

Chapter 54: Sun, Sand, and Shenanigans

A Few Days Later

"Bulbasaur! Finish it off with a Razor Leaf!"

Bulbasaur reacted instantly, launching a storm of leaves at the Machop it had been fighting and knocking it out cleanly.

"Great job, Machop. Return."

My opponent, a random teenager I'd met in the park, recalled his Pokémon back into its Poké Ball.

Smiling, I crouched down and patted Bulbasaur's head as it ran up to me and purred. "Good job, buddy. You're getting pretty strong, huh?" I praised, earning a happy "Bulba!" before I returned it as well.

Once the kid and I shook hands and parted ways, I headed back to the Pokémon Center. That had been our 10th consecutive win today.

It had been a few days since we all began serious training, and today marked our final day before taking a beach break for the weekend. The girls had been putting in real effort, those who actually had Pokémon, anyway, which meant I only really saw them at meals and late at night. Didn't stop them from gushing about their progress every time we met, though, which honestly was pretty cute.

On the way back, I spotted a familiar shade of blonde. Grinning, I silenced my presence and snuck up behind her. When I reached her, I gently covered her eyes with my hands, earning a surprised squeak.

"Guess who?" I asked, disguising my voice.

"Hihihhi~ Hello Aether," Luna giggled immediately, leaning her back against my chest.

"Oh? How did you know it was me?" I teased, pulling my hands away. She turned in my arms, stood on her tiptoes, and gave me a small kiss.

"I felt you coming. Only you give off that comforting feeling of death~" she said with a big smile.

I raised an eyebrow.

...comforting feeling of death?

'She must be talking about my Psychopomp Heritage. That would explain why she always knows where I am. And... well, it is Luna.'

Shaking my head, I took her hand, ignoring the giggles from a few passing girls as we continued walking.

"I see. Anyway, how was your day today?" I asked.

"It was good~! Butters even evolved into a beautiful Kakuna." She beamed, then immediately launched into an excited spiel about everything she'd done. I listened quietly, smiling to myself.

'Bringing Luna here was the right choice. She's somehow even happier than usual.'

"By the way, Aether. We're going to the beach tomorrow, right?" she asked brightly.

"Yeah. Don't worry, we are," I chuckled.

“Good! I bought a very pretty swimsuit the others recommended.” She pumped her fist. “This will be my first time going to the beach with my friends. I can’t wait~”

“I’m sure the others feel the same,” I said with a nod.

‘I have a feeling tomorrow is going to be a long day.’

=====

Following Day

The following morning came far too early.

Despite that, every single girl was already up, dressed, and buzzing with excitement long before sunrise. Even Rin, who normally needed to be resurrected with at least three cups of caffeine, looked suspiciously energetic. I had a feeling I knew why.

New swimsuits.

Hormones.

And the knowledge that I’d be seeing all of them in said swimsuits.

Yeah. That’ll do it.

Ilulu made a quick breakfast for everyone, and after we ate, we gathered near the edge of Vermillion City where the city opened up to the coastline. The salty breeze coming off the ocean was refreshing, warm, and full of energy.

“This place is still gorgeous no matter how many times I’ve seen it already...” Hermione breathed, eyes wide as she looked over the white sand cove stretching beneath us.

“It reminds me a bit of some pictures I’ve seen in some of the books I’ve read,” Luna said dreamily as Pikachu perked up on her shoulder and chirped.

“Oi, Aether.” Ginny nudged me with an elbow and gave me a teasing smirk. “Hope you’re prepared. We all picked swimsuits with you in mind.”

I blinked before giving her a teasing look in return. “With me in mind, huh?” my words caused her to lose her courage and for a blush to immediately cover her freckled cheeks.

“Don’t be getting any ideas. At least I didn’t get anything too scandalous.” Daphne said with a small huff while look off to the side with a small blush.

Astoria popped in next giving me a seductive look and winking. “Ignore the prude, Aether. I can’t wait until you see me in mine~ I hope you know that I will be expecting for you to put suntan lotion on my back.”

“Sure, sure.” I waved her away causing her to pout.

“I’m sure you’ll like mine, Onii-chan~” Illya sing-songed while striking a striking pose.

I sighed, resigned to my fate. “Right. Well, let me set up the tents and—”

My sentence was cut off as Sakura suddenly grabbed my hand.

“Senpai... turn around for five minutes. We’ll set up the tents.”

“...Why?”

“So we can change into our swimsuits. You see we want to surprise you but if you want to see us change, well I don’t mind. You’ve already seen all of me anyways.” Sakura said with a blush and turning to the side while playing with her hair.

