

# Blind, P.I. in... The Seaside's Secret

Content warnings for:

Mention of Urine, Mentions of Blood.

## Chapter 1

Dewott wrung his hands in anxiety.

There was no way in hell she'd ever want to see him again. If he had it his way, that would stay the case.

But right now, he didn't have the luxury of such choice. He opened the door and decided to take the chance.

Blind lifted her head from her desk as the door swung open.

One of the last Pokemon she ever wanted to see walked in, cowering and shaking.

She glared at him as he walked up to her desk and gestured at the chair across from her.

"C-can I...?" Dewott asked.

Blind nodded slowly.

Dewott sat down, clutching his knees.

"I'm sorry." He whined.

"You better have a very good reason for coming here." Blind seethed.

"I need your help." Dewott said.

"That's what the guild is for." Blind grunted. "Go cry to them, maybe they'll help you."

"No. Not them." Dewott said. "They're too busy to help me. I didn't want to bother you either, but I'm desperate."

Blind growled quietly.

"I'll hear you out, then decide." She spat. "Hurry up."

Dewott nodded and went over his story.

"After you last saw me, on that day Wo-Chien vanished, I left Jewel City to try and live out in the wild." Dewott explained. "I'm... far too weak. I kept getting beat up. I'm not cut out for it."

Blind scoffed.

"I moved to a beach side village instead. They were really nice at first. Helped build me a house, brought me up to speed on fishing and were just... good to me." Dewott continued. "But that changed. Somehow it got out that I used to be a pirate and all that kindness stopped. They started talking behind my back, avoiding me and cutting me out of all the holiday celebrations."

"And then?" Blind asked.

"I didn't mind at first. I was happy enough with a place to stay and food on my plate but then they started accusing me of things I didn't do." Dewott said. "Someone lost something, I must have stolen it. Storm breaks something, must be my fault. Someone stubs a toe, I must be involved. I was at the end of my rope."

Blind nodded.

"Then I was accused of stealing a precious pearl ring." Dewott whined. "Suddenly everyone was missing something precious that I apparently stole."

"And none of it was you?" Blind asked.

"You know how pathetic I am. It took a few months for me to stop wetting myself once I was out of my cage." Dewott sighed. "I just want peace and quiet. I'll find some way to pay you, no matter what. Please. Help me."

Blind sighed.

"So you don't have the cash to pay me up front." She grunted.

"No." Dewott whined. "Sorry for wasting your time."

He moved to set up, but Blind slammed her paw on the desk.

"Sit the fuck back down." She demanded.

Dewott whimpered and shivered violently.

Blind took a deep breath.

"I didn't say no." She said. "I'm going to take this, but you're paying my full fee even if you have to work your entire life to pay it off."

Dewott nodded with tears in his eyes.

"P-please." He begged. "You're the only one that can help me."

"Wait here." Blind demanded. "I'm going to talk with my assistants."

Dewott nodded and brought his knees to his face, holding himself tightly.

Blind ignored him and walked to her side room.

Two desks sat opposite each other. At one desk covered in stacks of filled out paperwork was Psyduck, rapidly solving a sudoku. At the other, Rotom tapped away at a laptop while sucking a straw leaning out of a can of cola.

"Oh, hey." He smiled. "What's up?"

"Dewott's here." Blind said, glaring at the floor. "Needs my help. I'm thinking of taking the case."

"Details?" Psyduck asked.

"Village he lives at now found out his past and now is accusing him of being a thief. He wants us to prove his innocence." Blind explained. "Can't pay up front. What do you think?"

"He came to you because he knows you don't like him." Psyduck thought aloud. "He'd try the guild if he wanted charity. You'd see him thrown in jail if you found out he was lying."

"In a heartbeat." Blind agreed.

"Something's fishy. If they wanted him gone, why not just throw him out? He can't put up a fight." Psyduck wondered. "They might be trying to scare him away from something."

"Conspiracy, you think?" Blind asked. "They sound like they're too damn nice to just kick him out of his house."

"Worth investigating." Psyduck smiled. "I'd take it."

"Fine, but you're coming." Blind nodded. "Rotom, you mind looking after the office?"

"Not a problem." Rotom smirked. "You girls have fun."

Blind propped herself up against his desk by her front paws.

"What are you doing now, anyway?" She asked.

Rotom tapped beside a black metal box on the table plugged into the laptop.

"The other day I was digging through what was left of my labs to find this." Rotom grinned. "This backup drive has everything I saved to my data server, so I only lost everything physical."

Blind sighed with relief.

"Thank god." She said. "I felt so bad you lost everything."

"You wanna thank somebody, thank me for being so meticulous with my backups." Rotom chuckled. "Oh, and also this one reporter. Forgot his stupid name, but he was a Houndoom I think. Came along to interview me, but stayed for a while to help me dig stuff up and he found this."

"Huh. That's lucky." Blind commented.

"Very fucking lucky." Rotom sighed. "I'll be going through all this for weeks so don't worry about me. I'll keep the office clean while you're out."

"Thanks, Rotom." Blind smiled.

She leaned over to nuzzle him, and he nuzzled back.

"Try not to get your ass kicked." Rotom said. "No Raikoubot to save you now."

"Don't worry." Blind grinned. "I've been training. I'm not going down without a fight."

"Go get em!" Rotom laughed.

Blind laughed too.

"Come on, Psyduck." She said.

Psyduck responded with a happy quack and hopped down, tossing the completed sudoku aside.

The two walked out to where Dewott was sitting.

"So where's this village?" Blind asked.

"On the west coast. Far north of Cove Town." Dewott answered.

"Just south of the Icy Region."

"Alright." Blind nodded. "Let's go. You can catch Psyduck up on the way."

Psyduck smiled politely, holding her head.

## Chapter 2

Blind took in the sight of the western ocean as she walked.

The way it seemed to stretch on forever, the same as it did when she was a kid and she'd stare out across it from the port.

Even now she wondered what was beyond the misty blue horizon.

Was there more land? Islands? Maybe even a whole other continent? What kind of mysterious Pokemon would live there? Do they wonder if this continent exists?

She looked away.

The village was nearby. A group of wooden houses built on the shore of a small bay, with a wooden dock out onto the water.

"You should wait here." Blind said, turning to Dewott. "We'll come back soon."

"Um... okay." Dewott said, sitting on the sand.

Blind and Psyduck went together, looking around the village.

A friendly Walrein waddled up to them, smiling wide.

"Ah, visitors? We don't get that many up here." He said. "I'm Walrein, and I lead this humble little spot."

A nearby Dewgong gave Blind a sour look thinking she wouldn't notice it with her bad eye, but she did and furrowed her brow.

"Yeah, whatever." Blind grunted. "I've heard some reports of targeted harassment to try and get villagers to leave. Do you know anything about that?"

"Oh, how horrible!" Walrein gasped. "But that cannot be true, never. Are you from the guild, perchance?"

"I'm an associate." Blind said. "So you won't mind if me and my partner look around then?"

"Oh- Of course not!" Walrein laughed. "But keep in mind, some of our own had a violent disagreement so one of the houses is in disarray."

Blind squinted with suspicion and went to talk, but Psyduck tapped her on the back.

"Oh, no problem." Psyduck smiled. "We'll come see you if we find anything of note."

"That would be terrific." Walrein smiled. "I'll be in my house, that one over there."

