Pokémon SI: Santalune Arc

Chapter 1: SI wakes up, realises that he’s somewhere else before working out where. Uncovers note, and other stuff.

When noibat returns, Ben follows it back up to find Scatterbug. After watching it for a while, he introduces himself, feels silly, and challenges it to a battle. After a little bit, the bug accepts.

Ben then sets Noibat loose, only to realise that he doesn’t actually know any of its moves. While dodging the startlingly accurate String Shot fire, Ben uncovers Gust, Screech and Tackle and eventually captures the Scatterbug.

Cleaning Noibat off and returning it for a rest, Ben walks deeper into the forest.

As he stops for food he lets his Pokémon out again, thinks, and talks to them. Coming up with training ideas (Noibat training endurance and Gust startup time, Scatterbug training String Shot power and accuracy) he starts off again having Scatterbug target random things, and Noibat alongside occasionally firing off Gusts.

Eventually, he comes across a massive scorch mark and realises that the eerie silence is due to something in the area scaring all the Pokémon away. The next day, he swaps up the training routine slightly- Noibat now has to dodge String Shots.

As the day draws on, Ben encounters another Trainer- a guy who really doesn’t know what he’s going on about called Tyson, who accuses him of being the one to let ‘that thing’ out. Ben refutes this, whereupon Tyson warns him about ‘it’, before challenging him to a battle. Ben accepts, one-on-one as he doesn’t want to be left defenceless against something that has spooked another Trainer who is probably older than him.

Tyson brings out a Fletchling against Noibat, and is knocked out in two moves. Flustered, he leaves, vowing revenge. Ben lets Noibat rest as he travels on, but comes across another serious burn mark, and begins to worry- especially when Noibat gets uptight and worried.

Naturally, this is when the Pansear arrives, and attacks. Ben’s not in a good spot- Noibat isn’t at his best after his previous fight, and Scatterbug is weak to Fire. The Pansear is also powerful, and knows Flamethrower- it’s what caused the burns. Noibat runs rings around it and knocks it around with Gust, taking a couple of glancing hits from Flamethrower in the process, before knocking it back with a hard Tackle. Ben runs up to try and capture it before it can recover, only for the ball to fail because it’s already owned. Scatterbug then jumps in from where its been sitting on Ben’s shoulder, and Tackles the Pansear before evolving into Spewpa and holding away the retaliatory Flamethrower with Protect. Noibat then jumps in with one last Gust, knocking it back far enough that ben judges it safe for him to use Screech. Ben then gets Spewpa to thoroughly Stun Spore the Pansear before wrapping it up in String Shot, then carries it out of the forest to the nearby Pokémon Center.

Dropping it off, he meets a girl who acts a bit mysterious, and then Tyson runs in and challenges him to a battle again. Grudgingly, Ben accepts and manages to persuade the girl to referee.

Ben proceeds to demolish Tyson, stringing up his Fletchling and blowing away the Azurill. Tyson gets salty and storms off, while Ben chats with the girl. She tells him her name (Isabel), tells him to get stronger, and leaves.

Ben then finds Tyson sulking, and gives him a motivational speech that he dragged out of his ass. Tyson is inspired and runs off, vowing to meet Ben at the Pokémon League. A Nurse Joy compliments Ben on his speech, to which he admits that he made it up off the top of his head. She tells him that the fact he could make up something so accurate means that he has promise, hands him his Pokémon, and leaves. Ben is left to wonder what that means for him, before deciding that he would be finding out anyway and prepares to leave for Santalune City due to it’s relative proximity.

The next day, in Santalune, nothing important has happened in the interim. Ben is called over by the Nurse Joy, who informs him that Pansear’s trainer has been identified and ‘thoroughly reprimanded’. Ben decides he doesn’t want or need to know, and heads to the Gym.

There, he meets Viola manning the front desk. After a short conversation Ben admits to not really feeling up to fighting the Gym Leader immediately. Viola accepts this, mentions that she’d like a fight (She doesn’t notice Ben’s surprise at this) and adds that they’ll have to wait until Delsin’s done with his current challenger.

