

Mewtwos new life

**Die Story stammt von 'Heart of Obsidian' auf fanfiction.net.
Sie kommt hier aber noch einmal, weil sie mir so gefallen hat.**

Von Hibiki

Kapitel 4: Friends: Old and New

Chapter 4
Friends: Old and New

Sunlight poured into the cave, birdsong filled the air. Mew slowly awakened, stretching her arms above her head and yawning. She looked over at Mewtwo, who was fast asleep still. She smiled at him, "Looks like he had a good night after all. . . Sleeping so soundly. He looks soooooo cute. . ."

Mewtwo turned over, mumbling some bizarre noise as he did so.

Mew fell silent, "Better not say anything else, he may just hear me." she whispered, "Suppose I'd better get us some breakfast." Mew faded out of view, teleporting instantly away.

Mewtwo mumbled something again, rubbing his eyes as he sleepily awakened. "Nice morning." Mewtwo mumbled, smiling at the warm sunlight upon his body. "So, where's Mew I wonder?" Mewtwo asked himself. He noticed a short pink hair upon his chest. He picked it up and stared at it, moving it close to his eyes, studying it intently. He smiled to himself, sighing dreamily, remembering that Mew had let him hold her, and hold her so close. . . "Again, I'm feeling the effect of that influence she has over me. . ." Mewtwo whispered, just before Mew reappeared next to him, holding an armful of fruits.

"Oh, you're awake I see!" Mew said happily, putting her haul on the ground, "I got some of everything that grows in this forest cause I wasn't sure what you liked."

Mewtwo looked down at all the fruits; apples, pears, strawberries and assorted smaller berries, blackberries, blueberries and such. "I'm not hungry." Mewtwo said.

Mew's eyes widened and she fell backwards, "You're kidding right?" She asked as she pulled herself up.

"Yep!" Mewtwo said with a chuckle as he bit into an apple.

"You have a cruel sense of humour at times!"

Mewtwo smiled, "At least I have at last discovered my sense of humour."

"True." Mew nodded, "How're you liking that apple?"

"It's really sweet. . .sweeter than any others I have tasted." Mewtwo said, placing the meek looking remains of the apple onto the cave floor.

Mew stared at it momentarily, "You eat quite quickly don't you?" Mewtwo nodded, "Yes, especially when I have things I want to do."

"Oh? Such as what?"

"I thought I'd go for a walk, take a look around the forest and the mountains."

"Would you mind if I accompanied you? I could show you around some places of interest around here if you like?"

Mewtwo shook his head, "Maybe tomorrow. I'd like to look myself first if you don't mind." He said thankfully.

"Ok then. I have a friend to see anyway, so that's okay. . . We'll look around together tomorrow, right?"

Mewtwo nodded, "Right."

"You promise. . .?"

Mewtwo chuckled, "Why so eager?"

Mew turned away blushing, "I'm not eager, I just thought it might be nice! What makes you think I'm eager!?" Mew snapped, "Sorry. . ." She whispered.

"Don't worry about it, Mew. Seeya later." Mewtwo said, turning to leave the cave. Mew glanced at him momentarily, sighed and nibbled on a berry.

"Oh, Mew!" Mewtwo called to her.

Mew turned sharply around, "Yeah?"

"Promise." Mewtwo said with a loving smile as he drifted out of the cave.

Mew smiled to herself and sighed dreamily, before returning to her breakfast.

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As Mewtwo slowly glided away from the mountain, it wasn't long before he found the gentle river, rushing from the mountains and through the forest. He followed the course of the river, staring into its transparent waters, occasionally seeing tiny Magikarp in the deeper parts. He landed a little way down the river; setting foot on a stepping stone, worn smooth by the years it had spent in the river. He looked around at the tranquil scene, shafts of sunlight burst through the trees and their branches, covering the area in the bright light of morning. Pidgey and Spearow sang in the trees and a small Rattata scuttled out from the undergrowth, eagerly devouring a few scattered berries, before being chased by another. Mewtwo sighed to himself, marvelling at the simple yet majestic beauty of nature, knowing now more than ever that this place was his home. Suddenly, Mewtwo felt a presence. His mind's eye could see the aura of a very powerful psychic coming from behind him. He turned sharply. He scanned the area. An Alakazam slowly emerged from the undergrowth. The Alakazam looked directly at Mewtwo, he blinked, once then twice and cautiously began to walk towards him. The Alakazam began to slowly scan Mewtwo with his eyes and with his mind.

"Hello there." The Alakazam said. He had a strong Russian accent, he spoke with a deep, commanding and yet friendly tone of voice, "I haven't seen you in the forest before. I have never even seen your species before." The Alakazam held out his hand in friendship, "Forgive me for that comment, it must seem so impolite! My name is Shazam, pleased to meet you. What can I call you?"

"You can call me Mewtwo. I'm new here, and there are no other members of my species." Mewtwo studied Shazam for a short while, he was an Alakazam in his prime, he wasn't exactly muscular but also not scrawny. He was very well groomed and his spoons were polished to a dazzling shine. He smiled at Mewtwo, his bright blue eyes filled with hope, not fear like Mewtwo had come to expect.

