Reverse Beginnings

There once was a Decidueye that lived on an uninhabited island off the coast of Alola. It lived a simple life, scouting every corner of the island and snatching up any Rattata it found along the way to eat for dinner.

…And that was it really. Sure, it interacted with fellow Decidueyes and Toucanons every now and then, but its life was quite simple. Not that it minded, of course. Wild Pokemon didn’t need to live extravagant, fast lives filled non-stop action.

But unfortunately for this particular Decidueye, that was all going to change shortly.

It was a normal night when it all happened. The Decidueye was perched on a branch of its favorite tree, staring up happily at the starry sky. It had been a good night so far. No conflict over food sources, no particularly annoying hunts, it even had a chance to talk with another decidueye who it hoped to court.

But then…without warning, clouds suddenly started to roll in, and an ominous wind (pun intended) began to blow through, ruffling the mon’s feathers uncomfortably.

“*Eye…Decidueye…”* Decidueye huffed. It always hated the rain, and judging by the wind, this one was going to be a gullywasher, to quote a human that had been to the island once.

Decidueye groaned and straightened its stance up before moving back along the branch, underneath its covering leaves. Thankfully it wasn’t the tallest tree around, so Decidueye wouldn’t have to worry about getting hit by lightning.

Before long, the rain would begin to pour like no tomorrow. The wind and lightning picked up in intensity as well, Decidueye had trouble staying put in the branches at times.

“*EYE!”* It called out as a particularly nasty gust of wind nearly blew it right off the branch.

Clenching its beak tightly, Decidueye’s talons clamped down on the branch as it tightened its leaf hoodie around its face…but unfortunately…

***BAANNNGGG!***

A bolt of lightning struck the branch Decidueye was on, and it would’ve fallen to the ground had the wind not carried the poor bird off with it.

*“DECIIIDUEEEEYYYYEEE-!”* It cried out, trying desperately to flap its wings and regain control of its motion as water endlessly pelted it from the sky.

Soon, Decidueye would end up being smacked into another tree. It let out a cry of pain as it made contact. And if that wasn’t enough, its feathers started to stand on end. Decidueye’s eyes widened as it realized what was coming…

***BAANNNGGG!***

*“hrrrk…Decidueye…”* The mon groaned as it faded back into consciousness. It opened its eyes and was instantly filled with fear and worry…

All around it were colors. No trees, water, not even any stable ground. Just colors. And yet Decidueye found it was still standing up anyway.

*“D-Decidueye…?”* It murmured, attempting to take a step forward. Somehow it was able to do so.

Unbeknownst to the Pokemon, simply being here had already set something very transformative into motion, and it would make its first sign known with a moderate ache in Decidueye’s throat.

Decidueye grumbled and rubbed its throat with one wing as it tried to walk around more.

*“Decidueye…Decidu-* Where am I-“

Decidueye clasped its wings over its beak in an instant. See, that dull ache was the result of the bird’s vocal chords shifting and changing. Allowing it to speak more words.

“I…I just…Oh dear Arceus-! I’m talking like a human!” He sputtered in horror.

And right afterwards, a sharp *Pluck!* could be heard, and Decidueye lost feeling in the feather at the top of his head. He gulped and lifted his wing up to the spot where that feather would be…and discovered it was no longer there.

“M-My feather-! My voice-! What’s happening to meEEEE-!” The Pokemon was once again cut off by the drawstring to his hoodie suddenly sliding right out of its socket, dissolving as it landed across his talons.

“No…Nononono…this isn’t right, oh Arceus what’s going on?!”

The next thing to go would be Decidueye’s hoodie, starting with the X-shaped bowtie. It rapidly dried out and rotted away, crumbling into a thousand little crumbs. Followed by the green leaves of Decidueye’s hoodie meeting the same fate, turning an auburn-red as they crumbled to pieces.

Decidueye stumbled back and nearly fell over, knocking off any of the remaining leaves that still clung to him. And meanwhile, the feathers on Decidueye’s midsection were beginning to loosen. Tears started to well up in the bird’s eyes as he felt it happen.

“N-No! This can’t be happening!” He whimpered as the first few feathers fell out, followed by more and more. Soon enough, feathers were falling out in whole chunks. It wouldn’t be long before Decidueye had lost all the feathers on his torso and legs.

“Oh A-Arceus- Oh Arceus why-“ Decidueye stuttered, shivering. He felt so cold now, so exposed. Unfortunately for him, it would only be getting worse.

