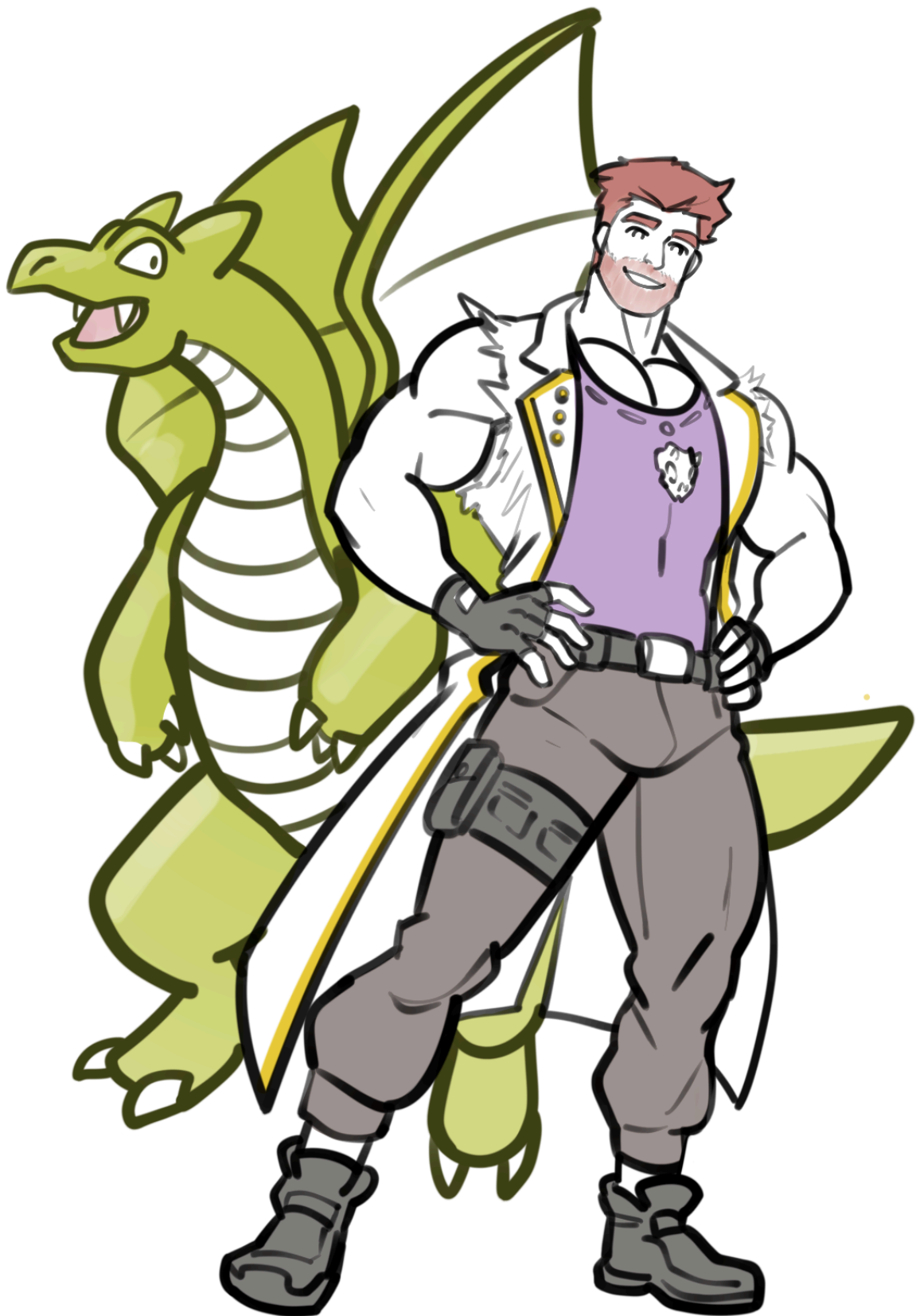




BOND EVENT RANK 1

UNLOCK REQUIREMENTS:

- Obtain the Fossil Badge

LOCATION:

- Ancient Bluff

REWARD:

- Dracaena's contact is added
- Fossil restoration unlocked
- Dracaena Bond Rank 1

TITLE: Every Rock Has a Story

[PLAYER] approaches a rocky overlook where several excavation flags have been placed in the ground. Two GRADUATE ASSISTANTS carefully sort through boxes of stone samples. One sighs as they wipe dirt from their glasses.

Graduate Assistant

Professor? We're supposed to be cataloguing this site.
Not climbing another cliff.

Dracaena

(voice echoing from above)
Found something!

The assistants exchange knowing looks.

Graduate Assistant

And there he goes again...

DRACAENA slides down a rocky slope with surprising agility, carrying a muddy satchel over one shoulder. His sleeveless lab coat is streaked with dirt. One glove has clearly seen better days. He lands in front of the group with a wide grin.

Dracaena

Morning!
(notices [PLAYER])
Oh! Perfect timing!
(he points enthusiastically toward the cliff)
Come on! I want to show you something.

[PLAYER] Choice

- Lead the way.
- What did you find?

Dracaena

That's the exciting part! I'm not sure yet!

He laughs as he starts walking. The RESEARCH ASSISTANTS quietly begin following.

Graduate Assistant

(to [PLAYER])

If he says "it's just over this hill..." Bring water.

The group reaches a weathered cliff face. Several layers of exposed rock stretch across the wall like pages in an ancient book. QUADRIGON sits quietly atop a nearby boulder, watching the valley below. It slowly opens one eye as DRACAENA approaches.

Dracaena

Morning, partner.

