

WIND & RAIN - EPISODE 4

EXT. FAR ISLAND BEACH (DAWN)

CRUISE sleeps in the sand surrounded by his Pokémon as the shadowy blue of pre-dawn begins succumb to the brilliance of the rising sun.

He is laying upon BOUNCE the Deerling in place of a pillow. His other Pokémon lay snuggled as close to him as they can, though none lay upon his chest or waist to avoid harming his mending body.

CLOSE UP - CRUISE'S FACE

CROSSFADE TO:

(PAST)

EXT. COASTAL ISLANDS (SUNSET)

[MUSIC: "Moonlight Sonata, Movement 1" - Beethoven]

[<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vQVeaIHWwck>]

The sky and sea glow orange as the sun sets.

CRUISE stands beside SOPHIA upon a jagged boulder jutting from the water. His arm is around her shoulder.

CRUISE and SOPHIA watch a herd of SEEL gathered upon the beach of a small island.

CLOSE UP -

A SEEL's belly.

The SEEL's stomach groans with hunger.

The SEEL are all distressed, and desperately famished.

CRUISE AND SOPHIA -

The human and Flygon observe the scene.

The SEEL gaze longingly to another island, barely a stone's throw away across the water.

THE OTHER ISLAND -

The other island's coast is lined with food bearing trees. Its beach is a cornucopia of nourishing fruit and giant succulent berries which litter the sand.

The SEEL look sadly upon the opposing beach, their mouths watering.

CRUISE AND SOPHIA,

Observe the SEEL's dilemma.

[END MUSIC]

K
(unseen)
AERODACTYL, grab him!

CUT TO:

EXT. FAR ISLAND BEACH (MORNING)

An AERODACTYL grabs CRUISE in its talons, and carries him thirty feet above his other Pokémon, who are startled from their sleep and scrambling to alertness.

CRUISE
Aah! What the?

CRUISE flails in AERODACTYL's grip as it treads the air above the sand.

A group of twenty odd people, both male and female and each accompanied by a Pokémon, watches AERODACTYL. They are dressed alike in simple, rustic, utilitarian clothes. The group has an air of discipline and restraint about them.

Before them stands KANIEL, a man old enough to be CRUISE's father. His clothes are also simple and utilitarian, but also give an air of superiority or leadership.

KANIEL
Cruise Elroy I presume?

CRUISE
Are you crazy?

KANIEL
AERODACTYL, drop him.

CRUISE
No! Wait a sec -

AERODACTYL drops CRUISE.

EDGAR bursts forward, closing his eyes in concentration. EDGAR and CRUISE's bodies glow with psychic power as CRUISE gently decelerates, landing safely upon the sand in a prone position.

BOUNCE and EDGAR tend to CRUISE as FREEWAY and BLACKPOOL stand defensively between CRUISE and KANIEL, the Quilava igniting her flame quills and the Flaaffy arcing with electricity.

AERODACTYL lands on the ground kicking sand in all directions, and stands before the Quilava and Flaaffy in a challenging manner.

They look prepared to fight each other.

KANIEL
Back down, Aerodactyl...

KANIEL approaches CRUISE and his Pokémon as AERODACTYL steps back.

KANIEL (CONT'D)
...they won't do anything to me.

CRUISE slowly sits up and spits out sand as LAKEHURST helps brush him clean with her streamers.

CRUISE
What's the big idea? I'm recouping from life threatening injuries you know! You could have killed me!

KANIEL
Precisely. You left yourself exposed. For someone who just barely survived a Pokémon Hunter you certainly haven't learned your lesson, have you?

CRUISE
Hey! How would you know anything about that? Who are you anyway?

KANIEL
I am Kaniel. I'm the captain of this squad of warriors in training.

Clarene came to me last night and told me all about you. She said you were an exceptional Trainer and athlete who would go to any length to rescue your sister that was taken from you by the Pokémon Hunter.

CRUISE
Yeah, that's me.

KANIEL
She said you wanted to join our legion and become a Pokémon Warrior.

CRUISE
Yes.

Sir.

KANIEL
Then your training begins immediately.

Your first test will be to keep up the rest of my squad as we continue our morning run.

CRUISE

I can't do that. My hip is still mending, and my lungs are too damaged for me to run that fast.

