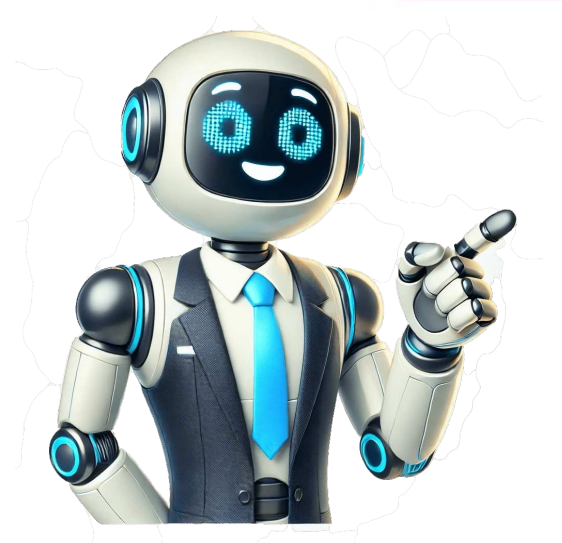


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Famous song from the nutcracker

Hello fellow book lovers! I am overjoyed to share that my new adult duology, "The Hunter and The Bringer" AND "Monsters and Mortals!" is embarking on a virtual book blog tour. This journey has been a long time coming, and I'm thrilled to finally be here. Growing up, Disney held a special place in my heart. Its stories inspired me, its animation captivated me, and the magic it created shaped who I am today. However, as Rumpole would say, "All magic comes with a price." And indeed, the influence of Disney has been both a blessing and a curse. As a writer, I've come to realize that our jobs are multifaceted: writing our works and advertising them. In this modern era, social media, interviews, promotions, and word of mouth are just a few of the outlets we use to reach our audiences. With my 150th Top Ten list on my website nearing completion, I thought it would be fitting to dedicate one final entry to other fantastic animation studios like Dreamworks, Illuminations, and Blue Skies. My love for writing started at a young age, and I've been fortunate enough to have had the support of family and friends throughout the years. My childhood was filled with creativity, and I grew up in Edmonton, Alberta, where I developed a passion for storytelling. One of my earliest memories is creating a series called Care Cats, which was like "Care Bears" meets Cam Jansen Mysteries. I'm thrilled to say that my school library even published some of them! For me, musicals are the ultimate form of escapism and self-expression. There's something about music and stories that makes life feel grander. In fact, my love for both writing and music has led me to see as many musicals and plays as I can throughout the year. As I look back on my journey, I'm reminded of my childhood summers spent in London with my family. My mom's roots there have had a lasting impact on my life. Now, onto my favorite Top Ten Lists! that always put a song in my heart. For my monthly update, what better one than to share with you my latest project, which should be out by the END OF THIS MONTH! The book is a young adult holiday story about two young people who inspire kids to chase their dreams just like Barbie Roberts. My childhood was filled with writing and I even turned my passion into a career. Growing up in Edmonton, Alberta, I've been lucky enough to meet some amazing people who have made an impact on my life. I'm grateful for authors like J.M. Coleman, Mr. Bob Hamby, Rick Bradley, James Cheatham, Rachael, and Ellie who are not only talented but also kind-hearted and full of joy. They inspire me every day with their passion and creativity. Meeting people from all over the world through my nerd lifestyle has been a gift, and I'm so lucky to have friends like these in my life. Mrs. Ellie Mack is an inspiration and a special person that can be met at conventions. Jody is a hard-working model who makes everyone feel welcome and valued for their uniqueness. Many Disney couples have been torn apart, but some I would support if all worlds were connected. I love learning more about Disney facts, which are worth so much more than just entertainment. I met my best friend Evan in high school during gym class at a local park. For the holidays, I enjoy favorite songs and specials, but I'm out of ideas now. Hello world! Welcome to my first segment of "A.U." or "Authors Unite," where every author's story is worth its weight in gold. I'll be switching between this and Aspiring Author Spotlight at the end of each month. Months ago, I approached my publisher Sheenah with an idea to interview each other. I wanted to show our rapport and what she truly thought of me as literature lovers and friends. In November 2013, my husband and I went on a nostalgia trip, playing Pokémon together. We visited Gamers Bazaar, a local card shop, where we met the owners and taught students how to play Pokémon TCG while selling copies of my book. I used to have small groups of students, usually around 3-7, with some friends helping me out. But things took off when more people got interested! By June 2014, we had our first Elite Four matches. Trainers would battle the four members and then face the champion (me) for the monthly title. The fire was lit, and our numbers grew as word spread around. We needed stronger cards for Generation 6, so I gained new friendships as more people joined the Poke Crew. By October, we had taken over the store with 29 trainers and 10 adults helping out. We started having themes, celebrations, and organization... It became a massive event, teaching a generation and reviving Pokémon in our town. Now, we have 15 Poke Crew members and 3 honorary members, all with unique personalities and backstories. Our average trainer count