largely fell on deaf ears and an unknown child swept them aside.

We in that moment assumed that would be it. That in this turn of events, we would already have to reconsider where we extend our...assistance...to. But almost 2 years later, they resurfaced. The Pokemon League of Unova and the trainer both who quashed them were apparently too soft— too lenient. Many of Team Plasma escaped the fires and the International Police. They took some lessons from their defeat it seemed and took a far more covert approach—built themselves up in the shadows—while also casting aside any reservations they had about what methods and actions to take while only wanting one thing. The supremacy of humankind within the region—and ideally to extend it to the world—through their resurgence of Unova's monarchy and simply using Pokemon as the tools for their rule they were meant to be. They were a near-perfect partner to extend our hands to...but it would seem fate had other plans. Team *Neo Plasma* as they called themselves at the time made no real mistakes on their part. They stole the Pokemon of some absolute nobody—a mewling, commoner's child. But it seemed it was doomed to terrible luck. The new champion of the region, a professor's assistant and a local of Castelia City all caught wind of this treachery and almost turned the city upside down in pursuit of them.

The battles began in the sewers, and were already immediately explosive as reports of spouts of bellowing flames from underground explosions coming out from the manholes were made. Eventually the battles became a cat and mouse pursuit as both the Lab Assistant and the Champion struggled to keep pace. Two Grunts fled from a white haired child with an almost freakish Mawile in tow. Craters in the street from ranged blasts and barely missed melee strikes, partially crushed and greatly damaged cars...this brutish girl's Mawile missed the Liepard of a Grunt by a hair as her fist went through the car door behind where the target previously was and proceeded to rip the door off its hinges and throw it at said Liepard like a disc-hitting its target as the other Grunt and their own Pokemon escaped. It was like watching a monster akin to a Tyranitar or an Aggron rampaging through the street in a 3 foot tall package. It was utterly unprecedented for a Mawile of all things to be causing such destruction. All formal research indicates Mawile are creatures of subtle, and sometimes charming or even outright seductive deceptions so that the maw on its head may snap down on some fool and eat it whole. But in this one clip from a news outlet alone, the maw was not used so much as once, and this Mawile was tearing through the street with its hands and charged forward with an unnatural ferocity and out-of-line brute strength you'd sooner expect of conventional Monster Pokemon or maybe even Fighting types.]

[The conflicts from there would only escalate as this white haired child and her slowly growing team of Pokemon hounded Neo Plasma **relentlessly** across Unova, causing mayhem wherever they clashed as she exhibited overwhelming force and fury. Their conflicts being the things you would only hear about in true battlefield stories fought by soldiers past. The zenith of the conflict ended up in Opelucid City.

A greatly destructive battle took place before quite possibly Neo Plasma's—if not all of humanity's— greatest show of power in the modern era was made. Opelucid City became a venerable warzone that only saw silence as the Plasma Frigate pulled over the city, looming overhead as it prepared to strike. An environment in which any conventional trainer, and even many Gym Leaders, Elites and possibly a few Champions would find themselves **utterly overwhelmed in**. It was kill or be killed. The idea that some could merely **cope** with the conditions and power through was not abnormal...but without a doubt this wild child **thrived** and was outright within her element under these conditions— in this fever pitched warzone. Drayden's unshaken stance was to be expected...but for a mere **child** to stand in this outright battlefield unabated...civilians were killed in collateral damages, Neo Plasma's Pokemon and even some of their Grunts were outright **killed** in conflict with both Drayden and the white haired menace that had tailed the group all this time. This world is full of the weak, indolent and mentally frail, she was an anomaly both mentally **and** physically as she eventually forced Neo Plasma's hand. The Plasma Frigate flew directly over the downtown area of Opelucid City, making its sole contribution to the battle in the way of firing the **Kyurem Cannon**.

An absurd amount of energy was put out as a beam flooded down onto the city below, freezing all in its wake. But in a moment of dissatisfaction, Colress—Plasma's lead scientist at the time—forced the beast to output even more power and instantly froze the entire city center of Opelucid. Hundreds—if not **thousands**— of people who were unfortunate enough to be caught outside were killed **instantly**. The sheer cold reduced them to mere frost-coated statues while the Sage and Drayden **seemed** to be the only ones still alive in the end of it all. The fate of the white haired **freak** was unclear...for the time being.

But merely an hour later, a news outlet came on, footage of the Plasma Frigate being struck in half by a lightning bolt beyond all measure was played as the airship's two halves plummeted to the ground below in the wilderness. Later it was confirmed to be that same, white haired child. Anything else of the conflict is unknown, but given the news of Ghetsis' death to follow in the weeks after—it was easy to assume it was **her**. She had utterly destroyed Plasma at every front and **killed** their Leader while the International Police eventually caught what few Sages were left while the scientist, Colress, utterly fled the scene. She became Unova's modern hero, known by very few that saw her during the incident and the glimpses of her in news footage, lauded by both their Gym Leaders and Elites. I assume however she herself made the call to make her identity largely kept a secret.

[No disclosures of her identity were made when otherwise they would have thrown her onto a pedestal for all to see. She is a threat to be monitored...though traces of her are hard to come by...either of her own ability to simply never be found or someone simply **helping** her become basically invisible outside of niche instances. More documentation will be made at a later date.]

The recording eventually stopped as Emily seemed to mull over the information. This group knew she existed but it seemed their information to some degree was outdated since there were no countermeasures placed in preparation to deal with her. Emily knew she'd been spotted on the news back in Unova a few times but she was largely unknown regardless— especially with Arai covering her tracks by essentially hiding her very existence through her hacking skills so that she couldn't be quickly cross-referenced through public records and such. A step to protect her parents mostly from any sort of backlash as she does her own thing around the world. And what few knew her only knew the things spotted on publications like news outlets and the Selda Championship. A niche following of people that was largely on a certain image board website that she lurked on.

But this lack of readily available information was working in her favor. This "Collective" knew next to nothing about her identity, what she was capable of, who was actively aiding her– along with what said aid can do– or what her motives are. They'd know for a fact after tonight that she is now targeting them and on their tails, but she'd be the one with initiative and advantage. She could easily hold her cards close and limit what they learn from each conflict while redoubling efforts to expand her...Arsenal...of ways to combat this Collective so that they're always kept guessing.

Eventually however as Emily mulled over this situation, Arai could be heard speaking over the comm again, regaining the white haired girl's attention as she put her phone away. "Found controls for the power and elevator controls. Once again, their infrastructure is insane but their security is lousy, they definitely did not expect some kind of actually adept hacker to get into any of this. International Police isn't known for it at all and they no doubt put zero stock in a Trainer being a threat that can manage it." Arai stated over the comm as Emily's view glanced towards the door leading to the hallway she came in from. She could sense guards beginning to move around on this floor of the building, they finally realized something was going on but had no idea where to look. Not a single guard however came to this data center. Arai's intrusions have not been detected at all it seemed and they held no belief that their intruder would even be in here. A perfect corner for her to remain hidden in for the time being.

While guards scrambled around the building however, Emily returned her focus to Arai. "Let's get started then, am I patched into their comms yet?" she asked as a ding lit up on Emily's carbon fiber cased PDA as a second channel appeared on a selector for her earpiece, giving her the answer. "Just keep in mind I will be forcibly switching you back to our channel if I need to tell you something." the blonde haired girl reminded her as she started typing away at her keyboard again. "Just give the word and I'll start the blackout." she then concluded as Froslass eventually returned to Emily through one of the walls.

"On My Way to Hell" by Połoz — Cyberpunk: Edgerunners [OST]

"Time to get this show on the road then." Emily then said aloud as she held her left hand out in front of her as faint electrical-like sounds began to emit from it and eventually in a flash of light a **Greatsword** bigger than she herself materialized into said hand as she brought it to her side.



Despite its absurd size— especially compared to its wielder, Emily showed zero signs of struggling to shift it around in her left hand into a reverse-grip. It was like a paperweight in her hands as both Froslass and Excelsis floated behind her but then without a single word physically said, both phased into the walls of the data center and vanished. Emily held up her PDA in her unoccupied right hand, a prompt to begin the Blackout coming onto the screen as the white haired girl waits a moment before eventually pushing the button and tucking the device into her pockets.

Row after row of lights began to shut off in the data center, as well as out in the rest of the factory until the data center was completely dark. For all of a moment it was pitch black and silent. In the next moment, dim, red lights activate throughout the facility as one's view of the data center returns— but now with Emily nowhere to be seen as one's vision now switches to a massive manufacturing floor of this factory.

Mere dim red spotlights acted as the only light in the entire building as anywhere outside of the immediately lit spotlights were cloaked in an utterly oppressive and unnatural darknessunknowingly perpetuated by Emily's 2 Ghost Pokemon as many guards congregated beneath said lights with their weapons ready. Throughout different parts of the factory they could all hear various others being dragged off- screaming and howling into the dark as their guns clatter across the floor as they're yanked off into the darkness as others who witness it attempt to fruitlessly fire in the direction they saw their allies abducted to as they begin to hear said screams get pulled in unnatural directions at inhuman speeds. The howls of fear would be heard for a few seconds before being abruptly snuffed out with horrible noises of grotesque death ranging from sudden silencing crunches to the voice of their allies trailing off into a horrific gurgling and sputtering as it sounds like they were outright pulled apart in the darkness and everything in between. While this horrific cacophony of sound filled the entire factory, the guards also found that something would also come to them within the light- a mere flash and blur that speeds by as anyone nearby as it passed was cleaved in two, their bodies often falling apart after a few moments of stillness as the perpetrator did not make a sound and never stood in the light long enough to be identified.

The enemy's comms were in utter chaos as screams of monsters and devils began to fill the airwaves and the factory itself alike as the sounds of slaughter persisted for at least 5 minutes. The base was ringing its alarms and sirens, finally recognizing there was a threat as one's view pulled away from the slaughter on the factory floors and instead now watching it all through a screen as a figure sits in the dark, watching it all unfold. They could see a shadowed blur–occasionally a pure white shimmer as it passed through the mere columns of light available to the security cameras. A deep sigh could be heard through the figure's nose as they continued to watch in silence as the chaos unfolds and their nearby comm system is nothing but an utter clusterfuck of horrified noise from panicked grunts as they are picked off in the bunches with each passing moment.

After 5 minutes pass, the main power is finally back on and the comms have massively calmed down as it seems whatever was attacking the guards before was now gone...but gone where exactly? None of the doors leading OUT of the factory were opened...and switching between cameras revealed nothing. With the lights back on, the figure in the dark looking through security feeds could see the full extent of the damages done—though one's view would never actually see the extent of the damage done as the figure's head blocks the screens. All one would know is that the factory quickly became a hall of horrors given the reactions and clamor on the comms just a moment ago and that whatever was left behind had the entire facility outright spooked...one's knowledge of the white haired girl's 'handiwork' would remain vague at best for the time being.

For those guards, those 5 minutes were the most horrific of their entire lives, and the things they saw left behind in its wake once the lights came back on in earnest only made it worse as they saw the full macabre displays that were made...