"A pleasure to meet you Mewtwo. . ." Shazam trailed off, "Is something the matter?"

"You do not fear or despise me?" Mewtwo said confusedly.

"No. . ." Shazam said, equally if not more confused than Mewtwo, "Why should I fear or despise you?"

Mewtwo shrugged, "I do not know. . .but most people do fear me. . ."

"Would you prefer me to cower in your wake? Oh please don't hurt me! That better?" Mewtwo chuckled, "That was such a riot! I must say your wit is truly astounding!" He said, with more than a hint of sarcasm.

"Ah, so you have mastered the most basic form of wit I see!"

Mewtwo smiled, "Indeed."

"So anyway." Shazam said, "You only just got here, so where did you come from?"

"I was 'born' on New Island almost a year ago, after some time I met Mew and I came here. I can fill in the gory details if you'd like, but they're a bit dull."

"A year old!" Shazam exclaimed, "You look a lot older than that! What's the full story? I bet it's not as dull as you say. Besides, Mew's been gone for months now, I have been quite concerned about her." Shazam said, walking into the forest.

Mewtwo followed him, "Well. . . I suppose I had better start at the beginning. . ." With that, he began to tell Shazam about his life, from the moment he became conscious to this point.

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In a sparsely decorated cave with nothing but a leaf bed, a single candle, a small mirror and a framed picture of Shazam and herself on a brightly lit beach several summers ago, a young, pretty Clefable sat quietly singing while grooming herself in her mirror. She glanced outside, thinking that she had heard something and shrugged, as she saw nothing. As she turned back to her mirror a pink blur flashed in front of her. She smiled. "Mew? Is that you!?" She said excitedly.

Mew slowly faded into view, "No fair! I wanted to play!" She said with a smile.

"You never change!" The Clefable said, hugging her gently.

Mew hugged back, "Nice to see you again, Princess."

Nice to see you again too." Princess replied as she released their embrace.

Princess and Mew had always been firm friends, ever since Mew first came to the Ancient Jewel forest. They met shortly after Mew's first attempt to conquer the world and their friendship soon calmed Mew's once fiery temper, it was Princess who helped Mew to become the friendly, playful, lovable being she is now. Princess had almost always lived here in the forest and knew everyone well, Mew especially. They knew one another better than they knew themselves at times and were happy to finally be reunited after many long months apart.

"So, did you finally sort things out? Did you figure out those dreams?" Princess asked.

Mew nodded.

"So what did it signify in the end? The coming of the ultimate evil? Apocalypse? The near destruction of all mankind and all Pokémon?"

Mew shook her head, "Not quite, more like. . ." She smiled, "More like finding something truly incredible. . ."

"Oh? That's not what you were talking about when you were having the dreams all those months ago." Princess stated suspiciously.

"Oh that? Well, I just misinterpreted them I guess! Let me explain. . ."

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Shazam nodded, "I see. That's quite a story!" He said as he and Mewtwo walked onwards through the forest.

"Yes indeed. Quite a story. . ."

"So let me get this straight. . .you were cloned from a fossilised Mew's last remaining hair right?" Shazam questioned.

Mewtwo nodded, "That is correct, hence the name Mewtwo. Humans are such original creatures aren't they?"

"So until your battle, you had no idea of Mew's existence? You thought the only Mew was the dead one you were made from."

"That's right I had no idea whatsoever, I knew a Mew had once existed, but I didn't know that one still did. And she had no idea of my existence until then I'll bet."

"Then you have placed your bet badly! She had prophetic dreams, dreams that foretold of the apocalypse. . .but obviously that disaster has been averted."

"Really. . .? That's strange. . ." Mewtwo replied thoughtfully, "Earlier. . .you said that you were concerned about Mew. . . Why?"

Shazam shrugged, "Tough one that! Could be the fact she and I have been friends for years, ever since I managed to talk her out of world conquest the first time around." He smiled slyly, "Why? What did you think I meant?"

Mewtwo looked confusedly at him, "I was simply asking. I don't see what other reason there could be. . ."

"Oh sure! You're a good actor I must say!" Shazam chuckled, "You thought she and I were an item right? You don't have to worry, if you like her so much then I won't be in your way!"

"I beg your pardon? An item? Won't be in my way?"

"An item. You know, a couple, a match, boyfriend and girlfriend." Shazam stared at the blank faced Mewtwo, "Going out with one another. . .?"

"I'm afraid I am unfamiliar with this concept."

Shazam stared at him slack jawed. "Unfamiliar!? You don't understand love. . .?"

"Love, fondness, warm affection, sexual passion or desire, loved person or object, in games no score." Mewtwo replied emotionlessly.

"Woah! Hold up there! I didn't ask for a dictionary! You can define love, but do you understand it?"

"What is the difference. . .?" A look of puzzlement was upon Mewtwo's face.

"A lot! Let me ask you this: Would you know if you were in love with someone? Or would it confuse you, bewilder you, leave you asking 'what are these strange feelings of mine'?"