"Yeah." Blind grunted.

They walked away to look for Dewott's house.

"Bad feeling, right?" Blind asked.

"Looking at him makes my headache worse." Psyduck whispered.

"Better be careful." Blind muttered. "I don't think we have many friends here."

"That one." Psyduck pointed.

Blind looked over.

One house was further away from all the others. The windows were all smashed and the door was ripped off its hinges, laying in the dirt.

"Wow." Blind scoffed. "They might hate him more than I do."

"You're far from the only life ruined by pirates." Psyduck said.  
"There's still a lot of hate left."



Blind grunted and carefully stepped inside.

Every single piece of furniture inside was smashed to matchsticks.

"They can't have been looking for anything." Blind said. "It doesn't look searched, just vandalised."

Psyduck leaned through the doorway.

"See any evidence of what moves were used?" She asked.

"Obviously not fire. I also doubt grass, ground, bug, rock or poison since they'd leave more evidence." Blind noted.

"Check the wood." Psyduck suggested. "If it's soft or mouldy, it's most likely water."

Blind nodded and rolled some of the smashed furniture over. Sure enough, it was disgustingly spongy and spotted.

"A water type doesn't really narrow it down, but it makes an outside aggressor less likely at least." Blind said.

She stepped outside and wiped her paws on the grass, ripping it up a little with her claws.

"We should probably find somewhere for Dewott to stay. I don't want to leave him alone here." Blind sighed.

"There hasn't been an inn for a while." Psyduck said. "We'd have to keep going."

"Yeah. I'll go find somewhere while you stick with him." Blind said.

"See you soon?" Psyduck asked.

"By sunset, at least." Blind smiled.

She went ahead, actively avoiding the village.

Θ - - - - - Ο

North of the village was a beautiful seaside villa.

Blind noticed a figure by the beach and approached it.

Diva laid on a beach chair beside a Cinderace in a frilly black and white dress holding a tray with a jug of lemonade.

"Are you fucking kidding me?" Blind muttered to herself.

Diva looked up, seeing her childhood friend and smiled.

"Ah! Ma merveilleuse pauvre pute chérie, it's been months since I've seen you." Diva smirked.

"Since when did you speak Gardevoir?" Blind laughed. "Yeah, it's been a while."

"You've stumbled upon my vacation home." Diva said. "To what do I owe the pleasure?"

"I'm investigating something in the nearby village." Blind explained. "I kind of need somewhere for my client and assistant to stay."

"Fuck no." Diva scoffed.

"It's Dewott." Blind said coldly.

Diva sat up in the chair.

"Dewott? The same one?" She asked.

"Yeah." Blind nodded. "They kicked him out, and smashed everything to get rid of him."

"You have such a heart of gold." Diva muttered. "What do I get in return?"

"Whatever you want." Blind mumbled.

Diva grinned wide.

"Sorry? I'm afraid I didn't hear you, you'll have to repeat that." She taunted.

"Whatever you want." Blind seethed.

Diva stood up, laughing uproariously.

"Fine, your little group can stay. I have plenty of spare rooms." Diva trilled. "Manservant, you get a free break. Finish the drink if you want."

Cinderace saluted Diva as she flew off to her villa and he sat in the beach chair, putting the tray on his lap as he helped himself to the lemonade.

"What's your deal?" Blind asked.

"She said she'd pay off my gambling debts if I waited on her wing and talon." Cinderace explained. "At least nobody in Jewel's seeing me in a dress so I got off easy."

"Good luck with that." Blind muttered.

Θ - - - - - Ο

Blind found Psyduck with Dewott in a nice spot out of sight of the village.

"I got us somewhere." Blind said.

"Oh, fantastic." Psyduck quacked. "We haven't been seen, but they might get suspicious if we don't poke around a little more."

"I'll get back to investigating soon." Blind nodded. "Right now, I kind of struck a deal with Diva to let us stay at her place close by."

"...Thank you." Dewott said.

"I'm not doing it for you." Blind shook her head. "She and I have unfinished business. You're just there while we investigate and you're going to behave and not make a mess, got it?"

"Yeah, got it." Dewott slowly nodded.

"Good. Come on." Blind said. "I found a path back out of sight."

The group carefully walked back through the trees to stay hidden from the village as they made it to Diva's villa.

Diva waited for them at the top of the lobby's staircase and spread her wings when she saw them.

"Welcome, welcome!" She chirped. "Up here, this way."

Blind walked up the stairs first and was grabbed by Diva on the last step.

"Not you, you're coming with me." She whispered.

Diva turned to Psyduck and Dewott and smiled. Blind went limp, frowning.

"First room on the left there. It's got beds for the both of you. Bathroom is two doors down." Diva said.

"...thanks." Dewott mumbled.

Diva said nothing but scowled a little bit.

"Thank you for letting us stay." Psyduck smiled. "It means a lot."

"Oh, well! I couldn't just sit by and do nothing." Diva smirked. "Not when this adorable little thing begged me so much for my help!"

Psyduck looked Blind in the face. She was gritting her fangs to keep from growling.

"Oh, how nice of her." Psyduck said. "I'll try to be a good guest, then."

Diva tilted her head and sighed.

"I'm not worried about you." She muttered. "Just don't let him out of your sight, you can do whatever."

"I'll keep him out of trouble." Psyduck quacked.

Diva turned around and walked away, holding Blind under her wing.

"He's too pathetic to be a threat." Blind said. "You don't need to be so mean."

"I don't fucking care." Diva whispered. "The sooner he gets out of my house, the better."

"If you let me go back to work now, I can try to solve this case as soon as I can." Blind huffed.

"Not a fucking chance." Diva laughed. "I'm going to enjoy myself."

Blind gulped.

## Chapter 3

Blind sat on a bed, in front of an outfit laid out for her. The wardrobe to her side was bulging with costumes, barely closing even with missing garments.

"You can't be serious." She growled.

"Dead fucking serious." Diva grinned.

"You want me to dress like... that, and then you'll take pictures of me." Blind gulped.

"They're just for me. I'm not selling them anywhere." Diva laughed. "All of it stays between us."

Blind tentatively tapped her paw on the exotic black lacy lingerie and matching bow.

"That doesn't exactly make me feel better about it." Blind seethed.

She slipped it all on. It was just a little bit too tight, with the leggings squishing up a bit of fat at the top.

Blind growled quietly.

"You trying to tell me something?" She scoffed.

"Just that you'd make more money if you worked at our club." Diva laughed. "We could use a quadruped dancer, you know."

"Hardy fucking har har." Blind seethed. "I'm keeping my tail down."

"Fine with me." Diva smirked.

She stood up and aimed an expensive camera setup on a tripod at Blind.

"Get posing." Diva instructed. "You can guess how. You're a smart girl."

Blind tried a range of sexy positions, trying to stay somewhat classy. She kept her bad eye closed as much as she could, framing it as a wink.

"You're good at this." Diva taunted. "You really didn't sell yourself now and then not to starve back in Cove?"

"Fuck you." Blind frowned.

Diva laughed uproariously.

A few more outfits later, Diva seemed satisfied.

"Look at that. We've used up all the storage." She grinned.

"So can I take this fucking thing off now?!" Blind yelled, struggling against the skimpy nurse garb.

"Yes, but don't rip it." Diva laughed. "It's worth more than you are. Well, most things in this house are, but you get what I mean."