But for Emily and her 2 Ghost Pokemon, it was just yet another day, a routine she had actually been developing during her time in Orre—given the region's limited civility—and it was one she even did with a hint of glee...even if Emily's perpetually cold face remained as deadpan as ever. In the meantime however she made her way down the elevator shaft, descending along the cable line of the elevator while holding onto a mechanical ascender while Excelsis and Froslass float down alongside her the whole way down as the dim red lights of the elevator shaft completely illuminate her way down. Chaos had been made above and would keep the enemy guessing to as what was going to happen next or where to look— and by the time they realize where she went or what she's doing, it will take them time to get Guards willing to move again to pursue her down here in the basement— if they end up willing to come down here after her at all.

■ "The Other Room" by Earth Trax — Cyberpunk: Edgerunners [OST]

As Emily and her 2 Ghost Pokemon made their way down however...there was a faint sense of something odd in the air...

The sheer distance down alone was suspicious, but this additional feeling like something was amiss only added onto it. There was a change in the very energy in the air but at this moment she couldn't quite tell what it was.



Eventually however, Emily would finally reach the bottom of the elevator shaft, making contact with the floor without much of a sound thanks to the spongy soles of her armored boots. She glanced around the room from within the open elevator shaft, the room was dead silent with no signs of life. Attempts at scanning the layout of the basement floor went as expected, the area around her mapped out in her mind just fine...

The lack of any sort of oddity in her scan only seemed to perplex Emily further on why exactly she had the feeling something was **off** about down here. Rather than fixate on it however, she looked to Excelsis and Froslass, returning them to their Luxury Balls as Emily then pulled out 2 other ones and released Mawlie and Tinkaton.

"Well, we're finally in the belly of the beast, no more sneaking around needed." she remarked to her 2 Pokemon, which both seemed a bit giddy to finally be on this kind of operation— a welcome change of pace from all the ruin crawling back in Orre at least. "From what I can tell there's only one way forward." Emily then pointed to the door on the far right side of the room as she walked over to it, leaving her Pokemon to follow as Mawlie glanced around "Simple...enough...but expected fight or complications." Mawlie chimed in, using her slightly imperfect speaking skills to voice the fact she was expecting the hidden basement of this place to be more secure. Did they really catch the enemy with their pants outright **tied** around their ankles at this point? Or was there something here they just haven't seen yet that is meant to deal with intruders?

With only one way forward presented however, Emily simply walked forward towards the door, climbing up onto the platform leading up to it and looking it over.



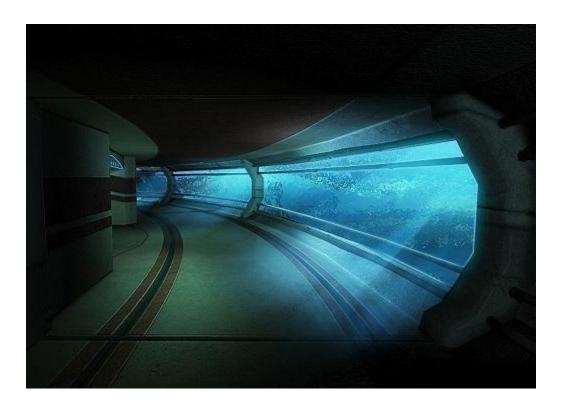
"Well...this one's definitely more secure than all the other doors we've seen so far...no obvious spot to melt through for a breach...not even sure this number pad is hackable...no obvious knob-like part of the door...not nearly enough space to slip my fingers in and pry it open, and..."

Emily trailed off as she reeled back one of her fists, preparing to punch forward at the door as her fist then flew into it, meeting with a heavy, metallic **THUD** and even a small shockwave that echoed loudly across the whole room. Emily remained there, frozen in the posture at the point of impact as she began to take a slow, deep breath through her nose before letting out a guttural, pained groan of frustration as she placed her hand over her now sore knuckles. She'd punched through stone and metal before barehanded but this stuff was definitely far more durable than the usual stuff she'd just power through on a whim. A dent was left behind but it was incredibly shallow despite the utterly inhuman force put behind that punch.

"Yep...definitely not just **breaking** my way in bare handed..." Emily hissed a bit as she then turned her attention back to her earpiece. "Arai, I'm at a door that has a number pad on it, gonna try pointing the PDA at it. Tell me if you can hack into it." she then said as the pain in her fist subsided and Arai came back on the line. "Ready when you are." she remarked as Emily pulled out the carbon fiber PDA out of her pocket and pointed it at the number pad on the door while keystrokes were heard from Arai's side. "I'm in, give the process a minute to just brute force the lock code." Arai then instructed as Emily let her sister get to work and parsed through her PDA to switch back to enemy comms to get an idea of what the situation above is now that she caused all that chaos and slipped away down here.

For the moment it seemed the enemy was utterly unaware of who or what attacked them, they had no idea what the objective was or where the assailant went with no obvious signs. 60% of the personnel were dead, majorly injured and/or in mental shock at what was left behind. The other 40% were left picking up the pieces and trying to figure out what to do next. This obviously was not some kind of Interpol strike. Far too gruesome. The idea of it being some kind of Trainer didn't even pass these people's minds, probably for the same reason.

After a minute or so and confirming that she most likely wouldn't be tailed down here, Arai came through on the comm again as the door slid open. "Just keep in mind I have no idea what's down there, not even the closed connection data center had any layouts or connection to anything down there in that basement. That door was on its own circuit and not linked to anything else." Arai said, making it clear to Emily that she was largely on her own down here as the white haired girl strode through the door into the next room.



An otherwise impossible space was laid out in front of Emily and her Pokemon. It looked like some kind of hallway in some deep sea lab...but that's physically impossible since this factory is in a landlocked section of Kalos— nowhere near the coast. Emily, Mawlie and Tinkaton walked through the door, casting their gaze around the hallway as they tried to grasp what was going on down here as Emily in particular walked over to the glass. Not a single fish Pokemon in sight despite all the sea foliage. That strange feeling from before got stronger now as the gears began to visibly turn inside of Emily's head. "An Elysium...?" she then questioned aloud as both Mawlie and Tinkaton looked at her. "An Elysium seems like the only plausible reason...but how the hell would this group know how to do this?" she then continued audibly voicing her train of thought. "The tech, the digital infrastructure, the knowledge of Infinity Energy and how to use it in general...and now this Elysium-esque space." she mulled over aloud, trailing off a bit towards the end as she seems to begin outright racking her brain for an answer as she rests an elbow on an arm placed underneath it while the hand of said arm comes up to her face to complete a contemplative gesture.

More than anything, the question of WHO this 'Collective' was connected to was the most important one. Without a doubt said connection would be who they got all these resources and knowledge from. But for the life of her, Emily couldn't think of WHO it might be. Team Plasma wasn't even **close** to this and she knew for a fact that Colress isn't here in Kalos. Colress' work isn't as advanced as this and he had a tendency to come out, make monologues and so on

about what he had made. And even then, the man in that recording from earlier made it sound like they would have been superiors to Team Plasma, in both hierarchy and capabilities. But who else **could** it be at this point? It's definitely not a local group— the elders who told them about this stuff in the first place before Arai came to take a look assured them it wasn't a local group.

Emily let out a long, annoyed groan as she scratched at the top of her head. This one key piece of the puzzle— the question of who gave these people the technology and knowledge to do all this, especially creating an Elysium— a fabricated, artificial space— like this was simply out of reach. Normally an Elysium is something she'd make with the help of her Ghost Pokemon given that strong Ghost Pokemon can create outright illusory domains— or as Emily calls them— Elysiums. But this place gave off none of the usual telltale signs of a Pokemon-made Elysium whatsoever...so how did they do this? The answer was well out of her reach and it annoyed her to no end, leaving her no choice but to simply push forward and do what she came for. To find out what the Infinity Energy was being used for and to tear the entire operation down. So far the Reactor is one obvious thing it's used for, but this entire basement area and the fact that it consists of fabricated, altered space made it clear it didn't just end there with the Reactor. Something else was going on in this facility.

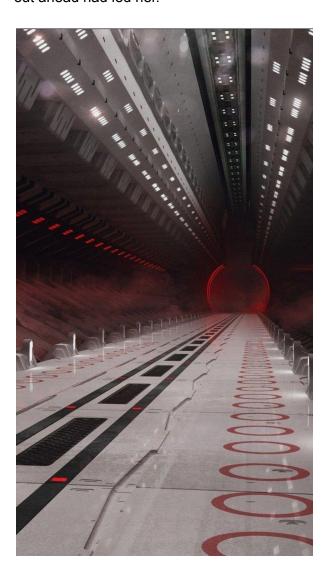
For the time being however the only paths presented in front of Emily was a hallway to the left or to keep walking down this hallway along this empty aquarium.

She chose to waste no time, as with a blink of her eyes they were that royal purple color again and a faint, wispy purple pulse emanated out a few feet around her and eventually faded as she began scanning the area around her once again with the help of Excelsis. A mental map of the facility was being made in her head as the pulse reached further and further out. Down the hallway to the left it seemed to simply be a storage room full of extra bits and bobs either for the facility above or whatever was down here.

Once Emily's invisible pulse reached the room at the end of the other hall however, she could feel something practically "ping" back at her from that location. Like something was aware that it was detected by her and was now looking back at her. It was obviously a Psychic response. She could tell that feeling from anywhere. But at the same time it wasn't quite the usual Psychic response. Something about it felt different but the white haired girl couldn't put her finger on exactly WHAT that difference was. Regardless however, it made Emily's destination altogether clear as she looked down the hallway that slowly wrapped out of view down along this long, empty aquarium. Mawlie and Tinkaton looked to Emily as the reverberation occurred, clearly able to tell what their Trainer is feeling thinks to the elevated link between them. They could also tell something in a sense responded to her presence and gazed back in turn, knowing it was now being approached.

And yet the source did not move, it simply sat and waited, seeming to know full well that it was going to be approached and challenged—for why else would this intruder be down here of all places other than to destroy anything down here, including itself?

One's view slips into darkness as it rounds an unknown corner, coming back into light once again as things cut to Emily walking down a new hallway— no doubt where the path she mapped out ahead had led her.



The source of the psychic response from the earlier scan laid just beyond the gate ahead as it remained silent and unmoving in the room. Emily and her 2 Pokemon walked down the hall, glancing around at the tech it was composed of. It was by no means outside of Emily's scope of comprehension, but the fact that this group had all this advanced looking tech and all this information started painting more and more of a picture as to what exactly she was dealing with here. For the time being Emily pulled out her phone, beginning to record her walk down this

long, advanced hallway as documentation of what she's finding down here for her own purposes.

After a slow saunter down the hallway, the 3 eventually reached the door on the other side. At a glance it seemed to just be some solid red mass with no clear point of opening it as Emily continued to pan her phone's camera around trying to examine it. Tinkaton however was more about touching things and ended up placing her big, puffy hands on the solid surface.