KANIEL's AERODACTYL snorts indignantly.

KANIEL

Do you think your enemy will accept an excuse like that when the time comes to rescue your Flygon?

Even if your Pokémon haven't learned to keep a good lookout, they're obviously faithful to you, and reasonably well trained.

If you can't find a way between the seven of you to keep up with the rest of us, I won't waste my time attempting to take you up as a recruit.

CRUISE

Hold on, give me a second.

BLACKPOOL hands CRUISE his cane.

CRUISE takes the cane and laboriously begins to hoist himself up, holding on to one of LAKEHURST's streamers for support as she helps slowly lift him.

KANIEL

Alright all of you. Enough gawking, let's move!

KANIEL returns his AERODACTYL to a Pokéball carved from an Apricorn with a screw-on lid resembling a jar, and takes the lead, running down the beach.

The other legioneers and their Pokémon follow at once.

CRUISE

Alright, let's go guys.

CRUISE takes a few belabored steps forward, but he stumbles and nearly falls trying to keep pace with the other runners.

BOUNCE crawls between CRUISE's legs and stands, lifting him upon her back. The Deerling struggles beneath her Trainer's weight, and at her size is just barely able to lift his feet from the sand.

CRUISE

Bounce, no! You'll break your back!

EDGAR's gem glows, and using telekinesis assists BOUNCE in bearing CRUISE's weight. The Espeon and the Deerling share the burden and CRUISE is sufficiently supported.

CRUISE

Right. Together. Good thinking guys.

CRUISE braces himself upon BOUNCE.

CRUISE

Let's catch up. Sophie's waiting.

CRUISE's Pokémon, heard in this instance as "Poké-speak", respond enthusiastically, though EDGAR and LAKEHURST remain silent and simply nod.

STILWELL hops onto BOUNCE's rump behind CRUISE and merrily rides along as the Deerling and the rest of the team trot down the beach with the rest of the trainees and their Pokémon, just barely keeping up with the stragglers in the rear, but still managing.

FREEWAY carries CRUISE's cane in her mouth as she runs along side BOUNCE, and BLACKPOOL, also running, carries CRUISE's belt clip with its six Pokéballs attached.

The sun is fully risen and the sky and sea are gleaming blue.

CUT TO:

EXT. WARRIOR VILLAGE (DAY)

The village is fortified with wooden walls, but within its walls the forest is left largely intact, save for several courts, obviously prepared for Pokémon Battles, and buildings erected in log cabin style.

The village is bursting with activity as the squad which CRUISE is a part of enters and begins to rest, with Trainers congratulating the Pokémon who ran beside them, many going at once for a drink of water from a long trough provided for this purpose.

CRUISE dismounts BOUNCE, and EDGAR's gem finally stops glowing. EDGAR and BOUNCE are completely exhausted, and CRUISE's other Pokémon are tired too.

CRUISE finds his footing, leaning on his cane. He stands awkwardly among the squad members.

KANIEL approaches CRUISE.

KANIEL

This is where you'll live while you train and study with us. The town is but a fairly short walk from here, but you'll find life here much different.

SHOT OF -

Trainers and Pokémon training and exercise in a military manner, and battle each other under the supervision of instructors.

KANIEL

(voice over)

Within these walls we denounce ease and comfort, and instead welcome any challenge or hardship which reenforces the bonds we share with our Pokémon.

In this way, we mold ourselves and our Pokémon to become living extensions of each other. We train strenuously with our Pokémon in the art of combat and survival in preparation to oppose those who use Pokémon to cause suffering.

SHOT OF -

The interior of the long residence halls resembling barracks.

KANIEL

(voice over)

Most of us live and sleep together, regardless of rank. But considering your condition, for the time being we've made different arrangements for you.

KANIEL walks CRUISE (accompanied by EDGAR) to the front door of a smaller building.

KANIEL

This is the hospital. We care for people and Pokémon here.

And here...

They enter the building.

INT. HOSPITAL FOYER (DAY)

CLARENE and her Shuckle, OONAKAANI are waiting patiently in the foyer.

KANIEL (CONT'D)

You'll find your personal doctor.

CRUISE and EDGAR are both pleased. CLARENE and OONAAKANI smile in turn.

CRUISE

Clarene! You came here just for me?

