Chapter 2
Ragtime Pals

Pixel slowly woke up, then yawned. He stretched. The ground wasn't very comfortable, and a bit cold. But at least he had slept safely and somewhat dry.

He walks out of the hole, only to be greeted by the morning sun.

He sighed "What a rough night..."

He pulled out the letter from Kyle, rereading it.

He then remembered the Village he saw the day before.

"Hm... I think it was towards there..."

Pixel spotted a nearby gravel road. "That could be it!"

He dashed towards the road, in hopes of reaching a place to stay. Possibly get some answers there.

Eventually, he reached it. He then proceeded to head towards the general direction of the Town he saw the day before, eventually reaching a sign with a Language on it he couldn't decipher (Woodland Town in the Footprint Font).

He sighed in relief, he had finally found a place to stay, for as long as he had to.

He walked in. The Town was populated by a lot of Pokémon (reference "Background Character Sheet").

Shops and small buildings were scattered throughout the town.

It was quite a nice little village.

Pixel seemed slightly uncomfortable, but amazed at the same time.

He arrived at what seemed to be the main Square.

"Whoa… this place is…"

His train of thought was interrupted by sobs from the corner of the Square. Pixel decided to investigate.

A Bulbasaur was sitting on a nearby wooden bench (just a log that's cut in half), crying.

Pixel hesitated, then looked around, nobody seemed to care.

Pixel stepped closer to the Bulbasaur.

"If Kyle and I are Pokémon, and we can understand each other… wouldn't that mean that I could understand other Pokémo-"

"Ex.. excuse me, Eevee?" The Bulbasaur asked Pixel.

Pixel was caught of guard, looking around, forgetting she was referring to him. He realized who she asked.

"U- uh. Y- yes?" he asked.

"Wh-what's up..? *sniff* You're just staring into space." she replied.

Pixel blushed a bit.

"D- did I? Sorry! I didn't mean to creep you out…"

"No, no, it's alright…" she sniffed, "I'm just.. kinda bummed out…"

Pixel pointed at the seat next to her, she nodded and Pixel climbed up the bench.
"What's wrong?" Pixel asked.
"I-I left my friend Andrea behind… I was too scared… and I just wanted to leave… but I did it wrong- and- she- she's… all alone… deep in a Mystery Dungeon…"

The Bulbasaur sighed. This 'Andrea' seemed to be quite important to her.
Pixel considered his situation. Kyle was gone. Maybe making a friend who seemed to be Native to the area probably wasn't the worst idea.
One word didn't make sense to him though.

"Mystery Dungeon? What's that?" He asked.
The Bulbasaur looked surprised "What? How do you not know what a Mystery Dungeon is…?"

Pixel didn't know how to reply. Whatever one of those 'Mystery Dungeon' things was, it seemed to be common knowledge around here. Of course, to not look out of place. He had to come up with a reply.

"I- uhm- I just don't know? Must've forgotten since I haven't been in one for quite a while."
"Well, I guess most Pokémon tend to avoid them, since they're kinda dangerous. But you should at least know about them 'cause of school!" she said.

Pixel was caught. He didn't even know Pokémon Schools existed and he still didn't know what a Mystery Dungeon was.

"I- I don't know, okay? I just woke up yesterday in the middle of the forest, with no memories, except my name." said Pixel, worried.
"What..? What do you mean?" asked Terry.
"I don't know anything! I don't know where I am, or who I used to be…"
"*Wow.* That sounds awful."

A yell could be heard in the distance, Terry is visibly worried.
"What was that?!" Pixel asked.
"My friend… Andrea… I left her out there… I don't know what to do! I definitely can't save her on my own!"
Terry noticed Pixel.
"Look. Your situation is… not ideal. But can you help me find her? Please?"
"I- i-"

Pixel was weighing his options.
Either he leaves her alone and lets an innocent Pokémon die, or he at least tries to help her out.
"I… alright. I'll help you…"
Terry seemed super excited.
"Seriously? Thank you! Thank you so much! Now come on!"

Terry grabs one of Pixels paws with one of her Vines and starts running, he is barely able to keep up with her.

[Some scenery as they storm off]

Eventually, they reach the entrance of the dungeon.

Pixel speaks up "Is this…?"
T: "Yeah. This is the Dungeon Andrea's in." Terry replies.
P: "Shouldn't we consult an adult? Maybe they could help us?"
T: "I- hm… Yeah, that's— That's actually a good idea."
A fearful scream from deep down in the dungeon interrupts Terry's train of thought.
T: "Ahh, no no no! No time! We have to hurry! Andrea is in serious trouble!" Terry said, in a panicked tone.

She ran ahead, Pixel haphazardly followed.

[Voltaic Mountain F1]
A faint, blue ambient light lights the way.
Small crystals are all over the walls.

T: "Okay, here we are… Voltaic Mountain."
P: "So… what sets these 'Mystery Dungeons' apart from regular caves?"
T: "Oh, it's not just caves. It can be anything, really. Forests, canyons, anything that's like a maze!"
P: "Okay? That's… kinda confusing."
T: "Hah. If you find that confusing, then—"
Pixel interrupted Terry, "Why are there perfectly shaped stairs in the middle of a cave?"
T: "Ah! Here we go! We gotta go up to the next floor! Andrea should be on floor 6!"

Terry climbed the stairs with her stubby bulbasaur legs.
Pixel struggled to follow her.

Terry looked pleasantly surprised as soon as she reached the top.
T: "Hey, over there! A Pecha berry!"
P: "A what-berry?"
T: "A Pecha berry. It heals you from Poison."
P: "N- neat?"

Terry picked up the Pecha berry.

T: "Could you hold onto it for me? I've already got a Reviver seed."
P: "I'm… carrying something already…"
T: "Oh?"
P: "P- personal treasure-"

T: "Ah. Alright. Guess we'll have to leave it here."

End of Chapter 2