

Blind, P.I. in... Breaking News

Chapter 1

Blind laid on the grass in her backyard, staring up at the clouds while rain poured down on her.

The past month had been fur-rippingly frustrating. A lot of stressful cases and more than a few got botched.

So here she was, letting her frustrations out by refusing to give in to the world's demands to go back inside.

The rain was cold, but it wasn't refreshing or comforting in the slightest. All those songs about how great rain is were fucking lies.

Maybe it would be fun if she were a Vaporeon. She imagined what she thought it could be like.

Her long finny tail flapping gently against the downpour while it soaks through her skin.

Or maybe she'd just melt into the mud and disappear for a bit. Also a good plan.

"Of course I'd find you like this." Diva scoffed.

Blind got to her feet. Sure enough, Diva was watching from the back step of the office.

"Oh, hey Diva!" Blind smiled. "Haven't seen you in a while."

"Yeah, I know." Diva sighed. "Far too long."

The two had been taking their relationship slow, since not long after they decided to really go for it, both of them would get buried with work.

Diva always promised that the first day she could, she'd show Blind the luxury she deserved.

"So, playing in the mud?" Diva asked, amused. "What are you, a puppy?"

"No, just... letting off some steam." Blind blushed. "I'm finally taking my first break in a while."

"Good timing." Diva chuckled. "I got some time free too and I wanted to sweep you off your paws, hell or high water."

"Take me away." Blind said. "I'm so fucking ready to give myself up and let you do whatever crazy rich girl stuff you want."

Diva stood over the top of Blind, shielding her from the rain as she looked at her with smug adoration.

"Then hold on tight. It's a long ride to Jewel." She said.

"Oh, I should-" Blind started.

"I already told Rotom and Psyduck that we're going." Diva smirked. "They'll hold down the fort while we go play."

"Then let's go." Blind grinned.

She leapt at Diva, who caught her in her claws and soared away.

Her talons were powerful, but more than that, they were accurate. They held Blind firmly, but didn't crush her. It felt safe. Comfortable.

The world fell away below her, reduced to blinking lights in the rain.

Blind decided to close her eyes and nap for the whole flight.

Chapter 2

Blind shook herself dry after touching down. The paved streets of Jewel were something she didn't realise she missed compared to Mesa Town's all dirt roads.

The two were in front of a large, exotic boutique. The kind of place where the richest of the rich shopped.

She looked around. This was the shopping district she rarely visited, since it was mostly way out of her budget.

"Hey, Diva? This isn't your place." Blind said. "What are we doing here?"

"I'm not being seen with you like this." Diva smirked. "Come on. Let's make you fucking beautiful."

She burst through the double doors with her wings fully outstretched. Blind followed her inside nervously.

"Diva!" A voice called out.

"Furfrou!" Diva called back.

A debutante trim Furfrou walked up, tail wagging swiftly.

"My my, it's been a while." Furfrou grinned. "Here to check on the new winter line?"

"It's not for me, actually." Diva smirked. "I'm looking to give my new accessory a complete and total makeover."

"Oh! Oho!" Furfrou laughed. "Let's see him, then."

"Her." Blind frowned.

Diva stepped aside and Furfrou looked over at Blind.

"Hmm, what an interesting Eevee. The hybridism is particularly fascinating." Furfrou thought. "No problem at all, I see the potential already. Fantastic taste, Diva."

Blind tilted her head. She expected a million insults about her being scruffy.

"You think so?" She asked.

"I know so." Furfrou smiled. "I'm a professional. I've done this a hundred times."

"Obviously, I want the full package for her." Diva nodded. "Wash, Furcut, outfit."

"Oh, absolutely." Furfrou nodded back. "Follow me then, Eevee."

"Trust the process, Blind." Diva said. "I'll be right here, picking out dresses for you."

Blind blushed and followed Furfrou to a room in the back with big shower cubicles where a Prinplup with a bowtie was cleaning one of the stalls.

"Oh, hello." Prinplup said.

"Full service, Prinplup." Furfrou explained. "Diva's request."

"From Diva? Whoa." Prinplup gasped. "Alright, I have this."

"Splendid." Furfrou smiled. "I'll leave you to it. Diva and I will be looking through clothes."

Prinplup nodded and finished cleaning the stall of fur and dirt.

"You're not going to spray me yourself, right?" Blind asked, stepping into the stall.

"No, of course not." Prinplup laughed. "Besides, I don't know many attack moves. I was a swimmer."

"Like, the sport?" Blind asked.

"Yeah, actually." Prinplup smiled, gently rinsing Blind with a warm mobile showerhead. "I won gold twice but had to stop once I broke my knee."

"Oh, that really sucks." Blind said, resisting the urge to shake the water out of her fur. The water flowing off of her was dark brown with dirt.

"Do you mind if I apply the soap myself?" Prinplup asked.

"Yeah, go nuts." Blind nodded.

Prinplup applied a luxury fur shampoo to their fins and lathered it through Blind's fur.

"Goodness, you're quite matted." Prinplup chuckled. "Yeah, I miss it a lot, but that's life."

"Don't I know it." Blind sighed. "Still, getting a job like this is nice. It's not too tough on your knee?"

"No, I usually sit down." Prinplup smiled. "It's a good day so I can stand. Do you do anything?"

"I'm a detective." Blind said. "Used to be here, but now I work out of Mesa Town, over east."

"Ah, nice." Prinplup said. "Okay, you're all soaped up, so I'll rinse you off, then get to the conditioner. You don't mind if I get a little rough?"

"Go ahead. I can take it, I've been training." Blind nodded.

Prinplup brought the hose back up. Blind's fur turned a whole different shade now that it was clean into more of a bright, butterscotch brown.

"You have a really good coat." Prinplup said, lathering Blind with conditioner.

"I do?" Blind asked. "I didn't realise."

"Yeah, you really should treat it better." Prinplup sighed. "You're beautiful under all this."

"Oh, uh. Thanks." Blind said, closing her eyes as Prinplup worked through the knots with a detangling comb. Thankfully all the knots came free, with a pile of old fur coming out. "I guess I never really knew that."