"I do not know. . ." Mewtwo replied, something in Shazam's words struck a chord.

"Ah ha! Exactly! So you see the difference between defining and understanding!"

"I do yes. . . So where are we going?"

"My place." Shazam replied, noticing how Mewtwo had subtly turned the conversation in a new direction, he decided to play along and ask more later.

"A cave yes? Like Mew's and mine?" He asked quickly.

Shazam chuckled, "Not exactly! A human once trained me and I can't let go of certain human comforts. My 'cave' - and I use the term loosely - is a reflection of that part of my character. Come along, you'll see what I mean."

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Princess nodded, "You've had some exciting stuff happen to you!"

Mew nodded, "Yeah, it's been an interesting few months."

"So let me ask you this then. . .what was this truly incredible thing you found, and why can't you stop acting like a smitten little kitten every time you describe this Mewtwo guy? Maybe he was the incredible thing, right Mew?" Princess inquired slyly, a smile creeping over her face as her friend turned red.

"Smitten little kitten!? What do you mean!?"

"Oh come on!" She began to talk dreamily, "He's tall and he's got these. . .purple eyes and such soft grey skin. . ." Princess ended on a dreamy sigh, imitating Mew.

"Did I really sound like that. . .?" Mew asked, raising an eyebrow.

Princess nodded, "Oh yeah! Girl, you have got it bad!"

Mew blushed vibrantly now, "I do not! We're just friends!" She protested.

"Oh, well you won't mind if I asked him out then? You made him sound so cute. . ."
"Don't you dare!" Mew snapped, "Hey! I thought you liked Shazam?" There was sudden

shock upon her face as she realised what Princess had done, "You tricked me! You're so mean!" Mew pouted.

Princess chuckled, "So you do like him?"

Mew shrugged, "I guess so. . . He's really cute, sweet, intelligent."

"You could carry on describing his good points or say in other, shorter words, yes."

"Okay I like him, so what?"

"Well why don't you just ask him out then?"

"I couldn't. . . I don't really think he understands love completely. . .and besides, if he does then what could he see in someone who is like an immature little kitten compared to him. . .?"

"Just cause you know how to have fun, that doesn't make you immature."

"I still feel like a kitten compared to him! He's almost six times my size you know!"

"And that Machamp you went out with a few years back wasn't?"

Mew let out an exasperated sigh, "Do not mention that jerk!"

"Sorry. . . But you still went out with him despite his size, didn't you?"

"Yeah well. . . He was still a jerk!"

"So size isn't the real problem then." Princess stated, "Size could also be a very good thing too, know what I mean?" She added slyly.

Mew rolled her eyes.

"So what's the real problem?"

"The problem is, he's so great and I'm so not great. Any girl with eyes and a brain would try and go out with a guy who's as great as him in my opinion, but how many guys have ever stuck with me? Even that Machamp broke up with me in the end, when I should have dumped him. Do you know why they all broke up with me?"

"Because they were all jerks with no taste."

"No!" Mew snapped, "They all said it to my face, that I was too weird, too childish, too immature. . . Sure they all admitted I was cute, but I was just too immature for them all." She sighed deeply. "I'm the cute little kitten that they play with and stroke for a little while then throw back out into the cold. . ."

"You just know how to have fun, you are not immature. If Mewtwo doesn't like you

just the way you are then it's his loss and you're probably better off without him."

"No Princess. It won't be his loss at all. He wouldn't care about not being with me if he didn't even like me to begin with and I would not be better off at all!!"

"You say that now. . ."

"You don't understand Princess. . ." She blushed, "I'm in love with him. . ." Mew whispered, her heart racing and her cheeks reddening slightly.

"Sorry Mew, I didn't hear you. Speak up a little." Princess said concernedly.

"I'm in love with him." Mew repeated with a sad sigh. "I'm in Love with him, even though I know that no matter what he will never feel the same way."

"Mew, don't get like this, you hardly know the guy!"

"I do know him. I have spent almost a year with him, though he never said much, though he didn't show much emotion until very recently, over all that time I realised at last why I couldn't bring myself to destroy him. He was going to wipe out all life on this planet, but I wouldn't lift a finger to hurt him, all I did was counter attack. . . except for when I threw his own attack back at him, and even then I made sure that wouldn't be enough to hurt him too badly. So why wouldn't I destroy him when he was going to annihilate the world and me along with it? Because I was falling in love with him, even when we seemed like bitter enemies I saw beyond his act. It was all just a cry for help. A cry I answered. I saw that he was going through the same pain I was going through when I tried to destroy the world the first time, he didn't want to do it, he just wanted to know who he was and whether his life was worth anything to anyone. Over the time we spent with one another, I realised he made me feel unlike anyone else has ever made me feel, it's attraction yes I won't deny it but also far beyond attraction. I am deeply in love with him Princess, and don't you dare try and say I am wrong, because you don't know how he makes me feel! Maybe if you did, you'd understand. . ."

Princess smiled, "If you love him so much then there is no sense in keeping it from him, if you love someone and don't tell them so right from the moment you realise then you could spend your life trying to find the courage but always saying, 'just one more day' putting it off until you're so scared of rejection that you daren't ever tell them how you feel."