A trigger was then prompted as suddenly the very space around the 3 changed in a long, sweeping motion, replacing the world around them as if a pulse had gone off in some kind of distance and passed over them as they found themselves suddenly in a new space.

■ Thaw of Eons Story OST 3 — Wuthering Waves



Emily could immediately tell it was a shift in the Elysium that made up the space she was in before, she'd experimented with forming Elysiums like this before...but it was still lacking any of the key things she was used to. Her main experience with illusory or fabricated spaces like this were with the capabilities of Ghost Pokemon. And once again, this place lacked any of the obvious signs of Ghost Pokemon energy. What exactly was being used to generate this Elysium she was in remained a mystery— one she'd likely have no answer to until Arai takes some time to dig into this group's data network with the backdoor they secured.

Emily continued to pan around with her camera, looking around as she and her 2 Pokemon were now stood on one of the stone islets that looked like pebbles in water—while they themselves were like mere specks upon said islets themselves—compared to the towering, monolithic stone structures in the distance as the smell of saltwater and cool but moist air began filling their senses, as did the sounds of gentle waves and water splashing, causing small tingles

of cold on her exposed legs. This place emulated environments rather well despite the seeming lack of organic input. At first Emily panned her camera to her Pokemon that both seemed to be gawking at the scenery surrounding them, confirming they were indeed all seeing the same thing.

From there, Emily panned to one of the giant stone formations in the distance that made skyscrapers seem small by comparison and then to another as she made it a point to document everything she saw in here for later. In the midst of all this sightseeing however, Emily could suddenly feel that psychic "pang" at the back of her mind once again, drawing her attention to out in the middle of the water as she aimed the camera up towards the sky— which was largely obscured by a ceiling formed of rock that interconnected the many massive stone formations here together.

Emily and her Pokemon both would see something, curled up slightly in a ball-like shape slowly descending from up above. Eventually it would reach the water's surface and unfurl—



-it was very obviously based off of a Pokemon. A shape largely lost to time as the original Pokemon supposedly went into obscure hiding after Red supposedly caught it around a decade ago. The excitement about new Pokemon species sweeping the world in the wake of Red's time in the spotlight with the advent of the internet– allowing people to freely pass on information around the globe with the press of a button– overshadowed anything about it. Emily however knew full-well what Pokemon this machine was based off of.

Mewtwo.

A veritable test tube child spawned from what people **used to believe** was the origin of all Pokemon. **Mew.** A man made Pokemon twisted to the purpose of an outright weapon as its

power, speed and ruthlessness were cranked up to unimaginable levels for the time. Eventually Mewtwo was declassified but the sheer excitement of other new discoveries led people away from this crime against nature. Emily however knew well what kind of creature it was and dug deep into the archives of those declassified documents with Arai's help in the past. Seeing a machine based on it however made it clear what kind of ends the research being done in this lab was for. The only thing that perplexed Emily about it however was where these people got enough relevant **combat data** to confidently put such a machine together and expect it to remotely compare to the original. As far as she knew, Mewtwo breached containment well before any extensive combat tests could be made. It exceeded all expectations on a single test and then broke out. The Mewtwo project was then discontinued and many of its members went into hiding or took up new lives entirely after a small bit of scrubbing their names from records.

So who exactly gave them the connection to enough data to bother making this machine?

Emily's train of thought would be disrupted as the mechanical Mewtwo unleashed a massive surge in Psychic-aligned Infinity Energy, creating a notable shockwave that rippled out across the water it seemingly outright stood on and eventually reaching Emily and her Pokemon and causing a gust of wind to wash over them. None of the 3 moved or braced themselves from it but Tinkaton, noticing it outright stood on the water prompted her to slowly extend one of her feet out onto the surface, only to find that her foot did not breach the surface no matter how hard she pressed upon it. It was more than solid enough to stand on at the least as she then strode out onto the water with confidence as she then turned to Emily and waved her hands around—as if wanting something.

The white haired girl sighed, placing her phone down for a moment as she brought her backpack in front of herself and dug through it until eventually pulling out a white, metal box. The top of the box slid open like two parting automatic doors as a white light faintly shined out of the top of it. Emily reached inside and eventually pulled out a hammer—



-a rocket hammer, no less. One that was no doubt created by Arai, specifically for Tinkaton to make use of rather than the species usual crude hammers made from the scraps of defeated Steel Pokemon. It was larger than Emily herself and yet she held it with relative ease before tossing it over to Tinkaton who caught it with just as much ease as the engine on the back spurred to life upon making contact with her hands as a smaller node beneath the main head of the weapon lit up with a silver shine. Mawlie walked forward as well, crossing onto the water's surface as both she and Tinkaton took their positions— ready to fight this machine.

"Unauthorized entry detected in closed sector. ...Threat valuation complete. Combatants detected. Initiating Eikonoklastic Assault System. Authorizing environmental sterilization protocol. Stand clear."

A robotic voice echoed from all around Emily and her 2 Pokemon, clearly an automated directive that dictates the machine in front of them.

One thing however immediately stood out to Emily. **Eikonoklastic.** The choice of word was no coincidence. It was obviously a play on Iconoclast, and while for now she assumed the word simply WAS Iconoclast due to a lack of differentiation in how to pronounce Icon and Eikon, it spelled out an obvious implication to her. This machine was to be this group's Magnum Opus—a Godbreaker. The closest thing to Gods that Emily could think of would be Legendary Pokemon...they wanted this thing to subjugate or maybe even eradicate Legendary Pokemon?

Once again, the white haired girl's train of thought was disrupted as the mechanical Mewtwo out on the water suddenly **exploded** forward, floating along the surface of the water at high speed towards Mawlie and Tinkaton.

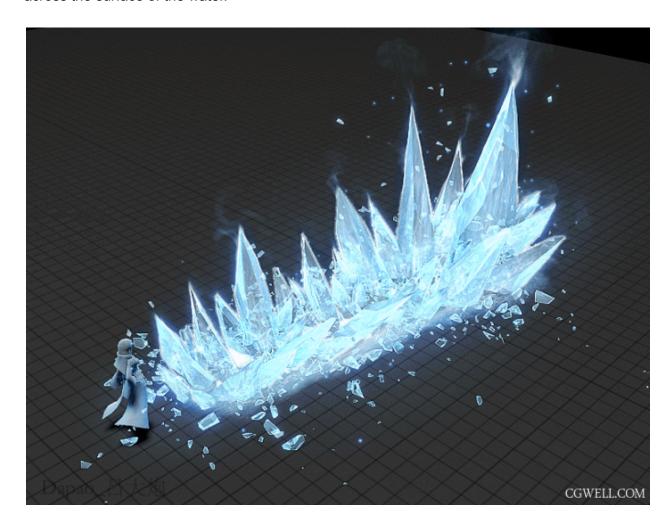
[Crownless Full Boss OST — Wuthering Waves]

The mechanical Mewtwo took aim at Mawlie, evidently evaluating her to be the bigger threat as it brought its spoon shaped weapon that it held much like a polearm to bear. Psychic-aligned energy could be felt emanating from the weapon as it made it's approach, crossing a distance of several hundred meters in mere seconds as Mawlie's arms shined with a silver, Steel-type aligned energy and she brought them to the front, blocking a heavy, downward strike that sent out a large, rippling shockwave across the water. Mawlie's legs buckled only slightly under the force of the attack that would have otherwise left the entire front end of a car caved inward, practically wrapped around the spoon-like weapon itself.

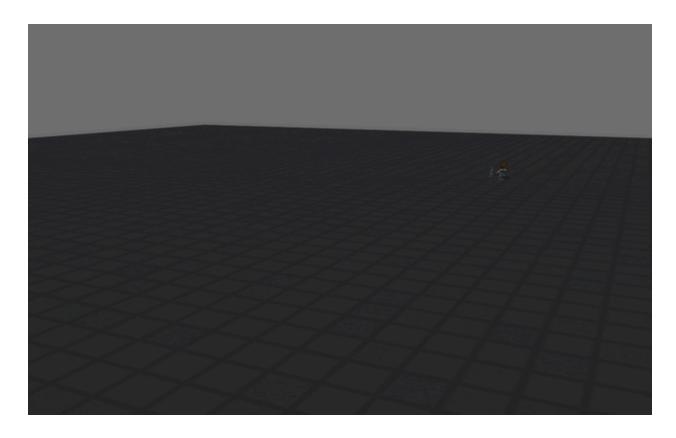
Tinkaton however would now take advantage of the situation as she'd suddenly appear just above Mawlie, practically half-way into a swing of her hammer by the time the machine realized an attack was flying at its face. Suddenly a loud CLANG rang out through the simulated environment as the engine on the back of the hammer **roared** and the mechanical Mewtwo was sent flying by a direct hit to it's face with such force that upon being sent flying the leftover momentum left Tinkaton momentarily spinning like a top in the air. A very obvious Gigaton Hammer attack given the sheer force behind it. Eventually she came to a stop after a few spins as the mechanical Mewtwo was sent skipping and tumbling across the surface of the water until eventually crashing into the craggy coast over by the nearest massive stone formation in a veritable blast of dirt, dust, rock and water while it's spoon like weapon was sent flying in an opposite direction even further away.

The machine was quick to recover, teleporting out from the dust cloud in the distance back to its former position out in the middle of the water as a dark magenta orb materialized above it, releasing an array of lights that pointed harmless beams of light all around and then disappearing moments later as a triangle of crackling energy began to float around Mawlie. The moment the triangle was primed and hovered around Mawlie, the machine raised one of its hands with a similar magenta glow as it fired off 4 slightly homing orbs of energy at Mawlie. Mawlie of course dodged but while she was occupied in doing so the mechanical Mewtwo seemed to 'draw' a line in the air in front of itself as an orb of energy formed along the middle of it. The orb rapidly expanded as Mawlie dodged the homing volley with a quick but powerful dash that kicked up a burst of water beneath her feet as the machine followed her movement while preparing its next attack. When Mawlie slid to a stop, the orb in the middle of the line of energy it drew in the air suddenly expanded and unleashed a concentrated beam attack. prompting Mawlie to use what was obviously Protect, as to negate the attack and the subsequent hand-grenade sized explosion upon her barrier it made upon contact. In the thick smoke of the aftermath of the attack however, one could see the floating triangle of energy surrounding Mawlie suddenly flare in intensity, even within the cloud itself as suddenly four triangles of that same energy appeared around her location and all 4 of them finally activated, letting off a heavy zapping sound. Mawlie however took notice and within the smoke cloud she had propelled herself into the air just as the energy array began to activate, ascending into the air with a twirl as she rose above the cloud of smoke- the force of her launch into the air dispersing it in the meantime.

Mawlie wasted no time, her entire lower left arm began to glow an icy sky blue color as a cold mist began to permeate around it as she began to prepare to strike the ground with said fist. Mawlie came down with a shockwave upon impact—fist-first as a sudden, violent cascade of icy spikes began to rush from the point of impact towards the mechanical Mewtwo as it traveled across the surface of the water.