"If Diva's seen something in you, you're really special." Prinplup noted. "She never takes anyone here."

"Never?" Blind asked. "Oh, I thought... With how all of you talk about her..."

"She's always been really nice to us." Prinplup said, rinsing the conditioner out. "Our customers can be a little bit mean but she always has our backs and drives off anyone truly nasty."

"We're talking about the same bird?" Blind laughed. "Huh. I guess there's a lot I don't know about her."

"Well, I hope you two sort it out." Prinplup smiled, carefully using a blow dryer to dry off Blind's fur. "Would be a shame to put all this to waste."

"I won't, I won't. I kind of want to see where this road goes." Blind said, recoiling from the rush of hot air.

Prinplup ran a brush through her nice dry fur. It easily had another few inches of length now that it wasn't so compacted and tangled.

"Bleh." Blind said, feeling the brush drag through her. "So what's next?"

"Fur stylist." Prinplup explained. "Now that you're nice and clean, let's see about making you pretty."

"Pfft." Blind blew the long fur out of her face. "So who does that?"

"Weavile." Prinplup nodded. "Ah, there he is."

Weavile smiled, bowing. It didn't mean much to Blind, who couldn't really see past the fur covering her face.

"A pleasure to meet you." Weavile said. "Come with me."

"See ya." Prinplup waved with a smile, sitting down to scrub fur out of the stall.

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Weavile brought the extremely floofy Blind to a different room, decorated with a fancy swivelling seat bolted to the ground and a huge mirror in front of it, with benches of creams and serums and tonics all around.

"I don't mean to assume, but would you happen to be the one eyed Eevee my daughter Sneasel talked about being a club regular?" Weavile asked. "No offence if you are not, but there aren't many Eevees of that description in Jewel."

"Oh, yeah." Blind said. "That's me. I used to work with her at the Old Guild too."

"Ah, my condolences." Weavile said, studying Blind's fur. "Rotten bunch they were. Glad they're gone."

"Yeah, same." Blind nodded. "So, have you been keeping in touch with Sneasel?"

"Yes, of course!" Weavile grinned. "She helped me get this job, in fact. Diva has much sway with the upper class of this city."

"That much I knew." Blind smirked.

"Speaking of, she's given me some specific instructions for styling your fur." Weavile explained. "So just try to hold still while I work my magic."

Blind nodded tensely.

She'd never had a furcut before and was worried she would end up looking stupid.

Trust the process... that's what Diva said.

She took a deep breath and relaxed.

The long fur around Blind's head was cut into a long flowy hairstyle, parted to the side with Blind's bad eye. More than that, she also got some bright highlights where it passed her face.

The rest of her fur followed suit, kept long but delicately trimmed into a beautiful and fluffy yet elegant coat.

At the end, Blind barely even recognised herself in the mirror. She was stunning. The very picture of a high class debutante.

"That's... me." Blind said. "I can't believe it."

"You like it?" Weavile asked.

"Yeah." Blind smiled. "I do."

"Fantastic." Weavile smiled back. "Now, let's see if they're done picking up outfits for you."

Weavile led the prettied up Blind back to the main room where Furfrou and Diva were discussing among themselves while holding up various little dresses.

"Clearly we're not going to come to a decision without her here." Furfrou muttered.

Diva looked over. Weavile pet Blind's back.

"Here she is." He grinned.

"Fantastic work." Diva said. "You've really outdone yourself this time."

"It's my best work!" Weavile agreed. "Bring her in whenever she needs a trim."

"I will." Diva nodded.

She brought Blind closer with her wing.

"Now you truly look like someone I would consider dating." She chuckled. "Let's complete the look, shall we?"

"We've been debating about the colour." Furfrou explained. "I've been insisting upon blue, but Diva is certain upon red."

The two each held out very similar dresses, which were mostly differentiated by colour. Diva's offered dress was a shimmering scarlet, while Furfrou's was a brilliant azure.

Blind looked back and forth. She really didn't know anything about dresses, so she went with her gut on colour. Brown hair, brown eyes, Red might suit best.

So she pointed her paw at the red dress, and Diva crowed with happiness.

"I do see the vision." Furfrou said. "Can't deny the complimentary, but I'd figure that I would offer the contrasting. Let's try it on, shall we?"

Blind followed Diva to a set of three mirrors that showed off every angle, which she admired her furcut in before Diva handed her the dress.

It was a little finicky to put on, but once it was on, it was incredible. The dress hug snugly to her curves, but wasn't restrictive at all. It naturally hung above her paws so it didn't drag, and it pulled emphasis away from her face.

Blind couldn't help but feel her heart race staring at herself in the mirror. Her reflection was HOT. Bad eye be damned, she was an absolute beauty.

"Perfect." Diva smiled. "You're perfect."

"Ah, thanks." Blind blushed. "It's... wow. It's a lot."

Diva blushed too. Blind looked a lot cuter without her scruffy edge.

"We also have a line of decorative eyepatches, if you were interested." Furfrou beamed.

"Oh?" Blind said.

"You want to try some?" Diva asked.

"Yeah, please." Blind smiled.

Furfrou came back with a selection. Some were simple, like black snake leather and some were dazzling with jewels in the shape of eyes. Blind picked out two, one basic black patch and one with a piercing eye made of garnet.

"Excellent choices." Furfrou smiled. "They look terrific on you."

Blind gave Diva a cute smile with her new gemstone eye. It fit decently naturally, even though it wasn't the shape of an Eevee's eye.

"Ah, you're too damn adorable." Diva sighed. "I'll go pay for this, you stay here and admire yourself."

Blind did so, the dress naturally emphasising her poses.

Diva chatted with the bored looking Meowth at the counter and Furfrou admired Blind by her side.

"Is this look really... me?" Blind asked. "It looks good on me, sure, but I don't know if this who I am."

"This is more for show." Furfrou smiled. "Day to day you'll just wear your natural pelt and you'll find it's very comfortable when you get used to its new length. It was always you, you know. Hidden under all that rough edge."

