

# When the Rose Petal Falls

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Submitted: June 12, 2006

Updated: December 24, 2006

*a story about Rhia, Gary, me, Brendan, Wally, Benny, May, all our Pokemon, and other stuff.*

*A stupid little fanfic, don't even bother to read it, but i'll keep on updating chapters.*

Provided by Fanart Central.

<http://www.fanart-central.net/stories/user/sapphirestar7789/35052/When-Rose-Petal-Falls>

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# 1 - Meeting Gary

Rhia waited patiently on the dock, a slight breeze blowing back her brown hair. A giant ship pulled in, anchoring itself to the port. Loads of people started piling out, happy to be in Kanto having the ship come from Hoenn. Rhia looked for a glimpse of the spiky brown haired boy getting off the ship. She rushed up to the front of the dock as he started down the steps.

Gary scanned the crowd looking for Rhia. He tried to spot her white and red hat but it was nowhere in sight. Then like a bullet, Rhia grabbed him in a hug.

"Gary! You're back!" she exclaimed.

"Yup, and I got some presents." He shoved his hand into his pocket and pulled out a silver locket. His other hand, which was behind his back, held a red rose.

"Awww, that's so thoughtful!" she said with glittering eyes. She took the locket and put it around her neck and took the rose with gentle hands. They both departed from the port and headed back to Pallet Town.

On the way Gary told Rhia about his trip. He saw Rhia's friend Crystal hanging out with Wally and Brendan. He also battled all the Gym Leaders and beat the Hoenn League.

"So what you've been doin'?" Gary asked as Rhia gingerly stroked the rose petals.

"Basically I've been counting the days until your arrival time," she replied, looking a little embarrassed. Gary laughed and said "A month isn't that long when you think about it," He then scratched his head. "Then again, maybe it is..." Rhia smiled and took the locket in her hands. She tried to open it but the hinge wouldn't budge.

"Gary, this lock won't open,"

"I know, I can't get it to open either," he answered. Rhia gave up on the lock and went back to admiring the rose.

\* \* \*

They both entered Pallet Town, a quiet starting place for upcoming Pokemon Trainers. Rhia and Gary said bye to each other and went to their separate houses. Rhia entered the doorway and was greeted by her mom.

"Honey, you need to clean your room, it hasn't been cleaned for days."

Rhia sighed and trudged up the stairs. She went into her room which looked like a twister hit it. She grabbed all her clothes and sorted them out in the hamper, but all her sketches and scribbles of Pokemon in her drawer and went over to her scrapbook. She was starting a scrapbook about her friends and Pokemon and was almost finished with it. Rhia picked up a picture and saw it was of Crystal and Brendan waving at her. She picked up a glue stick and smeared the back of it with glue. She stuck the picture onto the next clean sheet of paper and wrote on the page who was in the picture and what date the picture was taken. She then took a small jar and filled it up with water. Rhia put it on her dresser and placed the rose in it.

Her computer suddenly beeped saying that she received new e-mail. She saw the sender was: GARY OAK. In the subject column was: BAD NEWS.