CLARENE

Yes. I'll be working with Captain Kaniel

to ensure your training regimen won't conflict with your physical recovery.

KANIEL

That doesn't mean we'll go easy on you.

CLARENE

No. In fact Cruise, I look forward to being completely ruthless with you.

CRUISE

Sounds great.

When do we start?

CLARENE

Oonakani,

OONAKANI looks up to CLARENE, awaiting instruction.

CLARENE (CONT'D)

Rollout.

In an instant the Shuckle draws her limbs in, spins in place for a moment like a wheel skidding to a start, and careens directly toward CRUISE and EDGAR, who are clearly caught off guard, but EDGAR springs into action, standing between his Trainer and the oncoming Shuckle.

CRUISE

Edgar, Tackle!

The Espeon dives headfirst into the Shuckle.

FLASH TO:

WHITE.

CUT TO:

INT. CRUISE'S QUARTERS (DAY)

CLOSE UP - CRUISE'S EYES,

He is obviously exerting himself in the process of exercising.

CLARENE

(Off Screen)

...four, five, six...

CRUISE -

Sitting crossed legged on the floor, blows into a pipe, the force of his breath making a cork float in the air above the cup. CLARENE, sitting across CRUISE, keeps count as CRUISE performs the exercise.

STILLWELL, standing on the table, watches the floating cork with fascination. OONAAKANI watches as well, sitting beside CLARENE.

Also watching is FREEWAY.

CLARENE
...seven, eight, nine...

CRUISE gives in, completely out of breath and in obvious pain.

As the cork falls, STILLWELL catches it in his mouth and swallows, smilingly happily.

STILLWELL
Upa!

CRUISE, CLARENE, and OONAAKANI are frozen in horror as FREEWAY rolls on her back, laughing hysterically.

CUT TO:

EXT. GRASSY FIELD (DAY)

Young men and women lay on their back in disciplined rows, each lifting a large heavy stone above them as a weight, as an INSTRUCTOR, accompanied by a Scizor, walks down the line counts.

INSTRUCTOR
...Forty three, forty four, forty five...

CRUISE is at the end of the line, lifting a much smaller, but still considerably weighty stone.

CLARENE sits beside OONAKANI, counting for CRUISE, and EDGAR sits by CRUISE's head, spotting for him.

CLARENE
...twelve, thirteen, fourteen...

CRUISE struggles to lift the stone a fifteenth time, and it slips from between his fingers.

EDGAR's gem glows as he catches the large using telekinesis, the heavy rock just barely misses CRUISE's head.

The shaken Espeon nudges his Trainer's cheek, checking on him.

As CRUISE fights to catch his breath, he scratches EDGAR behind his ear.

CRUISE
(panting)
Phew. That was close.

CUT TO:

EXT. EASTERN BEACH (SUNSET)

CRUISE walks along the beach, leaning on BOUNCE for support.

His other Pokémon walk (or float) alongside him, aside from STILLWELL, who is sitting upon BOUNCE's back.

Merely walking is an exercise in perseverance for CRUISE.

The Pokémon converse amongst each other as they accompany CRUISE along the beach.

FREEWAY

This is the most boring training session ever.

BLACKPOOL

Yeah, for you maybe. You're not the one recovering from life threatening injuries.

EDGAR

Or catching him when he falls.

BOUNCE

Or carrying him around.

FREEWAY

Hey, I didn't mean it like that.

STILLWELL

Watcha mean then, Sis?

LAKEHURST

I think Freeway means that while all of us have been supporting Cruise in every way we can, some of us have been of less use to him on his first day of rehabilitation than we might have liked.

BLACKPOOL

Aunt Lakehurst's right. Today's just the first day. That Shuckle said we've got months of work ahead getting Cruise fit again.

FREEWAY

Yeah.

Really I guess with all that's happened I've been itching for a battle. Just to blow off some steam.

From his perch upon BOUNCE, STILLWELL squirts FREEWAY with a playful Water Gun attack.

FREEWAY

Hey! What gives?

STILLWELL

C'mon Sis! Lets tussle!

FREEWAY

Why you -

FREEWAY spits a small fireball towards STILLWELL, but it hits BOUNCE instead.

BOUNCE

Ow!

The Deerling winces jumps back in surprise, causing Cruise to tumble into the sand. STILLWELL jumps from BOUNCE's back, landing upright.