Blind stared at herself.

It was always her, she just didn't know how to take care of herself.

"I'll have Cincinno adjust the fit while you wait." Furfrou said and walked off.

Blind kept staring at herself.

Chapter 3

Blind sat across from Diva at an outrageously fancy restaurant, where she almost swore that breathing was too expensive for her to afford.

In front of her was a plate of buttered lobster while Diva was twirling a fork into her own spaghetti. Diva was sampling a rare rose wine, and Blind was still trying to stave off her alcoholism with a grape soda.

It's still better than some of the actual wine she's had.

"It's not uh, rude if I crack all this myself?" Blind asked.

"Now she cares about table manners." Diva scoffed. "No, Blind. Just don't make a mess."

Blind carefully broke open the lobster, intent on not spilling a drop of butter. Thankfully she was good enough with her paws to do just that.

Diva smiled, appreciating the effort.

"Did you take a look at the dessert menu?" Diva said, using a napkin for her beak.

"Oh, I didn't." Blind said, copying her.

"You should. This place is known for its extravagant chocolate." Diva smirked.

Blind's heart raced.

"N-no way." She muttered.

She checked the menu. Sure enough, there was a long list of chocolate based desserts. Ice creams, cakes, brownies, parfait,

trifle and more. Blind was spoilt for choice and ultimately just put her paw down on the menu.

It landed on a hot fudge brownie. There was no disappointment to be found on that list, but that was something she was particularly excited for.

"That one, hmm?" Diva smiled, knowing exactly which one she chose.

"Ah, y-yeah." Blind blushed, tail wagging. "I just really like all of it."

"Such a sweet tooth." Diva giggled. "Have at it then. I'll call the waiter over."

Blind waited at the edge of her seat in anticipation. Then it came.

It was every bit as good as she wanted. Delicious hot gooey fudge and a moist, perfect brownie. She had to restrain from coating her face in it, politely using a napkin on her face afterwards.

"As good as you hoped?" Diva asked, eating her own vanilla bean pudding.

"No, way way better." Blind grinned, licking her lips.

"Fantastic." Diva chuckled. "We'll have to come back sometime."

"Please?" Blind asked.

"Patience, dear." Diva laughed. "I'll treat you like this when I can but I have a lot of things lined up, so you'll have plenty of time to run your own business."

"Yeah, I know." Blind sighed. "How's that uh, record deal coming along?"

"Swimmingly." Diva nodded. "Everything's falling into place."

"Glad to hear it." Blind smiled.

Diva smiled back.

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Blind laid on silk sheets, having finally gotten out of the dress for the night. It was good to wear, but of course natural fur is what she was ultimately used to.

Even her fur felt strange and unfamiliar, with how clean and soft it felt. Her hair flowed down her face, the garnet eyepatch peeking through.

Diva laid beside her, taking up the rest of the bed and reading a popular mystery novel.

"Say, Blind?" She asked. "I have a favour to ask, but it's rather a lot so you can say no and I won't be upset."

"What is it?" Blind asked back.

"So, my manager wanted me to ask if you'd be interested in doing an interview for Eeveelutions Monthly. It's part of our corporate group, MGM." Diva explained.

"MGM?" Blind asked.

"Meloetta-Gothitelle Media. It's how my music gets sold. You'd be surprised how many Pokemon have bought CD players just to hear me sing." Diva smiled. "But yes, they want you."

"Eeveelutions Monthly, huh." Blind said. "I skimmed a few of those. A lot of words between Vaporeons in swimsuits."

"Oh, her." Diva laughed. "She's a swim coach, lends her face a lot to water safety ads. Gives private lessons if you're interested, you know."

Blind shook her head. Don't mix business and pleasure.

"Not now." She said. "So what, I give them a sob story about my eye?"

"I would've told them to fuck off if that was the case, Blind." Diva said. "I know the editor. She'll do it right."

"She better." Blind huffed. "Else I'm burning the place down and never doing you a favour again."

"I'll hire Moltres if that happens." Diva chuckled. "So you'll do it?"

Blind rolled over, pulling the blankets tighter and getting comfy.

"Yeah, I'll do it." Blind nodded. "You spent a lot on me, I want to show you how much I appreciate it."

"Thank you." Diva smiled, getting cozy herself. "It means more than you know."

"Today must have been really expensive." Blind noted. "I could've sworn I heard Meowth say the word "thousands." Am I really worth that?"

"Money's for spending, Blind." Diva laughed. "No true Violarian socialite would be caught dead hoarding money, it's crass and disgusting. Besides, with how much I make, it would kill me inside if I didn't get other Pokemon off the street so they don't have to live like we did."

"Yeah..." Blind sighed. "I spent so fucking long starving. I signed up with the New Guild just so I could have a meal every day."

Diva nodded slowly, but looked away.

"...Well, I'm glad you found something." She said quietly. "Do you still keep up with your friends from back then?"

"Kinda." Blind shrugged. "Shinx and I are pen pals, and Absol adds stuff sometimes. I haven't heard from Eina since she left, and obviously I still talk to Mom."

"Oh yes, she works at the library now." Diva smiled. "Just as a volunteer but she's so useful she practically runs the place. What's Umbreon doing?"

"Trying to clean up what's left of the Rock Horn tribe at Mt. Rockfall." Blind explained. "Auntie Titanium lives at where the village used to be and Dad's helping set up a farm for her to stay there."

"Oh yeah." Diva muttered. "Forgot you were half tribal."

"I mean... I do too." Blind admitted. "I don't really know much about that. Dad's offered to teach me but I'm not super sure about doing it."

"Up to you." Diva shrugged. "I don't have any grounds to comment, really. Far as I know, my mother and father were city as they come."

"I'll figure it out." Blind said, laying down on her pillow and finally closing her eyes. "Goodnight."

"Goodnight, Blind." Diva smiled.

She kept reading for a while after Blind fell asleep.