“Oh.”

Right.

“Yeah, I’ll do that. While I know you and some of them won’t mind, I don’t want to make the others uncomfortable.” I said patting her head with a smile.

“Okay Senpai.” Sakura said with a nod sounding a bit down at me not able to see them change which I didn’t find surprising coming from her.

I moved away toward a cluster of rocks, set up a privacy barrier for extra measure, and settled in to wait.

Five minutes turned into ten.

Then fifteen.

‘Hah, I guess women will be women when it comes to taking their time changing.’ I thought with a sigh.

I was about to yell out to them to hurry up when—

“Aether? You can look now~”

Illya’s voice.

Mentally preparing myself for the stimulus I was about to receive, I took a deep breath and turned.

And suddenly froze in place as I stared at the picture of heaven in front of me.

All of them stood in a line on the sand, posing like they were about to film an anime beach episode.

And the theme they picked?

Blue.

All shades of it.

Sky blue, navy blue, sapphire, icy mist, each swimsuit different in style but matching in color.

Luna wore a soft pastel blue two-piece with frills, making her look like a dreamy sea sprite.

Sakura had chosen a more modest but elegant halter bikini, the deep blue making her eyes stand out beautifully.

Rin wore a sporty two-piece that absolutely did not hide how toned she was. She looked away immediately, ears red.

Daphne went for a chic, classy design, leave it to her to wear something that looked expensive even if it wasn’t.

Astoria... had no sense of shame. Hers was small. And blue. And I decided not to comment for fear of my already growing tent.

Ginny wore something cute and fiery, ironic given the color, and bounced eagerly on her feet.

Rose chose a blue and white striped bikini showing that underneath the mostly baggy clothes she wore during school, her body was one of the most developed just behind Sakura.

Hermione looked like she wanted to curl up and die of embarrassment, but the navy one-piece she chose fit her perfectly.

Ilulu once again proved to me that elves were the lewdest creatures imaginable by wearing a modern school swimsuit, that with her very developed figure made it look sexy instead of cute.

Bella and Asako wore simple designs but somehow managed to make them look criminal.

And Illya...

Illya had picked a magical girl swimsuit.

I didn't even know that existed.

Sparkles included.

"W-Well?" Sakura asked softly. "Do you like them, Senpai?"

I opened my mouth.

Closed it.

Opened it again.

"I— Yes. Yes, I do. All of you look... incredible." I found myself for a lost of words just saying the first words that popped into my head.

Astoria pumped her fist. "Victory!"

"That reaction will do," Daphne murmured, satisfied.

"Alright!" Ginny said with a grin. "Now your job is to put sunscreen on us!" she pointed at me with her legs spread, a hand on her hips and puffing her chest out at me.

"I'm first~" Illya said immediately running up to me and grabbing my hand holding it in a tight hold while grinning seductively at me.

"Me next!" Artoria said raising her hand with a similar grin.

As if they were waiting, the other girls also raised their hands even an embarrassed and blushing Hermione and Daphne.

Resigning myself to my arduous task, of being able to maintain a straight face that is, I grabbed a bottle of sunscreen and started. Fortunately, or unfortunately, due to all the girls wanting me to put sunscreen on them, there had been little teasing involved and soon I was done with the only problem being my swim trunks being rather tight.

"Let's hit the water!"

And with that, chaos began.

Luna waded into the surf with Pikachu riding her head like a crown.

Astoria sprinted in and cannonballed immediately.

Hermione shrieked when a mischievous Rose sprayed her with water starting a water fight.

Rin challenged Ginny to a race and immediately started trash-talking, with Ginny giving back just as much as she received.

Illya had let Ruby out to play and used magic to make herself float like she was lounging on an invisible chair.

Ilulu had to scold her twice for showing magic like that in the open but the people here ignored it probably thinking she was using a Pokémon, already used to strange things happening.

Sakura stayed close to me at first, smiling contently as she dipped her toes in, holding my arm between her breasts.

I watched them all with a fond smile forming on my face.

'Yeah... this was worth slowing down for.'

But peace didn't last long.

A large splash erupted beside me as Luna popped out of the water and grabbed my arm. "Aether! Join us!"

"Hold on— Whoa—!"

I was dragged straight into the waves, laughter breaking out from every direction.

And just like that, the beach day had fully begun.

=====

A While Later

With our group being kind of big, it opened up a lot of opportunities for games we could play. From chicken fights, volleyball, frisbee, tug-of-war, swimming races, and the all-time classic — and everyone's favorite — building a sandcastle.