Blind struggled to pull off the outfit and stretched out, panting.

"So are we done?" She asked.

"Oh, sweetie." Diva chirped softly. "No."

Blind groaned.

Θ - - - - - O

Blind grit her fangs as she scrubbed. The floor was already clean, but Diva still watched on with intense eyes.

"There's no way you haven't done this before." Diva scowled.  
"Come on."

"Just what the fuck does that mean?" Blind growled.

Diva clutched Blind's head in her talon and brought it down onto the wet soapy floor.

Blind knew that she was being gentle. The claws didn't dig into her face, and Diva didn't slam her head into the tiles as rough as she knew she was capable of.

"I can't fucking believe you." Diva grunted. "You really just spent all that fucking time sleeping on the street, eating trash and scrounging lost coins?!"

"...I stole now and then." Blind admitted. "A few coins and maybe some food if I was really starving. Happy?"

"No. No I'm not fucking happy." Diva huffed, letting go. "You really didn't make any effort at all to get out of the gutter?"

"I wasn't willing to turn to crime like you, Diva." Blind said, getting up. "That's not what Ho-"

"SHUT THE FUCK UP!" Diva screeched.

Blind looked down, then turned around and went back to scrubbing.

"...Sorry." She said. "I didn't mean to bring her up."

Diva fluffed up her feathers in rage and walked away.

"Just get it done." She grunted.

Θ - - - - - O

Blind laid down on an unreasonably clean floor, panting with exhaustion.

Diva flew down and leaned over her.



"Comfortable?" She asked.

"No." Blind said.

Diva carefully reached down and grabbed Blind by the scruff and flew her away.

She set her down on a bench in the kitchen as Diva set a pan on the stove.

"Good, stay that way." Diva mocked.

Diva prepared around her, showing surprising knife skills with her wing.

"I didn't know you were so good at this." Blind thought aloud.

"I was a spy, Blind." Diva smirked. "I honed many skill sets to keep myself incognito. Plus, I prefer to cook for myself since that way I know my food isn't poisoned."

"Did that happen?" Blind asked.

"Wouldn't have mentioned it if it didn't." Diva scoffed.

"I know so little about your time in the Old Guild." Blind said.

"And I about your time in the New Guild. Tell me, I want to know what you did before we met again." Diva said.

"Nothing super interesting." Blind answered. "I mopped floors. I sorted items. I helped toss rotten stuff out of the larder. Mindless busywork, but I got fed for it and I got a bunk to share."

"Ah. Was that with your little Poochyena fling?" Diva asked.

"It didn't work out between us." Blind sighed. "She wants to be free, so I let her go."

"Of course." Diva chuckled. "I know you, Blind. You've always been a closed off bitch. You don't have a romantic bone in your body."

Blind whined.

"Yeah. Me and Rotom, we're... we're not really the lovey dovey type." She said. "We cuddle and kiss and that but we're not like... I don't know... super serious? More... casual."

"Rotom?!" Diva burst out laughing. "No way, you're really dating that fucking loser?"

"He's really nice when you get to know him." Blind whimpered.

Diva laughed harder and went back to focusing on cooking when she could breathe.

Θ - - - - - Ο

Blind sat at the end of a long fancy table. Diva was exactly across from her with Dewott and Psyduck at the sides.

The dish in front of her was some kind of exotic fish meat, carefully filleted and specially fried with an expensive wine sauce.

Psyduck and Dewott had the same. Dewott looked miserable holding a knife and fork over using a scalchop. Psyduck seemed neutral to it. Even Diva was using utensils.

Blind tried to pick up a fork with her paw.

Diva watched intensely with a condescending grin.

No thumbs. No grip. It fell from Blind's paw and clacked on the table.

"Are you having trouble?" Diva smiled.

Psyduck and Dewott refused to acknowledge the situation.

"Nope." Blind grinned. "Actually, I'm just fine."

She brought her face down to the plate and ate how she was used to.

"You'd never survive in the socialite world, Blind." Diva sighed.  
"Best to stay in the gutter where you belong."

"Like you're any better." Blind muttered quietly.

"I heard that." Diva seethed.

She fluffed up her feathers in anger and relented. She'd lost this time.

"It's very good, um, Diva." Psyduck smiled.

"Thank you." Dewott said.

"You're welcome." Diva nodded.

"Yeah. It's really good." Blind smiled.

"...Good. That's good." Diva slowly nodded.

Once everyone had finished, Cinderace took the dishes away.

"So." Diva said. "Tell me more about yourself, Psyduck. I barely know a thing about you."

"Oh, well I'm not that interesting." Psyduck smiled. "My family was well off and let me do as I pleased, so I decided to find my future in Jewel City. That's how I met Blind, she saved me from some thugs."

"Really? I see." Diva chuckled. "And you decided to go into business with her."

"I did, yes." Psyduck nodded. "I had a property I planned to use for collateral, but we ended up making that our first office. I fixed it up to make it a nice place to live, and I still miss it sometimes."

"Oh?" Diva inquired.

"Umbreon burned it down." Psyduck said. "My parents got into contact with me later, after Blind helped me stay with the guild at Mesa Town."

"Ah, yes." Diva nodded. "I remember now. Best you weren't involved in the guild war. It was a nasty affair."

Blind looked up.

"We all took to the streets while Umbreon prowled elsewhere." Diva continued. "Just a wall of battling Pokemon, until it all stopped at once. Like an aura of hate we hadn't noticed was there just drained out of us and we all stood there. No clue what to do next."

"That was when Wo-Chien was caught." Blind commented.

"Mmhmm." Diva nodded. "Eventually, Alakazam and Metagross called the war off, and everyone each went their separate ways."

Diva turned to Dewott, then Psyduck, then Blind.

"Well, it was nice to meet you all. I'm going to retire to my room, as should you."

Psyduck smiled and nodded. Dewott just nodded. They headed off on their own.

"I'll take you to your room, Blind." Diva said, getting up.

Blind followed her to a room on the first floor. It was a normal, cozy bedroom with an Eevee painting hung across the rear wall. One eye was precisely slashed to match Blind's.

"Huh?" Blind said. "Is this-"

"Your room. For you." Diva cut her off. "Goodnight."

Diva left and Blind laid down in the bed.

It was exactly the right size for her. The blanket, the sheets, the mattress were all perfect.

She fell asleep quickly, unsure what to think.

## Chapter 4

Blind investigated the village. Starting from Dewott's smashed up house, she followed the path into town.

She knocked on the door of the first house she came across and a polite Octillery answered.

"Oh, hello dear." She waved her tentacles in greeting. "Might you be that detective that's the talk of the town?"

"That's me." Blind nodded. "I'd like to ask you a few questions."

"Of course, come in, come in." Octillery said nervously, hurrying her inside.

The inside wasn't that more decorated than Dewott's would've been, with the addition of a few tentacle woven nets hung on the wall, and a large barrel full of ice and fish in the corner.

"So you fish, then." Blind noted.

"Yes, most of us do to some extent, but I'm the best in the village." Octillery chuckled. "Take one if you'd like, or perhaps I could make you some fresh sushi?"

"Thanks but no." Blind said. "I want you to tell me everything that you can."

"Aha, well there isn't really much to tell!" Octillery giggled. "We- We're a peaceful little fishing village, and there's nothing more than that."