"Speaking from experience?"

Princess nodded solemnly. "I'll tell Mewtwo, when you tell your guy."

"Don't wait for something that could never happen, you have a chance, I don't."

"But I know he loves you, I heard him say so!"

"Don't mock me Mew. . . just drop the subject. . ."

"Okay. Sorry. . ."

"Suddenly I feel like eating a tub of triple chocolate ice cream while watching Casablanca. . ."

"Me too. . ." Mew sighed, "You wanna share the ice cream?"

Princess smiled meekly, "Sure. . ."

Mew hovered to the door, "Come on then, I'm sure Shazam won't mind."

"He never minds. He's so sweet, so kind." Princess sighed, "Come on, I don't want to start feeling all teary eyed before I even get there. . . Let's go."

Mew nodded, and the two friends made their way down into the forest.

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Mewtwo stepped through the polished oak double doors of Shazam's cave. He looked around the huge cavern, the entire room was made of polished white marble, the floor was covered with a soft red carpet, a golden chandelier hung majestically from the ceiling, its crystals catching the light and turning it into multi-coloured reflections on the ceiling. At one wall was a bar; opposite it was a huge open fireplace with a couch in front of it, and at the furthest wall a large screen TV and home entertainment system. Mewtwo then noticed the stairs to the left of him, leading downwards to more rooms. Mewtwo's mouth hung slack.

"Not bad is it?" Shazam said passively, "My former master was a Russian born aristocrat, he made his fortune in psychiatry and professional chess championships as stereotypical as that sounds. I used to be his opponent in chess, he rarely beat me and saw me as an extremely skilful adversary." He continued as he walked to the bar, "Chardonnay?" Shazam said as he reached the bar and opened a small wine bottle from a rack.

"Hmmm? Oh right. . .wine. . .sure go ahead. . ."

Shazam poured two glasses and handed one to Mewtwo, "Following my master's death a few years ago, I was forced to leave my old home, a place like this only on a much larger scale, and I came here. I made this place from the rocks using a skill I acquired a few years ago that is quite simply put, transforming matter via psychic influence."

"Psychometamorphosis?"

"I can't say I have ever heard of such a word, but I suppose it sums it up pretty well. While here I met a really cute Clefairy called Princess, you'll probably meet her at some point. Of course, these days she's no cute Clefairy. . ."

"As in, she is no longer cute or she is no longer a Clefairy?"

"Well. . .she's no longer a Clefairy, she's evolved. . ." Shazam sipped on his wine.

"But, you still think she's cute?"

"And if I do? What does it matter?"

"I don't know, you seemed rather eager to find out if I felt anything for Mew, I was wondering if you felt anything for Princess."

"Ah! I see! But I won't answer that until you answer my question! So, if you claim not to understand love I think we should get you to understand it better."

Mewtwo nodded and sipped his wine; "This is better than the stuff I managed to salvage during my attempt at world conquest."

"Vintage 1840. Well, technically vintage this morning when I made it from a rock, but its atomic composition is the same as that of 1840 Chardonnay."

Mewtwo nodded understandingly, "Nice trick that I must say, such a thing must be unlimited in its applications!"

Shazam chuckled, "Indeed. As I have already said the technique created this entire cave. Given time the original subject matter can have it's atoms totally restructured into 'blanks' for want of a better term, to be turned into whatever element I want."

"That's impossible!"

"Well, so is altering the space time continuum, but you and Mew managed it back on New Island didn't you? Putting all the trainers back, setting right what was wrong."

"True. . . I guess there are no impossibilities, only difficulties. Could you possibly teach me Psychometamorphosis? It would be a most useful skill to know."

"I could do. Just one question."

"Go on."

"What would you use it for?" Shazam asked, downing the last of his wine.

"Why, simple my friend, world domination!!!" Mewtwo cried, laughing maniacally.

Shazam raised an eyebrow.

Mewtwo fell silent.

"Do you practice laughing like that. . .?"

"It's a hobby of mine." Mewtwo replied jokingly as he finished his wine.

"You need a new hobby comrade. . . Anyway, seriously now, what would you use Psychometamorphosis for?"

"I guess I'd spruce up the cave a little. . ."

"Your cave?"

"No, Mew's cave."

"So you intend on staying with Mew for a while then?" Shazam asked. He fumbled around under the bar and he switched on a Dictaphone.

"I suppose so. . .she seems to like having me around. . ."

"And, do you like being around her?"

Mewtwo shrugged, "She is a good friend, in all my life my only friend. . .apart from you of course."

"What do you like about her then?"

"Physically?"

Shazam smiled slyly, "I meant personality wise, but you can go on about the physical side if you like. . ."

Mewtwo suddenly detected a whirring noise in the midst of the silence between their speech, "Why are you recording this conversation?"

Shazam turned off his Dictaphone, "Recording? Me? No, not at all!"