QUADRIGON gives a slow, rumbling chirp.

Dracaena

Look here.

(brushes away loose dirt with his hand)

What do you see?

[PLAYER] Choice

- A fossil?
- A strange pattern.

Dracaena

Maybe.

(smiles)

Or maybe it's neither. That's the fun part.

(traces an outline with a finger)

Most people think paleontology is about finding fossils.

(shakes his head)

It's really about asking questions.

(pause)

How old is this rock?

How did it get here?

What lived nearby?

Why is this layer different?

Every answer leads to another question.

Graduate Assistant

(raises hand)

Professor...

Didn't you climb this cliff because you thought there was a fossil?

Dracaena

I did!

(pause)

There still might be.

Graduate Assistant

(chuckles)

You say that every expedition.

Dracaena

Because it's true every expedition.

QUADRIGON slowly stands and walks toward the cliff. Without hesitation, it gently taps one section of rock with a heavy foreclaw. DRACAENA looks over.

Dracaena

There?

(QUADRIGON blinks)

Alright, alright. Let's see.

DRACAENA carefully brushes away more dirt. A small fossilized leaf becomes visible.

Graduate Assistant

Professor, that wasn't there before.

Dracaena

(laughing)

No, it was always there. We just hadn't discovered it yet.

(carefully removes leaf and places in protective case)

People get excited when they find something valuable.

(admires the tiny fossil)

This?

Probably isn't valuable.

(smiles)

But it's interesting. And sometimes that's better!

(looks at [PLAYER])

I'd like your help, if you're interested.

The region still has countless places no one's explored.

I'd love another set of curious eyes.

[PLAYER] Choice

- I'd like that.
- Sounds fun.

Dracaena

Excellent!

I'll send you a message whenever I find something interesting.

Graduate Assistant

(quietly laughs)

Or whenever he thinks he found something interesting.

Dracaena

Those are usually the same thing!

Everyone laughs. Even QUADRIGON lets out a low, rumbling call.

Dracaena

One more thing.

(kneels to move a rock)

Most people would walk right past this.

DRACAENA turns the rock over, revealing tiny fossilized shell impressions hidden underneath.

Dracaena

Never stop looking closely.

The world has a wonderful habit of hiding amazing things in ordinary places.

(gently places the rock back down)

Who knows? Maybe someone else will discover it one day.

Bond with Dracaena increased to Rank 1!

Professor Dracaena's contact has been registered!

You may restore fossils at Professor Dracaena's Lab!

BOND EVENT RANK 2

UNLOCK REQUIREMENTS:

- Dracaena Bond Rank 1 completed

LOCATION:

- Ancient Quarry

REWARD:

- Geo Scanner
- Dracaena Bond Rank 2

TITLE: Beneath the Surface

[PLAYER] arrives at the quarry. Several excavation pits have been marked with colorful flags. GRADUATE ASSISTANTS sift through dirt using brushes and small hand tools. One assistant waves as [PLAYER] approaches.

Graduate Assistant

Glad you made it.

The Professor's been pacing for twenty minutes.

A loud voice echoes from deeper in the quarry.

Dracaena

Did you find them!?

Graduate Assistant

They're here!

Moments later, DRACAENA jogs over, carrying an oddly-shaped device with wires sticking out from one side. His coat has another fresh tear near the hem.

Dracaena

Perfect! I need another opinion.

(proudly holds up the device)

What do you think?

[PLAYER] Choice

- What is it?
- It looks complicated.

Dracaena

Excellent question!
(he flips the device over and a few screws immediately fall into his hand)
Ignore that.

One of the assistants quietly picks up the screws.

Graduate Assistant
This is version four.

Dracaena
Version five.

Graduate Assistant
Version four point five.

Dracaena
(chuckles)
Fair enough.

DRACAENA carefully tightens the screws before turning the device on. A soft pulse echoes through the quarry. Nothing happens.

Dracaena
Hm.
(taps the side and the screen suddenly lights up)
There we go!

Graduate Assistant
You hit it.

Dracaena
Scientifically.
(GRADUATE ASSISTANT sighs and smiles)
You know how the Itemfinder detects objects buried underground?
(kneels and runs his hand across the rocky ground)
I wanted something that detects history.
(hands the device to [PLAYER])
Give it a try.

[PLAYER] activates the scanner. A gentle pulse spreads across the area. One section of the quarry briefly glows on the display.

Dracaena
Let's take a look.

The group carefully clears away loose stones. After a few moments, the object is uncovered, revealing an old iron pot.

(brief silence)

Graduate Assistant

Not a fossil.

Dracaena

No!

(smiles wide)

Something better.

(GRADUATE ASSISTANTS exchange confused looks)

Think about it. Someone cooked here.

Which means people traveled through this quarry long before it was ever mined.

(brushes the dirt off the pot)

History isn't only about prehistoric creatures.

It's people. Pokémon. Families. Journeys.

(pauses)

Every object has a story.

QUADRIGON slowly approaches. It lowers its head toward another patch of earth. Then gently taps the ground once with a foreclaw.

Dracaena

Oh? Another one?

(looks at [PLAYER])

Would you like to do the honors?

[PLAYER] uses the Geo Scanner again. This time, the signal is much stronger. GRADUATE ASSISTANTS carefully excavate the area. A fossilized scale is revealed.

Graduate Assistant

Professor. This one actually is ancient.

Dracaena

(laughing)

I was hoping we'd find at least one.

(places the fossil into a protective case)

You know, people think archaeology is about proving theories.

(shakes his head)

It's usually about proving yourself wrong.

Graduate Assistant

(nods)

He says that every semester.

