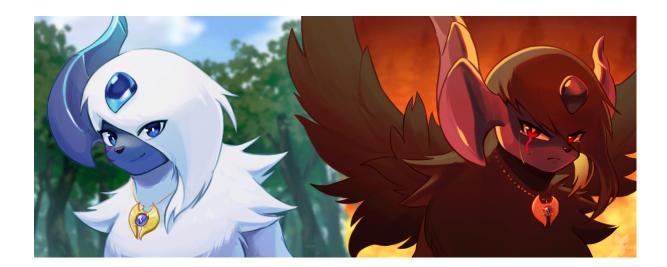
## **Prologue**



The moonlight, dimmed by the fog, shone down on a dark building surrounded by an iron fence. It was absolutely silent, nothing moved, until suddenly a muffled engine noise could be heard in the distance. It grew louder until a black sports car became visible, driving towards a gate in the fence. The car stopped at the gate and a guard approached the car. The driver rolled down the window so that the guard, seeing the person in the car, immediately turned around to open the gate.

The car drove through the gate until it reached a heavy iron door. The car stopped and a young man got out. He was well dressed, in a tailored dark blue suit with matching black shoes and glasses.

After getting out, he headed straight for the iron door. There he flipped open a button on the wall. The man quickly typed in a code and was then scanned by a camera. When the scan was complete, a click was heard and the door opened. The man went inside and the door closed behind him.

The inside of the rather dark building was very bright. Everything was white and looked very clean and tidy. The smartly dressed man walked through the long white corridor to an elevator, where he got in and went down a few floors.

Everything had been quiet up to that point, then the elevator door opened and a loud, repetitive groan was heard. The area on this floor was a laboratory and there were several men and women in long white coats at work. They all looked stressed and were fiddling with equipment. There was a double door halfway through the lab room, and groans came from the room behind it. The man in the suit stood in front of the door and was about to open it when he was approached by one of the scientists

"Are you here to collect the samples?" asked the head scientist. The man let go of the door and turned around "Yes, I am. How far are you?". "We're already done," said the man in white proudly, "We're just running more tests on the subject. After all, it's not every day you get the opportunity to examine something so extraordinary." The scientist rubbed his hands together, then looked to one of his workers "Bring us the case with the samples!" One of them immediately came with an armored metal case and handed it to the man in the suit.

"You know how important this is, right?" The leader looked at him questioningly and the suit man nodded "Yes I know, this sample could be a huge step for our organization" As the two men talked, they realized that nothing could be heard but their voices. They both turned towards the door and they heard a growl that was getting louder and louder. Suddenly the door burst open and a frightened lab worker came out. He stared at the head scientist and said with fear and panic in his voice, "We're running out of anesthetics! W-we've already used up all the strong ones and the hallucinogens we're giving him are breaking down too quickly in his body! He'll soon be-" He couldn't finish because the growling behind the door became a terrifying roar. Behind the door you could hear shots from machine guns, but also the screams of people.

The scientist looked at the man in the suit and shouted "RUN! GET OUT OF HERE AS FAST AS YOU CAN! THE SAMPLES ARE TOO IMPORTANT!" He didn't need to be told twice and fled in panic towards the elevator. He heard a huge crash as he went up and slowly the screams died down. Once at the top, he ran along the corridor, but he slowed down and walked normally again. He tried to calm his breathing as he walked out of the front door and had regained his composure.

He went to his car and was about to open the door when he heard a noise from the entrance to the building. He looked back and saw the door open and the lead scientist take a step, then topple over. His body fell hard to the floor and his head, which until a moment ago had seemed to be firmly attached to his neck, rolled a few meters further. The man in the suit froze in fear, his gaze not fixed on the dead scientist, but on the dark silhouette standing in the doorway. Blue and ice-cold eyes looked at him, ready to kill everything and everyone. The creature was about to take a step forward when it heard footsteps from behind and immediately turned around. Shortly afterwards, the suit man heard the desperate cries of the guards in the building.



He pulled himself out of his shock, unlocked the car door, threw the suitcase inside, got in and drove off. The gate guard seemed to know what was going on and opened the gate immediately so he didn't have to stop. The man was sweating, didn't look in any of his rear-view mirrors and drove as fast as the thick fog would allow him to. After a while, however, the fog was so thick that he really had to drive very slowly. He nervously tapped his foot and his fingers on the steering wheel. Then he lifted his hand and opened the glove compartment and took out a Pokeball. He braked abrupt, took the suitcase and Pokeball and got out. "Go Pidgeot!" he said and called his Pokemon out of the ball. The man gave the suitcase to the Pidgeot in its claws and said "fly as high and fast as you can to the headquarter. Don't stop anywhere until you get there! And now let's go!". The Tauboss flew off and left the man alone in the fog. He got back into his car and drove on "Phew, at least it's safe for now" he breathed out in relief, but the relief didn't last long as he looked in the rear-view mirror and saw a slowly growing silhouette. It was the monster that had killed everyone in the lab! The man looked ahead again and stepped on the gas pedal, he couldn't see anything through the fog so he just looked at his sat nav. The fog slowly lifted as he drove uphill. He looked in the rear-view mirror again and, to his relief, he seemed to have left his pursuer behind. He looked ahead and slammed on the brakes.