## 2 - Back on Track

Shadow studied itself in the mirror as Crystal laid on her bed listening to the radio. The Umbreon barked, signaling that it wanted attention. Crystal got up and petted Shadow who barked again and wagged its tail. She thought about traveling around again and she looked at the Torchic plushie on her windowsill. The doll reminded her of when she first got her Torchic and rescued Professor Birch and Brendan from two crazed Poochyenas. After that Prof. Birch said she could have the Torchic and she proudly nicknamed it Fireball. Then she met Brendan, her next door neighbor, and he decided to become her rival. They had their first battle, Fireball vs Rapids, Brendan's Mudkip. Crystal won with a final Scratch attack and since then she traveled Hoenn, meeting lots of different people. When she finally defeated the Elite Four she traveled to Kanto for a while but then returned to Hoenn. Her thoughts were interrupted by the doorbell. Shadow raced down the stairs and unlocked the door with its paw. Brendan stood in the doorway and was surprised to see Shadow answer the door. "Hey, Shadow, how have you been?" he asked as he pet the Umbreon. Crystal walked down the stairs to greet Brendan. "Hiya, what's up?" she said. "Oh, we're cleaning out our house and I was wondering if you wanted this..." he produced a Mudkip plushie from his backpack. "It's so cute! Sure, I can put it next to the Torchic doll." she replied. She took the doll and looked at its shiny marble eyes. "And I was wondering if we could have a battle." he added. "You're on! Crystal answered and she raced upstairs and placed the Mudkip doll next to the Torchic and grabbed her bag. "Why don't we make this a 1-on-1 battle?" Brendan suggested. "Fine with me!" Crystal said. "Go Nightmare!" Brendan threw a Pokeball and out came a Mightyena. "Hmmm, okay. Then I choose Richa!" Crystal also threw a Pokeball and out came a Raichu. "You have the honor of the first attack," "Uh, okay." Brendan said a little confused but then getting serious. "Nightmare, Take Down!" The Mightyena charged full speed towards Richa, who just stood its ground. "Richa, Slam!" Richa jumped up like a bullet just as Nightmare was about to hit it and slammed down on it. Nightmare regained its balance and bared its teeth. "Nightmare, Bite attack!" It opened its jaws and lashed towards the Raichu. Raichu easily evaded most of the attacks, but Nightmare wasn't giving up easily. Just as Nightmare was going to bite again Crystal ordered out a Light Screen. Richa produced a shiny wall in front of it and Nightmare unfortunately bit right in it. It howled in pain as the barrier disappeared. "Okay Richa, finish it with Thunder!" Richa shot a big bolt of electricity into the sky and it shot back down onto the Mightyena. It just stood there for a moment but then fainted. "Oh well, Nightmare did its best," Brendan assured himself as he returned Nightmare into its Pokeball. Crystal did the same and said "Come on let's get going," She ran towards Ordale Town, which wasn't that far from Littleroot. They stopped at the PokeCenter so Brendan could heal his Mightyena. As Crystal waited she heard a familiar voice in another room. She peered in side and saw Wally who was healing his Delcatty. "Don't worry Delcatty, you'll be okay," he said in a soothing voice. Delcatty's ears suddenly perked up and it ran out the door, to where Crystal was sitting, reading a "Pokemon Coordinators" Magazine. Wally followed and saw her offering Delcatty a Pokesnack. "I didn't expect you to be here," Wally said, laughing. "Where's Brendan?" "He's healing his Pokemon. So, how have things been with you?" Crystal questioned. "I actually challenged the Elite Four and won! That's why I came here, my Pokemon did take a punch." "Congratulations!" Crystal said as Brendan appeared. "Hey Wally, so I hear you've beaten the Elite, huh?" he said. "Yeah, maybe we can battle one day," Wally offered. "Hey, where'd Crystal go?" Wally and Brendan noticed Crystal left. She shouted out the door, "HEY! Hoenn ain't gonna travel for us!" Brendan and Wally smiled and ran to catch up with her.

