



Exclusive

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 **POKING AROUND**
COMPLETE COMPANION GUIDE
PART 1: THE BEGINNING BIT

FOREWORD

Poking Around has had a long and complicated history.

It began as a childish backlash to how disappointed I was with *Pokémon Sun and Moon* the video games, and subsequent anime adaptation. But the longer I worked on it, the more it evolved and became its own thing. As an organic project, it didn't really have a synopsis or game plan, or structure. If anything, it was my attempt at emulating [yonkoma-style](#) comics I'd seen many Southeast Asian artists produce online, though I eventually dispensed with that format. So you'll see a massive evolution over time.

Anyway, as such, *Poking Around* is a very personal work and is stuffed to the brim with references and responses to things that made sense at the time the pages were being produced. So this Companion Guide will serve to fill in the blanks, especially given there's a lot of bilingual or cultural aspects that won't make sense otherwise. Think of it as a glimpse into the inner workings of my mind.

To make things visually clear, I've put everything into a table format like so:

From the comic	Contextualisation
A screenshot from the comic will be here.	The context will be made clear here, with visual examples and hyperlinks if necessary.



This is a pretty huge undertaking, so for convenience's sake, these Companion Guides will be split up into separate arcs, correlating with different parts of the comic. As of writing this, there are 108 parts, which will only grow, so please bear with me. In the meantime, please do enjoy the trivia; enjoy the comic and thank you so much for supporting this project! Any missing Parts, like Part 6 and Part 11, either have no trivia or are self-explanatory on the original comic page.

Let's begin, starting with Part 1, originally published back on 18th October 2016!

PART 1

From the comic	Contextualisation
<p>♪ WHAT A BEAUTIFUL WORLD THIS WILL BE, WHAT A GLORIOUS TIME TO BE FREE...♪</p>	 <p>Lyrics from the song, I.G.Y. by Donald Fagen, which I first heard used in The Simpsons episode Future-Drama.</p>
	<p>Pronounced 'cumel' (rhymes with pummel); it's a corruption of the idiom "Come one, come all".</p>

PART 2

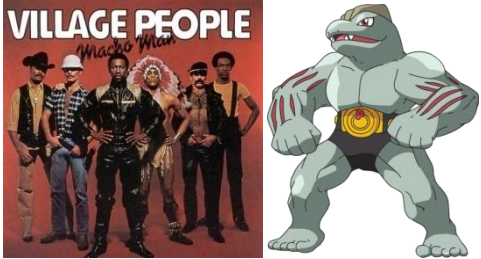

From the comic	Contextualisation
	 <p>Referring to Ed Reardon's Week, a BBC radio sitcom following a grumpy 50-something writer who tries to live life on the cheap.</p>

PART 3


From the comic	Contextualisation
<p>Tyger, Tyger, Burning Bright?</p>	<p>The Tyger, a famous poem by the 19th Century poet by William Blake.</p>

Back when *Poking Around* first started, I put myself under a lot of pressure to produce a page every fortnight, an unrealistic goal. Tori was not even part of the original plan, I drew him in as a “placeholder” whilst I figured out what next to do via a poll I posted for readers to vote on. At the time (2016) [Incineroar](#) proved a popular character to draw but I personally disliked the official design and redrew it in my own way. I also had to satisfy my love of linguistics, so for a while, Tori acted as a tutor.