That last one in particular got pretty intense when magic and Pokémon were involved, to the point we were building pieces of art that were ridiculously detailed. The girls, for some reason unknown to me at the time, got extremely competitive over who could build the best sandcastle, and even set up a whole voting system for it.

In the end, Luna was declared the winner, which didn't surprise me, and when she accepted her victory she gave me a strange smile that got me a bit turned on.

I noticed the other girls looked a bit put out, with Illya and Artoria in particular pouting at their loss, but I shoved it to the back of my mind when I was pulled into the next game.

During this little outing I also discovered that Ginny, Daphne, Rin, Astoria, and Hermione were surprisingly competitive when it came to anything requiring physical activity. At the moment, Rin was mostly winning those games because she was a cheater and a sore loser, which just made Illya call her a gorilla and annoyed her even more.

Taking a break for a bit, I found myself sitting on a beach chair eating some ice cream by myself when Luna approached me with a huge smile on her face.

Luna plopped down beside me, her smile bright enough to give the sun an inferiority complex. "Enjoying your solitude?" she asked, tilting her head as if she already knew the answer and was just humoring me.

I chuckled and held up my ice cream. "Yep. Just me and this cone."

She leaned closer, her eyes sparkling with that dreamy mischief only Luna could wield. "You know," she said, "as the reigning champion of architectural sandy wonders, I believe I'm entitled to a reward."

"Oh? And what kind of reward does Her Majesty request?" I asked, trying, and failing, not to smirk. Luna hadn't exactly been subtle earlier in the week about what she hoped would happen today.

She hummed thoughtfully, then reached out and tapped the tip of my nose with her fingertip. "Before that... are you able to cast any type of magic that will hide us from the eyes of others?" she asked, her smile shifting into something far more seductive.

I raised an amused eyebrow but nodded. “Yep. Though Illya, Rin, and Sakura might still be able to snoop if they really want to. They’re rather strong, after all.”

“It’s okay~ Don’t worry about those three. I already took care of it.” Luna waved off my concern easily, leaving me blinking before my mind drifted back to the sandcastle competition... and realizing that *might* have had something to do with this.

“Now, about that barrier?” she asked, returning to the topic with a hint of eager impatience.

“Haha, sure.” I said, concentrating for a moment before casting the spell, turning the area around us into a small radius of total visual concealment, allowing us to see out but not the other way around. “Done.”

Blushing slightly but smiling confidently, Luna rose from her seat. Making sure she had my full attention, she reached behind herself and tugged the string of her bikini top, letting it fall to the sand and baring her chest.

“Aether,” she said, crossing her arms beneath her breasts to accentuate them, “I want to experience the joys of having sex on the beach~”

For a moment, all I could do was stare.

The confidence in her eyes, the soft pink dusting her cheeks, the way she stood there proudly in the sunlight... it made something warm coil in my chest. And judging by the little smirk tugging at the corner of her lips, she knew exactly what effect she was having on me.

“Well?” Luna teased softly, swaying just a little as if to draw my attention lower. “You’re not going to make me wait, are you?”

I stood up, the sand shifting beneath my feet as I stepped closer. “Not a chance.”

Her breath hitched when I reached out and brushed my fingers along her waist, pulling her gently toward me. The heat between our bodies was instant, and she melted into my touch with a soft sigh, her hands sliding up my chest, slow and hungry.

“You feel warm,” she murmured against my neck, her lips grazing my skin in a way that sent goosebumps racing down my spine.

“That’s your fault,” I whispered back.

She giggled — airy, breathless — before guiding my hand further down her back, pressing herself closer. The world outside the barrier felt impossibly far away, reduced to nothing but distant waves and laughter. In here, it was just the two of us, wrapped in heat and summer air and the smell of salt on her skin.

Luna tilted her head up, her lips brushing mine, soft at first, then firmer when I cupped her cheek. Her kiss was sweet and hungry at the same time, like she’d been waiting all day for this moment.

“Aether...” she breathed, voice trembling with anticipation.

I kissed her again, deeper this time, and she responded immediately, fingers curling in my hair, body pressing flush against mine making me notice how hard her nipples were. Every little sound she made, every shiver that rolled through her, stoked that fire between us higher and higher.

She pulled back just enough to meet my eyes, her own half-lidded and full of desire. “The sand might get everywhere,” she whispered, teasing but breathless.

I smirked. “Worth it.”

Luna laughed, low, warm, full of affection, before tugging me down with her, her back meeting the soft sand as she pulled me into another kiss, slower and far more heated.

The barrier shimmered faintly around us, the sunlight turning golden, her hair spread like a halo on the shore as she whispered my name again...