is 12-22, and it's still growing! We even get donations from the store for raffles now. In May 2017, we had to update our rules to meet the demands of our trainers. I'd like to thank all the trainers who keep the spirit of Pokémon alive. No matter how old we get, we'll strive to be the best like no one ever was! Gotta catch 'em all! Nathan Christian, known as Christian, is a member of the Elite Four and teaches at Morgan's school, which caters to children from ages four to sixteen. When brainstorming ideas for her second book, Morgan encountered Nathan and the rest of the Elite Four, who all reside together in a grand mansion on school premises. While loving all Pokémon, psychic ones hold a special place in his heart, with Morgan developing an especially strong bond with some legendary creatures. Nathan hails from outside Lavender Town in the Kanto region and is the grandson of Agatha, the first ghost Elite Four member. Growing up amidst Lavender Town's paranormal activity, Nathan received gifts from his grandmother to interact and communicate with ghosts, though these entities often preferred to play pranks on people rather than follow orders. His grandmother, Agatha, would regularly meet Nathan during early morning walks, sharing stories about Professor Oak and how his pursuit of science led him to neglect Pokémon bonding. Nathan's grandmother was particularly harsh in her criticism of Professor Oak, fueling a deep-seated bitterness within Nathan as well. After attending E.T.U. with Derrick and Evan, he found solace in the friendship they shared. However, following Agatha's passing a few months before Morgan's university opening, Nathan struggled to cope. His grandmother had bequeathed him her crystal cane and beloved Gengar, but his inability to properly train these ghosts led to issues within the Prism region. Seeking spiritual connection, Nathan was eventually consoled by Derrick and eventually Morgan, who invited him to join her school. Upon arrival, Morgan noticed Nathan's struggles with communicating with spirits and suggested they work together on enhancing his abilities. This led to an introduction to Miss Eevee, Morgan's assistant at the time, whom Nathan fell in love with. Mrs. Eevee continues to support Nathan as he occasionally attempts to connect with his grandmother's spirit, leading some to believe he talks to walls. Nathan and his wife, Mrs. Eevee, currently reside on school premises alongside other Elite Four members, including Morgan and Derrick, who also lives in the mansion. Derrick's passion for training his Pokémon in caves during his free time is rivalled only by his love for spoiling Flippy. As the younger brother of Lance, the renowned dragon-type expert and spy, Derrick has had high expectations placed upon him since a young age. However, he never felt compelled to follow in his family's footsteps, opting instead to forge his own path. After attending the Elite Trainer University (E.T.U.), where he was best friends with Evan and Nathan, Derrick decided against pursuing dragon-type training. This decision was solidified when he met Flippy, a friendly Zubat with a crooked wing, whom he befriended as an eight-year-old. The two had many exciting adventures together in the caves on his family's property, where Derrick would visit Flippy daily. As he grew older, Derrick became determined not to evolve Flippy, much to Lance's initial dismay. However, once Evan reconnected with him after graduation, Morgan appointed him as an Elite Four member, allowing him to train openly and reunite with his friend. Derrick's fierce battling skills earned him a reputation, but his heart melted when he saw Flippy or heard his favorite song. Flippy is a cherished companion, and Derrick goes to great lengths to protect him. He even attempted to teach Flippy how to drive, resulting in a memorable crash into Fabio's limo. In addition to his Pokémon training, Derrick is an accomplished BBQ chef. His nickname "Mrs. Eevee" stems from his dedication to mastering the Eevee line. Outside of his Pokémon pursuits, Mrs. Eevee (Tabitha) is a competitive cosplayer and costume model when not serving as an Elite Four member or assisting the Champion. Jules is the older sister of Calem, a rival trainer from the Kalos region, who shares a deep bond with her beloved Pokémon Eevee. After receiving her own Eevee to train and love, Jules pursued her passion for Pokémon contests in the Hohen region, drawing inspiration from ancient mysteries that fueled her fantasy costumes and sparked her journey to catch or breed every Eevee form. Her love for anime conventions also played a significant role, where she met Miss Eevee and Umbreon, with whom she formed an instant connection. Jules joined the Poke Crew, befriended other Elite Four Members, including Evan, Derrick, and Nathan, and helped him overcome his emotional