BLACKPOOL shakes his flipper at BLACKPOOL sternly, bristling with electricity.

BLACKPOOL

Stillwell! Look what you did! I aughta knock you out right now!

STILLWELL sticks out his tongue.

STILLWELL

Nya nya! You're electric! You can't hurt me!

FREEWAY

Then I will! Come here you little squirt!

I'm gonna freakin pummel you!

The Quilava lunges forward to Headbutt the Wooper, but STILLWELL hops out of the way, resulting in the attack hitting BOUNCE instead, who is knocked to the ground beside CRUISE.

BOUNCE

Hey! Leave me out of this!

LAKEHURST

All of you, stop this right now!

BLACKPOOL, BOUNCE, FREEWAY

Sorry, Aunt Lakehurst.

CRUISE hoists himself upright in the sand. CRUISE chuckles briefly, and smiles as EDGAR helps brush CRUISE off.

CRUISE

Alright guys, cool it. I love your antics and all, but you really have to watch what you're doing.

That actually did hurt quite a bit, and if it weren't for the soft sand, I could have broke something again.

BOUNCE rises and nuzzles CRUISE's neck from behind. FREEWAY approaches CRUISE and licks his knuckles. CRUISE pets FREEWAY and the other Pokémon surrounding him.

CRUISE

Alright. I can tell you all are sorry, just don't play rough around me again, or I'll have to keep you in your Pokéballs and I'd really rather -

EDGAR's ears perk up with alertness and his attention turns down the beach in the direction CRUISE and his Pokémon had perviously been walking.

EDGAR

Someone's coming.

CRUISE

What is it Edgar?

CRUISE and all the Pokémon watch as a man around Cruise's age wearing a gray shawl approaches.

As the stranger approaches, FREEWAY steps forward, takes a fierce pose and growls threateningly.

BLACKPOOL also steps forward, his body sparking with electricity.

BOUNCE and EDGAR help CRUISE to his feet, and LAKEHURST, picks up CRUISE's walking stick with her streamers and hands it to him.

A----

Are you Cruise Elroy?

CRUISE

Yeah. That's me.

A----

My name is Arden. Captain Kaniel ordered me to find you.

CRUISE

For what?

ARDEN

To challenge you to a Pokémon battle.

CRUISE

Accepted. Any rules you've got in mind?

ARDEN

I'd like to face several of your Pokémon, so how about a best out of three duel with no substitutions.

CRUISE

A duel? How chivalrous. Okay. Let's battle!

ARDEN

As the challenger, I'll send out my Pokémon first.

ARDEN draws a Pokéball from his shawl. Like other Pokéballs on the island it is wooden, ornately hand carved, and opens with a screw-top. A beam of light bursts forth from the ball.

ARDEN

Go, Kingler!

The crab-like Pokémon appears before ARDEN and snaps a PINCER at the opposing team of Pokémon.

Alright, Bounce. I'm sending you out for this.

Go, Deerling! Leech Seed!

BOUNCE rushes ahead of the other Pokémon, she opens her mouth and the seeds fire towards KINGLER some of them hitting their mark.

KINGLER shakes most of the seeds off, the remaining seeds sprout into tiny plants.

ARDEN

Kingler, ignore the seeds and use Slam!

One of KINGLER's pincers begins to glow as the crab Pokémon rushes forward, winding up to strike at the DEERLING.

BOUNCE appears ready to dodge out of the way as the attacking Pokémon draws near.

CRUISE

Hold steady Bounce, use Cotton Guard!

The Deerling braces herself in the sand. As KINGLER's glowing pincer homes in, BOUNCE's fur abruptly poofs up with a cotton like texture.

KINGLER's Slam attack strikes with force so great that the Pokémon is knocked back by its own momentum, but Bounce bears the attack well, sustaining minimal damage.

ARDEN

We need more power! Kingler, use Hone Claws!

KINGLER closes its eyes in concentration and raises its pincers into the air. They glow brightly and grow larger and stronger.

CRUISE

He's distracted! Quick, Bounce, hit him with Energy Ball!

The Deerling's body glows with a green aura. A ball of green energy begins to materialize before her nose, and she rushes toward the KINGLER, launching the attack forward with her own momentum.