"Do not try to deceive me Shazam, why did you record our conversation? And why have you got a recording device at the bar anyway?" "Shazam sighed, "For later study. Like my master before me I'm a psychiatrist, I helped my master to treat Pokémon while he was alive and now I do it myself from time to time. I keep recording devices around the cave, to take notes. I have a great memory but my master used to do it as he was quite forgetful from time to time, I guess I picked it up from him and old habits die hard."

"So what is your diagnosis of me then?" Mewtwo snarled, "I like you Shazam, you seem to be an intelligent and interesting person so I mean no disrespect when I say this, however I feel it must be said. . ."

"I do not need a damn shrink, I am not insane." Shazam interrupted.

Mewtwo fell silent, "I intended to use much stronger terminology but that is basically what I intended to say. . ."

"I was not looking for signs of insanity, I was looking for signs of denial."

"Denial? In what way am I in denial?"

"Mew."

"I beg your pardon? I am in denial about Mew? Kindly explain."

"I think you understand love a little better than you would have me believe. You understand so much despite your chronological age, plus it stands to reason that you would at least have an inkling of love as physically you are at your prime, you were obviously created with accelerated growth up to your adult stage to make breeding you easier. . . Anyway, I put it to you that you do understand love however you have barred the knowledge from your mind, convincing yourself that you know nothing of love, in order to create a barrier between you and Mew to prevent you two from becoming too close."

"Why would I do that? Up until now you have been convinced I am crazy about her and now you say I am creating a barrier between her and I?"

"Yes! An emotional barrier, to protect yourself from the pain that you know might well come from loving her, a pain we all fear. Rejection. You want a friend, so you will allow that, but subconsciously you know that if you get too close you may be rejected and lose a friend and someone you love."

"You do not know anything." Mewtwo said, turning away from Shazam.

"All your life you have felt rejected, by your creators, by Giovanni, by all natural born Pokémon and even by Mew back when you thought of her as an enemy, and so deeply imprinted within your psyche is this feeling of rejection, so deeply does the wound go that you fear any further rejection will be more than you can bear!! The world rejected you, your creators rejected you and you're afraid the one you love so deeply will do exactly the same, and you are scared, terrified in fact, utterly terrified!"

Mewtwo recoiled, his heart felt as though an iron nail had been driven straight through it and his eyes pricked with tears.

"You're scared of what she could do. She could completely destroy you with the word 'no'. You love her so much, and couldn't stand your feelings to go unrequited."

"Let's say you are right, let's say that every word you have said is true. . .what would anyone do in a situation like this. . .?"

"Tell Mew how you feel."

"How could she care for me. . .? Look at me Shazam. . . I'm a freak. . ."

"Tell Mew how you feel."

"I can't Shazam! If she rejects me, then what? I lose her friendship, I lose my home, and I lose the one shred of happiness that keeps me going. . ."

"Tell Mew how you feel. You will not lose her as a friend, you will not lose your home and maybe you'll be happier than you have ever been before. If you never find out how she feels about you, then the doubt will drive you close to insanity."

"I know how she feels and hearing her say 'I'm sorry but I don't love you' or words to that effect won't make me happy. . ." Mewtwo replied, forcing back his tears.

"What if she says, 'I love you too'?"

"No Shazam, she will not. . ."

"But you cannot be sure of that, can you?"

"I am sure enough. . ."

Just then, a knock came at the door. Shazam sighed and lifted his head to look.

"Go and answer that, and please drop the subject."

"Very well. But you must confront it sooner or later." Shazam replied as he walked to the door. "It will not go away."

Mewtwo stared at the ground, he sighed deeply and closed his eyes, trying to shut the world from view.

Shazam slowly opened his doors, smiling broadly at his guests, "Hi there, come in, come in! Ice cream is in the freezer, Casablanca's in the same place as always."

Princess smiled sweetly, "How do you know we're here for that reason Shazam? I think you're jumping the gun a little. . ."

"Fancy a game of chess then?"

Princess' face darkened, "Where did you say the ice cream was?"

Shazam chuckled, "You're kinda predictable at times you know."

Princess narrowed her eyes, "Shut up!" She chuckled with a smile.

Mew slowly hovered over to Mewtwo, "Hey there. You okay?"

Mewtwo looked up at her and smiled, "Yeah, I'm just fine thanks. . ."

"Good." Mew smiled back.

"Good." Mewtwo replied as he looked into her eyes.

Princess watched the two, Shazam followed her gaze. "Cute couple aren't they Shazam?" Princess whispered.

"Yes indeed, very cute. . . You think they like each other?"

"I know at least one of them likes the other." Princess replied, smiling as Mew and Mewtwo turned embarrassedly away from then slowly back towards each other.

"Same here." Shazam chuckled.

"You thinking what I'm thinking?"

"Matchmaking! Ah, I haven't done that in a while. . ." Shazam said with a smile. Princess smiled back, nodding and walked over to Mew and Mewtwo.

"This is Princess." Shazam said to Mewtwo.

"Pleased to meet you." Mewtwo said, turning reluctantly away from Mew's mesmerising eyes and shaking Princess' hand.

"The pleasure is all mine. . . You know Mew, you were right."

"About what?" Mew asked confusedly.

"About Mewtwo, he is sorta cute isn't he. . .?"