struggles. Her calm demeanor and soothing presence had a profound impact on Nathan, who eventually connected with her on a deep level. They got married in 2015, solidifying their bond. As the Secretary and personal assistant to Morgan, Jules balances her busy life between training with Blaine on Cinnabar Island, attending conventions, and supporting her friends at school and the league. Her passion for Pokémon watching, art, and baking brings joy to those around her. With a background in Pokémon battle strategies and techniques, Jules is dedicated to her craft, always seeking new ways to improve and connect with her beloved Pokémon. Jules' Journey as a Pokémon Trainer Jules met Professor Sycamore about getting a Pokédex and Poké Balls. There she befriended Froakie, who was abused by his previous trainer, making him difficult to approach. Eventually, he chose Jules over her rival, Jules' journey began. In several months, Jules battled with Houndour against a trainer using an Eevee. They won and the trainer abandoned the Eevee, believing it too weak. Jules took care of the injured Eevee until it woke up. The Eevee later joined her on her journey as her third Pokémon. Over time, each of Jules' Pokémon evolved: Houndour became Houndoom, Froakie to Frogadier, and Greninja. Each evolution came with a symbol representing their strong bond of friendship. Houndoom received a collar, Greninja got a custom glove, and Umbreon wore three gold rings. After years of traveling as a Pokémon Watcher, Jules met Morgan, the Champion of the Prism Region. They became close friends and Jules became Morgan's assistant when needed. Jules also sketches and watches Pokémon with trainers. Her dream is to witness Legendary Pokémon like Yveltal and perfect Mega Evolution with Houndoom. Jules' kind heart makes her an excellent assistant to Morgan and helps young trainers feel less scared of battling others. After traveling extensively, Alesha transforms into a Charmeleon before evolving into the powerful Charazard. Each month, she visits Morgan's university to share her adventures with friends and contribute to teaching young trainers while taking on challenges. Name: Anthony Nickname: Title: Elite Four Member City/Region from: Alamos Town (Sinnoh reign, known for its Space-Time Tower) Favorite Element: All (has a talent and preference for dark, fighting, and dragon) Badge: Shade Badge Professor Alias: Professor Pine Occupation outside the Poke Crew: High school Language Arts Teacher/Dark Pokémon researcher (his dream is to capture Yveltal) Backstory: Part Time Members: Name: Fabio Thearallo Nickname: Mr. Fabulous Title: Elite Four Member City/Region from: Lumiose City in the Kalos Region Main Element: Dark Badge: Fab Badge Professor Alias: Professor Sweetgum Occupation outside the Poke Crew: Samurai Movie Star Fabio's history is marked by his early aspirations to be the best, growing up amidst the talent of Lumiose City. Since childhood, he has been fascinated with samurai performances on TV and began doing crazy stunts, imitating his idols. His older sister, Diantha, was an inspiration; Fabio longed to surpass her in something. He would often attend her auditions, mesmerized by her talent, and knew he wanted to be an actor too. During one of her auditions, he stumbled upon a green screen set with plastic swords and reenacted a scene from a samurai film he had recently watched. The director witnessed his performance and offered him a small role in a feudal Japan film. This chance encounter marked the beginning of Fabio's journey to becoming a renowned actor. When not working on films, Fabio engaged in battles with friends, developing a fondness for dark-type Pokémon, particularly his beloved Umbreon, Fluffykins. Eventually, he rose to fame as a flamboyant samurai movie star and fashion trendsetter, along with being an accomplished dark Pokémon trainer. However, his success was overshadowed by that of his sister Diantha, who is a world-renowned model, big-budget movie star, and Kalos region champion. Fabio also has a rival in Gavin Giovanni, a quiet but loved ninja theater celebrity who specializes in grand fairy-type training. The two are often in the media for gossip, with some of it sparked by Fabio. After witnessing a TV guest spot he did in his hometown, Fabio was enraged by a review praising his sister's work. He vented to no one in an alleyway until Morgan approached him and praised his latest film. They talked extensively, and Fabio eventually joined her Elite Four team, hoping to at least defeat one champion someday. Fabio is known for being 'fashionably' late, adores signing autographs for fans, dancing, and rides around in a golden sparkly limo matching his favorite fedora. He also carries neon light-up num-chucks as a fun accessory. Despite being a ham, he remains an exceptional trainer, and fans eagerly await