Blind dropped her voice to a whisper.

"Point your tentacles left if you're under duress." She said as quietly as she could.

"It's a shame about that nasty fight, but I really don't know anything about that." Octillery said. "I'm just a simple woman, I don't get involved in such matters."

Every one of her tentacles snaked towards the left subtly before shifting back to a more comfortable position.

"I see. Well, that's that." Blind said a little too loudly. "Thank you for your time, ma'am."

Octillery sighed with relief and let Blind out.

Blind went to the next door down, which was answered by an odd Starmie. It moved in strange, stuttery motions and glowed its gem in stranger, nonsensical patterns.

"YOU ARRIVED, DETECTIVE?" It asked.

"Uh, yeah?" Blind said. "Can I ask you a few questions?"

"YOU MUST, DETECTIVE." Starmie said.

Starmie let Blind inside.

The inside of its house was covered in beach glass and gemstones all across the walls.

Blind sat on a stool beside a low table.

"TEA, DETECTIVE?" Starmie asked.

"Depends on the kind." Blind answered.

"LEAVES OF A BLEAK WIND, NECTAR OF LIFE." Starmie said.

"Whatever." Blind sighed.

Starmie served her a milk tea. It was delicious and she sipped at it while it spoke.

"YOUR CASE IS BEYOND ME." Starmie explained. "I ONLY FORESEE FUTURES, DETECTIVE."

"Are you going to read my future?" Blind asked.

"I MUST, DETECTIVE." Starmie nodded. "SHALL I?"

"Yeah, go nuts." Blind shrugged.

Starmie spun in place, its gem lit up. Then it stopped suddenly. The gem shone many colours before settling on a deep blue.

"I HAVE SEEN." Starmie said.

Blind tilted her head.

Starmie shone brighter, its gem reflecting off all the glass and gems to cover the whole room in light.

"VIOLENCE PURSUES YOU LIKE A CURSE, BUT YOU ARE FAR FROM ALONE." Starmie predicted. "CONFRONT DARKNESS AND YOU WILL SUCCEED."

"Confront darkness, huh." Blind noted.

Starmie sat back in its chair, moving slowly.

"I AM SPENT. GO FORTH, DETECTIVE." It said. "FIND TRUTH IN RUIN."

Blind nodded.

"Uh, thanks." She smiled. "Good luck with your... whatever."

"TO YOU AS WELL." Starmie nodded back.

It sank in its chair, asleep.



Blind let herself out.

Now in the village square, most of the residents were out and about.

A Pelipper flew overhead, out of reach. A Marill shyly turned away from Blind as she approached.

"You okay?" Blind asked.

"Please just leave me alone." Marill whined. "I don't know anything."

"Alright." Blind nodded. "I'll go talk to someone else."

Marill let out a sigh of relief.

A cold blast of ice hit Blind from behind. She whipped around to see a Bergmite rushing away, laughing.

"HEY!" Blind yelled. "GET BACK HERE!"

She chased Bergmite to the dock, but Bergmite leapt into the water and floated away. Blind turned to the Lapras resting at the dock.

"Where's it going?" Blind asked.

"Fros." Lapras said.

"What?" Blind said.

"Fros/Frosts." Lapras scoffed.

"Then where's fros going?" Blind corrected.

"There's an ice floe where we hang out sometimes. Away from this fucking place." Lapras said.

"Can you take me there?" Blind asked.

"Mm, not for free." Lapras smirked. "A kiss. With tongue."

"Turbo virgin." Blind grunted.

"Hey, there's nobody here!" Lapras complained. "Not my fault!"

"Whatever, fine." She relented.

One long Eevee to Lapras kiss later, and they were off.

Θ - - - - - O

Lapras parked beside a large disc of ice in the water surrounded by several tiny icebergs. Blind was thankful her coat was rather long, so she didn't feel the chill that badly.

Still not a good idea to go swimming if she can help it, though.

As she hopped off Lapras to go find Bergmite, a loud splash came from behind her as Grapploct walked onto the ice floe too.

"Didn't know this was a meeting of the 'Fuck Walrein' club." Grapploct laughed. "So who's the new girl?"

"Blind, P.I." Blind introduced herself. "I'm an independent detective looking into why Dewott got run out of the village."

"Where's Dewgong?" Grapploct asked, turning to Lapras.

"Probably with Walrein." He thought. "He likes her reporting in around this time so we have a few at least."

Grapploct nodded and turned back to Blind.

"Here's the scoop, dick." He laughed. "Walrein and Dewgong force us all to stay quiet about a ruin not far from town under threat of face smashing. Dewott got too close while fishing and got bullied outta town for it."

"Dewgong's the enforcer?" Blind asked.

"Yup. Scary strong." Grapploct said. "Even I didn't stand a fucking chance of beating her."

"I'll be careful then." Blind nodded. "Thanks for the info."

"If you won't do shit, I'll beat your ass myself." Grapploct grunted, thrusting a tentacle up at her.

"I'll get to the bottom of this. Thanks." Blind said.

"Back to dry land?" Lapras asked.

"You don't want another kiss, do you?" Blind scowled.

"Mm, nah. I'll be charitable." He chuckled. "Come on, then. Village express."

Blind hopped back on and sailed away.

## Chapter 5

Blind paced through the lobby of Diva's villa.

She'd talked over the details with Psyduck, and they decided to ask Diva if she knew anything about the ruin nearby.

Having an experienced spy would make it easier to get past Dewgong, too.

But that part involves convincing her.

And that won't be easy.

Blind gathered up her courage and climbed to the second floor, knocking on Diva's master bedroom door.

She opened it, scowling once she saw who it was.

"Come to bother me?" She asked.

"Yeah. I need your help." Blind answered.

"Fuck you." Diva huffed and went to slam the door in Blind's face.

Blind jumped through just before it could and growled.

That was the last straw for her. Years of anger and confusion burst out of her all at once.

"Ugh, what the fuck is your problem, anyway?!" She yelled. "What's made you start acting like such a bitch?! I thought you got over what happened when we were kids!"

Diva slammed her talon onto the floor, scratching the wood.

"Oh, you wanna know what my fucking problem is?! I'll tell you what my fucking problem is!" Diva screeched. "IT'S YOU! IT'S ALWAYS

BEEN FUCKING YOU! YOU DUMB, SELFISH, USELESS  
FUCKING ATTENTION WHORE!"

Blind backed up out of instinct, and Diva stepped forward.

"You started this. You always just had to be the good one. The precious little fucking princess. The fucking apple of MY mother's eye. The centre of attention. It always just had to be fucking you, didn't it?!"

"I-" Blind started.

"Any time I tried to make peace, you turned it down. You're the reason we were never sisters, but sworn enemies." Diva cut her off. "You're the reason we spent so much time starving after the cancer took my Mom because you had to make it a competition. AND WHO THE FUCK IS GOING TO GIVE TO A SCRAGGLY LITTLE MURKROW OVER A PRECIOUS LITTLE EEVEE, HUH?!"

"B-But-" Blind tried.

"So I moved on. I took the first opportunity to rise up in the world. Not have to fend for the fucking scraps that you always got more of anyway." Diva continued. "I left you to rot in that fucking gutter where you belonged. I even felt bad and gave you a chance to join but no! Mom never would have wanted that?! SHE ALSO NEVER WANTED YOU TO TEAR US APART YOU FUCKING SKANK!"