### 3 - Gary's Gone Missing

Rhia opened up the e-mail titled "Bad News" that was sent by Gary but she found it to be blank. She thought "why would anyone send a blank e-mail?" Rhia pondered for a second and decided to go over to Gary's house to see if anything was wrong. She knocked on the door and it was answered by Daisy. "Hello Rhia! Can I groom one of your Pokemon?" she asked. "Noooooo!" Rhia shouted. "BACK AWAY BARBARIAN!!!" Daisy was a bit disturbed by Rhia's actions. "Um, anyway, is Gary home?" "No, the last time I saw him, he was up in his room on the computer." Daisy said. Rhia ran upstairs to his room. It was very, VERY messy and Rhia had to watch her step to make sure she didn't crush everything. She took a glance around the room and saw the computer was turned off, Gary's Pokemon were gone, and the window was open. "That's strange," Rhia murmured. "Why would he leave without saying goodbye?" \*\*\* Benny, tell your idiotic Charizard to quit bumping into me!" Rhia exclaimed. She and her cousin Benny were flying on their Pokemon to see if they could find Gary. Unfortunately, Benny's Charizard, Eruption, lacked coordination. "Let's land for a sec," Benny suggested, "I mean if Gary left on foot, he couldn't have gotten this far," Rhia told her Dragonite, Plushie, to head down to rest. Benny joined her too, and they looked around for any sign of Gary. "I think he might have been kidnapped," Benny said, trying to find an explanation for the sudden disappearance of Gary. "By who?" Rhia whimpered. "Who would want to kidnap a cute boy like Gary?" Ignoring the "cute" comment, Benny shrugged his shoulders. "Gary's missing..." \*\*\* "Hurry, we gotta get outta this rain!" Crystal shouted as the rain started to pour down harder with each second they ran. The cold wet air blew in their faces as they saw a deserted building ahead of them. "Hello, anybody home?" Brendan said, pounding on the door. The door flew open and Brendan stumbled inside followed by Crystal and Wally. "What is this place?" said and her voice echoed off the walls. Wally started coughing, a symptom that his asthma was getting worse. "It must be a place where there's a lot of dust." Wally tried to say between coughs. Brendan advanced towards a spiral staircase while Crystal took out her Blaziken. "Blaziken light these candles on the wall," she commanded it. The room lit up and they saw that the walls were lined with books of different shapes and sizes. "Wow, this must be a really old library!" Brendan exclaimed. "More like an ancient library," Wally muttered as he breathed through his inhaler. "Look at all these books," Crystal scanned the first bookshelf and saw it was lined with big books about magical spells, mystic powers, witchcraft, and all that type of phooey. She saw one book had been left open on a table. "Hey look at this." she motioned towards Brendan and Wally. "It says the Spell of the Ditto." Crystal continued. "What kinda crackpot place is this?" Brendan retorted. Wally shrugged his shoulders, hence he was still using his inhaler. "Are you okay?" Brendan asked Wally. Wally gave a slight nod "yes" and went back to looking at the book Crystal was studying. "Whoa, this is cool! It says this spell allows you to change into any Pokemon, just like a Ditto." she exclaimed. "Shhh, I think I heard footsteps!" Brendan whispered. Indeed there were heavy footsteps proceeding in the library. "C'mon let's find a place to hide!" Crystal grabbed the book, which was surprisingly heavy, and grabbed Wally's arm. They found an old wardrobe and piled into it, hoping that whoever was in the library wouldn't find them. It wasn't easy hiding in the wardrobe. "How many coats does one person need?" Crystal scoffed. Indeed it was filled with dusty old fur coats that smelled like mothballs. Wally had collapsed against the side of the wardrobe, breathing frantically. "We gotta get outta here, Wally's in serious condition." Crystal said, in a serious tone. Brendan agreed but then the doors of the wardrobe burst open and they were greeted by a shadowy figure....

## 4 - The Plot Thickens

"IDIOT! NOOOOOOOO!" Brendan wailed as they all fell outta the wardrobe. The shadowy figure advanced toward them and they all screamed in unison. "Hi guys," the figure greeted them. "MAY????!!!!!" Crystal and Brendan said in a dumbfounded voice. Wally fainted not sure by fright, asthma, or disbelief. "Wha-how did y-when di-..." Brendan started babbling. "Will you be finishing and of these questions?" May said sarcastically. "What Brendan is trying to say is...how did you get here and why did you try to give us all a heart attack?????" Crystal shouted, her voice echoey. "All I know is that it's raining outside so I found this place when I was seeking for shelter. Then I saw you three thinking you might be the owners of this creepy place and wanted to ask you if I could stay a while." she answered. "Uh-huh, well minus well make ourselves roomy." \*\*\* "What do you think you're doing?" Benny sighed as Rhia went around Garys room with a magnifying glass and wearing a pair of gloves. "I'm trying to collect clues...I saw this in a movie once." Rhia went ot the window, which possibly was the escape route. Benny rolled his eyes and leaned agianst the wall with his arms crossed. Rhia saw that there were huge scratches on the windowsill, too big to be nail marks. She deducted that it was the work of a fairly large Pokemon. "Benny, look at these," she ordered. "So we got the work of a Pokemon who breaks into peoples home and kidnaps innocent trainers?" Benny theorized. "But if it was a Pokemon, how could it get up to Gary's room without Daisy noticing?" "Who cares? As long as it doesn't involve makeup Daisy won't even look at it." Rhia sneered. "Eeeww...Gary seriously needs to clean this room...there's little black flaky stuff on the floor." Benny whimpered. "Lemme see," Rhia focused the glass on the unidetified objects. They looked like leftovers of burnt paper. "Benny, get out your Pokedex." \*\*\* Crystal, Brendan, May, and Wally all sat in a large living room lit by a huge fireplace. "Jeez, you can't get enough of that book, can you?" Brendan asked for Crystal was still reading the thick speelbook, her eyes darting back and forth. "It's just really cool," she answered. "You don't actually believe that stuff?" May questioned. "Let's just say rainbow Rapidashes live in Orre." Crystal said with a sarcastic smile. "How's Wally?" Brendan said. May looked over to the armchair next to her. "He still hasn't woken up from that fainting incident." she informed. "Maybe he's in a coma," "Right, and I'm sleepwalking in Jhoto," Brendan retorted. Just then, there was aloud burst of thunder and all the candles and fireplace blew out. Everything went black.