It was standing in front of him on the hood, looking at him with its icy eyes. Its long, sharp and curved claws still had the blood of the dead from the laboratory on them. Its long fur was soaked in blood. The man in the car quickly reached into the glove compartment, pulled out a pistol and pointed it in the direction of the monster, but it was no longer there. He was about to step on the gas pedal again when he noticed the air escaping from the tires. His breathing was fast and shallow. He was shaking and sweating with fear, then he took another deep breath and got out. He knew he had no chance against this something, but he didn't want to give up without a fight.

There was an open field around him, he could see everything, so he slowly circled his car, as this was the only place it could be. He circled it completely, but there was nothing there, so he looked up again and turned back to the car.

He looked up and looked directly into the creature's blue eyes. The man was startled and tried to raise his gun, but the creature jumped on top of him and threw him to the ground. He hit the ground hard and his breath stopped, the monster stood on him and its sharp claws dug into the man's flesh. It slowly came closer with its head and when their noses were almost touching it asked, "Where is it that you took from me?" It's voice was sinister and evil to the core, it's hateful eyes looking into the man's terrified ones. But the man was too loyal to his organization to reveal anything. He opened his mouth to say something "I-" ... he didn't get any further, he held his neck with his hands, blood oozing out. "I know you're all too loyal to say anything, besides I saw defiance in your eyes, even with torture you wouldn't have said anything" The creature spoke in a calm voice, like his whole personality suddenly changed. It sat on the man's stomach, cleaned its bloody paws and watched as the man slowly gurgled and choked on his own blood. The man's noises died away. It was now completely silent again.

The creature stood up from the dead man's belly, stretched and exhaled in a heaving breath. "Damn, I really would have liked to know what they did to me and what samples were in that case," he shook his head "and of course he had a flying Pokemon with him to give the case to. My bad luck again" he narrowed his eyes and looked annoyed in the direction in which he suspected the Pidgeot, he had briefly seen through the fog, had flown.

The sun slowly rose, the mist behind him was slowly dispelled and the birds began to sing. The creature shrugged his shoulders once more, "Oh, it won't have been that important," then he slowly trotted off, leaving a trail of death and destruction behind him.

A few days later at the organization's headquarters.

"Boss! Boss!" a man stormed in, all excited and holding a silver briefcase. "Hmm? What is it?" all you could hear was the annoyed voice of a man sitting with his back to the door, he didn't even turn around when his subordinate burst in. "I have learned that our laboratory was completely destroyed by our prisoner test subjects! But our team there was able to secure the samples in time and send them to us!". There was a brief silence, then the man in the chair turned around. He was wearing a very smart suit, had a striking face and spoke in a dark voice. "Very good, excellent... The time has finally come". A wicked smile stretched across his face. "Send the suitcase immediately, we'll start our project right away... I don't want to waste any time" He rubbed his hands together and laughed. The man with the suitcase was still standing there and was about to say something when his boss glared at him "What's wrong? Why are you still there? I. HAVE. SAID. NOW!" He yelled the last words and pounded the table with his fists. The man flinched at every word that was yelled at him "B-but what about the lab? Shouldn't we~" he stopped speaking when he noticed the look his boss was giving him. "...send a cleanup team there. If any have survived... eliminate them". The man's blood froze in his veins at these words, but he didn't dare contradict him: "Y-yes!" And with that, he quickly left, leaving the boss alone.

"Soon I'll not only own one of the deadliest Pokémon, no, I'll even own two" He looked at a newspaper lying in front of him 'Another massacre by Orcus' was the front page headline underneath a picture of a white Pokémon covered in blood. "Orcus ha!" He laughed, "we didn't name you, so the public did and yet you remain just an Absol with us.... But I also know the benefit of names, they increase the friendship and trust of Pokemon in humans... Nonsense really, Pokemon are tools... and yet I will take advantage of this." Next to the paper was a file called 'Project: Ker'. "Orcus will eventually become unpredictable, then she will be weeded out. But it will leave a big hole, which is bad for my plans. And that's why~" he stroked his hand over the file," that's why I'm going to create my own Absol. It will have quickly trumped Orcus and will be neither unstable nor damaged." He smiled, leaned back in his chair and turned around "Soon Ker will be born and be more useful to me than any other Pokemon. Another tool in my collection."

(The Character Orcus is owned by Tenebscuro)