Blind backed up all the way into the door. Diva swiped at it with her wing, cutting a clean slice straight through it.

"So I gave up on you while I became a fucking star. From an elite bandit to an Old Guild spy to a fucking celebrity!" Diva yelled. "I WAS A MILLIONAIRE WHILE YOU STAYED BEHIND EATING TRASH TO SURVIVE!"

Blind whimpered as Diva stood tall over her.

"And yeah, I pitied you when I saw you as a miserable little pirate hostage. I felt bad you lost your eye, so I bottled up how I felt." Diva said. "I won, so I was nice to you. Treated you a little at my club. Thought about burying the hatchet."

Diva slashed at the door again, slicing it in two and sending the halves flying.

"AND THEN YOU HAD THE FUCKING NERVE TO GET YOUR PARENTS BACK?!" Diva screeched. "YOU DON'T FUCKING DESERVE THAT! YOU WASTED SO MUCH OF THE TIME I COULD HAVE HAD WITH MY MOTHER AND GET YOURS BACK TOO?! IT'S NOT FUCKING FAIR! IT'S NOT FUCKING FAIR! I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHO MY FATHER IS! THE GUILDS DIDN'T KNOW! NOBODY DOES!"

Diva turned away and seethed quietly.

"I... I'm so sorry. I didn't know." Blind cried.

Diva turned a little. She was crying too, but she wiped her eye with her wing and looked back away.

"Fuck you, you trash eating gutter slut." Diva whimpered. "You sicken me. I fucking won and you found a way to ruin that. I hate you. I hate you so fucking much."

"I didn't know." Blind sobbed. "I'm sorry. I'm sorry."

"We will never be fucking family. I will never forgive you for my Mom fostering you. You want to stay in my life?" Diva said. "Beg for it. Beg me for forgiveness. But you won't. Because you're a selfish brat who's only ever cared about herself, damn anyone else."

Blind bowed deeply, shaking.

"I'm sorry. I'm sorry. I didn't know. I was a stupid kid, please..."

Diva looked at Blind.

"...What are you doing?" Diva asked, shocked.

"Begging for forgiveness?" Blind said.

"...Really?" Diva asked.

"Look, I hurt you." Blind whined. "If it's really all my fault, I want to at least try to make things right."

"...Hm. Well." Diva said, shaking. She tried her hardest to keep her voice steady. "I'll... consider... your apology. In the meantime, please leave me be."

"Alright. I'm sorry again." Blind said.

She walked past the smashed up door and left.

Diva put the door back on as best she could so she wouldn't be heard sobbing loudly.

Θ - - - - - O

The next morning, Blind laid on the sand lost in her thoughts. Psyduck and Dewott sat on either side of her, trying to work out a plan.

"I remember the way I took." Dewott said. "I can guide us there from here."

"Then we just need a way to distract Dewgong." Psyduck thought. "Maybe I can ask her a bunch of dumb questions that go in circles to stall her? That might just make her mad."

Blind said nothing, just exhaling sharply.

"No, then." Psyduck said. "I doubt the window of time that she spends with Walrein will give us much to work with."

"If it comes to it, I'll give myself up to distract her." Dewott said.  
"They already hate me so if I get caught, it's nothing on you two."

"Won't she just beat you up?" Psyduck asked.

"...I'm not scared." Dewott shook.

A talon grabbed Blind's face and drove it into the sand.

"What are you two plotting?" Diva asked.

"We've figured out the village's harassment is to protect something in a ruin nearby." Psyduck said. "There's a really strong Dewgong stopping us from going ourselves."

"I can get you there." Diva nodded. "Sneaking around's my forte."

"Mmhhfff!" Blind struggled.

"Ignore her." Diva said. "So what's in this ruin, anyway?"

"No clue." Psyduck said. "But we only intend to look around, see what we can find."

"Fair enough. You don't mind if I borrow this first?" Diva asked.

"Um, no." Psyduck said.

"Great, see you soon." Diva chuckled.

She pulled Blind out of the sand and flew off with her.

"...What is with those two?" Dewott asked.

"I have a good feeling, don't worry." Psyduck smiled.

"Um. Okay." Dewott said.



Diva carried Blind over to the wall of her villa and pinned her with her talon.

"I have thought long and hard about this." Diva said. "I'm giving you a choice. An ultimatum, actually."

Blind struggled against the talon, gritting her fangs.

"What?" She asked.

Diva squeezed her talon a bit.

"I'll help you this time, but if you want me to stay friendly? You'll have to become my pet." Diva sneered. "My toy. My trophy."

"And what does that mean?" Blind grunted.

"I own your ass. I'll dress you up and take you to fancy parties or expensive restaurants and after?" Diva chuckled. "I'll take you to a bed with silk sheets and make you pay for every last day I spend starving because of you."

Blind shifted, blushing.

"Ah." She panted. "You-you really mean it?"

Diva leaned in, and kissed Blind. Blind kissed back.

Once they separated, Diva dropped her to the ground.

Blind's face was covered in scarlet lipstick, her tail wagged at lightning speed.

Blind's head spun as her world was turned on her head. This was something so completely new, the old years of hate were washed away.

They'd start over, and nothing would define them. Not being foster siblings, not being bitter rivals, not being a starlet and her one that got away.

Instead, it was a millionaire and her prize. That... that might be fun.

She'd never been high society before. Someone fancy, important. Pretty. Classy.

Blind tried to talk, but wasn't able to form any coherent words.

"I'll take that as a yes." Diva laughed. "Come on, let's see this village."

Blind wobbled as she walked away, still mumbling.

## Chapter 6

When Blind arrived at the village, almost everybody was gathered in the square, muttering.

"What happened?" Blind asked.

"Dewgong... on the beach, she..." Marill whimpered. "She's hurt bad..."

Blind rushed off to the beach. Dewgong laid on the sand, brutally beaten and bloody. Walrein turned to Blind and frowned.

"No. This is a private matter, please leave." He said.

"Fuck you." Dewgong coughed. "I want to talk to the Eevee."

"But-" Walrein started.

"The lady said no." Diva cut him off and started pushing him away.

"This is an outrage!" Walrein cried out. "You can't do this!"

"Yes, I can." Diva laughed. "Watch me."

Blind crouched beside Dewgong who looked up at her.

"I'm sick of all of this." She coughed. "Please, I need your help. A robot Gardevoir did this to me."

"A robot Gardevoir?" Blind asked. "Not a robot and a Gardevoir?"

"Save... Chi...." Dewgong wheezed.

"SILENCE!" Walrein yelled, rushing past Diva.

"You have a lot of fucking nerve, asshole." Diva squawked. "Get ready to feel the pain."

"Diva, please. I can fight my own battles." Blind said.

"Heh. Alright." Diva smirked. "But if you lose..."

"Get out! All of you, leave!" Walrein screamed. "You've brought nothing but trouble!"

"Shut up." Blind said, hitting Walrein square in the face with Swift.

He shrieked, covering his face. He retaliated with Powder Snow, but Blind wasn't in front of him after the brief moment he was blinded.

"What the-" He gasped.

He was hit hard in the back of the head with another Swift, sending him into the sand.

"What's in the ruin?" Blind asked.

"You can't-" He cried out.