## 5 - Questions, Answers, and...Magic?

"What's going on?" Crystal heard Wally's feeble voice and was relieved that he had finally woken up. Wally fell outta the arm chair and landed with a thud. "Is everyone all right?" May called out. "I'm good.." "Me too.." "Huh?" Lightling flashed and they heard the sound of breaking glass. The window practically exploded as bits of glass rained down to the floor. "Nnnn...Richa, go Light Screen," Crystal murmured as she sent out her Raichu. Richa emitted a Light Screen and the glass deflected off the barrier, shooting in all directions. "Richa..return..." "We hafta get to a safer room with no windows," Brendan said. "This ain't no time to go exploring!" May protested. "We have no choice, now come on!" Brendan led the way down a narrow hallway. "This house has gotta have a basement of some sort..." "What about that door," May pointed out an old forgotten door, hiding in the darkness. "It'll hafta do," he said. He tugged on the door handle but it remained shut. "I have this covered, go Combusken! Sky Uppercut!" May's Combusken slammed the door down with its Sky Uppercut and they saw it lead to a eerie stairway. "It looks scary.." May said trembling. "Ladies first," Brendan offered. "Not helping!" May whimpered. "Richa, lead the way with Spark!" Richa popped outta its Pokeball and emitted tiny sparks of electricity from its cheeks. "Chu," Richa began its way down the fleet of stairs. "It doesn't hurt ot have a Pokemon with a Brave nature, does it?" Crystal explained as she started after Richa, and soon the rest followed. Another loud boom of thunder shook the house. "I'm starting to think this was a really bad idea," May whined. The stairs led to a large room. It has two dusty beds, a lamp, a couch, and a fireplace. Brendan was right: no windows "Rai, Raichu," Richa said. It had fallen onto one of the beds and closed its eyes. Crystal returned Richa to its Pokeball. "I call bed," Crystal and Brendan said together. "Call couch," Wally joined in. "Oh..." May groaned. "Good night." \*\*\* "YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS!" Benny exclaimed. "Well, the clues make sense," Rhia mumbled. "Lemme get this straight," Benny said, trying to calm himself down. "You think a Moltres somehow got into Gary's room while he was typing the email, grabbed him, burned something in the progress, and FLEW OUT THE WINDOW!!!!" "The Pokedex seems to confirm it," "There's no way that a Moltres could fly out that window without damaging the wall! Besides, a Moltres wouldn't really use its feet to claw at a windowsill." "Then what your explanation, Sherlock?" Rhia sneered. Benny took out a Pokeball and out came an Espeon. "Sunbeam, find any clues about Gary's disappearance." Benny commanded it. "Peon," Espeon replied and started circling the room. "I tend to do it the easy way," Benny smiled. "Espe," Sunbeam signaled. "Ha! Score! Benny:1!" "What did it find?" Rhia asked. Benny saw that Sunbeam was looking at a lock of tannish-yellowish hair. "I think he found our culprit," "Who is?" "A Ninetales..." \*\*\* "Good Morn!" Crystal greeted as she shook May awake. May groaned "Uhhnnnnn...." "C'mon, the storm's passed and I think it's safe to leave," Wally said. "You *think*," May sobbed. "Yeah, now lets go!" Brendan chimed. They all walked up to the first floor and saw that all the windows were fixed, no cracks, no glass on the floor, nothing. "Creepy," Wally mumbled. "I don't think the owner would mind if I took this," Crystal whispered and slipped the book in her bag.