Chapter 4

Blind and Diva stepped through the doors of MGM's main office, where Meloetta and Gothitelle were talking in the lobby.

"I just don't know." Meloetta sighed. She had a voice that naturally followed a pleasing musical cadence. "I don't know how to get her full attention."

"I'm certain you'll figure something out." Gothitelle said. Her voice was entirely flat, yet had a slight echo to it. "I'm afraid I do not know how to help on this specific matter."

Meloetta sighed dramatically and turned, perking back up upon seeing Blind.

"Ah! Terrific, brilliant, magnificent!" She cried out. "I'm so very pleased to see you decided to visit us!"

She twirled over to Blind and took her paw, shaking it.

"Uhhh, Hi?" Blind said.

"Boundaries, Meloetta." Gothitelle said. "Welcome. So you are the detective?"

"Yeah, that's right." Blind nodded. "So I'm here for an interview?"

"Yes, an interview and perhaps a photoshoot." Gothitelle said.

"Nothing too unusual, it will only be as you are."

"You look so dazzling!" Meloetta smiled. "I never expected you to put so much effort in for us!"

"Oh, I didn't do it for this, Diva just wanted me to look my best for our date right, Diva?" Blind said.

She turned back and Diva was gone without a trace.

"What the fuck?" Blind muttered.

"I expected as much." Gothitelle said. "She's been upfront about how busy she is, so I'm not surprised."

"She still hasn't told me with what." Blind frowned. "The hell is she spending so much time doing?"

"Her business." Gothitelle said. "She gets all her obligations done in the meantime, so I let her do this."

"I'm sure whatever it is, it must be very important to her." Meloetta smiled. "I'm happy with that."

"Whatever." Blind shrugged.

"Indeed." Gothitelle said. "The magazine editor is busy so you have some time free to explore the backlot if you please. I will get you before you are needed. Goodbye."

Gothitelle teleported away and Meloetta turned to Blind.

"I would be more than happy to show you around!" She offered. "We currently have many exciting projects happening."

"Sure, why not." Blind said.

Visiting a film set was a pretty exciting idea, with how much she had grown to love movies since meeting Rotom.

The two took off through the back door.

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Meloetta twirled while showing Blind the next set. A perfect recreation of one of the toxic swamps Blind had heard existed far to the east, past the mountains that split the continent in half.

"And this is where we are filming an adaptation of "Venomous Love!", It should be a hit, especially with the new depth our wonderful writing team added."

Blind looked down. Venomous Love was one of Eina's favourite books, a mediocre romance story about an Arbok and Muk.

She wondered how Eina was doing. While she wanted to give Eina the space she needed, the pain of missing her was still sitting uncomfortably deep.

They kept walking to a set resembling a huge cave with a river running through it, stemming from a large pond at the cave's widest room.

"And this one is for an adaptation of the play "The Vaporeon Cycle." I cannot wait, that one has always been my favourite." Meloetta smiled.

"That old thing, huh." Blind muttered. "Did they ever find the lost ending?"

"Oh, indeed." Meloetta giggled with excitement. "You will be amazed by the final act, it's absolutely incredible."

Blind was familiar with the general plot beats, but hadn't seen it in years, not since she first came to Jewel and Psyduck took her to see it.

She was fascinated by Vaporeon herself, and deeply curious how Vaporeon Junior's story was supposed to play out, since it cut off just after she was introduced as a character.

"I better be." Blind scoffed. "Been wondering how it turned out for years."

"Oh, you'll be at the edge of your seat." Meloetta grinned. "So, next is the latest entry of the "Steel Aura" series, are you familiar?"

The set was a dojo where a Lucario was practising choreography with a Gardevoir. She noticed Blind and rushed up, tail wagging.

"Blind? Is that you?" She asked. "Wow, you look incredible!"

"Oh wow, you do." Gardevoir approached too, smiling. "It's been a while, hasn't it?"

The smell of delicious food tipped off Blind to who the two were.

"Holy shit." Blind gasped. "Riolu?! Kirlia?! You guys evolved?!"

"I owe it all to him!" Lucario grinned, putting an arm around Gardevoir. "He helped me evolve and so I trained him until he did too, so now we're both badasses."

"Oh, I'm really not that special." Gardevoir smiled politely. "She's the real standout as usual."

"Oh, don't sell yourself short!" Lucario said. "We wouldn't have won the doubles regional if you weren't amazing."

"Ah, that's true." Gardevoir blushed. "In any case, I still have plenty of training to do."

"Training never ends." Lucario laughed.

"So what, you're movie stars now?" Blind asked.

"Supporting cast." Lucario said. "He's just helping me get my moves down. There's SO many steps."

"Grace and discipline are learned skills." Gardevoir said, petting Lucario's head. "You're already doing far better than when you started."

"So what are you doing here?" Lucario asked. "You an extra or something?"

"No, a magazine wants me for an interview." Blind explained.
"Eeveelutions Monthly."

"Ah, cool." Lucario smiled. "So how have you been, anyway?
Detective work going good?"

"No, it's been awful lately." Blind sighed. "I'm hanging out with Diva
but she seems really busy so who knows how long that will last."

Gardevoir knelt down and pet Blind.

"Don't worry." She said. "I don't sense that anything is amiss. It's all
going to be okay."

"Thank you." Blind sighed.

God fucking dammit. Bipedes and their HANDS.

"Better get back to the routine." Lucario smiled. "We'll try to keep in
touch better, it was great to see you!"

"Yeah, it was." Gardevoir beamed. "Have a great day, Blind!"

Blind waved them goodbye as they went back to practising and she
walked to the bench where Meloetta was waiting.

"Ah, friendship." She smiled. "There is little greater pleasure in life."

"Yeah, pretty much." Blind said. "I gotta get better at writing to my
friends."

"So... it troubles me to ask, but I have a request for you." Meloetta
said.

"What do you want?" Blind asked.

"So word is that you happen to be personal friends with Prismus..."
Meloetta nervously smiled. "Would you be willing to perhaps ask

her if she would be interested in participating in one of our productions?"