Within a few seconds it would reach its target. The machine attempted to leap away from the attack but was caught off guard by what followed as the cascade of ice suddenly erupted underneath it, exploding outward into a massive glacial blast as one of the spikes impaled it in the center of it's torso while the rest formed around it and trapped the machine inside—



—the plume of ice was about as large as a 2-floor building and held the mechanical monstrosity in place. Tinkaton once again was in pursuit as she dashed in under the cover of the icy cascade and in almost the same moment the machine was encased in ice and leapt up at it's position in the icy prison and once again smashed her hammer directly into it, shattering the glass entirely with the force of the impact as another loud CLANG echoed through the simulated environment as Tinkaton smashed her hammer downward onto it's head this time. The sheer amount of force from the attack caused the machine to breach the surface of the water and fall beneath the waves with a massive splash— despite how much it had been shown to hold up against so far— as a cold gust washed over Emily and Mawlie in the distance from the shockwave carrying the cold of the now destroyed ice with it. Tinkaton once again was left spinning in the air for a few seconds from the leftover momentum of her attack but eventually landed on her feet on the surface of the water as she looked down into it for any signs of the enemy.

Emily and Mawlie—left with not much else to do in this moment— simply remained where they stood, waiting to see what this mechanical Mewtwo would do next. All 3 had their sights set on beneath the waves of the water as all 3 could feel the Infinity Energy housed within the machine down in the depths as it seemed to be recovering from these series of blows. After about a minute they could feel it begin to rocket upward from within the depths and breach the surface of the water once again as it took to the air and then stopped, floating in place as a green glow appeared around its body. The wound from being impaled in the torso by Mawlie's ice cascade was seemingly repaired and its heavily damaged head from Tinkaton attacking it twice with a Gigaton Hammer attack followed suit. But it was clearly not without its own cost.

The mechanical Mewtwo's energy levels dropped **sharply**. All external damage was seemingly undone and without a doubt the internals were repaired as well. But this level of recovery took a lot out of its energy reserves. Either the regeneration itself was costly or the damage done below the surface was far more extensive than one would assume.

It was an impressive piece of technology, capable of repairing even a metal, outright mechanical body with Infinity Energy, but it wasn't perfect or the least bit invincible. It just meant they had to keep putting the pressure on.

But as the battle rekindled for round 2, one's view would zoom away from the fight at hand and once again recede back through a screen that a shadowed figure was watching in the dark— an obvious security feed as a door could be heard opening behind them, letting light into the room as what one would assume to be a subordinate began talking from outside of one's view.

"My Lord! The soldiers on the main factory floor have regrouped and reoriented, an intruder has been detected in the MT-001 test chamber, shall we intervene?" a female sounding grunt announced and then asked as the shaded figure waved a hand dismissively.

"No. This child has already had explosives placed on the Infinity Energy Reactor, a Ghost Pokemon of her's placed them. They're already armed and from what I hear from a squad I sent to check, they are very volatile and liable to violently explode if so much as jostled now that they've been armed. I doubt she intends to fight her way back out the front door and likely has a Pokemon with her that can enable a quick escape as well if things begin to tilt out of her favor. The way she managed to pick us apart so far makes me inclined to believe she's not nearly foolish enough to try it. Instead I want you to send out an evacuation order for that base. It's lost to us at this point. We will simply take what we can get from this experience instead. This child and her Pokemon are granting better combat data than anything we've tested MT-001 on. Losing the factory will be nothing compared to the exceptional combat data we will gain for future projects from this." the man watching the screen responded, explaining the situation to his underling as she sighed.

"What should we do with Hu-01150 then?" the grunt then asked as the shaded figure audibly and visibly mulled over the question. "Hmm...initiate 115 and set it on standby for when MT-001 is inevitably destroyed. We will get as much data as we can and stall the girl's detonation of her explosives for as long as possible so we can evacuate our forces. We can leave her to think she's made a victory today and cut our losses for the time being." he then answered.

"Understood my Lord! I will begin preparations immediately!" the grunt then responded, audibly leaving again as the door behind the man closed in the absence of her presence, leaving the man alone with the security feed of Emily's Pokemon battling the mechanical Mewtwo in front of him once again. "So the little lioness that beheaded the Unovan royal pretenders now sets her sights on us...it would seem she's largely improved since back then. Many new Pokemon and techniques...she herself is also quite the oddity...Infinity Energy is detected radiating from her." the man then began to mutter to himself in the dark as one's view zoomed back in.

One's view comes back in through the screen and returns to an in-person perspective of the battle that was still taking place as once again the mechanical Mewtwo was beaten back, sent skidding across the surface of the water on its feet as the air around it began to glow and grow colder. The machine looked to Mawlie, spotting her with her left arm coated in icy energies once again as it twitched and writhed in place. The machine dashed forward towards her but was abruptly halted as she suddenly raised her hand into the air, facing her palm toward the sky as a giant pillar of thick ice surrounded it and extended high into the air, freezing it in place. It was obvious the mechanical Mewtwo was attempting to break free but it lacked the raw physical strength to do so in this moment. Before long however, Tinkaton would come crashing down from the sky, hammer-first as the head of it was coated in icy energy as well while the engine roared and caused her to vertically spin and build up more momentum for the impact on the way down. When the hammer finally made contact with the surface of the water just in front of the ice pillar, the base of it was blown away as an eruption of ice shattered it apart and assaulted the mechanical Mewtwo that was previously trapped inside—



A few moments after being trapped in the ice, a shockwave suddenly erupts from within, shattering the ice and freeing the mechanical Mewtwo as Tinkaton leaps back towards Mawlie. The machine itself twitched and spasmed as frost covered much of its body and interfered with its motor functions while sparks of electricity crackled across it from the sheer damage it had taken as once again a green glow wrapped around its body. The frost begins to melt away in a bellow of steam and any structural damage it had was repaired. But once again, its energy dropped significantly.

Strangely enough, the machine seemed to suddenly deactivate...

[Music Ends]

It's energy seemed to completely disappear for the time being, did it fall below an operational threshold?

Any train of thought Emily held would be disrupted as the mechanical voice from before would begin echoing through the environment once more.

"Threat re-evaluated. Disengaging Limiters and Safety Routines. Re-routing additional power to MT-001. Initiating second stage of Eikonoklastic Assault System."

[The Moving Fortress]

[So it was running on limitations...arms tied behind its back. Time for us to stop sandbagging too then.]

Emily thought to herself as she glanced over at Mawlie and Tinkaton as the machine came back to life with a massive bellowing shockwave as a wild, dark magenta aura oozed out from it in all directions, rippling the water in repeated pulses as purple energy began to build up on the lower half of it's four limbs. The machine suddenly took aim at Mawlie and Tinkaton, icy energies building up at one of its fingers and then quickly firing a powerful Ice Beam directly at them. The beam itself was small but very clearly potent as a cascade of icy spikes followed directly along its path, freezing the water around it instantly just from mere proximity.

Even as all the action so far unfolded, Emily did not once look the least bit concerned and has not needed to **verbally** issue an order either. As if she was directly in the pilot seat so to speak of her two Pokemon as Mawlie raised another barrier using Protect. The barrier held, even under the veritable explosion of ice the beam plumed out on contact and could easily render an entire city block or two completely consumed in the frozen prison, wrapping Mawlie and Tinkaton in a prison of ice-that while they were not directly frozen in it thanks to Mawlie's barrier, the way it wrapped around them due to Protect meant they seemingly had nowhere to go. A circular area around Mawlie and Tinkaton the size of the barrier that was protecting them before was all the space to move they had as the ice beam caused a thick formation of ice to wrap around them in all directions while 3 cascades of ice spikes went around the left and right of the formation and a third one formed up into the air as the attack was technically stopped by what was basically a solid object and was forced to 'splash' around it. The machine of course knew that they were technically trapped and in turn took to the air as it then propelled itself at the section of the prison that Mawlie and Tinkaton were assumedly inside of. The mechanical Mewtwo came down, wrapped in wild magenta energy in a Hi Jump Kick fashion, intending to just straight up smash through and hit both Mawlie and Tinkaton on the way through.

The mechanical Mewtwo smashed through the formation of ice—outright obliterating it with sheer force—but found neither of it's targets were present as the machine skidded across the surface of the water as cold, icy particles gently fluttered around the area while the mechanical Mewtwo looked around for it's quarry.

Neither Mawlie or Tinkaton were anywhere to be seen until suddenly a large splash of water erupted from behind the artificial Mewtwo, causing it to spin around only to suddenly be sent flying by an attack that had sufficient force to send it skipping and tumbling across the water like a stone once more. This time it came from Mawlie as her lower arm shined brightly with golden energy as she rather obviously delivered a direct Dynamic Punch to the Mewtwo robot's head with a slightly acrobatic uppercut and a fierce look on her face with her sharp, bear trap-esque teeth bared that sent it into the air before then skipping and tumbling across the water.

One's view would snap back to mere moments before the impact, seeing Mawlie and Tinkaton inside the ice formation, knowing full-well another attack was coming. The water beneath their feet was unfrozen thanks to the barrier that saved them from being frozen outright in the first place, and in turn Mawlie lit up her left fist with the golden energy of a Dynamic Punch. She immediately punched down into the water itself, parting it with the sheer force of the shockwave emitted from her punch and gave herself and Tinkaton a means to escape as they both jumped down into the water, going under for a few seconds as the machine's attack took place overhead as they watched from below the surface. Mawlie's counter attack of course was made with a sudden propulsion made with Magnet Rise— rocketing her upward through the water as she launched herself up at the fake Mewtwo and breached the surface of the water only to then come out swinging.

One's view snaps back to the current moment as it recovered rather quickly and while still on a single knee the machine reacted in an almost 'angry' fashion— as it seemed to be without thinking or any amount of restraint, merely lashing out in frustration at the nearest target— as it sent out a massive bellow of flame from one of its hands in an obvious supercharged Flamethrower attack at Mawlie in response.

A veritable inferno that could consume an entire city block and everything lining it plumed and frothed across the surface of the water directly at Mawlie, steam visibly coming off of the surface as the sheer heat of the flames. When the flames eventually cleared however, Mawlie was nowhere to be seen once again. Suddenly the artificial Mewtwo became visibly alert as it felt an abrupt spike in the energy around it. The sudden spike in energy in its surroundings caused a visible and palpable pressure in the immediate area as the mechanical Mewtwo suddenly found itself surrounded by 6 blurred copies of both Mawlie and Tinkaton— 3 of each— as a purple aura visibly and wildly radiated from all 6 images of the two Pokemon.

It was an application of Double Team, done in tandem by the two Pokemon as they both gathered power for an eventual strike while forcing the opponent to try their luck attacking the illusory copies that all put on the same taunting gesture and expression as power was visibly being gathered inward.

Even the ability to scan for Infinity Energy did little to help discerning which one was real or fake and if not for Emily's own connection to her Pokemon, even she wouldn't know which one is real. The sheer saturation of energy in the immediate area made it impossible to discern them apart from the real ones...