## 6 - The Good and the Bad and the Things In Between

"Hey Ninetales...slow down!" Bary panted as he ran to keep up with the Fox Pokemon. He took Ninetales to the dock where he thought he had dropped the key to the locket. "Whew, I'm beat," Ninetales sniffed the dock for a minute and motioned Gary to a spot where the wood was a little cracked. Wedged between the crack was the tiny key. "Thanks Ninetales, you're the best," he complimented as he returned Ninetales to its Pokeball. "Now I can give to Rhia," \*\*\* Gary entered his house to see Daisy looking in the mirror and brushing her hair. She turned around havind heard the door click. "Hey Gary, I'm glad that you're back. Your friends have been out lookin" for you!" she said as she continue with her brushing. "What? Why didn't you tell me?" "Uh, duh, you weren't here!"she scoffed. Gary stormed off to his room just when he heard Daisy shout "And clean your room...it's filthy!" \*\*\* "You did WHAT?"Brendan exclaimed as he saw that Crystal had taken the book from the library. "Hey, it's interesting and it came from a really old library, I don't think the owner would even remember it with all the thousands of books in the placce," "I agree, how bad is it if you just take on book. Besides, it's all about fantasy nonsense, no one needs if for REAL information." Wally said. "I suppose.." Brendan whimpered. "Can we stop for a while, I'm exhausted," May whined. "We've only traveled a half of a mile," Brendan sneered. May sagged her head down and continued walking. "You know, I'm thinking of trying that spell out," Crystal suggested. "But the spell only works on people, and I ain't no guinea pig. "Sides, what if you can't reverse it?" Brendan said sternly. "The instructions are all in the book. No big deal. It would be cool to see the eyes through the eyes of a Pokemon." They all came to the entry of a dark forest. There was no other pathway to get around it. "Do we hafta go in there?" May shivered. The rest didn't answer and already started their way throught the forest, leaving May alone. "Hey, wait for me!" The forest was almost pitch black and it was hard trying to stay together. May flinched at everything that she heard moving. "There's the exit!"Wally shouted pointing ahead. They all ran with delight but didn't get outta the forest. She they ran I a little bit more and saw that they still weren't making any progress. "Are we just running around in circles?" May asked, brushing branches out of her face. "Hello? Is anybody there?" .....dead silence..... "OOOOOOOHHH!" "What was that?" May said frantically. "Oohhh!" "Aaaahhhhhh!" she screamed and ran.

## 7 - Pay a Visit

"Ofmph!" May said as she collided in Wally and rammed him onto the ground. "Hey, what gives?" he retorted. "There's something scary out there!" May whimpered. Squinting in the near darkness Wally saw the figure of a person. It lunged towards them. "RRAAAWWW!!!" "AHHHHHHHHH!" "Ha,ha! I got you two good!" The figure said in a pleasing manner. "Brendan?" "You shoulda seen the looks on your faces!" he exclaimed. "Brendan, that wasn't funny!" May whined. Just then, a flicker of light caught the trainers' attention. "Hey guys!" Crystal greeted. Richa waved, its cheeks emitting tiny sparks. Crystal looked at May. "Um...I shouldn't ask." \*\*\* "NOOOOOO!!!! BACK! BACK I SAY!" Gary shouted as Daisy backed him into a corner with a brush in her hand. "But I have nothing to groom!" she said back. Gary ducked out of the way and ran out the front door. "What's with him?" Daisy sighed and went back to her vanity. Gary stopped to catch his breath and looked over his shoulder to see if she wasn't following him. "Why can't I have a NORMAL sister?" he asked himself. He shrugged his shoulders and went over to Benny's house. He rapped on the door. "Whaddya want?" Benny grunted as he opened the door, slamming Gary in the face. He looked down to see Gary lying on the ground, with stars in his eyes. "Ya know, you should really be careful to try not to hit the door. Gary got up and exclaimed, "YOU were the one who slammed it in my face!" "Heh, sorry. So, what's up?" "Daisy's on a grooming spree!" Benny grabbed Gary and shoved him into his house. He locked the front door with haste. "We should be safe here." They both heard someone knock on the door. "Hello? Benny, is Gary there?" Daisy questioned. Benny quickly grabbed Gary by the arm and ran up to his room. He went to his window which had a good view of the front door. "No!" Benny answered sticking his head out the window. Daisy looked around to see where the voice came from. She saw Benny at the window. "Okay, but if you see him, tell him he left his Arcanine at home and that I'll groom it and make it have an extra shiny coat!" Daisy said sweetly. "I'll do that." Benny said. He closed the window and turned around. Gary had fainted onto his bed. \*\*\* "I hope I don't hafta go in a place like that again!" May said relieved as they walked out of the forest. "It wasn't that bad," Brendan teased May. She glared at him. "And now I'm hungry..." "Let's see, we passed Petalburg and we're gettin close towards Rustboro." Crystal explained, studying the Hoenn map. "I'm sure there's a market or a restaurant." "That means we must've went through the Petalburg woods. I don't remember it being THAT dark in there." May concluded. "I'm glad we're heading towards Rustboro. Rhia's secret base is near there!" Crystal said. "Who's Rhia?" May asked. "Rhia is Crystal's friend from Kanto. She's a menace.." Brendan explained, whispering the last sentence. "Yeah, I also have friends in Jhoto in Orre, too. And the strange thing is, they're all boys..." Crystal said scratching her head. "Hey, look! I can see Rustboro!" Wally said pointing to the city in the distance. "C'mon, let's go!" \*\*\* Rhia walked around Rustboro to see if there was anything to eat. She had flown to her secret base on her Dragonite and on her trip, she wanted to stop for a bite. A restaurant that served sandwiches caught her eye and she went in the restaurant. She ordered her meal and sat down at her table. "Wonder what Gary's doin'?" she said to herself. \*\*\* "Gary, wake up!" Benny shouted, trying to shake Gary awake. "Nnnhhh..I just had the weirdest dream." He said groggily. "I left my Arcanine at home and Daisy said she would groom it." "That wasn't a dream, that actually happened.." Benny paused to look at the clock, "10 minutes ago. He turned around and Gary had fainted, again.