Almost instantly, both Mew and Mewtwo turned bright red.

"That was sweet of you to say that Mew. . ." Mewtwo thanked her shyly.

"No problem. . ." She replied smiling, her cheeks reddening more. She cleared her throat, "Shouldn't we be watching the film by now, Princess?"

"Okay then, seeya later Shazam, Mewtwo."

"Bye Princess, nice to meet you. Seeya later Mew. . ." Mewtwo said with a smile.

Mew smiled sweetly back at him and waved shyly.

"Come on comrade Mewtwo." Shazam said walking to the stairs, "Let's leave them to it." Shazam glanced briefly at Princess and smiled.

She smiled back as Shazam went down the stairway, before plucking the ice cream from the freezer at the bar.

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"Well, I was right. . ."

"About what pray tell?" Mewtwo replied as he and Shazam walked down a small corridor.

"You and Mew, what else?" Shazam chuckled, "I haven't seen the look of love upon anyone's face like it was on yours and hers except in films! You two are made for each other!"

"Upon. . .her face?"

"Oh yeah, you bet! Man, she is crazy about you!" Shazam said, turning to a door.

"You really think so?" Mewtwo asked, an excited smile upon his face. "You're not just saying that, right?"

"Not at all. That girl obviously thinks the world of you. . ." Shazam replied, opening the door into a medium sized room. Again, red carpets and white marble walls, in one corner was a large double bed with deep purple sheets, a large window with lush purple curtains on one wall letting bright sunlight stream in and in the centre of the room was a gold and silver chessboard and playing pieces.

"No, no you're just saying that. . . I think the world of her, perhaps you were just looking at me and got confused. . .?"

Shazam raised an eyebrow, "Yeah sure, whatever! She's got it bad man! She is crazy about you, there's no doubt about that!"

"No I don't think so. . ." Mewtwo's eyes fell upon the chessboard, he studied it.

"You play chess?" Shazam asked.

"No, but it looks simple enough. Will you teach me how to play?"

"Simple!! Ha! Simple rules yes, simple game, no way! I'll be more than happy to teach you, just sit down and we'll begin!"

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Hours later, Mew sniffled tearfully as the film ended. "Love never runs smooth for anyone. . .ever. . .it's not fair!"

"That's not true at all, there are romances that go well."

Mew scraped at the bottom of the ice cream tub and spooned the melted remains into her mouth, she swallowed and sighed, "Name one, just one!"

"Ummmm. . .Titanic!"

"Starts off well, but then the boat sinks! Their love ends tragically. . ."

"They have a lil fun before that though!" Princess said chuckling and smiling slyly.

"Is sex really all that bothers you?"

"Well. . .no. . .but it is a major factor!"

"Come on, name one already."

"Romeo and Juliet?"

"They both die! How's that a happy story?" Mew groaned, "But the couple still have sex huh. . .?" She said as she narrowed her eyes.

"What can I say, it's just one of those things." She smiled, "Don't tell me you don't think about it now and then! But I bet you think about it a whole lot more now that you've met Mewtwo, huh Mew? Am I right. . .?"

Mew blushed, her face bright red. She was suddenly struck by silence.

"I'll take that as a yes!" Princess smiled. "Something about that soft grey skin that does it for you, not to mention he's six times your size. . ."

"But like I said, love never seems to run smooth! Do romances ever run smooth? I don't think they do!" Mew quickly interrupted, trying desperately to redirect the conversation.

"Depends on the couple, and of course it depends on whether you can get over yourself and just ASK HIM OUT!"

"Shhh! Not so loud, what if he hears? You've already embarrassed me once today."

"Not just you, he was embarrassed too. . ."

"Don't be stupid, what would he ever see in me?"

"Well, what is there not to see in you?"

"I. . .I. . . Ummmm. . . Hey don't ask me questions like that!"

"You can't answer it! You know I'm right deep down huh?"

"I hope you are. . . I sincerely hope you are. . ."

Suddenly, an ear splitting scream pierced the air. The terrifying howl chilled Mew and Princess to the bone, their fur bristling as they snapped around to look at the stairs.

"That sounded like Shazam." Mew said. It fell on no one's ears as Princess was already

rushing rapidly to the stairs.

Mew shrugged and followed.

* * * * *

Shazam gaped at the chessboard, "How. . .? Your first game! Your FIRST GAME!!!"

"Did I do good?" Mewtwo asked, his fingers still placed around his knight, Shazam's king placed in checkmate.

The door burst open and Princess glanced quickly and worriedly around. "Is everyone okay?"

Mewtwo looked up, "I believe I have done something wrong. . ."

Shazam studied the board, replaying each move in his mind, mumbling his thoughts.

"What's wrong Shazam? Who screamed?" Princess asked concernedly.

"I did! Can't you see what's wrong!?" Shazam said, wiping his fevered brow.

"No, not exactly. . ." She replied, a look of bewilderment upon her face.

Mew floated in and her eyes fell on the chessboard, "You are one bad loser Shazam!"

"I don't get it. . ." Mewtwo said confusedly, "What's wrong Shazam?"