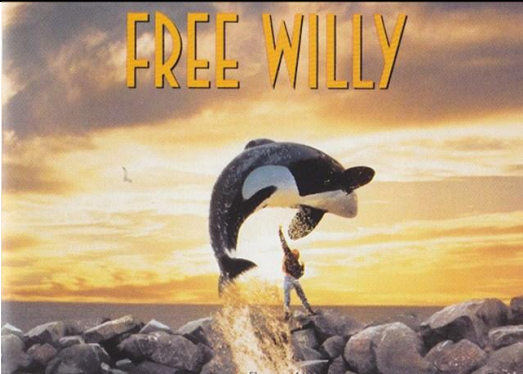
PART 4

From the comic	Contextualisation
<p>WHALE! OR! MISFORTUNE?</p>	<p>WHEEL OF FORTUNE</p> <p>Spooing a North American television game show that's been running since 1975.</p>
<p>Macho-Machoke-Man-Movers working overtime and wearing next-to-nothing in this heat... heh-heh-heh...</p>	<p></p> <p>A portmanteau of Macho Man by The Village People and the Pokémon Machoke. Back in 2015, there was a random one-off Japan-only marketing campaign focused on the Machop family.</p>
<p></p>	<p>Albert's registration/license plate reads kamome, 鷗 (かもめ) the Japanese word for seagull.</p>

PART 5

From the comic	Contextualisation
	<p>Back in 2016, there was a lot of discourse over the translation and video quality of the anime streaming service Crunchyroll; there still is, depending on who you talk to.</p>

PART 7

From the comic	Contextualisation
<p>CARRY ON, CABBIE</p>	 <p>In reference to the 1963 British comedy film</p>
	 <p>A 1993 Steven Spielberg movie. A troubled boy befriends a captive orca (known as a killer whale back then) and eventually tries to set him free.</p>

PART 8

From the comic	Contextualisation
	<p>Kabukichō is a district in Shinjuku, Tokyo. Euphemistically called the 'entertainment district', it is famous for its host- and hostess-clubs, love hotels (motels where you can have sex) and nightclubs, movies and clothes. I passed through it twice when I was in Japan several years ago.</p> <p>When I produced this page in February 2017, the Japanese Government started trying to clean up Kabukichō's reputation ahead of the then-upcoming 2020 Olympics. Many sting operations began to end illegal activities (such as prostitution, drug peddling and interacting with minors as escorts), or play down any associations with the Japanese mafia, the Yakuza.</p> <p>Interestingly, <i>Kabukichō</i> is the inspiration behind the fictional <i>Kamurochō</i>, where the SEGA video game series, Yakuza, is set.</p>
	 <p>Spooing the anime Tamako Market and the franchise Re:Zero: Starting Life in Another World.</p>
	 <p>Keijo!!! Hip Whip Girl and Kiznaiver.</p>



The light novel and anime series [Is It Wrong To Try And Pick Up Girls in a Dungeon?](#) The lengthy original Japanese title ダンジョンに出会いを求めるのは間違っているだろうか or *Danjon ni Deai o Motomeru no wa Machigatteiru Darō ka?* is often shortened to ダンまち *DanMachi*.



LoveLive!
School idol project



[Ouran High School Host Club](#) and the monolithical schoolgirl idol franchise [Love Live!](#)

PART 9

From the comic	Contextualisation
<p>♪ Short and sweet, universal rule! ♪ ♪ It's the way life works no matter what you do! ♪ ♪ Have you the right stuff? Is it enough to live and survive in a world contrived...? ♪</p>  <p>BBZZZZZZZZ</p>	<p>Kuroki's ringtone is my very own rewrite of the Pokémon dub-opening for Pokémon: Battle Frontier, the first to be produced after 4Kids lost the Pokémon anime license in 2005, and new voice actors replaced the originals.</p>  <p>His phone's brand is a mash-up of the South Korean multinational tech manufacturer Samsung and the Pokémon Samurott.</p>
<p>YEAH, I GUESS THIS ISN'T THE SORT OF SITUATION WHERE YOU CAN CLAP YOUR CLAWS TOGETHER AND MAGICALLY FIX THINGS...</p> <p>VC.</p>	
	<p>Taweret shares her name with the Egyptian goddess of pregnancy and fertility. I had originally planned to include her in the story at some point, but it didn't happen. So she remains mentioned, but not seen.</p>

PART 10

From the comic



Contextualisation

For the benefit of non-American readers, the Fifth Amendment is *the right to remain silent*.

It's often used in court or when you're under arrest so as not to incriminate yourself upon submitting evidence.



Hunchbuggy is a portmanteau of [the Volkswagen Beetle-related car game](#) and the fact Albert's hunched over in it.