This of course led the machine to attacking wildly and blindly as it took both of its hands and fired a supercharged Flamethrower attack at 2 separate copies, only to find it chose poorly on both as nothing about the situation had changed. Before it could launch another attack however the build up of power suddenly stopped as the machine was suddenly assaulted.

Mawlie and Tinkaton, both wrapped in a form outlining purple glow appeared out of seemingly nowhere as the illusory copies of themselves simply vanished, closing in with surprising bursts of speed that were no doubt in small part due to Agility. In that same moment, Tinkaton had struck the artificial Mewtwo's head with a veritably supercharged Gigaton Hammer as Mawlie put a chassis denting Dynamic Punch into its midsection. The combined force of their attacks sent the machine outright **flying** through the air and up into the upper half of the nearest giant rock formation, causing a massive— even compared to the giant stone formation itself— blast of dirt, dust and rock the moment it made impact.

The battle so far had been nothing short of absurd. Regardless of its one sided nature. Both sides have exhibited amounts of power that would be considered impossible to contend with by most ordinary people and Pokemon alike. The machine has output more power than anything humans have made before besides possibly the original Mewtwo itself while two Pokemon one would never associate with being proper powerhouses— Mawile and Tinkaton— have been on the initiative by never seeming to miss a beat. The middle of a battle— even one like this— was where they and their Trainer were the most in their element. The utter silence on Emily's part and the almost human ways that her 2 Pokemon responded to each attack made it almost feel as if over some kind of invisible link she was practically directly controlling Mawlie and Tinkaton's movements and actions to a degree.

The dynamic of the battle however would drastically change as suddenly an outright swarm of high speed dark magenta orbs acting much like bullets and missile-like energy projectiles of the same color came flying out of the lingering dust cloud up above, flying straight towards Mawlie as Tinkaton as both dash in opposite directions at high speed, moving along without needing their feet to touch the ground as both use Magnet Rise to float ever so slightly above the solid surface of the water and evade the oncoming torrent of attacks sent their way.

Mawlie kept her eyes on the dust cloud as missiles and bullets continued to fly out of it while Tinkaton simply kept her eyes on in front of her so she doesn't run into something she shouldn't—showing her lower confidence in navigating around at high speed like this with Magnet Rise compared to Mawlie. Eventually the dust cloud would disperse due to the sheer volume of fire coming from within it, revealing that three glowing ports had materialized on its shoulders that it fired the missile-like projectiles from as it also fired the high speed orbs from

both of its hands. The high speed orbs basically reduced any rocks it made contact with to molten slag and small, superheated blasts of steam and water upon making contact with it's surface while the literal dozens of missile-like projectiles caused powerful, high-yield blasts in the water following in both Mawlie and Tinkaton's wakes. At this point it was clear this machine was getting desperate, hoping to kill Mawlie and Tinkaton through sheer volume of overwhelming firepower as the entire area became permeated with projectiles in all directions.

But even this oppressive assault that it made had limitations as eventually the orbs and projectiles stopped— steam came off from the machine's body and from the glowing ports on its shoulders as it seemed to enter a sort of forced cooldown. It was responding to the overwhelming upfront force of Mawlie and Tinkaton with its own desperate form of overwhelming force but it had gaps that could be exploited.

This cooldown period was one of those gaps— nothing can keep up a torrent of firepower like that forever and Mawlie would capitalize as she came to a sudden stop, facing towards the artificial Mewtwo as she began to squat slightly and hunched forward as the water began to ripple around her, gradually becoming more and more violent as eventually a constant, bellowing shockwave began to emanate from her. Over the next few seconds she'd slowly build up a silver-y aura around herself as wisps of silver energy began to materialize and draw in towards her, causing that aura to swell and grow in both size and intensity as the mechanical Mewtwo turned itself towards her— obviously detecting the sudden spike in energy. Eventually after a few more seconds, a white sphere of translucent energy would form around herself and then be sucked inward as it is drawn into the center of her body. A blinding white flash of light would erupt outwards and then suddenly stop as a massive explosion seemed to take place, causing a massive blast of water as Mawlie— now naught but a shining silver silhouette with black, pure white, glowing eyes rocketed forward, causing a massive wake of water behind her as she floated across its surface at breakneck speed towards the enemy.

This was a variation of Giga Impact, where the energy generated by Giga Impact is pulled inward, internalizing it and using it to enhance one's self for a high speed rush attack of devastating effect. It of course was not easy on the body in the slightest and Mawlie was the only one of Emily's team who could use this form of Giga Impact. Emily personally coined the attack as "Ancient Light". Partially due to the sheer brightness it caused the Pokemon who uses it to take on, the sheer speed in which it lets them temporarily move at and a certain inspiration in particular.

Mawlie blitzed across the massive body of water, crossing the gap in mere moments like a white lightning bolt as the mechanical Mewtwo began to fire everything it possibly could in what was most likely the closest thing to a terrified response it could have to the sheer amount of power now barreling towards it as both the orbs and missile-like projectiles alike missed their mark—even with it trying to lead the target. Eventually Mawlie would come up on the coast of the island the giant stone formation the mechanical Mewtwo was floating by was on and she'd momentarily stop, only to then explode with momentum as she launched herself directly up at the machine.

Orbs and "missiles" alike would hit their mark, exploding violently into magenta bursts of energy, but it seemed to do nothing as she continued to barrel through it like an unstoppable force, causing a trail of explosions that got closer and closer to the mecha Mewtwo as Mawlie's ancient light shined through the explosions like a pure-white, 4 pointed star as a streak of white light followed behind her.

Eventually she'd finally close in on the target, prompting it to stop firing and instead fire up a shield generating mechanism. Mawlie made impact with the no-doubt Psychic powered shield as it created a massive, rippling shockwave that Emily could feel even from a distance of around a kilometer away as it violently blew her hair around like a powerful gust of wind.

Mawlie however would not be deterred by this attempted defense as she seemed to only pour on the power, creating a powerful aura around herself she continued to propel herself up against the mechanical Mewtwo's shield—bound and determined to shatter this defense and get her hands on the target.

It was an immense struggle as there would be constant, pulsing shockwaves that even reached Emily and Tinkaton in their respective positions of the environment, blowing their hair around. Ripples and waves would form in the water below as the massive power struggle took place as even dust and rocks would get kicked up on the island the two opposing forces clashed at. Eventually however the barrier would start to give. The machine was starting to lose the battlethe struggle of the endurance of their two wills. The barrier began to crack and creak, which only seemed to embolden Mawlie as she suddenly poured everything into this and kicked up an even greater shockwave that would ripple out from her in all directions behind her, building up more and more force to push into this barrier with as she put every ounce of strength this momentary amplification had into breaking it. Within another few moments the barrier would shatter and for Mawlie and the machine, time seemed to slow down again as Mawlie's shining hand came up to its face, the machine tried to block with one of it's arms but it proved futile as time seemed to return to normal speed and the lower half of it's left arm was outright shattered against its own face- reduced to mere pieces as it's face was then caved in slightly from the sheer force of which Mawlie's hand would meet it with. The front half of its face was slightly caved inward in the shape of her hand and it was very heavily cracked as pieces of metal would fall from it as both Mawlie and the machine would both be sent into the giant stone formation with a massive blast of dust and rock from the impact. The sounds of them practically crashing through it without pause was able to be heard from Emily and Tinkaton's positions while Tinkaton looked on in what was basically awe. She knew her 'sister' of sorts was strong-she'd seen the sheer ease she handled threats back in the deep deserts of Orre and the ease in which she crippled the Skarmory that was bullying her the day she had met Mawlie and Emilybut she had no idea it went this far.

Emily of course remained straight faced but visibly focused, she knew full well of what Mawlie was completely capable of and was practically the one orchestrating the whole thing.

After a few moments Mawlie and the artificial Mewtwo bursted out from the other side of the giant stone formation in a massive plume of dust, dirt and rock as she then sent the machine flying away from her. It still had some fight left in it and made an attempt to retaliate with the one arm it had left as it reached that hand out as it glowed with a deep magenta of psychic power. For a brief moment, it looked like the machine had psychically gripped Mawlie as the magenta glow momentarily flickered around her body, but it was just as quickly dispersed by another shockwaye.

Psychically manipulating others— including forcibly levitating them— required a stronger will than the target, and in this moment it was clear the machine's will was almost nothing compared to Mawlie's as she outright rejected its grip with minimal effort. In retaliation however Mawlie would vanish in a sudden burst of speed as she was still in the Ancient Light state and utilized a brief moment of Agility as she was then slightly above the artificial Mewtwo.

Time seemed to practically slow down once more as the machine was taken slightly aback, only just noticing Mawlie as she was halfway through a vertical, downward spin as she held both of her fists out in front of herself and was bringing them down upon its head like a pair of hammers. In real-time however, Mawlie crossed the moderate gap between them and in that same moment spun like a wheel a few times to build up momentum and then struck down onto the Mewtwo's head, sending it flying down to the water on the other side of the large island below with a massive, visible shockwave.



A massive blast of water would follow as the mechanical Mewtwo fell into the water below, sinking beneath the waves as all forms of its presence went silent.

Mawlie would disperse the white light surrounding her form, returning to normal as she slowly began to float down towards the ground below, gently descending with the use of Magnet Rise. Mawlie was practically gasping for air as thick bellows of steam escaped from both of her mouths from pushing her normal form to its absolute limit by using that attack.

She'd gradually begin moving towards Emily and Tinkaton, detecting no further energy coming from the machine as that last attack without a doubt destroyed whatever central processing was in its head, rendering it now inert as Emily now stepped out onto the solid surface of water. She briskly jogged over in Mawlie's direction—straight-faced as ever— as Tinkaton floated along rather quickly towards Mawlie, visibly a bit more on the worried side since this was her first time seeing Mawlie take on a battle remotely seriously since she started getting raised by Emily.

"MT-001..." the mechanical voice from before echoed out into the environment, pausing for a short while before continuing. "...Offline." it then concluded, confirming that Mawlie had indeed dealt a major blow to the processing unit in its head.

As the 3 begin to gather together again, one's view begins to zoom out from the scene once again as it pulls back through a screen and gives one a view of a shaded figure in a dark room spectating what had just occurred.

"Hmm...so things have indeed changed. She is stronger than before." the figure began to speak to themself as they seemed to mull over the implications of this information. The battle itself despite being one-sided had actually pushed Mawlie and Tinkaton to some degree—as despite winning it rather handily it was not done outright easily. They still had to battle at otherwise unimaginable levels that most people only dream of in absurd fictions involving Legendary Pokemon of godly statuses. Attacks that could consume entire city blocks, obliterate buildings and cause incredible mayhem came out of both sides...despite the weak showing on the mecha Mewtwo's part. It was merely first contact in his eyes and the platform still had potential with this wealth of information they had just obtained from this battle. MT-001 was naught but a crude mechanical rendition of the real thing, emphasizing raw power and overwhelming force much like the original did. Though it was to be expected. The original Mewtwo was man-made but it was still nothing more than an animal, driven by animalistic lines of thinking when push came to shove. But it was clear that more than sheer force would be needed...or maybe their machine was simply outmatched. Only future clashes would tell. But for now he returned to thinking aloud.