"Well sweetie," Mew said, "Y'see this is Shazam's favourite game, to him it's more than a game. To him chess is a psychological battle for supremacy, I suppose he used his classic distraction technique?"

"Distraction technique?" Mewtwo asked, finally letting go of his knight.

"He made his spoons spin round the room right?"

Mewtwo nodded. Meanwhile, Princess was stood totally shocked.

"Well, he does that to distract you, get your mind off the game so you make one false move, just one false move is all it takes! Then, he unleashes an unstoppable combination of attacks, normally crushing all opposition with no remorse whatsoever. Seems like this time he's either not concentrating or you saw through the attacks."

"He beat me! I used every tactic I know, every move and every psychological trick, yet still for the first time in years I have been defeated." Shazam said sadly, hanging his head in defeat.

"You mean that I was worried out of my skull when I heard you scream, and all that was wrong was this game!?" Princess snapped.

"You were worried about me...?" Shazam asked shakily, "I'm sorry Princess... I guess I over reacted..." He added sadly.

"No, that's okay." Princess replied soothingly, "I know how seriously you take chess, just like your master did... I'm sorry..."

"No problem Princess, don't worry." Shazam smiled. He turned to Mewtwo, "Good game Comrade Mewtwo. I look forward to our next one."

"It's only lunch time, we still have time for another." Mewtwo said as he stood up. Suddenly he looked at Mew, "Mew, a second ago, did you call me sweetie?"

Mew shrugged, "Did I? Can't say I remember if I did. You suddenly expecting me to call you sweetie now, huh Mewtwo?"

"If you want to, your choice."

"I'll get back to you on that one..." Mew said with a sly smile.

"Will you two quit flirting already? Just get on with it and ask each other out!" Princess pouted. "And Mewtwo, talk about slow reactions!"

"Why don't you two?" Mew replied, turning to Princess.

Princess and Shazam looked at one another briefly and then looked back at Mew and Mewtwo, "We don't know what you mean..." They said in embarrassed unison.

Mew smiled to herself, watching as her two friends faces slowly began to turn crimson.

"Those two are crazy about each other!" She whispered to Mewtwo.

"Really? I thought it was just Shazam who liked Princess..." He whispered back.

Mew's eyes widened with surprise and she flew quickly over to Princess, "Come on, let's go! I think I saw another tub of ice cream in that freezer!" She said hurriedly as she pulled Princess outside.

Shazam and Mewtwo stared at the door bewildered.

Mew poked her head around the doorframe and smiled, "See you guys later!" She called, winking quickly at Mewtwo before racing off.

"What did you just say to her...?" Shazam asked.

"Nothing." Mewtwo shrugged, not only shrugging off Shazam's question, but also the fact Mew had winked at him.

"Okay, if you insist."

"How about another game?"

Shazam smiled, "You're on! And this time, I am going to beat you!"

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"Say Mew, what's the big rush?" Princess asked as they reached the couch.

Mew smiled, "I know something you don't know!"

Princess raised an eyebrow, "I seriously doubt that!"

Mew frowned and folded her arms, "Meanie! I'm not telling you anything now!"

"Awww c'mon I was only kidding! Tell me!"

"Oh, it's nothing. . . It's just that. . ."

"Just that what Mew?" Princess asked, growing a little impatient.

"Mewtwo says Shazam likes you."

Princess shrugged, "What, you need your boyfriend to tell you when two people are friends?"

"No, I mean he really likes you!"

Princess sighed deeply, "How many times do we have to go over this Mew? Shazam and I are friends, nothing more and nothing less. Why do you have a problem with that?"

"I don't, I just know how much you like each other."

"Okay, maybe you're right, maybe he does like me, so what? He's not gonna do anything about it. . .he hasn't done in years so why would he change that now? Listen Mew, you like Mewtwo right?"

"Well, duh! How could I not like that cutie. . .?" Mew replied with a dreamy sigh.

"Do something about it now then. Do something about it before it's too late. . ."

"It's never too late for true love."

"Maybe so, but you never know if it's true love until you're actually dating the guy."

"Not always."

"Could we just drop it? You're making me depressed again. . ."

Mew produced a tub of ice cream from behind her back, "Why'd you think I got this then?"

Princess smiled and the two slumped into the couch.

* * * * *

As Shazam contemplated his next move, Mewtwo found his mind wandering from the game and onto the past of his beloved. "Did she really try to take over the world twice?" He wondered in his mind, "Is she really that powerful?"

"I don't know how you do it, but I have no idea what to do next and it's only the twenty second turn!"

Mewtwo smiled, "I'm obviously a fast learner."

"Not to mention a cocky git!"

Mewtwo chuckled at this. "Shazam, could I ask you something?"

"Fire away, I'm all ears."

"Could you tell me about Mew's past? It's been bugging me ever since I got here. . ."