Blind stammered a bit.

"Uh, well, fuck, uh, I don't know." Blind struggled to say. "We-We're friends, sure, but I'm not really in any position to ask her to do anything."

Meloetta sighed.

"Ah. Yes, I understand." She nodded. "No hard feelings, of course."

"Yeah. Sorry." Blind said.

Gothitelle walked up and sat beside the both of them, taking up most of the bench.

"I'll take her from here." Gothitelle said.

"Ah, thank you." Meloetta smiled. "It was nice to meet you, but now I work to do. Have an incredible day!"

"Uh, thanks." Blind muttered.

Meloetta walked off, heading to one of the sets in use.

"I also have a favour to ask, but one that is far more grounded." Gothitelle said. "Do you think Rotom would be interested in a job here? His coding expertise would be immensely valuable to me."

"I don't really know." Blind shrugged. "I'll ask him, see what he thinks."

"Thank you, that's all I request." Gothitelle said. "This way, please."

Blind followed her off the bench and back into the big office.

Chapter 5

Blind sat on a wide lounge in a room filled with cluttered desks. Across from her on an identical couch was a Lopunny clicking a pen.

Unsurprisingly, she was drop dead gorgeous and Blind's heart raced. Not just from the huge beautiful woman in front of her but also because she dreaded the questions that she would ask.

Obviously it was going to be about the eye. Of course it would be.

Lopunny smiled.

"No need to be so tense. Whenever you're ready." She said.

Blind nodded.

Lopunny put her pen to her personalised notebook.

"So, what made you decide to be a detective?" She asked.

Blind was caught off guard and had to quickly scramble to answer properly.

"I was moving away from my hometown and didn't really have many prospects, even after working for the New Guild for two years."

Blind explained. "Psyduck suggested that we go into business as independents and work with the Old Guild rather than for. They paid worse than they would've if I joined them, but they didn't mind throwing money at me to do what they don't want to."

"So that would make you more of a mercenary than a detective?" Lopunny noted.

"At first, I was." Blind nodded. "But once they saw how good I was at solving small cases, I got a bit of reputation and so Umbreon slid me a few cases now and then that were better off with me sneaking

around than the guild's heavy hand, and the plausible deniability of me operating outside."

Lopunny's eyebrow slightly raised.

"So you still refer to it as Umbreon in the context of the Old Guild." She said.

Blind looked down, realising that was true.

"Umbreon and Silver are different in my head, yes. My father was put through hell and has come a long way in recovery from that." Blind said back. "Wo-Chien made us all worse and Silver got the brunt of it directly. I don't forgive Dad for any of what it did, but if you heard the stories you'd see it in a different light too."

Lopunny nodded, but her pen stayed still.

"Let's get back on track." She smiled. "Would you say you play a positive role in the judgement system?"

"I hope so." Blind sighed. "A lot of my cases could have used better than me but I still try to be as accommodating as I can. So far I don't believe I've gone after anyone innocent."

"That's the best you can do, in the end." Lopunny said. "How has your disability impacted your work life?"

There it was, at last.

"With my vision less reliable, I often find myself using my other senses to investigate." Blind explained. "Touch and smell are the most useful, but hearing obviously comes in handy."

"Yes, of course." Lopunny chuckled. "What do you do in your own time, does your disability impact that?"

"Lately I've been training. First it was just battling, but I've also been honing my senses so I can fight completely blind." Blind grinned.

"Aside from that, I like video games, grunge and jungle music, watching movies with my boyfriend and spending at least one day a week asleep."

"Sounds like a fantastic time." Lopunny smiled. "I have a few questions about your heritage and culture, if that's okay."

"What does that mean?" Blind asked, tilting her head.

"Oh, about your identity as part of a tribe, and also a city resident." Lopunny said. "You don't need to answer if you're uncomfortable about it."

"Not much to say." Blind shrugged. "I was an orphan and grew up far away from Jewel City and Mt. Rockfall. I don't know much despite being descended from the Rock Horn tribe."

"Sorry to hear that." Lopunny nodded. "I think I have everything I need, but there's something else I'd like you to do."

"Yeah?" Blind asked.

Lopunny stood up and beckoned.

"This way, please." She smiled.

Θ - - - - - O

Blind was led to a waiting room on a floor above, where a few other Eeveelutions also waited.

Blind recognised the Vaporeon swim coach, but more than her she recognised Wilt. No other Leafeon was so poorly watered.

"Hey, Wilt!" She grinned as she called out.

"Oh, Blind!" Wilt smiled, walking over.

The offensive out of context names seemed to stir confusion among the rest, but the lack of hostility meant they could ignore it.

"Haven't seen you in forever." Blind smiled. "How's the shop? How are you?"

"Great!" Wilt said. "Cove's been seeing a lot of traffic lately and it's been great for business."

"Yeah, awesome." Blind said. "But you?"

Wilt whined quietly.

"Still not great. I still feel like there's a hole inside me." He admitted. "Something that's meant to be there that's just not."

"Ah." Blind nodded. "Sorry to hear that."

"It's not all bad, though." Wilt smiled. "I did find something that made that feeling go away."

Blind tilted her head.

"Somebody kept coming to the shop right before closing time." Wilt said. "A Dusk Lycanroc. Talking to them is just... it feels like I've found someone I was missing all my life. I feel complete."

Wilt smiled and wagged his tail a little.

"I've been closing later and later to spend more time with them." He continued. "I haven't been sleeping much because of it, though. I can't keep it up."

"So don't." Blind said. "If you can afford it, close up and spend time with them."

"I... Yeah. I didn't think of that." Wilt laughed. "I think I'll do just that, Blind. Thank you."

Wilt stepped away and a Flareon walked up.

"Excuse me." She said. "Did I overhear that your name is Blind?"

She was extremely fluffy and almost radiating warmth, and her voice was inherently comforting.

"Yeah, that's me." Blind smiled. "Nice to meet you."

"And you're... Dia's daughter, right?" Flareon asked.

"That's right." Blind nodded. "So who are you?"