"One would think a Trainer would start to relax and stagnate upon taking down as something as big as Team Plasma." he continued on, seeming to try and understand the line of reasoning to as her explosive improvement from data obtained almost 2 years ago about this white haired girl that now had their scent. "A peculiar sight to be sure. But I'd see more before I let her walk away." the shaded figure then mused to themself as they reached over and pressed a button on the console they were watching through, activating a comm link to a subordinate somewhere.

"Yes, my Lord?" they asked.

"Activate Hu-01150. Send it to the MT-001 test chamber. It will either finally quash our little intruder or fail trying—but at least give us even more combat data for future projects." he then ordered.

"Understood, my Lord, it will be done." the subordinate then responded, disconnecting from the comms link to do as instructed.

A sigh was heard from the shaded man in the room as he slacked slightly in his chair as one's view dived back into the screen and closed in on Emily, Mawlie and Tinkaton who were now all gathered together on the solid surface of water once more.

The battle wasn't particularly made with all of Mawlie's possible power but it had been quite some time since she exerted herself to even this degree. She was getting re-acclimated to it. But for now it was enough to see them through.

Before Emily could even decide on what to do next however, the room suddenly went dark, the sounds and smells of the previous scene were gone as she and her two Pokemon were left in a blank, black void where they could still see each other as a light formed at their feet and spread outward, revealing a new environment.



Emily and her 2 Pokemon were on the far edges of the room, standing in the shade. Mawlie and Tinkaton looked all around the room while Emily herself focused on the top where there was light coming in. It looked like a night sky beyond that window up above and the light that was casted down below came from spotlights in the ceiling rather than the night sky outside itself. This prompted the white haired girl in turn to begin scanning her surroundings once more.

An almost invisible, purple pulse emanated from Emily once again as her sapphire eyes became a deep amethyst, as with the help of slightly resonating with Excelsis again she was able to map out the new environment in its entirety. She was above ground again and in a silo shaped structure right next to the main factory building—back out in the real world once more. After a few moments however she grabbed both Mawlie and Tinkaton and bolted with inhuman speed towards the farthest edge of the room and took cover behind something solid and bolted down as suddenly the glass above could be heard breaking and an earth sundering metal THUD met with the floor, sending out a massive shockwave in all directions that sent anything not bolted down flying and imbedded into the walls. A thick haze of dust was kicked up in the wake of the impact, obscuring one's normal view of the room around them as the 3 came out from behind cover. Emily was quite literally the only one able to truly still see as the almost invisible pulses continued to radiate out from the white haired girl, practically tremor-sensing the room as she noticed a large, metal object in the center.

At first it was unmoving but eventually it loudly began to come to life and stand on its two feet. It was at least 15 to 20 feet tall and had a very bulky and heavy silhouette. Almost betraying that appearance however it suddenly lunged towards Mawlie and Tinkaton with breakneck speed, only to collide with something else entirely as a heavy metal CLANG rang out and the sheer force of the impact dispersed the dust cloud around them. A giant metal fist collided with the broad side of a massive sword.



The sword was held by Emily and bigger than she herself was. Despite being a human, she had managed to intervene in the opposing machine's burst of speed and block its attack, keeping both of her rather tired Pokemon safe. With the help of Mawlie and Tinkaton at her back, all 3 of them were able to avoid being sent flying or skidding backwards as the 2 Pokemon let go of Emily and looked at what had just attacked them with Emily.



It was a large, bipedal machine— no doubt some kind of crude prototype like the last one. But this one bared no resemblance or derived any inspiration from any kind of Pokemon. It was a machine built completely from scratch with the machinations of tendencies of mankind rather than that of what was effectively supercharged animals.

Emily sighed through her nose, returning to center as she eventually lowered her blade down to her side and held it in a reverse-grip, as if it were some kind of smaller or lighter blade like a dagger or even shortsword.

[Ultimate Mechamaru Absolute Form (Mode Absolute) - Jujutsu Kaisen Season 2 Original...

"This one's for me. You two just get back behind cover and take a break." the white haired girl instructed, keeping her eyes on the machine in front of them as after a moment of hesitation, Mawlie and Tinkaton went back behind the cover Emily had scooped them back up behind before and peered around the sides to see what would happen next.

Of course, whatever was inside this machine had no idea what to expect from this battle. Under any normal line of logic— even with 2 strong Pokemon at her back bracing her in place, a normal human's arms and legs would have been reduced to shattered dust from the sheer impact of the fist meeting the sword at all. And yet this white haired anomaly stood, no worse for wear.

Emily for the time being opted to play on the defense, letting this machine mount its attack and see what kind of information she can gather from it in the meantime.

The machine of course opted for something simple as it raised one of its feet, making it clear it intends to stomp on her like the little white bug it no doubt viewed this tiny human as, as its metal foot comes crashing down with enough force to basically end up wearing an entire car on its foot. Emily simply slid to the side, unmoving as a plume of dust and dirt washed over her and obscured her as the machine then kneeled down and prepared both of its hands in a clapping fashion expected of someone removing a household pest.

Moments before the hands could come together however, Emily made a powerful spin with her sword, dispersing the cloud of dust from around herself and deflecting away the two incoming hands and knocking the machine off balance as she then swung upward with a reverse-grip on her sword as the momentum of said swing carried her into the air, spinning like a bladed wheel as her blade carved into the chassis of the machine with a massive spray of sparks and the horrible sound of metal upon metal screeched out across the room.

As Emily reached the apex of her upward spin, ending up in the air ever so slightly above the machine, she came back down with another spin of her blade as she carved into its chassis once more. The blade itself began to glow more and more blue as she came down until finally she hit the ground, blade-first in a downward smashing fashion as a wave of energy passed through the still kneeling machine and caused a deep slash into the midsection of its body as a massive carving went up it's frame in 2 separate spots near each other.



The blade wave carved through the machine causing a thin but deep slash through the bottom half of its torso while the outer edges of the slash mark were stripped of any actual armor plating.

The machine, recognizing it's blunder teleported back around 40 meters away as panels on it's lower legs would open and reveal glowing orange cores similar to the one acting as it's eyes in each one as it's entire body begins to glow orange and start repairing itself, much like the mecha Mewtwo did.

For the moment this machine seemed notably weaker than the artificial Mewtwo but both Mawlie and Tinkaton were already tired from their battle with it. It was the first time Tinkaton had exerted herself so greatly at all and Mawlie simply hadn't exerted herself the way she did in almost a year. Emily **could** have sent out one of her other Pokemon to deal with this, but at this point she wasn't content with simply sitting behind her Pokemon all the time and needed to know where she stood with her recent leaps in knowledge on how to use this power she has properly. Fighting on her own and winning would mean she could very well fight directly **alongside** her Pokemon going forward too. It was something that **had** to be done— in her eyes at least. She'd fought using this sword and this power before but it was mostly training in an Elysium set up by her two ghost Pokemon. Finally getting the chance to be involved in the real deal however was too important to pass up.

One's view however as the machine repaired itself would pan back out to the shadowed figure in the dark room from before as an almost befuddled sound would escape them. This was a troubling development of the situation. At first he had assumed this girl radiating Infinity Energy was no different from other Trainers who did—minor spectacles that simply acted as force multipliers for their Pokemon.

Trainers that actually radiated their own Infinity Energy were usually much more minor and mostly only served as conduits to enhance their own Pokemon while only minor manifesting oddities and abilities. Black Belts who could cross through tundras barefoot and dressed more for warmer climes without an issue, Psychics with actual powers to some degree, Mediums that were truly capable of communicating with the dead to varying degrees and develop slightly ghostly abilities like detecting the life signs of those around them. But this seeming **child** was capable of far more than that. Infinity Energy was steadily rising and climbing within her, she was capable of things that far more resembled attacks from Pokemon rather than mere token tricks.

His initial impression that she'd only be a mere nuisance had now blossomed into a tinge of actual worry and concern that she might **actually be a threat.** This feeling of dread only spread further as he realized that blade of her's was actually slicing through the armored chassis of the machine. It was plated with Tungsten and yet her blade itself and that blade wave alike outright cut through it. Both her and that weapon both were not the least bit normal, and it made the unknown man watching the scene unfold visibly angry as his left hand begins shaking with what one can assume to be rage before he then smashed his fist down onto the console, shut off the monitor and could be heard storming out of the room he was in. The door behind one's view opened, revealing a shadow that stepped out of the light and the door closed, returning everything to silent darkness as one's view snapped back to Emily and the machine.

It had finished the repair routine, causing the panels on its legs to close again as the gears were visibly turning in the white haired girl's head. The machine however had learned something of its own and the edges of its body began to glow orange as its energy levels now spiked in response.

As far as Emily could ascertain, those cores are where it drew power from in order to repair itself like the Mecha Mewtwo did. This of course meant said cores were now her main targets. The ones in its legs were protected by a thick concentration of energy that enhanced protective platings that obscured and protected them and the one acting at its eye now had a grated metal frame around it, acting as protection. So the first thing to do would be to shatter the protection around the eye and then directly attack it and see what happens next.

The machine stood back up onto it's own two feet, getting off of it's knees as it's right arm began to change shape as countless moving parts shifted around and went from behind a hand to more of a giant cannon that was now pointed at Emily visibly began to visibly light up orange from inside while she could sense that energy was accumulating inside of the weapon.

Eventually the entire interior of the barrel was glowing orange and was fired, causing a large molten fireball to fly out at Emily as she avoided the attack.

She dashed to the side, looking like she was simply sidestepping it as it flew past her and made impact with the far wall behind her. She glanced back at the result, seeing it fly past her and explode into a molten mess, as once the smoke cleared it was seen that it had punched through the wall like a cannonball through sheet metal.

These walls in this place were no joke, so seeing that ball of molten metal just punch through it made it clear just how powerful that cannon was as she returned her attention to the robot itself.

The machine had once again closed in with a burst of speed, bringing in its right aim for an upward hook from below. In the same moment it advanced the cannon had turned back into a fist and it now had some kind of spike mounted on the top of the wrist meant to impale the white haired girl. Emily was quick on her feet as she spun into the air with a flurry of slashes once more and avoided the attack, but this time at the apex of her spinning leap the machine quickly looked up and brought its hands up to try and clap her out of the air like some kind of insect, only to find her smashing her blade down onto its hands, causing enough force to push it's hands down to the floor as she practically springboarded higher into the air as the force of her sword hitting it's hands sent her slightly higher into the air.