Doing the Dolly Parton is a reference to the song [“\(Working\) 9 to 5”](#).

Traffpol is shorthand for Traffic Police.

WHOOPS.
SORRY, SIR.
I'M OFFICER
KEIJI, AT
YOUR
SERVICE.



I thought his 1st name would've been Nick or Luke. But how fitting... a police dog whose name literally means that. Sort of... Better than 'Ace Heart' I guess...

"I thought his first name would've been Nick or Luke" is a reference to the actor [Nicholas Cage](#), and [Luke Cage](#), the *first* African-American Marvel superhero. Back in 2016, when this page was originally published, there was a [short-lived Netflix series](#) before the Disney acquisition of all Marvel properties.

"Better than Ace Heart, I guess" is a reference to the [private investigator co-protagonist](#) of the 1990s cartoon/puppet-show [Dog City](#).



An [Akita Inu](#) is a breed of dog, named after [the Akita Prefecture](#).



刑事 Keiji means police detective.



Deputy Keiji was supposed to be a [Lycanroc](#) at one stage, but I couldn't make the design work. It was by sheer coincidence I later found out that Lycanroc had a Dusk Forme; it was highlighted in the Pokémon Sun and Moon anime when Ash's Rockruff evolved at sunset.



Keiji's comment about his sister is in reference to Lycanroc's Midnight Forme.



PART 12

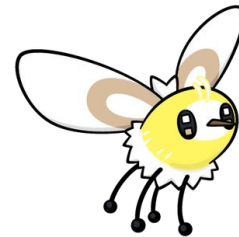
From the comic



Contextualisation



Ah-Cute-Bees 49: A portmanteau of [AKB48](#), one of the largest idol groups ever with a staggering 48 members (not including [their non-Japanese official counterparts](#) spread across Southeast Asia), and [Cutiefly](#).



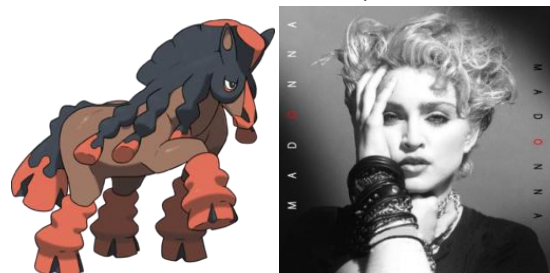
ANYWAY, IDOLS EVE WAS ONE OF THOSE MASS-MEMBER GIRLY GROUPS LIKE AH-CUTE-BEES-49, LADY GA-GARDEN-NOIR, & MUDALE-ONNA, HERALDED BY THE GIRL IDOL GENIUS PRODUCER, --- LYKEE ROCROLL. LYRICS, CHOREOGRAPHY, COSTUMES, SHE DID EVERYTHING TO HELP DEBUT FRESH TALENT. TO THE POINT SHE HOSPITALISED HERSELF TRYING TO PERFECT THAT SILLY "ZA-MOVE" DANCE FOR IDOLS EVE.




Lady Ga-Garden-Noir: A portmanteau of Lady Gaga and [Gardevoir](#).



Mudale-Onna: [Mudsdale](#) and the singer [Madonna](#).
女 onna is woman in Japanese.



	<p>Za-Move: Z-moves, a gimmick introduced in the Pokémon Sun and Moon games; your player character does a pose and that empowers your Pokémon.</p>
<p>DESPITE BEIN' PEGGIED INTER A FULL BODY CAST, LYKEE STILL WANTED IDOLS EVE TO HIT IT BIG, SO SHE CHOSE 1 OF THEM TO BE FRONTRUNNER, A BIT LIKE 'BOUNCY' & 'DESTINED CHILD' OR WHATEVER.</p>	<p>Spoofing what happened to 90s RnB girl group Destiny's Child. Starting out as a quartet, the group whittled down to a trio and eventually disbanded in 2006. Beyoncé, who was often front and centre of Destiny's Child, became a very successful solo artist.</p> 

TO BE CONTINUED...