Blind rushed him with Quick Attack, knocking him over to his side.

"What's in the ruin?!" Blind asked again, louder.

"Stop it!" Walrein whined.

Blind struck him a few more times, dodging past Ice Fangs and Powder Snows.

Then with one last Swift to the face, the battle was won.

"ALRIGHT! ALRIGHT, I'LL TELL YOU!" Walrein shouted.

Blind kicked his side

"What, then?!" She demanded.

"Chi-Yu's secret treasure!" He yelled.

"All this for treasure, huh." Blind scoffed. "Let's go."

Diva chuckled.

"Get on, girl." She smiled.

Blind jumped towards her and Diva grabbed her in her talons. Dewott dove into the water, leading them to the ruin. Psyduck followed suit.

Θ - - - - - Ο

Diva dropped Blind off on an island west of the village. Dewott and Psyduck caught up not long after.

"As much as I'd love to go down into a dank, decrepit dungeon with you, I should go notify the guild what's happened." Diva said. "Best of luck to you."

"Thanks." Blind smiled. "See you soon?"

"I better." Diva laughed, soaring away.

"Down here?" Psyduck asked.

She stood at the entrance to a tunnel with a tall staircase that led down into the depths beneath the island.

"Looks like it." Blind nodded. "You don't have to come, Dewott."

"I'm going." He said. "I'm standing up for myself."

Blind said nothing and went down first, followed by Dewott then Psyduck.

The dungeon other the island held many empty crypts leading to a huge underground hall cut across by a psychic barrier. The walls

were lined with mounds of treasure. Poke, rare gemstones, TMs, evolution stones and even many different colours of shard.

The Handmaiden turned to face Blind, her eyes glowing from maintaining the barrier. It clearly took a lot of effort by how she strained to move.

"You." She said coldly.

"Oh, hey." Blind grinned. "I wondered what happened to you."

"You're mocking me. First you ruin my life, then you mock me." The Handmaiden frowned. "I was only ever trying to protect myself."

"You threw me down a well!" Blind yelled.

"You outed me to everyone I ever cared about that I'm an unfeeling monster." The Handmaiden said. "I've heard enough from you."

The Handmaiden reached her hand out, and Dewott yelped.

Blind turned expecting him to be paralysed, but instead she barely dodged him swiping at her with his claws.

"I-I CAN'T CONTROL MYSELF!" He yelled. "EEVEE, HELP!"

His eyes swirled with pink spirals, clearly hypnotised. He darted at her again, slashing at her face. Blind dodged again.

"I'M SORRY!" Dewott wailed. "I'M TRYING TO FIGHT IT BUT I'M TOO WEAK!"

"Look, it's gonna hurt, but I'm going to have to kick your ass, okay?!" Blind yelled back.

"ANYTHING!" Dewott yelped as he swung at her again.

Blind struck first, smashing her dense skull into his which made him reel back. She followed up with a few Tackles that brought him to

the ground. She bit his arm and pulled it far behind his back, which made Dewott cry out in pain and break the hypnosis.

The Handmaiden groaned quietly, losing her end of the connection.

"Your turn." Blind said, charging at The Handmaiden.

She tried to use Thunder Wave to stop her, but Blind hit first with Quick Attack. The Handmaiden took it hard, having to choose in a split second not to attack back in order to keep up the barrier.

Blind kept up the pain, darting around way too fast for anyone to keep up, smacking her with Quick Attack after Quick Attack after Quick Attack.

"No. No. I can't... I can't fail." She growled. "Not because of you. Not because of you again."

The Handmaiden sacrificed the barrier to fight back, aiming a Moonblast right at Blind.

Blind leapt at The Handmaiden again, and bit through the pain of the attack to slam into her, sending the two of them to the floor, weakened.

The barrier fell and the killer robot stared at Blind, having managed to beat down Chi-Yu and leave it weakly smouldering on a pile of coins.

NOBLE looked far less like an Iron Valiant now, having built itself into a more sturdy humanoid shape but retaining the dress and the arm blades.

Most of the original paint had been drowned out by all the grey metal it had harvested to upgrade itself. The head crest had been cut off and same for the metal ponytails, with the pink energy having all turned a savage bright orange.

Blind struggled to her feet, still dizzy from the Moonblast.

"So it is you." Blind growled.

"Yes, we meet again, Eevee." NOBLE said. "It's been a while since I've seen you."

"What are you doing here?" Blind asked. "How are you here?!"

"Ah, that mishap." NOBLE chuckled. "Unfortunately for you, I was only sent back a few months or so."

NOBLE stepped towards her.

"Long enough for me to learn all about this bastardised echo of Violar." It continued.

"So you're from the old Violar, is that it?" Blind grunted.

"True Violar, I prefer to call it." NOBLE said.

"Like Wo-Chien, huh?" Blind said. "It failed, and so will you."

"Wo-Chien cared too much about vanity." NOBLE scowled. "Its prison, its guild, and its riches. I'm not so easily distracted."

Blind took a step back. Noble twisted its blade around and struck her with the flat edge long before she could react in time.

Despite getting hit right in the head, Blind still held as strong as she could, struggling to stay on her feet in sheer defiance.

"Fuck you." She snarled.

It struck again, sending her flying into the far wall. It didn't knock her out, but it was close.

"It's far too late for you to stop me." NOBLE said. "I have what I want from here already, and I'll deal with you another time."



It swung its blade wide, sending a concentrated wave of fighting energy into the crypt's ceiling, which rumbled.

"No, you'll bring the whole place down!" Psyduck yelled.

"Good." NOBLE scoffed.

"Wait! Master!" The Handmaiden pleaded. "Don't forget me!"

"I haven't." NOBLE said. "You had one job and you failed. Stay here and die for all I care, freak."

It launched another concentrated wave at the ceiling and water started to rapidly pour in. NOBLE connected the orange shard it just obtained with the one inside its chassis and teleported away.

Blind felt the water rise past her ankles.

"Come on, go go go!" She cried out.

Psyduck and Dewott rushed back outside.

Blind looked back to see Chi-Yu still lying injured on a mountain of treasure that was slowly submerging. The Handmaiden kneeled in the water, resigned to her fate.

Blind raced over to grab Chi-Yu and threw it onto her back. Fish or not, it was too hurt to swim right now.

The fire raging on her back felt right in a way, but there was no time to enjoy it.

More and more water rushed in as the ceiling started to give further. The exit collapsed entirely, sealing the three in as water poured in faster.

"Come on, move it!" Blind yelled at the Handmaiden.

"But I deserve to die." She said coldly.

"Well too fucking bad!" Blind yelled again, bashing her head into the Handmaiden's hip. "I don't!"

"My people hate me because they see what I am." The Handmaiden cried. "Nobody will ever accept me now, I have nothing left. Even Master has abandoned me."

"Look, I'm fucking sorry, okay?!" Blind shouted. "I was hired to investigate, so I did! If you came clean to me, we could have worked something out!"

The Handmaiden stood up, squeezing her fists so tightly that her nails dug into her palm enough to draw blood.

"Are you serious?" She asked. "Or are you making fun of me?"

"Yeah, I'm serious!" Blind screamed. "Something is clearly fucking wrong with you and you need help! Teleport us out, and I'll find someone who can! I promise!"

The Handmaiden watched as Blind paddled in the water.

She considered all of her options, thinking about everything.