The Energy Ball strikes KINGLER and knocks him back to ELIAS's feet. He is slow to pick himself up, though his pincers are still glowing.

ARDEN

Don't let up Kingler! Go all out with Crabhammer!

KINGLER rises and leaps at BOUNCE, battering the Deerling with a flurry of blows with its pincers, each hitting their mark, but not causing a great deal of harm either.

CRUISE

Even with your Kingler's claws sharpened, it'll take long time for a Water-type attack like Crabhammer to put a scratch on a grass type like my Deerling.

Bounce, Energy Ball, let's go!

BOUNCE jumps out of the way of her slower opponent, charges another Energy Ball, and again launches it at KINGLER, blasting him several feet away. KINGLER is much slower to get up this time, the damage is taking its toll.

ARDEN

Come on Kingler, get up! We can still win this!

KINGLER struggles to pick itself back up and continue the battle. BOUNCE and CRUISE watch expectantly.

CRUISE

I know type advantage isn't everything, but it seems to have put any chance of your Kingler beating my Deerling quite beyond you reach. Would you like to concede this round and move on to the next pairing?

KINGLER picks itself up and takes an aggressive stance.

ARDEN

Alright. Time to get serious.

Kingler, unleash X-Scissor!

KINGLER swipes it's claws in an "X" formation, sending a blast of "X" shaped energy directly into BOUNCE, who braces herself, but is shoved backward, sustaining tremendous damage.

She grimaces with determination and holds steady.

CRUISE

Ah. A Bug-type attack, Grass' weakness.

Should have expected that. This battle really will be about typing huh?

ARDEN

Enough talk! Kingler, X-Scissor, again!

CRUISE

Bounce! Cotton Guard!

BOUNCE braces again and withstands the second X-Scissor, but she's clearly severely effected.

ARDEN

Even with boosted defense your Deerling can't take another hit like that! Are you just gonna let your sister lose like that?

CRUISE

Bounce, Energy Ball!

ARDEN

Kingler, do X-Scissor!

The two Pokémon careen toward each other.

As KINGLER raises its pincers to perform X-Scissor, BOUNCE leaps swiftly up and over her opponent, and turning to face her, launches the Energy Ball into KINGLER's back, knocking out the giant crab.

ARDEN

Well, that does it then.

Kingler, return.

ARDEN unscrews the top of his manual Pokéball and points the device at KINGLER as it's transformed into light and returned to its Ball.

CRUISE

You did it Bounce! I knew you could!

BOUNCE runs up to CRUISE, who hugs the Deerling and kisses her on the snout as he rubs her behind the ears.

CRUISE's other Pokémon, come up and congratulate BOUNCE as well, save for EDGAR and LAKEHURST, who wait respectfully and attentively to the side.

ARDEN

Are you ready to continue?

CRUISE

Alright Bounce, have a good rest here with the others.

Now, go Stillwell!

The Wooper scurries gleefully to the forefront.

STILLWELL

Yee haw! Cruise chose me!

FREEWAY pouts.

FREEWAY

Damn. I wanted to kick ass today.

ARDEN unscrews a different manual Pokéball.

ARDEN

Alright, let's make this quick then!

Go, Slugma!

The fiery, slug-like SLUGMA emerges from it's Pokéball and sits at the ready.

CRUISE

Oh. A Fire-type. This sure will be interesting. Are you sure you wanna -

ARDEN

We're sure alright!

Slugma, reveal your Hidden Power!

SLUGMA bursts with a yellow surge of electricity, and launches a ball of lightning directly at STILLWELL.

The Wooper takes the full force of the electric attack, but is totally unaffected.

STILLWELL

Wee! That tickles!

ARDEN

What? Impossible! That should have been super-effective!

CRUISE

Using Hidden Power for an unexpected advantage was smart, but Wooper's not

just a Water-type. He's a Ground-type too.

ARDEN

I severely miscalculated.

CRUISE

Don't worry, you aren't the first to make that mistake when facing my Wooper. And to make extra sure Slugma's Hidden Power does as little harm as possible - Stillwell, Mud Sport!

STILLWELL squirts water into the sand before him, quickly creating a small puddle.

STILLWELL

Canonball!

The Wooper hops into the air and dives into the puddle, sending sandy mud splashing everywhere.