Dracaena

Because every semester someone proves me wrong.

(proud smile crosses his face)

That's how science gets better.

DRACAENA takes the scanner back for a moment, making one final adjustment. A clean chime rings out.

Dracaena

There. Now it's yours.

(hands the Geo Scanner to [PLAYER])

It still finds ordinary items.

But every now and then, It might help you uncover a piece of the past.

QUADRIGON lets out a deep, approving rumble.

Dracaena

I'd keep it with you.

You never know what's waiting beneath your feet.

Bond with Dracaena increased to Rank 2!

Received the Geo Scanner!

BOND EVENT RANK 3

UNLOCK REQUIREMENTS:

- Dracaena Bond Rank 2 completed

LOCATION:

- Verdant Caverns

REWARD:

- Excavation Kit
- Dracaena Bond Rank 3

TITLE: The Wrong Turn

[PLAYER] arrives at the entrance to Verdant Caverns. Several lanterns illuminate the tunnel. DRACAENA kneels beside a weathered map spread across a flat stone. QUADRIGON quietly rests nearby. One GRADUATE ASSISTANT studies the cave wall. Another compares the map to a modern survey.

Graduate Assistant

Professor... According to the map, there should be another tunnel here.

Dracaena

Exactly!

(beaming)

Which means one of two things.

(he holds up a finger)

The map is wrong.

(he holds up a second finger)

Or the cave changed.

(a broad grin spreads across his face)

Either answer is exciting.

[PLAYER] approaches the map. The old tunnel ends abruptly beneath a hand-drawn "X."

Dracaena

Whoever made this never finished exploring.

(a brief pause as he scratches his chin)

Let's see why.

The group ventures deeper into the cave. The tunnel gradually narrows. Loose stones crunch beneath their feet. The air grows noticeably cooler. The path ends with a solid rock blocking the passage.

Graduate Assistant

Looks like this is it.

Dracaena

Maybe.

(he examines the wall carefully, running a finger across the stone)

This wall is newer.

QUADRIGON slowly approaches. It gently presses one side of the wall with its foreclaw. A hollow sound echoes through the cave.

Graduate Assistant

That doesn't sound solid.

Dracaena

(smiling)

I thought so.

The assistants carefully remove several loose stones. An older tunnel is revealed. Its entrance had been buried by a landslide many years ago.

Graduate Assistant

Professor, you were right.

Dracaena

Not yet.

(he laughs)

Let's see what's actually in there first.

The group enters the forgotten tunnel. Ancient mineral formations glitter in the lantern light. Small fossilized shells line portions of the walls. At the very end of the passage A weathered backpack rests against the stone. DRACAENA carefully kneels beside it. Inside are several rusted excavation tools. A cracked notebook. And an old compass.

Graduate Assistant

Someone left all this behind.

DRACAENA gently opens the notebook. Several pages have been damaged by moisture. The remaining entries describe an expedition from decades ago.

One page reads:

"No fossils yet... but tomorrow we'll search the eastern passage."

There are no entries after that. A quiet silence settles over the cave.

Dracaena

I don't think they ever came back.
(he carefully closes the notebook)
We'll return these to the museum.
Someone may still be looking for this story.

QUADRIGON quietly lowers its head. Almost as if paying its respects. The group begins walking back toward the entrance.

Graduate Assistant

Professor, we didn't actually find the fossil you were looking for.

Dracaena

No.
(he smiles)
We found something much more important.
(he looks back toward the forgotten tunnel)
We finished someone else's expedition.

The assistants smile.

Dracaena

I think they'd be happy knowing someone finally made it.

Outside the cave. DRACAENA kneels beside his backpack. He removes a compact leather satchel. Inside are brushes, chisels, measuring tools, and protective wrapping.

Dracaena

You'll need these.
(he hands the satchel to [PLAYER])
Every explorer deserves proper tools.
You never know.
(grinning)
The next great discovery might belong to you.

Quadrigon lets out a low, approving rumble.

Bond with Dracaena increased to Rank 3
Received the Excavation Kit!

BOND EVENT RANK 4

UNLOCK REQUIREMENTS:

- Dracaena Bond Rank 3 completed

LOCATION:

- Sunveil Ruins

REWARD:

- Field Notes
- Dracaena Bond Rank 4

TITLE: Voices in the Stone

[PLAYER] arrives at the Sunveil Ruins. Unlike previous expeditions, there are no shovels, ropes, or excavation tools. Several folding tables have been set up beneath a large canopy. Ancient stone rubbings, sketches, and translated documents cover every surface. QUADRIGON rests in the shade nearby. DRACAENA kneels before a weathered stone tablet, notebook in hand.

Dracaena

Ah! You made it.

(smiling)

Today's much easier on the knees.

Graduate Assistant

(laughing lightly)

We'll see if he still says that in an hour.

Dracaena

I heard that.

(he gestures toward the stone tablet)

Take a look.

The tablet is covered in worn carvings. Most are unreadable. Only fragments remain.

Dracaena

People usually think archaeology is about uncovering things.

(pauses)

Sometimes, it's about accepting what's been lost.

(he carefully traces one of the faded carvings)

We'll never know every word written here.

Weather. Time. People.

They all leave their marks.

A GRADUATE ASSISTANT approaches carrying another rubbing.

Graduate Assistant

Professor, this symbol keeps appearing.

DRACAENA compares the two.

Dracaena

Interesting...

(he turns the page in his notebook)

Several sketches of the same symbol have already been drawn.

I've seen this in four different ruins.

It's usually by itself, almost looking incomplete.

[PLAYER] Choice

Does it mean something?

Have you translated it?