## 8 - Verdanturf Contest

Rhia ate her snadwhich and looked around to see if there was anybody she knew. Behind her she heard some people talking and peeked over her booth. She saw Crystal, Brendan, Wally, and May sitting together. Rhia took her straw and pulled the wrapper off halfway. She aimed it and blew it off, and it flew onto Brendan's head.

"What the?" he said pulling the discarded wrapper and throwing into the trashcan near him.

"Bout time to go!" May said as they were about to leave. Rhia snickered and crawled under her table.

Just as Brendan walked by she stuck out her foot and he tripped, landing with a thud. She quickly pulled her foot back in, to avoid being noticed. Wally looked at Brendan with uncertainty.

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"YAAAYYYYY! There's a contest in Verdanturf!!!" May and Crystal screamed together.

"YOU like contests?" May asked, looking at Crystal. "You look more of a battle type."

"I like both!" she answered. "Onward to winning our 7th ribbon!"

"SEVEN ribbons?" May said, dumbfoundedly.

"Yep!" Crystal got out a small case and flashed her 6 ribbons.

"Wow, that's really good...." May complimented.

"And just to show you my battling side.." Crystal put the ribbon case back and pulled out another case.

"Ta-dah!" Eight badges were lined up neatly in the case, a memory of battling all the Hoenn gym leaders.

"So we're going to Verdanturf? Yes! I get to see my house again! I wonder how Wanda's doing..." Wally beamed with delight.

" But first we'll hafta go through the rock tunnel." Brendan explained.

"Is it scary?" May questioned, remembering the Petalburg Woods encounter.

"Nah, nothing there but a buncha Whismurs." Crystal reassured.

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"ARCANINE!!!" Gary cried as he bounded towards his house. He slammed the door open with his foot, almost breaking it down. Daisy was happily brushing his Arcanine, humming some random notes.

"Don't you dare touch my Arcanine! Arcanine, Flamethrower!" Gary ordered. Arcanine delivered a powerful Flamethrower, that made Daisy scream in pain.

"Now Smokescreen!" A powerful smokey fog filled the room, making Daisy cough. Gary found that Arcanine was free and they ran out the door before the fog had cleared.

"Good job, pal" Gary said. "I know you don't like being groomed,"

"Ruff!" Arcanine barked as if saying "No, I loved being groomed by Daisy!" Gary did an anime fall, his eye twitching. He got up and saw that Daisy had also tied a pink bow onto Arcanine's head. He did another anime fall.

"Why?!WHY??!!!!!!" he screamed.

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"Cool! Vendanturf Town!" Wally exclaimed. "I'm gonna go see my family, I'll meet you guys up later."

"I'm gonna sign up for the contest." Crystal said.