A bit of the mud splashes on FREEWAY the Quilava's snout, and she grumbles briefly as she wipes it away with her paw.

STILLWELL continues playing happily in the small mud puddle he created.

ARDEN

Your Wooper is already immune to electricity.

That move was quite gratuitous.

CRUISE

Well, he loves doing that -

Stillwell continues playing in the mud.

CRUISE (CONT'D)

- so I thought I'd give him a treat.

Seeing as this battle's practically over.

ARDEN

Don't disrespect our time! Let's get this over with!

Slugma! Swagger!

SLUGMA glares fiercely toward STILLWELL.

SLUGMA

Hey kid! Come at me already! You dumb fish!

STILLWELL is incensed.

STILLWELL

Dumb fish? I'll show you who's dumb you dumb pile of volcano snot!

LAKEHURST

*(shouting from the sidelines)
Watch your words little one. You're above that sort of talk.*

STILLWELL

Sorry, Auntie.

But still, yer gonna git it now Slugma!

CRUISE

Oh boy. Now you've done it.

Okay Stillwell, Water Gun.

STILLWELL

Here comes the pain!

STILLWELL takes several steps closer to SLUGMA, and douses him with a sustained, but unimpressive stream of water from his mouth.

SLUGMA writhes in agony and is very swiftly knocked out.

STILLWELL jumps for joy and skips back over to CRUISE, jumping into his arms.

ARDEN

I'm sorry my brother. My imprudence put you in harm's way.

CRUISE stands holding STILLWELL in his arms. His other Pokémon gather around him. LAKEHURST, EDGAR, and BOUNCE, are calm and attentive, while FREEWAY and BLACKPOOL stand with fierce pride.

CRUISE and his Pokémon watch as ARDEN returns SLUGMA to its Pokéball.

CRUISE

So that's two wins for me. I guess I win then, huh?

A blinding flash of searing light bursts forth from the forest bordering the beach directly at CRUISE and his Pokémon.

CRUISE

What the -

CRUISE and his Pokémon all duck, narrowly avoiding being struck by the beam of light as sand flies in all directions.

A figure emerges at the edge of the woods, obscure at first, but as the light fades and the sand settles, KANIEL steps forward alongside his AERODACTYL.

KANIEL

If I meant you harm, you and your entire family of Pokémon may as well have died just now.

You let winning a meaningless battle distract you from your ultimate goal.

CRUISE laboriously rises to his feet with the help of his Pokémon, disheveled and humbled.

BLACKPOOL passes CRUISE his cane, which he leans on.

CRUISE

What's that?

KANIEL

Survival.

KANIEL's AERODACTYL roars in agreement.

KANIEL

Your claims of being a talented Trainer are genuine, but that alone will not empower you to survive the war your family has chosen to wage.

I see potential in you Cruise, but you still have much to learn about what it takes to survive as a warrior.

CRUISE watches KANIEL, considering his words thoughtfully.

CLARENE and OONAKAANI emerge from behind KANIEL and AERODACTYL. The doctor is holding a large basket covered in a sheet, and her Shuckle is carrying a second, similar basket on her back.

CLARENE

Also, I brought you all your dinner. I heard you were out here Cruise, so I thought you'd like an evening picnic on the beach.

FREEWAY

Good, cause I'm starving!

CLARENE

Kaniel, Arden, would either of you like to join? There's extra for you and your Pokémon.

KANIEL mounts his AERODACTYL.

KANIEL

Not tonight Clarene. I've got business to take care of in town. Come on Arden, you're coming with me.

ARDEN

Sir!

ARDEN climbs upon AERODACTYL's back behind KANIEL.

KANIEL

Don't stay out partying all night, Elroy.

You may be on an custom training plan, but don't think this is a rest cure!

CLARENE

Don't worry Kaniel. I'll keep him in line.

AERODACTYL flaps its gigantic wings and rises into the air above the beach and soars inland, carrying KANIEL and ARDEN with it as the sun vanishes behind the trees.

CRUISE, CLARENE, and all of their Pokémon, save for FREEWAY, watch as the flying Pokémon leave them behind.

FREEWAY rushes up to the basket balanced on OONAAKANI's back.

FREEWAY

Alright, let's eat!

Freeway nabs a corner of the sheet covering the basket and yanks it away, revealing a cornucopia of delicious food, suitable for humans and Pokémon alike.