"I'm Dia's mother." Flareon smiled. "That makes me your grandmother. It's nice to meet you too."

Blind's eyes widened.

"Whoa." She gasped.

"You're just like Dia described you." Flareon giggled. "Rough around the edges but well meaning."

"Ah, yeah." Blind mumbled. "That's right."

Flareon sat next to Blind.

"We have plenty of time to catch up while they set up my kitchen." Flareon said. "I want to know more about you."

Blind leaned against her warm fur.

"Well, let's start from the beginning." She said. "I grew up lonely. As a baby I was raised by this Honchkrow until she died of cancer. I spend the rest of my childhood fending for myself."

Flareon smiled sympathetically.

"I joined the New Guild for the food and ended up working recon. I lost my eye on the first mission, but..." Blind continued. "I just took time off and went back to it. I got good at it over the two years I worked there, but I wanted a change so I quit."

Flareon nodded.

"Ah." She said. "Did you enjoy it there, at least?"

"Yeah, it was alright." Blind smiled. "Made some friends, ate good. Started getting paid when I ranked up, too."

"So what then?" Flareon asked.

"Moved to Jewel, bumped into Psyduck. She and I went into business together, that's how I became a detective." Blind said. "Eventually I took the case to find Mom and well... everything's changed after that. Now I work out of Mesa Town. It's good for work but I'm not a huge fan of the heat with my long coat."

Flareon smiled.

"Sounds like you'd have a pretty eventful life." She said. "I can tell you mine if you want but it's not quite so interesting."

"I'd love to hear it." Blind smiled, leaning against her. Flareon sat down as she gathered her thoughts.

"My childhood... Pretty boring, honestly. I was the youngest of three brothers, and it was loud but loving." Flareon explained. "I found my passion for cooking because of how happy my family was to eat what I made."

Blind nodded.

"Eventually I found work at this restaurant and worked my way up to head chef. I wrote some of my own recipe books and they sold really well." Flareon continued. "The fame came quick and fast and I

couldn't really handle it. I felt like I wasn't sure who I was anymore sometimes. Like I wasn't real at all."

"Oh." Blind said.

"But well... then I met Liepard. He was just... above it all. He treated me like I was a real Pokemon, not just a pretty poster." Flareon smiled. "Sure he's full of himself, but he really is a good man at heart."

Blind sighed.

"I guess, but he's still really grating to talk to." She muttered.

Flareon chuckled.

"We kept it private at first. Two celebrities dating is kind of a big deal, after all." She said. "Though by the time we went public with it, we had Dia. Both of us retired to dedicate all our time to her."

Blind smiled.

"I'm really lucky to have her. She was such a smart kid and we did our best to teach her how to be sensible and well adjusted." Flareon said. "She was a joy to raise, even if she was sometimes too smart for her own good."

"You must have been crushed when you thought she was dead." Blind said.

"More than crushed." Flareon sighed. "I barely got out of bed for months, and never left the house. Liepard was trying to drink himself to death. We... fought a lot. It nearly drove us to divorce, but we eventually made time to patch it up. I'm glad we did. I really do love him."

Blind nodded.

"It was a dream come true to see Dia alive again, but I do sometimes worry about the life she chose." Flareon said. "Not about Silver, but about how she spent so long completely cut off from herself. I'm trying to support her efforts to reconnect but I do feel on some level that the bright eyed little Eevee she used to be is gone forever. It's tough to come to terms with that."

"Mom went through a lot. It's going to take her a long time to recover." Blind sighed. "I just hope she turns out okay. Same for Dad too. They held the weight of the world on their backs, and obviously it crushed them."

"I'm proud of her, and I'm proud of you too." Flareon smiled. "Nobody could ever ask for a better daughter. Putting that much before yourself asks an unbelievable amount of maturity that I don't think anyone truly appreciates, especially your grandfather. But I'm getting him to come around on them, I promise."

"Thank you." Blind smiled, nuzzling into her fur. "It means a lot to me that someone understands."

Flareon kissed her granddaughter's forehead and the two stood up when Lopunny entered the room. An unfamiliar Umbreon walked past her.

"Okay, Flareon and Blind, can I get you two to come with me?" Lopunny asked.

"Let's go." Flareon said. "I'm pretty excited for this today."

Blind nodded and followed along.

Chapter 6

Blind nervously looked around a very well stocked kitchen set. The whole place had the smell of already baking food.

"Gotta warn you, I don't have a clue what to do here." Blind admitted.

"Don't worry." Flareon smiled. "I've done this a thousand times. Just follow my instructions and this will be easy."

Lopunny talked to a figure in the darkness outside the brightly lit set. Blind tilted her eyepatch up to try and see it better, but that didn't really aid things.

"Oh, that's quite pretty." Flareon giggled. "I love your hair, by the way. Where did you get that done?"

"Oh, my um... girlfriend Diva took me to this fancy boutique yesterday." Blind smiled. "My fur was so long once it was washed and combed out that I got this little thing."

"Oh, wow." Flareon said. "I might have to try it myself. It's been some time since I've really treated myself."

"You absolutely should." Blind pranced. "They use all these really fancy soaps that just melt dirt away like snow."

Lopunny stepped forward with a camera and set up a tripod.

"We're ready, Flareon." She said.

"I heard you happen to really like chocolate, so we're making a tray of brownies." Flareon smiled. "Let's do it all together."

Blind gulped as Flareon leaned against the counter and picked up an egg, handing her one to hold too.

"Do you know the trick to these, Blind?" Flareon asked.

"Uh. No." Blind answered.

"You want to crack them on a flat surface so you don't get shell on the inside from the impact." Flareon explained. "Like this, just do as I do."

She cracked it expertly. Blind followed suit, and it went just as intended. Her tail wagged happily. The eggs went into a bowl and Flareon whisked while Blind got the vanilla.

"Can you take over while I get the flour?" Flareon asked. "Just like this, a smooth motion to not spill any."

Blind took over with whisking while Flareon carefully added the flour and cocoa powder.

