

Chapter 1

"Excuse me, ma'am?" A light, young sounding voice said from behind nurse joy, catching her attention. "How do I register as a trainer?" She turned and scanned the pokecenters lobby, but didn't see anyone else there.

"Who's there?" She asked, more than a little confused. She couldn't even see the top of a head anywhere. "I'm afraid I don't see you."

There was a moment of silence before the voice spoke again. "Oh, right." It said, and chuckled. "Just a sec." A moment later, a pair of bright yellow paws appeared over the counters edge and pulled up a bright yellow fox. It's ears were large with red puffs of hair sprouting from them, the same red as at the tip of it's large, puffy tail. It shook itself and looked up at nurse joy. "Right, there we go. Sorry, I forgot you couldn't see me over the edge."

"A...fennekin." Nurse joy said, blinking. "Uh, right." She shook her head. "You were asking how to register as a trainer?"

"Yep yep." The fennekin said, nodding. "It looks like fun."

"Well, that's not the worst reason I've heard before." Nurse joy said, and sighed. "Right. Registering. Normally, I'd have you take a test and send in an application. I'd send it to the league where they'd review it. They usually authorize in a couple days if you pass the test." She gave the fennekin a look. "I'm not sure if there are different rules where pokemon are concerned, though. I've never had one ask."

"That's fine." The fennekin said. "Probably just need to make sure we can read and write and stuff, since most of us can't."

Nurse Joy nodded. "I'll go find out for sure, alright?" She asked, turning towards the back.

"Alright." The fennekin said, nodding. "Oh, my name's Ember Winds."

Nurse Joy paused and looked back at Ember. She smiled back at him and said, "It's good to meet you Ember. I'm Nurse Joy." and with that, she turned through the door to find the answer to Embers question.

Ember Winds, full name Little Ember Gently Drifting in the Winds, watched Nurse Joy leave through the back door. He waited on the counter for a few minutes, tail hanging over the edge, before he became bored. So, he stood up and jumped off the counter.

He looked around the room with a curious eye. He'd never actually been in a pokecenter, though he'd heard plenty about them. From what he'd seen from the windows of others, though, this one seemed pretty normal. A wide walk-way from the door to the counter went through the middle of the room, done in red and white tiles in the very middle to look like a pokeball. Large carpeted areas to either side of the room with curved couches around a central table and several smaller one acted as a lounge for any visiting trainers and their smaller pokemon, while some booths by the windows provided some privacy. A comfy, safe looking room, all done up in reds and blues to give it some color.

Ember looked at one of the couches. They looked soft, quite unlike anything he'd used in the wild. So, with a bounce and a chirp, he rushed on over and jumped up onto the cushions. "Ooh" he said as his paws landed on the plush material, causing him to bounce. "I bet that's fun." He bends his legs under him and pushes off, bouncing him into the air and back up again when he lands.

"Wee!" he says on the second bounce and follows with a flip on the third. The fourth has him aiming for height gaining him an extra foot in the air and the fifth he aims for some tricks.

The next thing he knew, the world went dark and cushy! The only thing that could still feel the air were his back legs and tail. The couch was trying to eat him!

Nurse Joy walked back into the room. She looked around from behind her desk for a few moments, wondering where, exactly, the fennekin had gone off to. And then she heard the muffled cries. Curious, she moved out from behind the counter and into the lobby, looking around for the source of the sound.

It took surprisingly little time to narrow it down. Or perhaps, not so surprising. The bright yellow/orange fur did stick out nicely against the blue of the couch, after all, and Nurse Joy couldn't help a small chuckle at the sight before her.

For the seemingly very intelligent pokemon that had been speaking to her earlier had somehow managed to get himself stuck, face first, between the couch cushions and the back of the couch. His frantically kicking legs and wildly shaking tail hinting at a panic that could only come from being stuck with no way out.

The overdramatic calls of vengeance against the couch, even if Nurse Joy could only just make them out, on the other hand, implied that the fox knew exactly what was going on and was playing things up. She stood there for a few minutes just listening to his ever more creative list of epithets for the couch and precisely how he intended to exact his so-called revenge for it 'eating' him.

Truthfully, she simply couldn't decide if she should help him out or not.

"The trees and Mareep you were made from will rue the day that you were conceived, and the factory will disown you and the craftsmen who made you!" Ember shouted towards the springs in his face before suddenly feeling his body shift, his free half sliding between the cracks in the cushions. "Whaa!" He yelled, front legs quickly pushing out in what would normally help to save him from a fall.

In this case, however, he simply smashed his paws against the couches backboard and hurried his descent into the ravenous couch. "Noooo!" He cried, paws covering his face, "I have been defeated by a lowly couch! Whatever shall I do!"

It was about the point that he felt one of the cushions pulled off the couch. Without the support the cushion provided, he suddenly found himself landing on his side with a 'whumpf'. Scrambling to his paws he looked around to see Nurse Joy standing over him with the missing

cushion. "Hi, Nurse Joy." Ember says with a wave, sitting up straight as his tail quickly wraps around his feet. "I didn't expect you back so soon."

Nurse Joy sets the cushion down by her feet, leaning it against the side of her legs. "I suspect not. Were you having fun?" She asks.

"Uh..." Ember says, before looking around. "Yup!" His eyes close as he grins. "I never knew couches could be so bouncy!"

Nurse Joy just shakes her head with a smile. "It looked like it." She says. "Now, would you like your answer?"

"Oh, yes yes!" Ember says, jumping off the couching and rushing back over to the counter, jumping back up on top. "Is it doable?"

Nurse Joy shrugs and starts moving towards the counter. "There's nothing that says a pokemon can't be a trainer as well, and there are a few examples from other regions, so I don't see why not." She moves back behind the counter and faces Ember. "That said, you will need to pass the test and meet certain requirements. For instance, how old are you?"

"I'm 10!" Ember says, almost jumping up before his ears fold back. "Which I know is the absolute minimum age for humans, and I wasn't sure if it applied to us, as well."

"I imagine it would." Nurse Joy says. She reaches under the counter and pulls out a small tablet. "Now, the test is on here. It mostly covers various bits of pokemon knowledge, but it also ensures at least a basic level of survival skills, literacy and general education. All things you're going to need as a trainer. I imagine that the pokemon knowledge and survival skills portions will be easier than most, but you do need to pass the rest of it as well."

"I can do that." Ember says.

"I'll also need to submit the form to the League with your picture so it can be approved, and that's the bit I'm truly concerned with." Nurse Joy says. "Hmm. That said, I do believe I may be able to sway them in your favor with a recommendation."

"Yes! Thank you!" Ember says with a bounce. He leans down and carefully grabs the tablet with his mouth before bouncing off the counter and running towards one of the lobbies tables to get started.

Nurse Joy smiles for a moment before sighing. "That doesn't mean it's going to be easy." She says, before pulling out another tablet and getting started on her own part of things.

Ember Winds

Species: Fennekin

Gender: Male

Level: 75

Nature: Jolly

Stats:

Hp: 168

Att: 96

Def: 88

Sp. Att: 151
Sp. Def: 118
Spd: 181
Moves Known: Unk.