Dracaena

Not yet.

(smiles)

And that's alright.

(he looks back at the stone)

Some mysteries take years.

Some take generations.

A gentle breeze passes through the ruins. QUADRIGON slowly rises. It walks toward another weathered pillar. It simply stands there.

Dracaena

You've noticed that too.

(he joins QUADRIGON)

Every time we visit these ruins...

It always stops here.

He looks up at the ancient carvings.

I sometimes wonder...

(brief silence)

Does it remember?

Or does this place simply feel familiar?

QUADRIGON quietly places one claw against the stone. It remains there for several moments. No one speaks.

Graduate Assistant

Professor, do you think Pokémon remember places the way people do?

Dracaena

I honestly don't know.

(a warm smile crosses his face)

That's what makes it worth asking.

(he writes another note in his journal)

Curiosity doesn't always need immediate answers.

Sometimes the question itself is enough.

The assistant smiles, jotting the thought down as well.

Dracaena

Come here.

There's one more thing.

(he leads [PLAYER] to a wall tucked behind a collapsed archway)

Most visitors would walk right past it. The carvings are incredibly faint.

This one wasn't here last season.

Graduate Assistant

Stone carvings don't just appear.

Dracaena

No.

(he grins)

But sunlight changes.

As the afternoon sun shifts, the shallow carvings become visible. An entire mural slowly emerges from the stone. People. Pokémon. Mountains. Stars. The assistants stare in amazement.

Graduate Assistant

We've walked past this wall dozens of times...

Dracaena

Exactly.

(laughs softly)

Discovery isn't about finding something new.

(he looks toward the mural)

It's about looking again.

(turns toward [PLAYER])

I'll upload my field notes to your Pokédex.

Whenever you visit ruins, you'll be able to compare what you've found with my research.

Maybe you'll notice something I've missed.

QUADRIGON lets out a low, thoughtful rumble. The group spends the rest of the afternoon quietly sketching the mural together.

Bond with Dracaena increased to Rank 4!
Received Field Notes!

BOND EVENT RANK 5

UNLOCK REQUIREMENTS:

- Dracaena Bond Rank 4 completed
- At least 5 Gym Badges obtained

LOCATION:

- Professor Dracaena's Lab

REWARD:

- Geo Scanner Upgrade
- Dracaena Bond Rank 5

TITLE: Living History

[PLAYER] enters Professor DRACAENA's laboratory. Unlike previous visits, the main research room has been transformed. Whiteboards cover the walls. Battle diagrams. Ancient skeletal reconstructions. Move trajectories. Old cave paintings. Several GRADUATE STUDENTS move between the boards making notes. QUADRIGON quietly naps in the middle of the room.

Dracaena

There you are! Perfect timing.

(he walks over holding a thick notebook)

I have a question.

(pause)

How do ancient Pokémon battle?

[PLAYER] looks slightly confused.

Dracaena

Not mechanically. Not by move sets.

He gestures toward a mural depicting Pokémon hunting together.

Behavior and instinct. Decision making.

(he flips open the notebook)

Fossils tell us what Pokémon looked like.

(turns a page)

Battles tell us who they are and their potential.

A GRADUATE ASSISTANT approaches.

Graduate Assistant

Professor, you can't exactly ask extinct Pokémon how they hunted.

Dracaena

Exactly!
(grinning)
So we'll ask the closest thing we have.

Quadrigon slowly opens one eye.

Dracaena
Would you help us?

[PLAYER] Choice
Sure.
I'd be happy to.

Dracaena
Wonderful!
(he walks toward the battlefield)
One request.
Don't hold back.
(smiling)
Bad data helps no one.

Whether [PLAYER] wins or loses the event continues. QUADRIGON gives a deep, satisfied rumble. DRACAENA kneels beside it, gently scratching beneath its jaw.

Dracaena
Well done.

QUADRIGON nudges his shoulder.

Dracaena
Let's see...
(he immediately begins flipping through his notebook)

Graduate Assistant
Professor, shouldn't you thank them first?

Dracaena
Right!
(he quickly looks up)
Thank you for your contribution!
Now...
(pause)
Back to the fascinating part.

The assistants laugh.

Dracaena

Did you notice, Quadrigon never attacked recklessly.

(he sketches several arrows)

Every movement created space. Every movement protected an escape route.

Graduate Assistant

(nodding)

Almost like it was conserving energy.

Dracaena

Exactly.

(he flips to another page)

Predators don't survive by fighting constantly.

They survive by choosing when to fight.

(brief silence)

I've been studying fossils for years.

(he smiles toward Quadrigon)

But every battle teaches me something fossils never could.

QUADRIGON gently bumps the notebook with its snout.

Dracaena

Do you disagree?

QUADRIGON lets out a soft rumble.

Dracaena

(chuckling)

You're right.

(smiling)

They teach me together.

One of the assistants approaches carrying the Geo Scanner.

Graduate Assistant

Professor, the calibration finally finished.

Dracaena

Already? Excellent!

He takes the Geo Scanner and hands it to [PLAYER].

Dracaena

While we were battling we finished upgrading it.
It should now detect much older geological disturbances.
Ancient ruins and more hidden grottos.
Hidden fossil deposits and meteor impacts.
Anything unusual beneath the surface.
(pause)
Actually...)
(he grins)
Would you mind doing me a favor?

[PLAYER] looks toward him.

Dracaena

Go prove one of my theories wrong.

Graduate Assistant

(laughing)
That's a strange request.

Dracaena

Not at all.
(he closes his notebook)

Dracaena

If my theory survives, that's wonderful.
And if it doesn't, we'll discover something even better.

