

Rocks pattered, bouncing off of each other as the rock slide slowed. Light barely trickled in from the space between stones. The air was stale and deafening. A pile, large and looming, covered the floor and towered upward blocking the entrance a pair of pokemon had falling into. Muffled panicked voices fade from behind the makeshift wall hoping to find another path to the pokemon within.

Sol the brindled raichu lay on her left side, tale curled flatly around her balled up form shifting ever so slightly and giving a groan of agony. Her ear flickered. What had happened?

Her and the rest of team Rural Spark had found the client's missing chest inside the rocky caverns dungeon when... HE showed up.

"Ninto-" She groaned sitting up with a frown a paw clinging to her left shoulder as she took in the cave they had ended up in. The only light seemed to flicker from the flame of the orange furred Charmeleon's tail. He grumbled and groaned getting onto his feet as eyes opened to meet hers with a disappointed frown. He was bruised and scratched like her but other wised seemed fine. She had taken worse hits from the large stones just for being smaller then the fire type. He brushed off dust from his arm and chest. "Great... Just peachy." He growled.

"This- This is your fault." Sol snapped still sitting in her space on the cave floor giving him a harsh glare. If looks could kill well maybe the normally docile Raichu's would maim him. The two rivals now alone at the depths of a cave after the cavern floor they had been in crumbled just beneath them. It seemed Rigamor and Parker where not here. They where still above probably panicking after such a harrowing scene. Sol was worried for them. She was worried for herself.

"MY fault." Ninto spat back with a hoarse laughter. "And le chonks can Fly. It was Your noivern buddy that blew out that wall that cracked the floor beneath us."

Sol opened her mouth to respond but not a sound came out.

Her eyes softened as tears began to fill them and they stared at the floor. She felt her heart in her throat as the memories flashed through her mind. He was right, Parker had acted without hesitation when seeing Ninto and his actions lead to the slide. It mattered little now. It seemed from walls around them and the long tunnel toward the south were all they had.

"H-Hey now wha?" Ninto world was thrown off as he tried to put together what the hell was happening. Sol didn't cry, not in front of him at least. Sol sniffled and sobbed before him now. "I-I'm scared." her whisper echoing in the cave.

Her sniffles continued to echo. The sound awkwardly crawling through the charmeleon's skin. A paw ran over the 'horn' growth on his head and he looked anywhere but at Sol. When his eyes finally fell on her the sniffing and a hic up or two slowed down. "Hey now.... We'll be fine." He offered stepping over and offering a paw to the Raichu giving an expression of sympathy and worry. Sol hesitated her own paw rising to rest above his not yet touching him. She seemed just as nervous of him as she felt about their situation. "You want the help or not?" Ninto said with slight annoyance but it seemed more of an act. He was trying. Did he care?

Sol finally took his paw letting him pull her up onto her feet and she winced. Stumbling from a left twisted ankle and into the charmeleon's chest. Paws instinctively digging into fur and his instinctively went to catch the falling Raichu. Both felt the other hearts race. NOPE!

stop in their brawl. Angrily the garchomp went to turn for her only to have Ninto cling to it's tail again. Sol would through a dozen or more stones and Ninto slashed and chomped away at it. Finally, the Garchomp had had enough. With a powerful roar it threw Ninto from it's tail and threw him directly into Sol causing them to fall into the stone pile. "You alright?" Ninto shouted getting off of Sol, putting a paw onto her shoulder. "I... yeah.." She lied sitting up leaning on the stoned as she watched pebbles fall. Fall.. Wait!

"When he steps infront of us.... Pull the large middle stone..." Sol whispered gripping it in her paws as she looked back watching the dragon stepping slowly toward them confident that it had won. Ninto's paws met hers as he gave a nod before staring down the dragon. It leaned forward, breath heavy and rotten as it's tongue lulled out of the mouth. "Now." Sol and Ninto gave a roug pull and above the stones' rumbled around them tumbling forward. The dragon was caught of guard as the stone pile fell around them. Ninto pulled Sol close trying to shield her as they two got caught in the slide.

The air was stale.

The echo of pebbles and stones slowed.

Then again rumbled are Sol burst out of the stone pile coughing from the dirt and dust kicked up by the pile. Behind her Ninto also burst from the rocks, panting into the air with a laugh. "Nice one..." He said nudging his shoulder with his own, "Digging that hole back there. That was damn quick thinking, how you get to be that fast?"

Sol blushed shyly looking away as she pulled herself out of the pile sitting still as Ninto pulled himself next to her. "I... Had to do something.... But you... you were the real he-hero.." She shifted to move a way before she was pulled closer to him but his big paw. She could feel her heart racing before she relaxed leaning back on him. "Thank you Ninto..." She whispered.

"This is the only tunnel left under the rocky caverns, This has to be where she is!" Parker shouted oradering around a small group of other pokemon rescuers and Rigamor. "We have to go in there and-"

Rigamor shook his head. "We need to plan this through wild pokemon are in the area and the tunnels could be at risk for more rock slides. We..."

He paused his attention going past the noivern's wing. "Holy shit... There they are!" Rigamor shouted running first to the tunnel. Parker however froze staring as in his rival's arms he carried Sol carefully. Her head leaning into the charmeleon's neck fur as she rested her eyes.

His stomach churned, his blood boiled.

Sol was never that affectionate with anyone.

Jealousy dug at Parker's heart as he prayed that maybe it was just his imagination.