"And for the last step, the chocolate chunks." Flareon smiled. "I'll let you choose how many to pour in."

She gestured to a large bowl filled with crushed up chocolate. Blind couldn't help but pour the whole thing in.

"Looks like we're going all in." Flareon giggled. "Let's mix this up and get this in the oven, shall we?"

Blind mixed in the chocolate chunks with vigour and helped Flareon pour the whole thing into an already lined tray. Flareon "accidentally" bumped into Blind to spill some of the mix onto her snout so she could lick it off, which Lopunny grinned while photographing.

"And that should be it." Flareon said.

She put the tray in the oven and pulled out an already finished tray of brownies and carefully carved them. The edges of her solo made brownie were flawless.

Lopunny nodded as Flareon served the slices between herself and Blind, the two very visibly loving them.

"Fantastic photoshoot as always, Flareon." Lopunny said.

"Thank you." Flareon smiled. "Far less messy than our last few, thank god."

"That's what the junior reporter is for." Lopunny laughed. "Horteno, how many overtime hours do you have left?"

"Oh, plenty." The figure shrouded in darkness said. "I've had most of the week off to visit my uncle so I'm happy to take on cleaning duty."

"Sounds like an early night for me." Flareon giggled. "These old bones need to rest more every day it feels like."

"You look fabulous for your sixties." Lopunny giggled back. "I've got this, you can head home."

"I think I'll do just that." Flareon nodded. "It was amazing to meet you, Blind. Dia has my address if you ever want to come over for dinner."

"Oh, yeah!" Blind said. "You can't stop me. Bye, Grandma!"

"See you, dear." Flareon said.

She walked out and Lopunny went to follow suit before stopping.

"Oh, and you're good to go if you want, Blind." Lopunny said.
"Snoop around if you want, but there's nothing to catch us doing."

Blind nodded and turned in the direction of the dark figure. She approached him as he went to clean up the kitchen set. He was a Houndoom, and a kind looking one at that, somehow.

"Horteno, huh?" Blind asked.

She tried not to laugh at his name, but something else about him was kind of off, and kind of familiar.

"Ah, yeah." Horteno laughed. "I'm aware it's unusual, but I'm very fond of it."

"Yeah, sure." Blind said. "So... are you the same Houndoom that helped Rotom dig up parts of his house?"

"I am." Horteno said. "I hope he was able to recover the data from that box of his."

"Pretty much nothing from it was lost." Blind nodded. "He's happy about it."

"Great to hear, great to hear." Horteno smiled. "Was there something you wanted to talk to me about?"

"Not really." Blind shrugged. "Just had a funny feeling I can't really place."

"I get that a lot." Horteno said. "Not a lot of Pokemon expect to see a nice Houndoom, so it comes off as uncanny sometimes."

"That might be it." Blind nodded. "Bye, then."

"Oh! Wait!" Horteno said, reaching into his messenger bag. "I have something for you, actually."

Blind tilted her head and approached as Horteno handed her a package with black and red wrapping.

Tearing it open carefully with a claw, she opened the box to find a letter addressed to her in fancy cursive script and another Black Shard.

She opened the letter too.

"Dear Blind, Eevee of Rock Horn.

I've heard of you, all of us have.

Darkrai and Chi-Yu put you to trial, one of mettle and one of valour.

Mine is one of will. I present my gift to you with only your judgement deciding if you are worthy.

NOBLE is going to kill you. I am absolutely certain of it. You know Silver's strength, how it is capable of slaying gods? NOBLE would beat it every time even if it was two types weak to Dark.

Are you afraid of death, Blind? If so, then throw the shards in the trash and pray for God to save you. If not, then pray instead you find them all before NOBLE finds its own.

The death it intends to cause would be apocalyptic. Legendaries and mortals alike slaughtered by its blade. The thought alone excites me.

I look forward to meeting you in hell.

- Yveltal, Legendary of Death."

Blind set down the letter, disgusted.

And also confused. She didn't remember ever meeting Darkrai, but that seems to answer where that first shard came from.

Horteno skimmed the letter she put down.

"Pretty intense." He said. "I wouldn't worry about it."

"You wouldn't?" Blind asked.

"Who said you had to fight? You can always just outsmart it and run away." Horteno suggested.

"What if it chases me to the end of the world?" Blind said.

"You're a detective, right?" Horteno smiled. "You'll figure out a weakness by then."

Blind slowly nodded.

"Yeah." She said. "You're right. Nothing is invincible, not even an Arceus. There has to be some way to take it down."

Horteno nodded back.

"I don't have anything else for you but wishes of good luck, and you can have as many of those as you want." He grinned. "Come by the office whenever you want if you need the help of a junior reporter and hobbyist gardener."

"I will." Blind said. "Thanks, Horteno."

"See you." Horteno said back, going back to cleaning.

Chapter 7

Blind wandered back outside the MGM lot back towards Jewel City when she heard her own voice speaking back at her.

"Gee, I had such a fun time getting interviewed that I'm not mad at all for Diva ditching me!" Blind's voice said.

Blind laughed.

"There you are, Diva." She said. "You haven't mimicked my voice since we were kids."

Diva let go of the streetlight she was hanging from upside down and landed smoothly on her talons.

"Haven't needed to." Diva smirked. "I have a beautiful mature voice, unlike you."

Blind rolled her eyes, smiling.

"Yeah, yeah. So did you have any other plans for me?" Blind asked. "Or am I going home?"

"Home, sad to say." Diva sighed. "I've got important stuff to do, and I'd really prefer it if you're not just waiting at my house without me."

Blind found herself whining involuntarily before nodding.

"Yeah, for the best." She said. "Can you at least give me a ride?"

"Of course." Diva smiled.

She flew past Blind and grabbed her, flying back the way they came towards Mesa Town.

Blind once again fell asleep in her grasp.

Θ - - - - - Ο

Blind walked through the door of her office and heard a loud gasp from beside her.

Rotom was staring at her, mouth agape. If he had skin, he would be blushing bright red.