QUADRIGON lets out a deep, approving roar that echoes throughout the laboratory.

Dracaena

Come back and tell me what you find.
I can't wait to be surprised.

Bond with Dracaena increased to Rank 5!
Geo Scanner was upgraded!

BOND EVENT RANK 6

UNLOCK REQUIREMENTS:

- Dracaena Bond Rank 5 completed
- At least 2 fossils were restored

LOCATION:

- Skyfang Ridge

REWARD:

- Mobile Fossil Restoration
- Dracaena Bond Rank 6

TITLE: Echoes of Giants

[PLAYER] arrives atop Skyfang Ridge. The wind whistles through the rocky cliffs. Several ropes have been secured along a narrow mountain trail. A pair of GRADUATE ASSISTANTS carefully unpack surveying equipment. DRACAENA stands near the cliff's edge, studying an enormous stone face carved directly into the mountainside. QUADRIGON sits quietly beside him. Its gaze never leaves the monument.

Dracaena

Beautiful, isn't it?

[PLAYER] looks up. The carving is enormous. Time has worn away much of it. Only fragments remain. A massive dragon-like silhouette. Stars overhead. Several smaller Pokémon gathered beneath it.

Dracaena

No one's sure who carved this.

Or why.

Graduate Assistant

(adjusts their glasses)

Professor, you haven't stopped smiling since sunrise.

Dracaena

Can you blame me?

(laughing)

I've walked this trail dozens of times.

Today I looked up.

Graduate Assistant

(smiles)

You really do mean it...

Dracaena

Hm?

Graduate Assistant

"Look again."

Dracaena

(chuckling)

Usually helps.

(he gestures toward the mural)

Take out your Geo Scanner.

[PLAYER] activates the Geo Scanner. A faint pulse spreads across the cliff face. Several points briefly illuminate. One in particular glows much brighter than the others.

Dracaena

Interesting...

The group carefully approaches. Hidden beneath centuries of moss is a line of engraved symbols appears.

Graduate Assistant

These don't match any known language.

Dracaena

They don't.

(he carefully sketches each symbol into his notebook)

That's exciting!

[PLAYER] Choice

- Have you seen these before?
 - What do they say?

Dracaena

I don't know!

(grins wide)

And I refuse to pretend otherwise.

There are researchers who'll tell you they already know the answer.

Those are the researchers I trust the least.

QUADRIGON slowly rises. It walks toward the carving. It gently places one foreclaw against the dragon carved into the mountain. A long silence follows. The wind dies down. Even the assistants stop writing.

Graduate Assistant

Professor?

Dracaena

Let it have a moment.

QUADRIGON lowers its head.

Dracaena

You know...

People ask me all the time if Quadrigon is related to the dragons carved in these ruins.

(he looks at QUADRIGON)

I honestly don't know.

(pauses)

It doesn't really matter.

(he gently pats QUADRIGON's shoulder)

Whatever happened here, someone thought dragons were worth remembering.

QUADRIGON lets out a low, resonant call that echoes through the valley. A GRADUATE ASSISTANT suddenly notices something.

Graduate Assistant

Professor! Look!

A section of stone, loosened by years of erosion, slides away. Behind it rests a sealed fossil capsule embedded in the rock.

Dracaena

Well...

(a grin spreads across his face)

I certainly wasn't expecting that.

Graduate Assistant

(laughing)

You say that every expedition.

Dracaena

Because every expedition surprises me.

(he carefully removes the fossil)

Dracaena

People think discoveries belong to the person who finds them.

(he hands the fossil to [PLAYER])

I disagree.

(brief silence)

Discoveries belong to everyone willing to learn from them.

[PLAYER] carefully accepts the fossil.

Dracaena

There's something I've been working on.

He reaches into his backpack and removes a small device that attaches neatly to the Rotom Phone.

Dracaena

You've restored enough fossils that I thought this might save you a trip back to the lab.

(he installs the module)

There. Now you can restore compatible fossils wherever you are.

I'd rather you spend your time exploring, than standing traveling back to the lab.

QUADRIGON lets out another gentle rumble.

Dracaena

I think it agrees.

*The group begins packing up their equipment. Before leaving, DRACAENA turns back toward the ancient mural one final time.**

Dracaena

We'll keep asking.

QUADRIGON looks back once. Then quietly follows.

Bond with Dracaena increased to Rank 6!

Received Mobile Fossil Restoration!

BOND EVENT RANK 7

UNLOCK REQUIREMENTS:

- Dracaena Bond Rank 6 completed

LOCATION:

- Professor Dracaena's Lab

REWARD:

- Dracaena Bond Rank 7

TITLE: Questions Left Behind

[PLAYER] enters Professor Dracaena's laboratory. The room is unusually quiet. No assistants are chatting. Several desks sit empty. QUADRIGON lies near the entrance, watching the hallway rather than sleeping. DRACAENA stands before a large table covered in photographs and ancient sketches. He doesn't immediately notice [PLAYER].

Dracaena
That's impossible.

A soft rumble. QUADRIGON nudges his shoulder. Only then does DRACAENA look up.

Dracaena
Oh. Sorry.
(smiles)
I didn't hear you come in.
(he gestures toward the table)
Would you look at something with me?

[PLAYER] approaches. Several photographs depict ruins the player has visited during previous expeditions. Each one contains the recurring symbol first seen at Sunveil Ruins. They're arranged in a circle. The symbols appear to point toward a single location in the center of the region.

Dracaena
I've been comparing every inscription we've documented.
Individually, they don't say much.
(he gently slides one sketch into place)
Together, they're definitely trying to tell us something.