the chance to join Team Fabio! Professor Ash - Rhiannon's Story Wesley Grimm, known as Cap't n, had an unlikely past. As a child, he would explore the Lake of Rage with his water Pokémon in search of gold and rescue Pokémon from villains. His father, under Agatha's ghost Elite Four Trainer, possessed skills to see ghosts but kept them hidden from their small town. Wesley learned ice moves through his Pokémon to sense the presence of ghosts, which often followed his red Gyrados, a Pokémon he finally caught at 16 with Gold's help. He joined his Poke Crew and became an elite member, using his unique connection to ghost types to his advantage. Wesley Grimm, once a pirate captain, had his life turned upside down when Morgan, a maiden from the Prism League, captured him and his ship. After their encounter, Wesley started to visit the Prism League, where he'd battle alongside them and share tales of his sea adventures with his water, ice, and dark ghosts Pokémon. He even helped young trainers on some occasions. Wesley's past was marked by tragedy when his parents went missing in a storm as a child. He grew up with Lapras, which sparked his passion for water-type Pokémon. As he got older, he became a Pokémon researcher and eventually joined Team Aqua. Jason, an extraordinary trainer, left the group due to their sinister goals. He traveled to uncharted islands to hone his skills, befriending a young man who sought to bond with water-type Pokémon. After assisting him for three months, Jason continued his journey, living on a raft and navigating rivers until he reached the Prism Region. There, he heard about Champion Morgan, a writer and university founder, which sparked his desire to challenge her. As he dominated the Elite Four, they engaged in an intense battle, with Morgan offering him a place among their ranks after the duel. Meanwhile, we have Junior Elite Four Member Miss A, who excels at making decks, teaching, and battling for younger members. She holds the Trainer's Heart badge and is a valuable asset to the team. Retired Members like Jonathon, also known as Koga JR., were once part of the Elite Four in the Kanto Region. He comes from a long lineage of ninjas and was trained in poison and ground-type Pokémon. Jonathon's story began with his parents' influence - his mother is Janine, Fuchsia City gym leader, while his grandfather is Koga, Indigo Elite Four member. Raised to follow the traditional path, Jonathon instead developed a fondness for video games and technology, which wasn't in line with his family's code. On his 17th birthday, he embarked on an epic quest to prove himself as a Master Poison Ninja at Cinnabar Island, where he befriended several ground-type Pokémon and eventually earned the scroll of mastery after three weeks of rigorous training. Logan Drechsel, known by his nickname Drexel, was an Elite Assistant to Champion City/Region in Mossdeep City's Hoenn region. He had big plans to take over his grandfather's gym when the time came. Before pursuing his passion for Pokémon training, Logan worked hard as a hotel manager under Blaine to save up money for the Prism League. There, he made a great impression and was offered a chance to help out Champion City/Region when not busy with ninja master training. IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR DEAR FRIEND: Logan Nickname: Drexel Title: Elite Assistant Favorite Element: Psychic Occupation outside Poke Crew: Poke Mart Manager/Dancer/College Student Backstory: Logan grew up next door to Mossdeep Space Center, where he spent his days exploring the scientist's lectures and experiments. His uncle worked there as an astronomer, and Logan would often gaze at the stars searching for other energies or Pokémon in his region. Evan grew up with friends Derrick and Nathan until graduation, but at seventeen, he left home to prove his independence, leaving behind his mother and Leafeon. He met Jason, a water Pokémon master, who trained him in survival skills and the ways of water Pokémon. After three months, Jason disappeared, and Evan captured some water Pokémon, including a Psyduck. When they sparred, Psyduck's rage caused it to fling Evan off a cliff, but he miraculously survived a fatal fall into a shallow pool surrounded by Poliwhags. The Poliwhags nursed him back to health, forming a strong bond with him, and he swore to protect them. For years, Evan lost his memories of life before the fall and his time with the Poliwhags. However, when a Lapras friend informed him of a young woman named Morgan training a Starmie nearby, Evan was introduced to her. They bonded intensely, and Morgan invited Evan to join her Elite Four for the Prism Region, claiming she was the new champion. Evan agreed, but brought some Poliwhag friends along for support. He visits them regularly, bringing laughter and joy with his comedy and heart of gold.