The machine eventually realized what happened and looked back up at her as she avoided what should have otherwise been a free hit as her sword in a flash of white light suddenly changed into what looked like Tinkaton's Rocket Hammer. The engine on it roared to life and sent her down in a rapid spin as she smashed the top of the robot's chassis with a powerful, thunderous CLANG. The force of the impact sent it face first into the ground with a heavy metal THUD and a thick plume of dust while she practically bounced off of it. Another flash of light and the hammer was once again a Greatsword as she came down with another vertical, bladed spin while her blade began to glow a deep blue and practically bounced off the ground with enough force to crack the floor, leaving deep cleaves in the top of its chassis. The first bounce alone dispersed the thick cloud of kicked up dust, as after 3 bounces off the ground as she spun and slashed into the machine, she eventually came down with another downward smash like before, causing a blade wave to cleave through the machine once more— though to less potent effect than last time. But it was still quite the amount of damage when joined with all the other damage she had mounted so far.

The white haired girl stood there as the machine sparked and twitched in response to the assault as it remained face-down on the floor but eventually in a surge of energy it would 'blink' away and teleport a short distance away again on a single knee as the panels on it's legs opened once more to begin their repair routine.

Emily however was on top of things and in a puff of dark purple feathers, she had also 'blinked' over to the machine as it saw her eyes fading from a purple color back to their usual sapphire blue. The machine was unable to act while in its repair routine and could only sit and helplessly watched as the white haired girl raised her blade over her head and proceeded to start smashing relentlessly into its left leg that had its core facing towards her in its kneeling position.



A crushingly powerful series of smashes were made with the girl's oversized sword as each swing shook the entire room, letting out a thunderous "boom" upon impact each time until on the final swing she released a much more violent and powerful rendition of the sapphire blue blade waves she had released before as it cleaved through the machine's leg and the floor underneath it alike as the core inside of it's limb was outright sliced in half and eventually shattered.

The repair process was slowed but not halted, but it also gave Emily more time. She quickly dashed between its legs, coming around to the leg it was kneeling on as the core itself was faced against the floor but still vulnerable considering her attacks on the other leg outright slashed through it and damaged its mobility. She repeated the attack from before, smashing down upon it several times until finally coming down with one final, powerful smash and releasing a violent wave of energy that cleaved through the floor and the leg alike as it just barely held together. The core itself however was destroyed just like the other one as she could sense the energy in both legs were gone.

From there, Emily blinked away again in a puff of purple, ethereal feathers as she returned to her previous position before this assault to see what happens next now that its leg units are gone.

The machine twitched and sparked as it struggled to stand upright again. Its upper chassis was repaired but now its legs were terribly damaged and only still supporting its own weight thanks to the reinforcement of energy that caused the lower halves of its limbs to glow a deep orange.

After a few moments however, it would finish its repair routine as energy coursed out from the upper point of the machine's back– no doubt another core existed back there as well– as the damage done to its legs were repaired but the cores could not be salvaged and remained dark. It had 4 cores in total and was now down to what seemed to be 2.

Much like her Pokemon, Emily did not miss a beat as a battle seemed to be where she was most in her element. It was honestly one of the very few things she was remotely good for. A self fashioned weapon.

At this point however, the abilities of this small girl defied all practical logic and reason and had this machine metaphorically scratching its own head as nothing in its data matched what it knew of human subjects and how to deal with them. It was more like battling a Pokemon but with full human intelligence and cleverness. The best of both worlds as she dealt with each of its more conventional means of dispatching human intruders rather handily.

But the other thing that had this machine perplexed was the fact that the weapon she was holding could change shapes. One moment it was a sword, cleaving through its armor. The next it was a hammer coming down with enough force to put its face into the floor. The only thing indicating it was happening was a small glint of light.

Unknownst to this machine, this white haired girl that barely seemed human at all at this point had developed her own unique ability. Akin to how many Pokemon have unique techniques, gimmicks and abilities of their own. Emily called these things "Fortes", and her's was something she simply coined as "Arsenal". A somewhat literal name as her weapon was a manifestation of this "Forte"-- a shapeshifting weapon that made her a walking arsenal, much like how a hammer is innately part of a Tinkaton and grows alongside her through her evolutions. This weapon was also innately a part of Emily and her own abilities.

■ ブルーアーカイブ Blue Archive OST 98. Oxygen Destroyer

Something seemed to snap in this machine however as it began having something of a small fit as it smashed its fists into the floor a few times and then suddenly began sprinting right towards her in what may as well have been an enraged charge. At this point it no longer considered the white haired girl across from it particularly human and was now switching to tactics more fitting of trying to **destroy a Pokemon** instead.

Another flash of light, another change in weapon as two black gauntlets with gold detailing materialized onto her arms.



No doubt a creation of Arai's that Emily had made a part of her Arsenal. As the machine continued to charge at her, preparing one of its fists to directly attack her, she dashed forward in a small burst of Agility-esque speed. During which the gauntlet on her left arm suddenly changed size in a visible morphing of metal as an engine of blue energy roared from around the elbow of the metal arm.



Emily was hunched forward, leaning her body downward as she held her fist above herself to meet the machine's "face" as it came in low at her to hit such a small target. The machine of course was not particularly expecting this and was not able to opt out of this choice now as the propelled metal fist smashed into the grated armor around the core acting as its eye. The point of impact became cracked and said part of the chassis was dented inward while also causing some damage to the core itself as another horribly loud CLANG of metal upon metal was made.

The machine was sent outright tumbling back by the basically rocket propelled fist as it crashed through several things that were nailed down and still standing in the veritable arena and then right into the wall on the far side with a blast of dirt and dust from the impact.

It would not be slowed down or deterred however and while in the cloud of dust and dirt, Emily could see the telltale signs of it priming it's cannon again as a deep orange glow could be seen through it as she switched her gauntlets back into a sword in a brief glint of light as it fired another molten ball of metal at her again.

The white haired girl however stood her ground this time, making a stand that even some of the manliest men wouldn't have the balls to pull as she slightly stepped to the side and swung her Greatsword forward with both hands like a batter at the plate in a baseball game as her blade made contact with the molten fireball. Another horribly loud clang rang out as a result as for a moment she and the projectile held there as the two forces tried to break through the other. But eventually Emily won out and sent the molten ball of slag back towards the machine, resulting in a fiery explosion that dispersed the dust cloud it was in before a wave of heat washed over the entire room.

An arid draft gently jostled Emily's hair as she stood there, a few faint trails of sweat coming down her face at different points. She was dealing with this battle rather handily but it didn't change how much she was exerting herself for the first time in a real, "live-fire", kill or be killed situation of this caliber. But one would be lying if they tried to say she remotely hated this. On the contrary despite that stern, straight face and glaring eyes, the white haired little **lioness** for lack of a better word wouldn't have had this night go any other way at this point.

For a moment, as the now visible machine stood in place, it twitched and sparked as the front of its chassis was seared black by the reflected projectile that was sent back at it. The protective grate on the front of its "eye" was melted and parts of its armor fell away as the machine fell forward onto its face again.

The machine however was not through. The energy levels plummeted for a moment– like when one loses consciousness but was gradually spurring back to life, leaving Emily but mere moments to capitalize as she blitzed forward with another Agility-esque burst of speed and closed the gap on the machine as she leapt onto it's back as her blade began to light up a vivid sapphire blue once more and she stabbed down onto the unprotected core on it's back, driving the enhanced blade through it and deep into the machine as the energies from her sword mingled with that of the core itself. After a few moments, blue cracks began to form on the core and caused it to explode in a flash of blue and orange light that upon fading, revealed that said core in it's back was now gone— destroyed by being ruptured by Emily's own energy as she quickly leapt off the machine and dashed backwards a fair distance as it finally got back up.

The core in its eye began to shine brightly for a moment but eventually receded back into its usual dim glow. With 3 cores destroyed, it no longer had the energy to repair the damage done to its frame and instead opted for a final all-out attempt at destroying the target with what power it had left.

After a few moments of simply being stared at by this machine, Emily could feel the ground beneath her begin to shake violently as she looked back over at her Pokemon that were still peeking out from behind cover as they also began to notice. The world began to feel like it was tilting upside down as their centers of gravity changed, but thanks to Magnet Rise being able to also be used in reverse, Mawlie and Tinkaton could keep their feet glued to the floor. On the other side of things however, the machine could be seen drifting up into the air, falling through the skylight above as Emily stuck her sword into the floor and hung on even as her center of gravity was completely inverted by what is most likely some kind of application of Infinity Energy in the same vein as things like Trick Room and the such.

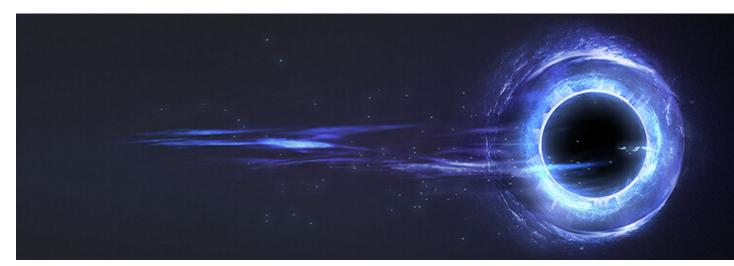
But even as Emily remained in the room and the machine fell outside into the sky, she could feel her sword gradually slipping out of the spot it was impaled into. Her output of her Infinity Energy had been slowly rising throughout the course of the battle and while she herself didn't feel any different due to her escalated strength, her body's weight was several times higher than normal as more and more Infinity Energy is built up and outright condensed into her tiny frame. Her visible weight didn't change at all but her actual mass had increased almost 5-fold and it was causing her sword to slip from where she had attempted to anchor herself into and eventually she fell out through the shattered skylight as well.

[Riders of the Wind, Onward | Genshin Impact Original Soundtrack: Mondstadt Chapter]

Emily fell "down" through the skylight like a stone, plummeting at incredible speed due to her mass as she attempted to re-orient herself, flailing around slightly until the front of her body faced the sky as her hair fluttered and flowed in the wind behind her as the wind itself caused her to squint ever so slightly. Eventually she looked around for signs of the robot that seemed to practically suck itself out into what may as well be space with the way the night sky looked as she fell directly into it. But for the time being it seemed it had disappeared without a trace, leaving her to "fall" upward all on her own. The world below was quickly pulling away as she "fell" hundreds of feet upwards into the night sky, plummeting into what may as well have been the reaches of space now that the dome of blue was no longer present to hide the abyssal reaches beyond this little sphere she lived on. An otherwise surreal and enrapturing sight and sensation, given this new perspective as it felt like she was falling DOWN into it rather than looking UP at it from the ground below, like as if the world was now a massive object hanging in the sky above her rather than the other way around as it normally is.

Emily's thoughts however would soon be returned to the task at hand as eventually she'd finally get some kind of indication as she suddenly felt her center of gravity switch once again as she began falling back towards the ground below— along with a sudden uptick in energy behind and below her.

When she turned her head around to see what she was sensing she was immediately met with the sight of the machine below her with a giant orb of energy almost twice its size as she can feel the mass of energy begin pulling her in towards it.



