**The Adventures of Rieku and Voss Chapter 7**

**T**he ear splitting sound of thunder ripped the through the sky and lit up the deep forests of Amica. Voss closed his eyes to shield them from the bright light suddenly entering his burrow. He still could not tear himself from the entrance to the dark and wet world outside, constantly looking for any signs of movement, anything that could indicate the return of a particular little Pachirisu that was so very dear to him.

Suddenly, the Arbok could not take the overwhelming feelings anymore and he burst out into tears.

“Curse that wretched squirrel, and may Arceus have mercy upon his soul!” He yelled out and whipped his tail across the small passage into the den.

“Why did he interrupt me… I don’t understand. He shouldn’t have… Yeah, he has only himself to blame for what he did and now he’s going to be lost again. Serves the little critter right.”

He slithered back into the den, passing the chambers within. As he made his way down to the bottom, he passed the breeding chamber. The snake stopped dead in his tracks when he sensed something different with his forked tongue. He turned his head towards the empty chamber, but to him, it was not empty in the slightest.

Shapes started to form and move around in the chamber. Voss was shocked when he saw that the shapes formed into a happy Pachirisu and a proud Arbok. Voices started to echo around the room, occupying Voss’s mind with nothing but the words uttered by the lucid shapes.

“Why did you bring me here?” The Squirrel shape said.

“I want you to be my…” The Arbok shape said as they both disappeared out of view again.

Voss shook his head, trying to get to his senses. He had daydreamed before but it was never as real as this.

“I must be seeing things again.” He muttered to himself while going further down into the den.

But once again as he was heading onwards, he heard the same voices in his head, memories pressuring him, making him feel ashamed of himself. He noticed something running down his narrow cheeks and flowing down his jawline until finally hitting the damp, earthy floor.

“NO! It’s his fault! Not mine! Stop making me feel this way!” He exclaimed, his body slamming the walls, the tears now flowing faster down his scaly cheeks than ever.

It was then that he knew what to do. He hurried down to the food storage and gathered as much berries as he could; He knew he would not be eating them in any case. He took as many as he could into his mouth, his cheeks bulging from the amount of Oran and Leppa berries in his maw.

As he ventured outside, he barely noticed the wind and rainfall soaring and soaking the dark landscapes around him. The forked tongue flickered back and forth, still able to pick up the scent of the Pachirisu.

It was not long until he approached the scene of his last hunting disaster. There was not any time to grieve about it, however. He picked up Rieku’s scent from the branches above, now being around a day old, they had already started to fade in the torrential downpour.

As Voss followed the trail he noticed several other smells floating through the air, many of which he had never felt before, and also, the smell of human.

“Noo... This can’t be… He would never…” He stammered out loud with a trembling voice very much unlike how he usually spoke.

The snake Pokémon took a deep breath and tried once again to compose himself but had a really hard time doing so. There were countless thoughts flowing through his mind; memories of the past, good and bad, but most importantly, figuring out what he should do next.

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Rieku knew exactly what to do next. After a long day of training and travelling around various parts of the Amica region the Pachirisu joined his new team for an evening meal under the emerging stars. It was perfect weather for a camping trip in the wild with calm winds gently rustling the leaves of the surrounding trees. Around a small campfire, the small company of five Pokémon and their trainer were having a great time, talking about their experiences and what led them to end up in their trainer’s possession.

“So what made you end up in the care of our trainer Lily?” Rieku asked while happily munching on a Leppa berry.

The Scyther, appropriately named Cutter was the first to answer. “I, like Flaumi, was born from the result of extensive breeding at the local Pokémon day-care.” He said bluntly.

Flaumi the Togepi giggled frantically, almost spilling the contents of her small cup she was holding. “Everyone knows what’s going on there, although no one ever mentions it.”

“I can be in that day-care for as long as Lily wants, as long as it’s with a good looking male.” Andrea said with a blush rapidly spreading across her face.

Everyone except Rieku laughed heartily at her comment who was certain that he could see her glancing over at him.

“Oh we all know about your desires, Andrea.” Cutter said with a soft smile. “There’s no need to worry. I’m sure you’ll find a good mate eventually.”

“Mrrmph!” Could be heard from the bat Pokémon hanging upside down in the nearest tree.

“Why is Cro like that?” Rieku asked curious but carefully.

“He’s been mad that Lily has forgotten to name him anything. That’s why we just call him Cro.” Cutter replied. “He’s ever only been outside of his box on the computer to find Andrea.”

“I can hear you, you know.” Cro mumbled and shifted about on his resting spot.

Rieku could not help but look at the huddled Cro. He wondered if there was a way to cheer him up. As he looked around he could feel in his gut that something was deeply wrong about the entire situation but he could not get a grip on what it was. His drifting thoughts were cut short by his new trainer.

“Okay, feeding time’s over everyone! Back into your Pokéballs! We have a long day in front of us tomorrow.” Lily shouted while banging loudly on a small frying pan.

Everyone in the team jolted to life and aligned themselves shoulder to shoulder before the young girl.

“Very good.” She said contently. “You’re getting more disciplined day by day. That’s the spirit you need when going into battle.”

She picked up five regular Pokéballs and pushed the round white button on each of them in turn. One by one, the members of Lily’s team was absorbed into the ball with a red glow. Finally, there was only Rieku left. He could not help but clench his tiny paws and gulp as he saw Lily’s determined smile staring right at him.

“Don’t you try anything now, Rieku or whatever. I need your electric attacks to beat the water gym tomorrow. I’m relying on you. Do what you need to do.”

Before Rieku could do anything, he was surrounded by a red glow. The world around him suddenly faded and everything went dark. He tried to move but only bumped into the nearest wall as soon as he tried to move in any direction.

“This wasn’t what I signed up for.” Rieku said out loud to himself.

“Be quiet in there!” Lily exclaimed from the outside. “I’m trying to sleep!”

Rieku went quiet and tried to find a comfortable sleeping position. He thought about his new friends and wondered how they could endure being in such a tight space every night.