CUT TO:

EXT. BEACH (NIGHT)

A campfire is burning upon the beach.

Sitting in the sand around the fire are CRUISE and his Pokémon, all of whom are presently eating.

The scene is filled with the sound of crackling firewood and Pokémon eating, some of whom, like FREEWAY, STILLWELL, and BLACKPOOL are eating louder and more ravenously than the others.

Near CRUISE sits CLARENE, with her Shuckle OONAKAANI beside her, also eating.

Before CRUISE is a wooden platter upon which many breadcrumbs and fruit peels lie, in addition to bowls of uneaten fruit and berries.

CRUISE finishes a small loaf of bread.

CLARENE dips a ladle into OONAKAANI's shell, pours the Berry Juice into a wooden cup, and hands the cup to CRUISE, who immediately gulps it down.

CRUISE

This is the third cup you've let me have tonight. And my third piece of bread, and my fourth piece of fruit.

CRUISE pops a berry into his mouth and swiftly consumes it.

CRUISE (CONT'D)

Not that I mind or anything, but you wouldn't let me eat half this much back at Alexander's house.

You trying to get me fat?

CLARENE laughs softly.

CLARENE

You're the one who was captain of a sports team, Cruise. I thought you'd at least know the basics of nutrition.

You're more active now that you're training and working out instead of laying in bed day and night, so your body needs more fuel.

CRUISE

Yeah, well obviously -

CLARENE

But you haven't eaten all day, have you?

It's not your fault given your schedule today, but with your condition and increased activity level you should be getting at least 3000 calories a day.

CRUISE

Calories? You know about that kind of stuff?

CLARENE

Of course we do. Do you think we're all stupid here or something?

CRUISE

Oh, no! Of course not! That's not what I -

CLARENE stands above CRUISE, arms on her hips.

The Pokémon stop eating and watch as the human's conversation escalate.

CLARENE

What then? Did you think we were too "primitive" to know about calories? For your information the idea the food gives the body energy is pretty basic knowledge

-

CRUISE

No, I don't think you're stupid or anything, I mean you practically nursed me back from death, I know you know how the body works.

It just struck me as odd that you'd be using a very specific unit of food energy that I think was only invented in the last century or so. That's all. Sorry.

CLARENE

Okay then. As long as that's understood.

CLARENE sits, and the Pokémon go back to eating, save for EDGAR, who is sitting directly beside CRUISE, and LAKEHURST, who is resting quietly upon the sand between BOUNCE and FREEWAY.

CLARENE

And you're right. We've understood nutrition and medicine for ages, but the specific measurement of "calories" is a recent arrival on the island.

CRUISE fondles EDGAR's ear as the talk continues.

CRUISE

How recent?

CLARENE

Not even a generation ago. When I was your age, or a bit younger.

CRUISE

How did it arrive here?

CLARENE

The same way you did. You aren't the first outsider to be stranded upon this island.

It was a shipwreck a number of decades ago. A man crashed on the western shore in his yacht, upon which were several trunks filled with books of all kinds from around the world.

If I remember correctly he was from your own home region in fact.

CRUISE

Munia? Really? That's something. Is he still here?

CLARENE

No. He left long ago. He lived here for a year or so and left.

Naturally we haven't heard from him since, being as only those born on this island can navigate back once they leave.

CRUISE takes a bite out of a very large berry.

CRUISE

(while chewing)

How did he leave? Did he fix his boat?

CLARENE

No. His boat was beyond repair.

He and his Pokémon floated away on the wind using what he called a "hot air balloon".

CRUISE perks up with excitement, nearly gagging on his food.

He swallows and regains composure.

CRUISE

A balloon?

CLARENE

Yes, a vehicle consisting of a large basket and an envelope of fabric which when filled with hot air -

CRUISE

Are you kidding me? Please tell me he built this balloon with stuff he found here on the island! Please tell me that!

CLARENE

The man who weaved the baskets that carried your food today is the one who weaved the basket for the castaway's balloon all those years ago.

You'd be pleased to know that he continues to weave baskets, even today.

With effort, CRUISE rises triumphantly.

CRUISE

That's how I'm going home. In a hot air balloon. I've just got to find a way to pay that man to make me a basket and-

CRUISE bends over clutching his side.