Shazam nodded, "I thought this would come up at some point. Very well then, perhaps once I am finished I may see a move before me." Shazam cleared his throat and began to explain. "This is everything that Mew has told me. She said that the very first thing she remembers is awakening to a storm, she was flying through it, the rain soaked her fur. She doesn't remember any family, friends, or any history before that time, even though by then she was five years old. She spent a year or more, searching for a place to call her own, a home of her own. Tribe after tribe rejected her, some tribal leaders befriended her but the other Pokémon could not accept her. She hated the world, hated the cruelty, the corruption, the unkindness, she wanted to destroy it all, for all she could see was the darker side of things. By luck, she began her first attempt at planetary destruction three years ago over this very forest, and I was able to talk her out of it. She and Princess became friends and she lived happily for about six months or so when she met this Machop. . .self obsessed as they all are, he didn't have a care in the world but himself. She had her heart set on him, thought she loved him but it was just a physical thing and sure they went out for a while, but he dumped her, saying she was too weird, childish, immature and stuff like that. She took it really hard, he was the last in a line of failed relationships but he was the most hurtful to Mew. She tried to destroy the world in her rage again. This time, both Princess and I played our parts in talking her out of it. . .I think it was at about that point that I first realised how much I love her, Princess that is. . .but enough of my problems. . . Over the next year and a half, Mew settled down here and Princess and I became firm friends with Mew, then a year ago she left and came back with you, the fourth member of our happy little family."

Mewtwo raised an eyebrow.

"Okay, the family comment was cheesy. . ." Mewtwo stared, his eyebrow still raised.

"I'm sorry okay!"

Mewtwo relaxed and smiled. "So Mew didn't have any family?"

"She can't remember them if she did and she's not pushing back some horrible memory either, I have probed into the deepest parts of her subconscious at her request, trying to discover the truth. . .but it's as though that part of her memory has been totally wiped clean, impossible though it may seem. . ." Shazam's face darkened, "It's terrifying. . . Something must have caused that, but what. . .?"

"Perhaps it is best not to concern yourself?"

Shazam nodded and moved his rook.

Mewtwo knocked it down with a pawn and took it off the board.

Shazam studied the board, "Git. . ." He mumbled.

"How about you and Princess? How did you two end up here?"

"Princess and I? Well. . .Princess was here before even I was, she ran away from her abusive trainer when she was just two, that was five years ago, one year before I got here, the year before Mew showed up and the three years we have all been together."

"So. . .Princess is seven then?"

"Yep. She's seven."

"How about you?"

"Me? Nine and a half. I lived with my master for four and a half years before I found myself living here. It's so peaceful here don't you think? Almost thirty miles square of forest and no other Pokémon - apart from a few wild Rattata and some Magikarp, nothing of any consequence - comes anywhere near!"

"So. . .after a whole year alone together and three years with Mew always trying to be a matchmaker, you and Princess are just friends then? Strange that, seeing as you both like each other. . ."

Shazam sighed, "What do you know!?" He growled harshly, his words edged with venom, "Which one of us has spent four years with her, getting to know her like she was my sister or something, and which of us has only just met her? Hm? I think I know her better than you do, comrade."

"Forgive me if this sounds stupid, after all who am I to counsel a shrink? But, of course you can't see how she feels! You know her as a friend and that's all you are willing to see her as, that's all you can see her as, you couldn't imagine your closest friend becoming anything more, too much of a shock to the system, too much to cope with."

"Comrade. . ."

"Yes?"

"Shut up! The only reason I don't ask her out is cause I'm too damn shy! None of this psycho babble you just came out with is relevant to me!"

Mewtwo shrugged, "You're probably right I guess. . .sorry to interfere. . ."

"No problem." Shazam said as he placed what he thought was a pawn out in the open.

"Checkmate." Mewtwo sniggered.

Shazam looked down at the board. He had just moved his own king out into the open with no escape. "I'm sorry. . . I guess my mind was elsewhere. . ."

"Thinking about Princess huh?"

"Can you blame me?"

Mewtwo shrugged, "Guess not. . ."

"You want another game?"

"Actually I feel like watching that film with Mew and Princess. . .I wonder if they have any raspberry ripple. . .?"

It was Shazam's turn to raise an eyebrow.

"I was kidding! Princess seems lovelorn, probably pining for you."

"Oh really? And why would Mew be watching it as well if that was truly the case?"

"Emotional support?"

Shazam smiled and shook his head, "Something tells me you and Mew shall not be lovelorn for much longer. . ."

"Doubtful. . . For Mew is not lovelorn, and I know she'll never feel the same about me. . ." Mewtwo said as he replaced the pieces. Suddenly he looked up at Shazam, "Teach me Psychometamorphosis."

"Now?"

"No time like the present!"

"Do you have something in mind?"

"Yeah. . .just a little thing I have in mind for Mew. . ." Mewtwo blushed.

"Awwww! Mewtwo's going to try and do something really sweet for his beloved! Isn't that sooooo incredibly cute!" Shazam cooed mockingly before gagging.

"You do realise I could vaporise you right where you stand don't you?" Mewtwo jokingly threatened with a smile.

Shazam smiled and faked nervousness, "Sh. . .shall w. . .we b. . .begin?"

Mewtwo chuckled, nodded and stood slowly from the table, eager to begin learning this new technique.