Was someone that she had hurt still capable of wanting to help her? Even after seeing her so cold and emotionless? So angry and hateful?

Even seeing her bloodthirsty, wanting to kill?

And still...

Maybe even Prince could forgive her too...

She grabbed Blind and the three teleported out.

## Chapter 7

The three reappeared on the beach. The island was sinking below the water in the distance, with all of the treasure getting washed into the bay.

The Handmaiden let Blind go, and Chi-Yu burned some of the nearby grass to stoke itself. She sat on the sand, staring out at the sea.

Blind sat next to her. She could hear commotion in the village from here, and the voices of Buizel and Oshawott getting the situation under control.

"I'm still mad at you for trying to kill me." Blind said. "But getting you help is more important first."

"Help isn't going to fix me." The Handmaiden pouted. "But at least you pretended to care. I saved you because you bothered at all."

"You really just think like that, don't you?" Blind asked.

"Like what?" The Handmaiden replied.

"You think everyone's constantly out to get you. What, because you think differently? Because you get angry and sad more than anyone else?" Blind said. "I get you're different, but if you don't just go around hurting everyone, you're fine. You don't have to put on a whole elaborate ruse just to fit in."

"...I don't?" The Handmaiden whimpered.

"I'm loud and rude and crass." Blind nodded. "I don't follow anyone's guides on how to be, I just am."

"And I could be like that. Freely existing." The Handmaiden said. "Just as I am."

"Yeah. What's stopping you?" Blind asked.

"I miss Prince." The Handmaiden sighed. "I miss the Elder. I miss the whole tribe. I miss my job. I miss everyone seeing me as completely normal when I copied their expressions."

"You want your job back? I know somebody who could use a handmaiden." Blind said.

"You mean that?" The Handmaiden said.

"Yeah, wait here." Blind grinned.

She rushed over to town.

Most of the villagers had been sent home, Dewgong had gotten patched up and Walrein was already escorted away.

Oshawott and Buizel talked amongst each other while Slowbro wrote on a clipboard as Psyduck talked to him. Diva flew over to Blind right away and held her tight.

"Oh, thank fucking god." Diva sighed. "I knew you were hard to kill but I still worried when that huge quake happened and the island started sinking..."

"Hey, I'm fine." Blind smiled. "More than that, I have someone for you to meet, come on."

Blind raced back, Diva soaring in tow. The Handmaiden stood up and bowed to Diva.

"Um, greetings." She said, struggling not to construct a new facade.

"So, what's your deal?" Diva sneered. "Who are you?"

"I am The Handmaiden." She introduced herself. "Exile of the Gardevoir Tribe."

"No way your fucking name is "The Handmaiden." That's a mouthful." Diva scoffed. "You really a maid?"

"I suppose?" The Handmaiden. "I am experienced in cleaning yes, but also cooking and various other arts of homemaking."

"Really now? A genuine Gardevoir maid. Electivire will be so jealous." Diva laughed. "What's your rate, anyway?"

"My rate?" The Handmaiden asked.

"Yeah. I can't let you work and not pay you." Diva said. "I'll start you off at minimum and we'll figure it out later."

"Oh, um. Thank you, Mistress." The Handmaiden smiled, bowing.

"Mistress, huh." Diva grinned. "I like that. And you will be... Symphony."

"Ah?" Symphony blushed. "Oh, I-"

"Great!" Diva smiled, clapping her wings together. "You start tomorrow. Cinderace will be happy to retire. For now, just hang around and I'll take you home."

"Oh, wow." Symphony giggled. "Thanks, Mistress."

Diva slid her wing around Symphony.

"Don't think this means you're off the hook, Blind." She giggled too.

Blind laughed nervously and turned away, seeing Dewott approach her while holding a huge stack of Poke and gems he'd scrounged from the bay.

"H-hey, look." Dewott smiled with desperation. "I-I think I found enough to pay you. If-If it's not enough, I can go grab more!"

He walked closer to Blind but Diva stepped in, blocking him off with her wing.

"Keep it." Diva winced. "No offence, but I'm gonna foot the bill on this one. You really should get your life together with that."

Blind nodded, peering out from below Diva's wing.

"Yeah, please." She said. "It wouldn't be right."

"Thank you..." Dewott said.

He fell to his knees, clutching his gift and cried.

"Thank you... Thank you..." He sobbed.

"Spend it wisely, asshole." Diva scoffed. "You're not getting any loans from me."

Dewott nodded and rushed home.

"I'm gonna go break in the new hire, if you know what I mean." Diva winked to Blind. "You get spared for now, but I'll be coming by your office soon."

"What does she mean?" Symphony asked, tilting her head.

"Oh boy." Blind laughed. "Don't worry, you'll be fine."

Symphony bowed.

"Thank you, Blind." She smiled genuinely for maybe the first time in her life. "I'll try my best to... be myself."

"Good luck, uh, Symphony." Blind waved.

Diva left, taking her new hire with her back to her villa.

Blind watched the ocean again, now that she was alone.

Θ - - - - - Ο

A quiet crackling filled the air, as Chi-Yu joined her.

"I've always liked the ocean." It said. "So peaceful."

"I know the feeling." Blind said. "So you're... not like Wo-Chien?"

"Nobody is like Wo-Chien, Blind." Chi-Yu laughed. "The rest of us simply moved on. Only it remained so steadfast to the tragic past. Though some of us are still loyal to Violarus, it is only in their words."

"Good." Blind scoffed. "I've had a nice streak today, so thanks for not making me regret saving your ass."

"I appreciate you doing so." Chi-Yu nodded. "As much as I would like to reward you with a mountain of treasure, you and I both know it would be meaningless."

"Yeah." Blind sighed. "No thanks."

"You will not go unrewarded, however." Chi-Yu said. "I have two very special gifts for you."

Chi-Yu held out its fins. In one, a Black Shard. In the other, a White TM.

"Huh." Blind said, taking the TM first. "What's in this?"

"Protect." Chi-Yu explained. "This was from my personal collection, saved aside for you. An impenetrable shield, for when your wits fails you."

Blind brought the disc to her forehead. It spun in her paw as the knowledge of the technique passed to her, then shattered.

Blind learned Protect!

"And this?" She asked, taking the shard. It resembled a teardrop made of sparkling obsidian, like the one she had back at the office.

"A very personal gift." Chi-Yu said. "You may not understand the significance without context."

"Long story?" Blind asked.

"Perhaps." Chi-Yu chuckled.

"I got time." Blind said, laying on the sand and rolling the black teardrop around in her paws.

"So you know that there are many Arceus, yes?" Chi-Yu asked.

"Yeah. Violarus was the one of Violar, then Prismus took over." Blind answered. "There was also... Paradise?"

"Paradiso." Chi-Yu corrected.

"Paradiso." Blind nodded. "There was one other, I forgot its name."

"Yes, but that one is its own tragic tale, and one best left alone." Chi-Yu said. "One name you must learn in order to truly comprehend the Black Plate's power is... Zora."

"Zora?" Blind asked.

"Yes. Zora is the half-brother of Prismus." Chi-Yu explained. "He is more than simply an Arceus, he is known as the god of empathy."

"Empathy, huh." Blind thought aloud. "I thought that dark types were stereotyped as thugs, underhanded or just plain evil."