CRUISE

Ow, ouch, my hip! Holy crap that hurts!

CLARENE quickly gets up to support CRUISE and begins to lower him back onto the sand.

CLARENE

Slowly, slowly. I told you to use your cane you know. Don't think you're anywhere near fully recovered yet.

CRUISE

I know, believe me I know, I just got excited and forgot for a second, thanks.

CLARENE sits back down beside her Shuckle.

CLARENE

Besides, who said anything about paying anyone anything?

CRUISE

You mean he'll do it for free?

CLARENE

We don't help each other for the sake of acquiring wealth on this island. You've still got a lot to learn.

CRUISE

So all I have to do is ask?

CLARENE

Ask? A bit late for asking, Henry's been working on your basket since the week after you washed ashore.

CRUISE sits hunched over with his chin upon his fists, thoughtfully gazing into the fire for several long moments.

LAKEHURST floats over and places her streamers upon CRUISE'S shoulders as a tear streams down his cheek.

EDGAR licks the tear away and nuzzles his Trainer's face, and very rapidly all of CRUISE'S Pokémon are huddled close to their human, all touching him in some way.

CRUISE shares his time amongst all his Pokémon, petting and gentling each of them, though still focused upon the fire.

Watching this, CLARENE pets OONAKAANI gently on her shell.

CRUISE

I love you all.

I suppose I've always been lucky. My

entire life. I've always had others
looking after for me, caring for me.

Even before I made it big, or had any
money I always had special ones in my
life.

And now even here, where my wealth fame
mean nothing, others have cared for me
without even knowing my name.

CRUISE turns his gaze toward his Pokémon as he continues
petting each of them. Tears flow freely.

CRUISE

I'm lucky just to be alive. To have all
of you here with me.

(choked up)

But I can't act like everything's alright
either.

I can't act like I don't miss Sophia
after having her by my side nearly every
waking moment the last seventeen years.

I can't act like I'm not pissed that
Bedgood is sleeping in some penthouse
somewhere while his goons are doing who
knows what to Sophie.

CRUISE reaches for his cane begins to stand, LAKEHURST and
EDGAR help him to his feet. BOUNCE stands to he left, helping
him balance.

CRUISE

I guess I'm just sad. And I'm really
pissed off.

CRUISE begins to hobble down the beach, all of his Pokémon
follow.

CRUISE

Come on, guys.

CLARENE

Where are you going?

CRUISE

To find some more wood.

CUT TO:

CRUISE and his Pokémon return to the campfire where CLARNE
and OONAKAANI have been waiting patiently.

BOUNCE bears a bundle of driftwood boughs upon her back.

EDGAR carries a substantial stack of wood at each of his

sides, dragging them through the sand with telekinesis.

BLACKPOOL follows, carrying as much wood as he can in his small arms.

FREEWAY, walking backwards, pulls along a shaft of bleached wood many times larger than herself, as STILLWELL sits on the log, riding it.

LAKEHURST floats quietly beside CRUISE, keeping out of the way with a streamer placed on his shoulder.

CLARENE and OONAKANI step back respectfully as CRUISE and his Pokémon pile the wood atop of the existing fire in a tall, cone-shaped formation.

CRUISE

Alright Freeway. Do it.

The Quilava inhales deeply and lets forth a pyroclastic cascade upon the stacked wood, which erupts from inside and out into a great bonfire.

The light of the bonfire shimmers upon the ocean. The heat wards those around to step further back. In the intense warmth the tears of CRUISE and his Pokémon evaporate into the night.

CRUISE

This isn't a funeral. Right guys?

We're not saying goodbye.

We're just admitting that Sophia has been taken from us. And that we miss her.

And that we won't stop looking for her.

CRUISE looks to CLARENE.

CRUISE (CONT'D)

Does that make any sense?

CLARENE

All the sense in the world.

CRUISE's Pokémon launch Thundershock, Psybeam, Flamethrower, Bubblebeam, Energy Ball, and Shadow Ball into the air above the bonfire.

The exploding attacks light up the night.

END OF EPISODE 4 - "BONFIRE"

NEXT TIME:

Kodai strikes at Cruise's funeral.

A Champion throws down the gauntlet.

The world watches.

ARE YOU PREPARED?