A GRADUATE ASSISTANT enters carrying another folder.

Graduate Assistant

Professor, I found another inscription.

DRACAENA eagerly accepts it. He places it beside the others. His smile slowly fades.

Dracaena

No.

(he quietly shakes his head)

Graduate Assistant

Professor?

Dracaena

This one doesn't fit.

(he studies it again)

It was copied incorrectly.

Graduate Assistant

Should I throw it away?

Dracaena

Absolutely not.

(he carefully places it in its own folder)

Mistakes are part of history too.

Someone might figure out why it differs.

The GRADUATE ASSISTANT nods and quietly leaves.

Dracaena

(chuckles)

Usually I'd be thrilled by this.

(pauses)

Instead, I have a strange feeling.

QUADRIGON slowly stands and walks toward a bookshelf. Resting on one shelf is a framed photograph. Two younger researchers. Covered in mud. One is clearly a younger DRACAENA. The other, a younger PROFESSOR YEW. DRACAENA notices where QUADRIGON is looking.

Dracaena

We used to spend weeks in the field together.

(sad smile)

She always found ruins before I did.

I used to think she cheated.

(pauses)

She probably just worked harder.
(his expression softens)
Lately she's been asking strange questions.
Questions she never used to ask.
"What if history wasn't supposed to disappear?"
"What if extinction was a mistake?"
"What if preservation required starting over?"
(sighs)
Those don't sound like scientific questions.

QUADRIGON lets out a quiet rumble.

Dracaena
I know.
(he gently scratches beneath QUADRIGON's chin)
She's still my sister.
(brief silence)
Maybe she's just chasing an idea too far.
(he smiles again, though it doesn't quite reach his eyes)
She's always done that.

Another GRADUATE ASSISTANT pokes their head into the room.

Graduate Assistant
Professor? The museum approved your archive proposal.

Dracaena
Already?

Graduate Assistant
They said the public deserves to see the discoveries.

Dracaena
(a genuine smile returns)
I'd like that.
(turns toward [PLAYER])
History shouldn't belong to just professors.
It belongs to everyone.

As [PLAYER] prepares to leave...

Dracaena
One last thing.
(pauses)

If you happen to see Yew before I do. Tell her...

(smiling)

I finally proved one of her theories wrong.

(he laughs softly)

She'll know which one.

QUADRIGON watches quietly as the player leaves.

The camera lingers on the table. The circle of ancient symbols. At its center is a blank space. Waiting.

Bond with Dracaena increased to Rank 7!

BOND EVENT RANK 8

UNLOCK REQUIREMENTS:

- Finish the Main Story
- Dracaena Rank 7 completed

LOCATION:

- History Museum

REWARD:

- Museum Pass
- Dracaena Bond Rank 8

TITLE: What We Choose to Remember

[PLAYER] enters the History Museum. The museum feels different than it did before. Children excitedly point toward fossils while Trainers quietly study display cases filled with relics recovered throughout the region. Several familiar artifacts from previous expeditions have found permanent homes behind polished glass, each accompanied by handwritten descriptions rather than simple scientific labels. Near the center of the gallery, DRACAENA stands with QUADRIGON resting patiently beside him. Instead of examining a fossil, he's watching the visitors.

Dracaena

(smiles)

There you are. I was beginning to wonder which exhibit would distract you long enough to make you late.

(looks around the gallery)

You know... I always thought museums were quiet because people whispered. The longer I've worked in one, the more I think they're quiet because every artifact is waiting for someone to ask about it. That's why I asked the curators to rewrite every exhibit card.

Dracaena walks toward a nearby display containing several restored fossils.

Dracaena

People usually write about the specimen itself. Its age, where it was discovered, what species it belonged to. That's all important, of course, but it leaves out my favorite part.

History isn't just about what we find.

It's about the people who found it, the ones who protected it, and the ones who decided it was worth preserving.

(he gestures toward the display case)

Every fossil here passed through someone's hands before it reached this museum. I wanted visitors to remember that.

The two continue walking through the gallery. Several displays feature relics recovered during the player's expeditions with DRACAENA. Small plaques describe where they were found, often mentioning the teamwork that made the discoveries possible.

Further ahead, a new display draws the player's attention. Large framed photographs line the wall: the Sinjoh Ruins, ancient temples, restored murals, a sunrise breaking over a world recovering from the recent crisis.

Unlike every other exhibit. None of the photographs list a photographer. The only credit reads:

Photographs donated anonymously.

[PLAYER] pauses before the display.

Dracaena

(chuckles softly)

He was very particular about that.

He sent the photographs with one request: no name, no recognition, no ceremony.

I had no choice, but to respect it.

(he studies the photograph of the sunrise for a moment)

Thing is, he didn't submit some of the most vital photographs he took. But that's for the best.

Part of history is that some things are much better off without being shown.

We don't want history to repeat itself in the way everything played out.

QUADRIGON slowly approaches the display and sits quietly before one of the photographs.

Dracaena

(smiles)

Funny, isn't it?

A photographer who always preferred staying out of the picture. I suppose that's why he noticed things the rest of us missed.

(pauses)

In that regard...he and I understand each other rather well.

DRACAENA lingers before the display for another moment. His expression softens.

Dracaena

(quietly)

Thank you, my friend.

He doesn't elaborate further.

The two continue through the museum until they arrive at a glass display containing...nothing. Inside rests only a small bronze plaque.

"Some histories are still being written."

Dracaena

(smiles)

The curator asked me what artifact belonged here. I told them nothing. At least, not yet. History doesn't stop because someone builds a museum. Tomorrow's discoveries deserve a place here just as much as yesterday's.