Reaching the observation platform, Ben and Viola watch as Delsin’s Volcarona duels a trainer’s Flygon, ultimately winning via copious application of Hyper Beam. Ben half-jokingly pleads to not have to face it, which Viola responds to with amusement. Delsin walks up to them, Ben mentally commenting on his cane, and asks if Ben is a new challenger. It’s worked out that no, he’s not, and Ben takes the field against Viola. Her Surskit comes out against Noibat, and a surprisingly tense battle ensues where Noibat is defeated. Ben is briefly irritated before remembering that Viola has by her own admission been a Trainer for a while now, and sends in Spewpa. With careful leverage of Protect and Stun Spore, Ben manages to lever a knockout, only for her Vivillon to come in and spam Gust for a quick knockout.

Ben accepts this in relatively good grace, before requesting a rematch at a later point. The chapter ends as he walks into a Pokémon center

Two weeks later, Ben walks into the gym and is greeted enthusiastically by Viola, asking if they’re having another battle. Ben refutes this and sets up his actual Gym battle.

Delsin materialises out of thin air (not literally future me) to accept this with his cheerily bombastic personality, and sweeps them off to battle

Viola referees because the usual guy is sick, and the battle begins. Ben brings in Vivillon, while Delsin sends out Joltik. Ben is annoyed because Delsin already knew Vivillon had evolved (Viola left her computer open on a photo of it evolving), but starts anyway, with Gust. Joltik is blown away, but hides. Ben then tries to find it, but Joltik just keeps firing Shock Waves at Vivillon, and after blasting the general area with Gusts and needing to Protect several times Ben concedes the point and switches out. Noibat takes a Shock Wave immediately and retaliates with a much more powerful Gust than Vivillon could manage; Ben spots Joltik caught up in the wind and orders a Tackle, and Delsin promptly counteracts him with Spark. Noibat comes off worse in the confrontation, but Ben orders a Screech before Joltik can escape. Dazed, Joltik can’t withstand another Gust and is knocked out.

Delsin promptly sends in a Beedrill, and orders Poison Sting. Noibat blows the needles away with Gust, and dodges a Giga Drain. This stalemates for a while; Beedrill can’t hit Noibat with Giga Drain because it dodges, and Poison Sting is blown away. Delsin orders a charge; exactly what Ben’s been waiting for. As he begins calling for Wing Attack, Delsin is already ordering a retreat; Delsin reveals that he gave himself away with his expression, and orders Beedrill to circle. Ben counter-orders Noibat to circle too, and then orders a Tackle charge. As Delsin orders a Poison Jab Ben copies what he just did and calls for a Screech. Beedrill flinches, and Noibat goes in for a Wing Attack, but Beedrill tanks the hit and strikes back. Noibat, by now quite tired, is overwhelmed by the hit and the follow-up Fury Attack and faints. Ben brings in Vivillon in response.

Delsin promptly begins attempting to blitz Vivillon. Poison Jab and Fury Attack are blocked by Protect or warded off by Stun Spore, Poison Sting is blown away and Giga Drain dodged or ignored. In return, Gust and String Shot are dodged and Vivillon no longer has an effective Tackle. Instead, Ben waits until Beedrill is commited to another attack, and (having made sure to control his face) orders Psybeam. The hit takes Beedrill full in the face, and Vivillon promptly trusses it up in String Shot and Stun Spore.

Delsin concedes defeat, and recalls Beedrill. After some minor celebration, Ben recalls Vivillon to give it some rest, and heads to the lobby with Viola. While there, they have a brief conversation where Viola admits she wants to stay in touch with Ben. Delsin ruins the moment, calls them a couple (Viola just tells him to shut up, Ben ignores the statement; Ben does notice Viola blushing slightly and decides that while she’s attractive he’s mentally five-ish years her senior) and Viola leaves. Delsin teases Ben a bit more before slumping, and Ben noticing how much older he seems. After a brief conversation on why Viola has so few friends (Her age bracket are either on journeys or not interested much, and her job is a bit too hardcore for most non-interested people to deal with especially when it has such long hours) and that he appreciates Ben giving her someone to talk to. Ben is then given the Bug Badge, which a returning Viola photographs. Viola then hands Ben the Santalune Gym phone number, which Ben pockets. He’s then hugged by Viola, and leaves for the Pokémon Center. Ben reminices briefly, before affirming his decision to leave for Lumiose in the morning.