"B-B-BLIND?! IS-IS THAT YOU?!" He shouted. "THAT CAN'T BE, CAN IT? ARE YOU A CLIENT?!"

Blind laughed, bonking her head against Rotom's, her gem eyepatch going clink on his metal eye.

"It's me. Hell of a makeover, huh?" She said.

"You're fucking beautiful." Rotom giggled.

"What, I wasn't before?" Blind smirked.

"You know what I mean!" Rotom said. "You were always pretty but like this you're way more pretty. It brings out everything you were hiding away."

Blind smiled.

"I might keep up with this look, then." She said. "Actually use the shower here and start brushing my fur."

"Good idea." Rotom smiled. "Anyway, it's just us two. Psyduck's taking her vacation time to visit her parents."

"Plenty of time to snuggle." Blind purred.

The two nuzzled before Blind remembered something.

"Oh yeah. Someone I met offered you a job." Blind said.

"Wait, at Eeveelutions Monthly?" Rotom asked.

"More like at MGM." Blind explained. "Gothitelle asked for you personally, something about your coding."

"Oh, um... That's great." Rotom said nervously. "But I think I'm done with all of that. I don't really want to do any of that anymore. I've been doing a lot of thinking."

"Yeah?" Blind asked.

Rotom's tail flicked side to side with anxiety and at long last, he sighed.

"I... I don't think I really feel like a guy." Rotom said. "I thought I was, but... you know. I'm kind of uh, unravelling a thread I didn't know was so long."

"Do you know what you feel like?" Blind asked.

Rotom whined quietly.

"...A-a girl." She admitted. "I think I... you know... feel like I'm a girl. I-Is that okay?"

"Rotom, I'm a lesbian." Blind smiled. "Of course it's okay."

Rotom nuzzled her out of relief.

"Thank fucking god." She sighed. "I feel like a huge weight's come off my back."

She collapsed to the floor with a loud clank.

"Wow. That was really hard for you, wasn't it?" Blind said.

"You have no fucking idea." Rotom whined. "I've been thinking about this for ages but I never had the courage to really... just change everything. Not when I was so set in my ways but now that it's changing against my will, why not lean into it?"

Blind sat beside her.

"I'm with you every step of the way, okay? You're not alone." She smiled.

"Yeah. Yeah..." Rotom sighed. "I think I'm going to upgrade a little. Look less like you and more like... me."

"You got an idea of what that is?" Blind asked.

"...I might have a bunch of prototype designs hidden away in a very heavily encrypted folder." Rotom admitted. "I... I know what I want. It's why I scanned every issue of Eeveelutions Monthly."

"Huh." Blind said. "I never considered that."

"I have dimension!" Rotom protested. "I'm not a one note pervert! Three at least, come on!"

"Okay, okay." Blind giggled. "I'm looking forward to it."

Θ - - - - - O

NOBLE crouched.

A whole squad of Lucario was strewn about in front of it, beaten and broken.

It took incredible effort not to kill any of them. It would be too easy to inflict a fatal injury, and was still difficult to resist just finishing them all off.

But no. Not yet. That would draw too much attention, and the Guild is already looking for any excuse to hunt it down.

Koraidon fell to its knees, panting.

"This isn't the end." It growled.

"Give me my shard." NOBLE demanded.

"Don't have it." Koraidon sneered. "Sorry."

NOBLE scowled. Koraidon wasn't lying.

"Then why all of this effort?" It asked.

"To slow you down and let the Swords of Justice, Zacian and Zamazenta prepare for you." Koraidon laughed. "You have Urshifu's shard from Chi-Yu's treasure and Marshadow's from that Eevee, but you're not getting any others so just give up."

"I am not going to give up." NOBLE said. "If you're the Legend of the Past, why do you insist on getting in my way?"

"The past is behind us. Chasing it like this is pathetic." Koraidon said, standing up and spreading out its crest. "You haven't got any blood on your hands yet so just settle down and find somewhere nice to live. Many monsters like you have found peace and acceptance on Violar."

NOBLE turned away, infuriated.

"I know who you are." Koraidon said.

NOBLE froze.

"Your memory is corrupted." Koraidon explained. "You're not what you think you are."

NOBLE swung its blade and sent a devastating blast of Fairy type energy into Koraidon's face, sending it back down to the ground.

"Shut. Up." NOBLE seethed. "I'll slaughter one of your Lucario for each word you say next."

Koraidon said nothing and stayed down.

NOBLE teleported away, angrier than it had ever been before.

Θ - - - - - O

Blind laid in bed, holding the fire stone and rolling it around in her paws.

She'd made her decision but... now didn't feel like the time. She laid back on her pillow.

"Hey, I think I've got it configured how I like." Rotom said, voice slightly shaking. "Wanna see?"

Blind sat up.

"Yeah, show me." She said.

Rotom anxiously stepped through with her completed body.

Her mechanical body now had a layer of space age synthetic skin and fur, capable of healing and convincingly growing. Without a significant wound, you couldn't tell she was a robot piloted by a Rotom.

Her fur was a neutral walnut brown which made Blind's butterscotch brown fur look brighter by comparison. Her eyes were an understated apple green, and her hair was long like Blind's and parted by the middle.

"What do you think?" She nervously asked, wagging her tail. "I don't look stupid, do I?"

"Not at all." Blind smiled, dragging her up to bed. "You look fantastic."

Rotom cuddled her, much warmer with actual fur now.

"I think I want a real name sometime, but Rotom's just fine for now." She smiled back. "Have you ever thought about a different name?"

"Maybe. I don't know." Blind said. "I like my name, but I think..."

She fiddled with the fire stone, holding it between them. Rotom looked over it with fascination, at how the little flame inside the orange crystal flickered in the light.

"After I deal with NOBLE, I might want to make a big change." Blind said.

"I'll be behind you every step of the way." Rotom purred.

Blind pulled the blanket over the both of them and set the stone aside, getting comfortable.

"Goodnight." She smiled.

"Goodnight." Rotom smiled back.

The End