"Darkness is more than it seems." Chi-Yu said. "What awaits you when light cannot reach you is something you discovered yourself, is it not?"



Blind shut her eyes.

The world went dark, but even with no light to guide her she was far from helpless.

Her ears still heard the waves, the crackling of fire and the soft crunch of sand under her paws when she moved.

Her fur still felt the heat of Chi-Yu, the soft breeze and the sand beneath her paws.

Her nose still smelt the ocean, the light hint of embers and the burnt grass not that far away.

"Nothing at all." Blind said. "The only thing that's changed is that I can't see."

"Fascinating." Chi-Yu said. "You're not scared? Not even worried?"

"Nothing to be worried about." Blind grinned. "I don't have to see, I choose to."

With no warning, Chi-Yu suddenly launched an Ember at her.

She felt the heat. She heard the roar of flame. She smelt the blaze.

Blind dodged past the Ember without needing to see it.

More volleys of flame came at her and she dodged them one by one, not getting tricked by two coming in the same direction or fake out attacks.

Chi-Yu stopped, satisfied.

"You're not scared now?" It asked.

"Nothing to be scared of." Blind scoffed. "You didn't so much as singe a hair on my pelt."

"Brilliant, Blind." Chi-Yu cheered. "Just brilliant."

"How do you know my name, anyway?" Blind asked.

"Each of us Legendaries visit the realm above." Chi-Yu said. "Some stay there, abandoning the mortal world. I've met Prismus a few times. We talked about you once."

"I hope she said something flattering." Blind said.

"She did. I won't tell you, but it was quite positive." Chi-Yu nodded. "It's clear she values your friendship highly, and hopes for your safety."

"I'm better off now than I was before." Blind smiled.

She used Protect, summoning a completely indestructible glass wall in front of her for a few seconds.

"Fantastic." Chi-Yu said. "I have confidence that one day, you will best NOBLE."

"It won't be easy, but I'm getting stronger." Blind nodded.

"Complete the Black Plate, and destiny will be in your favour." Chi-Yu bowed. "I will see to it that my former treasure is distributed fairly. Goodbye, Blind."

"Bye." Blind waved.

She hadn't opened her eyes yet, but she waved in the right direction.

Blind felt Chi-Yu float on past her in the direction of the village.

She turned away from the ocean, and started walking.

## Chapter 8

Blind stepped through the door to the office, holding it open for Psyduck.

"Oh, thanks." She smiled.

"No problem." Blind said.

She walked inside, taking in the feel and the smell of the office.

Not the view.

She knew this place like the back of her paw, and she could navigate it just fine without sight.

First she went to her bedroom, opened the bottom drawer of her bedside chest and pulled out a black bandanna.

This was the first one she ever had. The first time she earned a rank at the guild, Guildmaster Zoroark pulled the bandanna off her own neck to give her.

It somehow even still smelt like her. A ghostly musk with hints of something sweet.

Pancake syrup, that was it. Sweet, sticky pancake syrup. Comforting, yet disgusting in excess.

Very like Prismus herself.

She stuffed the black bandanna back in the drawer and pulled out her mint green one.

This was hers. Definitely hers. A gift she got when she poured her heart out to Zoroark, and she did the same back.

All of that was not long after she lost her eye, so she refused to use either of them. That was how she learned to live without sight.

How to be blind. That's when she gave herself that name, too.

She tied it around her head, covering her eyes and closed the drawer. The other things in there were not for the faint of heart. Only Rotom had seen them.

Blind walked over to his desk. Focusing on his sound, she could hear a faint whirring that seemed to act as his heartbeat. It stirred when he saw her.

"What's with the blindfold?" He asked.

"Practising. You can never be too careful." She grinned. "Come on, let's go spar."

"Fuck girl, you're nuts." Rotom laughed. "Fine, you want your ass fried, let's go."

The two stepped out on the painted circle in the backyard and Rotom tried to catch her with his electricity while she blocked it with Protect, or dodged it entirely.

Θ - - - - - O

Chi-Yu floated through the realm above, on the plane the Legendaries knew as the Plaza.

Every single Legend had a plot of land here, decorated by them in their image.

They were assorted by a method known only to Prismus, where contrasting elements often lay beside each other.

Lugia's stormy whirlpool beside Ho-Oh's peaceful autumn wood. Koraidon's primordial ivory forest beside Miraidon's ebony city block. Reshiram's white fortress and Zekrom's black castle.

Chi-Yu passed by Wo-Chien's lot, which remained as barren as it had since the rebirth of Violar. While the other Legends loyal to Violarus built a topaz fist in their domains in solidarity, Wo-Chien refused to even participate at all, abandoning the realm above as tainted.

With no sympathy for the actions of a sadistic fool, Chi-Yu passed by without a second thought.

The plot in the very centre of the world was owned by none other than Arceus, yet it was very mundane. The size of every plot fit just more than a studio apartment, which is precisely what Prismus lived in.

The shelves were covered in gifts and accolades she'd received over the years from mortals, as well as many posters and decorations that frequently featured a particular flag.

Chi-Yu assumed it must be related to some nation or faction from Prismus' native Zytrea, but it lacked any kind of sigil or emblem.

Simply the colours light blue, light pink and white in cascading stripes.

Reacting to Chi-Yu's presence, Prismus appeared. She sat on a swivelling office chair beside a desk with a rather meagre computer setup atop it.

Her Guildmaster Zoroark persona was a common one up here, but far from the only one that Chi-Yu had seen. Prismus had taken the form of many, many gods in her time residing over Violar, but this was her only mortal form.

"Good evening, Chi-Yu." Prismus smiled. Her orange pupils glowed past her red sclera. It was the only hint this form gave to her true appearance. "Something on your mind?"

"Yes, Prismus." Chi-Yu said. "I've met Blind, which I thought you might like to know."

"Oh, sweet." Prismus' smile grew wider from business to genuine. "What did you think? Something special or just another lame mortal?"

"She intrigues me, but I know she is simply mortal." Chi-Yu nodded. "Yet so talented. I take it you saw such potential in her from the beginning."

"My role in her life is as tragic as something from Old Violar." Prismus sighed. "I try to give her the space to make her own choices where she can."

"As you allow us to." Chi-Yu said. "And yet..."

"Look, what Wo-Chien did is its own damage." Prismus said. "I told you before, your loyalties don't bother me so long as you don't make it my problem."

"Indeed, but this is not why I come to you this time." Chi-Yu explained.

"Then speak your mind." Prismus shrugged, leaning back. "It's what I'm here for."

"I want to know more about Aldorus." Chi-Yu asked.

Prismus' eyes narrowed, and she went from a casual splayed posture to an upright serious one.

"Like what?" She asked back.

"Its history with Violarus." Chi-Yu said.

Prismus nodded slowly.

"Alright, but this stays between us." She said.

Θ - - - - - Ο

Blind stared up at a black sky full of stars.

She leaned on the railing of her porch, taking in the sky of Mesa Town at night.

Then, she put on the mint blindfold and took away her eyesight, setting off through town.

It was different, yet familiar. Smells and sounds and the feeling of texture drove her in the right direction.

Before long, it was as easy to navigate as if she could see. The noise of the stream's gaps told her where the bridges over it were. The pauses between the breezes told her where the buildings were, and the order stirred her memory which told her where to go.

One lap of the town later, she sat back on her property more confident in herself than before.

The End.