I wanted visitors to leave knowing there's still more to learn.

The sounds of the museum continue around them. A child excitedly identifies an ancient Pokémon skeleton. An elderly couple quietly discusses one of the expedition journals. Nearby, someone pauses in front of the anonymous photographs for much longer than the others.

Dracaena

I visited Yew yesterday. She's improving. Linden said she's in stable condition. Recovery isn't quick, and I don't expect it to be, but...she smiled when we talked about our first expedition together.

That was the first time I'd seen her smile like that in a long while.

QUADRIGON lets out a gentle rumble beside him.

Dracaena

She asked me something I wasn't prepared for.
She asked whether history would ever forgive her.

(smiles sadly)

I told her history doesn't forgive anyone.

People do.

History simply remembers what happened.

What matters now is deciding what the next chapter looks like.

The museum CURATOR approaches carrying a small envelope.

Curator

Professor, the membership cards arrived this morning.

The curator hands the envelope to Dracaena. He opens it, smiles, and immediately offers the card to [PLAYER].

Dracaena

I think you've earned this more than I have.

You've helped uncover enough history that you should never have to pay admission to see it again.

Oh, before I forget...

If you ever happen to meet the person who donated those again,
tell him the exhibit turned out beautifully.

(pauses before grinning)

Although, knowing him, I doubt he'll stay in one place long enough for you to catch him easily.

He's always had a habit of wandering toward whatever mystery lies beyond the horizon.

If your paths cross again,

I have a feeling he'd enjoy seeing how much stronger you've become.

QUADRIGON rises to its feet, stretching before nudging Dracaena's shoulder.

Dracaena

(laughs)

Right, right. We should let everyone else enjoy the museum too.

Besides...

(turns toward the gallery one last time)

We've spent enough time preserving history for today.

Let's go make some more.

Bond with Dracaena increased to Rank 8!

Received Museum Pass!

BOND EVENT RANK 9

UNLOCK REQUIREMENTS:

- Dracaena Bond Rank 8 completed

LOCATION:

- Dracaena's Lab

REWARD:

- Dracaena Bond Rank 9

TITLE: Beyond the Horizon

[PLAYER] enters the PROFESSOR'S LABORATORY. The atmosphere feels lighter than it has in quite some time. Graduate assistants move between shelves organizing supplies while QUADRIGON lounges comfortably near the center of the room, watching the activity with half-lidded eyes. Across the room, DRACAENA kneels beside an open crate, carefully packing climbing gear, notebooks, brushes, and excavation tools.

Dracaena

(looks up with a smile)

Perfect timing. I was trying to decide whether I'd packed too much or not nearly enough.

(chuckles)

Somehow it's usually both.

A GRADUATE ASSISTANT walks over carrying another backpack.

Graduate Assistant

Professor... You already packed three cameras.

Dracaena

(smiling)

I did.

Graduate Assistant

Why?

Dracaena

Because if one breaks, I'll wish I'd packed two.

If two break, I'll wish I'd packed three.

If none of them break...

(shrugs)

Then I was simply prepared.

The GRADUATE ASSISTANT sighs with a smile before placing another notebook into the crate.

Graduate Assistant

You're impossible.

Dracaena

I've heard that before. Usually from someone who ends up coming on the expedition anyway.

The assistants laugh as DRACAENA closes the crate and stands.

Dracaena

There's an old observation tower north of the region that was finally declared safe after the reconstruction efforts.

Nobody's explored it properly yet.

There's no legend attached to it.

No prophecy. No ancient catastrophe.

It's just an old place that's waited a very long time for someone to visit.

I think that's reason enough to go.

Scene changes to the Ancient Tower. [PLAYER] and DRACAENA make their way up the weathered stone staircase. Moss and wildflowers have reclaimed much of the tower, while wild POKÉMON wander comfortably through the ruins. QUADRIGON occasionally pauses to brush vines away from old carvings before continuing up the trail.

Dracaena

(smiling as he looks around)

This is what I missed.

Not the discoveries. Not publishing papers.

Just this.

Walking somewhere nobody has visited in years and wondering what might be waiting at the top.

Eventually, the group reaches the summit. The view stretches across nearly the entire region. Forests sway beneath the afternoon breeze while distant cities glimmer under the sunlight. Even the HISTORY MUSEUM is visible far below.

Dracaena

When I was younger, I thought every expedition had to end with some incredible discovery.

A Legendary Pokémon. A forgotten civilization.

Something worthy of rewriting the history books.

(laughs softly)

The funny thing is, most of my favorite expeditions ended with nothing more than a beautiful view and a notebook full of questions.

QUADRIGON settles near the edge of the tower with a satisfied rumble. DRACAENA walks over and scratches gently beneath its chin.

Dracaena

You've climbed mountains with me for some time. I think you remember some of these places better than I do.

QUADRIGON nudges DRACAENA'S shoulder.

Dracaena

(laughing)

What?

I'm not slowing down.

QUADRIGON gives him another firm nudge.

Dracaena

All right. Maybe I'm slowing down a little.

[PLAYER] watches as QUADRIGON lets out what almost sounds like an amused huff.

Dracaena

People always call Quadrigon my partner. I've never cared much for that word. Partners eventually go separate ways. Family stays together.

QUADRIGON quietly rests its head against DRACAENA'S shoulder.

Dracaena

Most people see a powerful Dragon-type.

I see the Pokémon that carried my equipment when I packed too much, kept me warm during snowstorms, and politely tolerated every terrible joke I've told over the past twenty years.

I'd say I've gotten the better end of that friendship.