"Me too," May chimed in.

"I'll come with you guys."Brendan offered as they headed toward the Contest Building.

## 9 - When Things Go Wrong...

"Now it is time for our Verdanturf Town Contest!" Vivian announced. People cheered in the audience as confetti fell from the ceiling in random places. "In this first round trainers will use their Pokemon to make the most dazzling appeal and will be awarded a score out of 40. Okay trainers, let's get on with the show!" There was more cheering and then silence.

In the back room May and Crystal were getting ready with their Pokemon.

"Are you up for it May?" Crystal asked.

"You bet, I'm gonna give it my all!" She replied.

The first couple of trainers went and then it was May's turn. She nervously stepped on the stage and tightly held her Pokeball.

"Now introducing the 6th contestant, May!" Vivian said.

"Go Combusked, Fire Spin!" she said releasing the Pokeball.

"Combusken!" A huge spiral of flames filled the room in bright light.

"Now Sky Uppercut!" May ordered. Combusked broke through the flames with a powerful Sky Uppercut and the flames formed a sort of firework. The audience was delighted as May and Combusked stood while the flames settled down. The board gave her a score of 33. "My, my, what an incredible performance!"

As May went back into the back room Crystal greeted her. "Great job May!" she said with a thumbs up.

"Thanks, good luck to you too!" she replied. Crystal stepped up onto stage as Vivian declared "Now introducing the 7th contestant, Crystal!" The audience cheered as the appeal began.

"Go Shadow, take the stage!" Crystal shouted. An Umbreon black as night appeared as the audience was mesmerized by its shiny coat. "Shadow, start off with Shadow ball!"

"Umbre!" It shot Shadow Balls all around the stage. They glowed purple in the hints of sunlight.

"Now, Quick Attack!"

"Umbreon!" Shadow shot up and down the stage hitting every Shadow Ball, bursting through it as if it were a bubble.

"Now Iron tail on then ground!" Shadow's tail glowed white as it bounced off the last Shadow Ball and started toward the ground. It did a couple of flips and struck the ground with a rock hard Iron Tail. Dust escaped everywhere.

"Oh my, now what?" Vivian asked.

"Finish with Moonlight!" Crystal commanded. Bright light started gleaming from the dust and soon it faded because of the light. All of Shadows yellow rings were gleaming as the crowd hollered and clapped. "What a fascinating appeal!" Vivian complimented. The board showed a score of 37.

Crystal walked into the back room. May smiled as they watched the 8 contestants that would go onto the next round. As they appeared on the screen, Crystal was second and May was sixth. They congratulated themselves for making it and watched for the pair match ups. Crystal was fighting a girl named Angee and May was up against a boy named Neil.

"Alright, time to win that ribbon!" the both declared.

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Brendan, who was in the audience, cheered as the battles were about to begin. He was glad that both May and Crystal had made it into the second round. As the first matchup battle began, there was a loud ticking noise.

"What the?" Vivian questioned as the ticking got louder and faster.

All of a sudden, everything went wrong.

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"Come on, don't die!" Benny urged as he was playing Oregon Trail II. He had already lost two people who he named Gary and Wally. The others still remaining were Rhia, Crystal, Brendan and himself. But Brendan had leukemia and Rhia was close to dying of starvation. Crystal had a bad case of mountain fever and he himself was also dying of starvation.

As the covered wagon crossed the river, it flipped over. He chose the option of getting out and trying to flip it back. He got the wagon back up and made it to the other side. Just as he reached the other side, Brendan died. As Rhia came up to his room, he was given the option of Proper Burial, Dump the Body (which by the way is totally gross) and Keep Going.

"Hmmm..." Rhia said as she leaned over Benny's shoulder to read the screen. "Second choice," she chose without hesitation.

"Uhhh...whatever..." he said uncertainly and chose the second option. He was close to Oregon, but he was out of food, out of supplies, and almost out of people.

"Jeez, you're bad at this game." Rhia declared.

"Like you're any better..." Benny snorted.

"By the way, when Gary died, what did you do?" Rhia asked.

"Proper burial, why?" Benny replied.

"No reason..." she called back as she headed out of the room.

"Ummm..." he murmured. He turned back to the game and it said he just died. In big letters it read on the monitor GAME OVER.

"DANG IT!" he cursed.