Within a few seconds however, Emily would form an idea of how to even counter this as with a small propulsion of energy she flipped herself around, facing right-side up as now her feet faced the ground below and she was able to look down directly at the massive orb below as her downward momentum was suddenly halted. The white haired girl would then gather large amounts of energy into her Greatsword, causing the blade to shine a bright sapphire blue as the blade grew in size by at least 3-fold before she then threw it down into the giant orb of energy down below.

One's view would suddenly leave Emily's side as it took the point of view from a random tree off in the distance as this spectacle began to unfold out in the real world— in the night sky between cities— as a shining sapphire blue star slowly got brighter and larger as it was then sent downwards towards the giant orb of energy. The bright sapphire star pierced directly into the orb, diving deeper and deeper within the span of 2 or so seconds before reaching the center and causing a violent and impossibly bright explosion that made the entire immediate area look like it was bathed in a deep blue daylight as a cacophony of blue, lavender and white explosions went off in a simultaneous cluster in the sky before fading away— returning the land to the darkness of night— as a massive shockwave visibly traveled over the terrain and violently shook the tree and the leaves that one's view was taking place from.

Back in Lumiose City, Arai and Mari both in a room could faintly hear a boom even from where they currently were as the ground beneath their feet ever so subtly shook and made them ever so slightly alert. Though this alertness would soon fade as at this point both of the sisters basically assumed it was Emily's doing and that given their confidence in her it was nothing to worry about.

As one's view returns to the scene—it is now within the silo-esque room as both Mawlie and Tinkaton had come out from behind cover now that the gravity inverting effect was gone as they looked up into the skylight, looking for some sign of their Trainer.

[No Music]

For the time being however all they would see and hear is the sounds of things crashing into the ground outside nearby or into other parts of the factor as the main, central piece of the machine's chassis came plummeting directly through the skylight once again—prompting Mawlie and Tinkaton to find cover as another thick bellow of dust washed over the room.

It however would quickly disperse as Emily fell through as well, stopping her descent with a sudden pulse of energy at around the last 20 or so feet and then landing with a quiet thud as her heavy body met with the floor feet-first. The white haired girl looked no worse for wear as she took on an ever-so confident and swaggering stance and dusted off her coat while glancing over at nothing in particular. She then side-eyed the wreckage of the robot behind her as she momentarily put on a satisfied, maybe even slightly smug look with the tiniest hint of a smile as she then returned to her usual straight face and looked over at her Pokemon.

Emily's first real battle outside of simulated training went without a hitch as she did not miss a single beat. But that's not to say it was outright easy. The execution for her was easy and simple, but it was the sheer output needed to actually damage the machine and counter its attacks that made the fight somewhat difficult.

It was her first time ever exerting herself this hard and it showed as upon closer inspection by her Pokemon that she was sweating quite a bit and as the adrenaline began to wear off, she was reduced to taking deep, silent breaths through her mouth—showing her inhuman, bear trap-esque teeth—which caused small bellows of steam much like Mawlie did. The sheer enormity of her exertions started to catch up with her gradually also causing her hands and legs to shake like leaves as her body winds down and her energy levels slowly drop back to passive levels.

As Mawlie and Tinkaton rushed over, checking on their Trainer, Emily would fish through her pockets and pull out a plain Poke Ball– the same one Arai handed her earlier– as she then released Abra from its confinement.

Mawlie and Tinkaton of course were visibly concerned for their Trainer, never having actually seen the white haired girl fight anyone or anything besides regular people and maybe regular Pokemon in the case of while raising her Hydreigon through her earlier evolutions. Seeing her fight at this sort of level was new and they had absolutely no idea what to expect as even the simulated training with her Aegislash and Froslass forming Elyisums for her to train herself in was something they were largely unaware of. But after a few moments as they found there were no **new** scars on her or any signs of anything bruised or broken then finally took a step back and became somewhat more relaxed as she put the Poke Ball away. She then fished out

her carbon fiber cased PDA, activating the screen that sat on the "Detonate" screen the entire time as she waited to pull the trigger until her work here was done. At this point however, even if they had more machines to send her way, it was best that she called it quits now, cut things off early and just light the fuse and leave.

With a press of a button, an explosion rattled and shook the entire facility as the white haired girl tucked the PDA away again and then looked down at the Abra that had been patiently awaiting her command.

"Take us back to Lumiose City, Abra." she ordered with a flat tone of voice as the small psychic Pokemon began to glow a very light blue with energy as eventually Emily and her 2 Pokemon were wrapped in the glow as well as secondary explosions began to be heard going off. In the next moment the 4 of them were gone, whisked away to safety as explosions began to consume the room they were just in almost half a minute later.

One's view would then return to outside of the factory, out in the trees as explosions coursed through the building and eventually a glint of multiple colors sparkled around the building before the entire complex was then consumed in a massive, radiant pillar of exploding light as it shined brightly with the intensity of pure white daylight as other colors minorly mingled into it. The Infinity Energy Reactor obviously finally ruptured and exploded, bathing the entire area in copious amounts of the energy and causing countless Pokemon to flee. This show of light would be visible from just about anywhere in Kalos as it reached high into the sky— maybe even to the edge of the outer reaches of this world as the immediate area and the nearby cities were bathed in what may as well have been daylight at almost midnight for almost a minute straight. The pillar of energy went strong for at least half a minute but eventually it faded in the latter half of the minute, slowly but surely dwindling away as the darkness of night retook the local tri-city area as the explosion once again could be faintly heard like the previous one in the nearby towns and the ground shook ever so slightly even at said extreme distances beneath people's feet.

One's view however would be cast back at ground zero of the blast as one's gaze would be cast up higher and higher into the night sky. The pillar of light would gradually fade as time seemed to accelerate as the night sky rapidly shifted and changed until finally dawn came and advanced into the early afternoon as the sounds of a news broadcast would fill one's sense of hearing, gradually becoming louder and louder from a whisper to normal room volume as an announcement was made in what was obviously French while one's view pans back down from the sky and down into Lumiose City— where the 3 sisters along with Mawlie and Tinkaton were walking down a brick road without much of a care in the world.

"Last night, a series of explosions occurred between Lumiose City and Laverre City. Witnesses report initially seeing a giant orb in the sky as what looked like a blue, falling star came down upon it and caused it to explode in a blinding white light. Minutes after, locals from multiple cities surrounding the area around Route 14 reported another ground shaking explosion that could be heard even from miles away as a giant pillar of light extended into the sky. Citizens are

however urged to not go anywhere near Route 14— even by car. International Police report that Pokemon and machinery that get too close to the area begin experiencing adverse effects as Pokemon seem to go berserk until subdued and taken out of the area and machinery malfunctions and go haywire. The International Police is currently unsure as to why this occurs and is currently investigating it now."

It was a bright day with hardly any clouds in the sky as the 3 sisters walked through Lumiose City with Mawlie and Tinkaton in tow as Mari was holding her phone, listening to the news broadcast as it began playing clips recorded by eye witnesses that happened to get video of both of the incidents that happened that night as the black haired girl laughed at the sheer spectacle that she was able to witness from the bystander's perspectives left in the wake of the veritable white haired lioness she calls her sister. Mari was like a child watching a "cool action scene" getting all giggly and giddy over how "cool" it all was as she watched the clips and also chirped away at Emily herself.

Mari fervently asked Emily about her own retellings of the events of the previous night, only seeming to get the black haired girl more and more hyped up despite Emily's very plain storytelling— with a few interventions by Mawlie as she brought up things like Emily trying to brute force her way through a door in the basement, only to be left with a sore hand as it turned out to be made of sterner stuff than most things— which of course caught a few extra laughs from Mari as the 3 girls continued to discuss what had gone on.

Eventually however, they'd come up on a restaurant— the same one as the other night with the darkly, secretive vibes— as their best place to discuss things without outside sources listening in. Or at least there was that and just the overall aesthetics and good food on top of that as it seemed they also had a breakfast menu.

Before long, the 3 girls and 2 Pokemon were eventually seated at the same booth they sat at the other night, eventually getting their orders made and beginning more serious discussions.

"So I had Rotom combing through all sorts of data last night while I slept. It seems they have full recordings of Emily's encounters with both machines. Labeled as combat data for future projects. But I'm sure Emily already figured as much—but apart from that there's also something else. This group—the **Collective** as Emily says it's called—is also working with a local group of extremists. A *Team Flare*— whoever the fuck they are anyway. Something about wanting to stop the world from getting uglier...only to make it uglier anyway by causing issues. Kinda daft, much like Team Plasma in my opinion." Arai then spoke as Mari and Emily both listened. Neither one particularly knew anything of this Team Flare and it visibly showed on both their faces as they clearly tried to comb their own minds for any mentions of this Team Flare. But then again, that seemed to be nothing new these days. Teams like these only seemed to have a reputation that existed within their own respective nations.

The days of a group like Team Rocket—with a global reputation—were a thing of the past. None of these groups despite their persistence towards existing as concept were apparently never as

troublesome to warrant such far-reaching reputations like Team Rocket did during their childhoods. But their mission and behaviors definitely seemed to fit the MO of many groups these days as they claim to want something virtuous but ultimately just cause issues and act like mere crooks in need of stomping instead.

"So with that said, I am still probing the depths of their database while trying to avoid tripping any alarms. For the time being I got my hands on some info that this Team Flare group is going to be causing trouble up in Laverre City. So how about we head up there next and introduce ourselves to **the locals** so to speak?" the blonde haired girl continued on as Mari quickly and excitedly piped up with a "Yeah!" before Emily could even say anything, promptly causing the white haired girl to sigh in slight annoyance.

"Keep the world beautiful. Tch, what a stupid fucking thing to say while being possibly some of the most hideous people possible by causing all the issues that they do. But I suppose **irony** is the common trend of groups like these nowadays if Team Plasma was anything to go by." Emily then remarked with a slightly annoyed tone. "Or maybe just being blatant liars. Who honestly knows at this point." she then concluded as their food eventually arrived at the table.

From there the 3 girls would gradually drift into much more casual conversation and eating—their short chat about their next course of action being all they needed for the time being as Emily was made aware that this group was using her encounter with their machines to improve their combat capabilities— and that the next encounter wouldn't be as easy either.

Though of course, this didn't rattle Emily in the slightest. If anything she'd be more disappointed if this wasn't the case. She was already constantly chasing improvement— and in a way her encounter with said machines gave her a type of combat data of her own to use with her simulated training— letting her two Ghost Pokemon fill the gaps and think of ways for her to be challenged even more by simulations of the two robots that were encountered just to ensure she and her Pokemon alike can continue to propel forward, from strength to strength.

But for now, those would be thoughts for later as the group continued on with their day— as if the events of the night before were just more of the same— another ordinary day in their lives as they come to a gradual rest. The fact that these girls— especially Emily could live a life like this and still to some degree slot back into the day to day mundane, bouncing between the surreal and the ordinary so seamlessly would be impossible in the minds of most others...and yet they did so, as naturally as they breathed. Like dragons in disguise living among humans, taking the moments they can to in a sense stretch their wings and show who they truly are— even if it is only to enemies for the time being.