A comfortable silence settles over the tower as several FLYING-TYPE POKÉMON glide overhead.

Dracaena

(turns toward [PLAYER])

Do you remember what I told you during one of our first expeditions?

Every rock has a story. I still believe that.

But somewhere along the way, I realized every person has one too.

History isn't only buried underground. Sometimes it's walking beside us.

(he looks out across the horizon again)

I spent years chasing the past because I thought that's where all the answers were.

After everything that's happened. I think the future deserves just as much curiosity.

A breeze catches the pages of DRACAENA'S notebook. As he closes it, [PLAYER] catches a glimpse of the only sentence written on today's page.

"First expedition after coming home."

Dracaena

(smiles)

That feels like enough for today.

As the group begins making their way down the tower, a GRADUATE ASSISTANT hurries up the trail carrying a satchel.

Graduate Assistant

Professor! I finally caught up with you.

I thought you'd want to see this.

The assistant carefully removes a strange carved stone ornament recovered during restoration work and hands it to DRACAENA.

Dracaena

(turning it over in his hands)

Interesting...

I've never seen craftsmanship quite like this.

(looks toward [PLAYER])

Would you mind if I borrowed it for a while?

Something tells me we're not finished learning from it.

(smiling warmly)

Every good expedition deserves another.

Bond with Dracaena increased to Rank 9!

BOND EVENT RANK 10

UNLOCK REQUIREMENTS:

- Dracaena Rank 9 completed

LOCATION:

- Dracaena's Lab

REWARD:

- Dracaena Bond Rank maxed
- Battle Frontier Partner

TITLE: The Next Chapter

[PLAYER] enters the PROFESSOR'S LABORATORY. The room is different from the last time [PLAYER] visited. The usual clutter of research equipment remains, but several shelves have been reorganized. Old expedition notes sit beside newer research journals. Photographs from past discoveries line the walls. At the center of the room, DRACAENA stands beside a small wooden box. QUADRIGON rests nearby, watching patiently.

Dracaena

(smiling)

There you are.

I was hoping you'd come.

(he places a hand on the wooden box)

I've spent the last few weeks thinking about what I wanted to do next.

It's strange. For most of my life, I always had another excavation planned.

Another fossil to study. Another ruin to explore. Another question waiting for an answer.

He opens the box. Inside is a worn research journal filled with handwritten notes, sketches, and photographs.

Dracaena

This was my first field journal. I was about twenty years old when I started it.

(he carefully picks it up)

I thought the most important thing I could do was discover something nobody had ever seen before.

I wanted my name attached to something historic.

(laughs)

Looking back... I was a pretty arrogant kid.

QUADRIGON gives a quiet rumble.

Dracaen

What? I said I was young.

(smiles)

But eventually, I learned something.

Discoveries don't belong to the person who finds them.

They belong to everyone who learns from them.

He places the journal back into the box.

Dracaena

That's why I wanted you here. He reaches into the box and removes a new journal.

Unlike his old one, this journal is completely blank.

Dracaena

A researcher shouldn't spend their entire life following someone else's footsteps.

At some point...they have to make their own path.

He offers the journal to [PLAYER].

Dracaena

I want you to have this.

Don't worry about filling every page. Some of the best discoveries start with a single note in the margin.

QUADRIGON stands and approaches. It gently nudges the journal with its nose.

Dracaena

(chuckles)

I think QUADRIGON approves.

QUADRIGON looks proudly at [PLAYER].

Dracaena

When we first met, I thought I was bringing along an assistant. Someone to help with research.

And provide their first Pokémon to start their journey.

(pauses)

I was wrong.

(smiles)

You became a colleague.

Someone who asks questions, challenges assumptions, and reminds me why discovery matters.

There is a knock at the laboratory door.

Dracaena

Come in.

The door opens.

PROFESSOR YEW steps inside. She looks calmer than the last time you had seen her. There is still a heaviness in her expression, but no longer the certainty that once defined her.

Yew

Am I interrupting?

Dracaena

(smiles)

No. You came at a good time.

Yew looks toward the journal in [PLAYER]'s hands.

Yew

So you finally gave it away.

Dracaena

I think it's time someone else started writing.

Yew

(smiling)

You always were better at letting go than I was.

DRACAENA becomes quiet.

Dracaena

No. I wasn't.

(pauses)

I just had someone remind me that preservation isn't the same thing as holding onto something forever.

Yew

(her gaze lowering)

I'm still trying to understand that.

Dracaena

I know.

(smiles)

But you're trying. That's what matters.

QUADRIGON approaches YEW and sits beside her. She looks surprised before gently placing a hand on its head.

Yew

It still remembers me.

Dracaena

Of course it does. Pokémon are much better at remembering the important things than we are.

YEW looks toward the old photographs on the wall.

Yew

Do you think we'll ever discover everything?

Dracaena

(laughing)

Absolutely not.

YEW smiles.

Dracaena

And honestly? I'm relieved. Far less pressure.

(he looks toward [PLAYER])

A world where every mystery has an answer sounds incredibly boring.

QUADRIGON lets out a strong, approving roar.

Dracaena

Exactly.

He walks toward the laboratory window, looking out over the region.

Dracaena

There are still fossils buried beneath the earth. Ruins hidden in forests.

Pokémon we've never encountered. Stories that haven't been told.

(he turns back toward [PLAYER])

So keep exploring. Keep asking questions.

And when you find something amazing...

(smiles)

Don't forget to share the story.

Bond with Dracaena has reached MAX!

Received Dracaena's Partner Journal!
Dracaena can now be selected as a Battle Frontier Partner!

MISCELLANEOUS INTERACTIONS