While Decidueye was mourning the loss of his plume feathers, he failed to notice his tail feathers starting to twitch before they too fell out, curling up as they crumbled to dust. Decidueye immediately let out a shriek of terror as he completely fell over onto his rear. He clenched his beak and talons as he tried with all his might to resist the changes befalling him. Decidueye tried to strain his brain to come up with an idea to stop all this…but he couldn’t come up with a thing. He briefly thought about trying to use one of his moves to try and help things out, only to realize he’d forgotten how to do all of his moves.

“N-No…No, this can’t be-“ Decidueye shot to his talons (which were beginning to twitch and tremble) and tried his damnedest to remember.

“I…Spirit Shackle…y-you…I…take a wing…” Decidueye drew a complete blank. The knowledge of Spirit Shackle and how to do it was completely lost. It was like Decidueye’s entire life as a Decidueye was fading away right before his eyes.

Decidueye then took a shameful look down at his talons and finally noticed the trembling in his talons.

“O-Oh no…! OH NO-!” He held his wings over his beak in fear.

Decidueye immediately lost feeling in his back-talons, and soon they started to shrink, becoming flat nubs that subsequently spread out and fused into one another and forming heels. Afterwards, Decidueye’s leg bones snapped forwards, forcing him into a straight, linear leg structure. A plantigrade structure.

‘NGGGH! NO! I WON’T-!” Despite how uncomfortable and difficult it was now to stand on his toes, Decidueye tried his hardest to retain his stance…but it soon proved to be impossible, and Decidueye’s featherless heels would touch the ground. Shortly after, his front-talons would flatten and shrink along with the claws. The newly-formed toes each settled at opposite ends of Decidueye’s forming feet as three more humanoid toes grew on each foot to fill the empty space.

Decidueye was on the verge of passing out at this point, and it would only worsen when his wings began itching. Decidueye’s eyes widened to the size of dinner plates as he watched his wing-feathers start to twitch. However they would face a different fate to the rest of his feathers.

With every twitch, the wing-feathers lost length, quickly receding back into Decidueye’s arms until they were all gone completely. The next change would happen to the former-wingtips when five long, cylindrical appendages began to form out of them. All the while, the wingtips widened out into palms, and the rest of the wings snapped and cracked, straightening out into mere arms.

“I-It’s all a bad dream, it has to be!” The ‘Decidueye’ whimpered, clasping his gross, massive hands onto the side of his head, allowing him to feel as any remaining feathers on his head fell off, as well as allowing him to feel two humanoid ears grow out of what were once the mere holes for hearing. The penultimate change would occur when black hair grew out of the former-Pokemon’s scalp, forming into a neatly-groomed style.

*Crrk.*

“O-Oh no…” Decidueye gasped. He couldn’t see it, but his beak was beginning to crack.

*CRRK. CRRACK.*

“NOOOO!”

With one more crack, the Ex-Decidueye’s beak burst into pieces, sending shards of it spiraling to the ground, and with it the last bit of the man’s former self was gone. He shortly passed out from the stress and overstimulation of it all afterwards.

Some time later, the Ex-Decidueye would wake up on a beach somewhere. He groaned as he sat up.

“Eugh, what a nightm- Oh dear Arceus-“

Nope…Not a nightmare at all. It was real. Very, very real. He was a human now. Somehow, he’d also gained a set of clothes as well, some sort of primitive tunic and pants.

“Oh this is so wrong, oh my Arceus-“ But before the Ex-Decidueye could ponder his situation further, his thoughts were interrupted by a voice behind him.

“Hey, mister, are you alright?”

The Ex-Decidueye stood up and turned around to be met with a young man in very basic blue clothes looking at him with an expression of concern.

“What’s your name? Why were you laying there like that?” The man asked.

“Uh…” The Ex-Decidueye hesitated. He attempted to say what his species was (or used to be), but all that came out was:

“…C-Cid.”

“Well then, nice to meet you, Cid.” The man said as he approached, keeping a friendly smile on his face the whole time he approached. “I’m Ryan, pleasure to meet you.” Ryan shoved his hand out, and Cid awkwardly obliged the handshake.

“Say, I was on my way to the Adventurer’s Guild when I came across you. How about you come along with me? You definitely look like you could use a place to stay for the night, and maybe you could tell me more about what happened to you on the way!”

Cid was in no place to refuse the help, so he just nervously nodded his head. Ryan immediately snatched his hand up and started dragging Cid down the road with him.

“Awesome! Just start whenever you’re ready!” He said.

Cid gulped.

How the hell was he going to explain all of this?