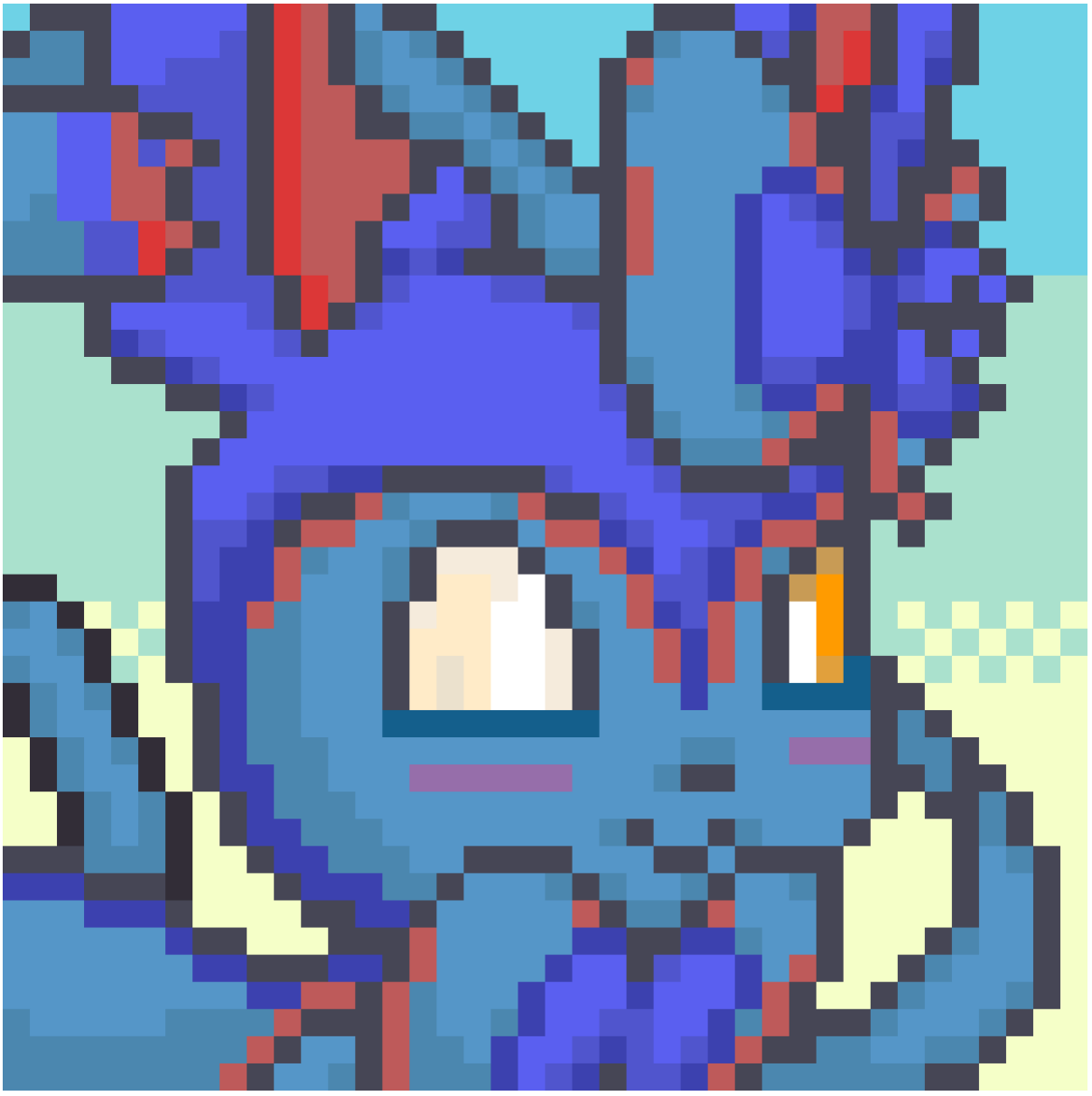
Pokemon mystery dungeon: The Past Pursuits
Guildmaster Sylveon - Overtaking the Plaza/Umbreon framing (scheme)

Made by Equal_gustard0 on reddit and Db_Puddingdrawer on discord.



- “insert random character quote to make it look pretentious” /j

So since this is a fanfiction about pokemon mystery dungeon, there is some basic info you gotta know in case you're not knowledgeable on this fic or mystery dungeon in general (which I don't blame you for):

- The main location of the drama is the fourfold plaza where there's several establishments meant to help explorers prepare for their dungeon runs where they rescue pokemon,hunt outlaws or map out the floors. These explorers are part of 4 different guilds that surround this plaza. These guilds are basically the workplaces where the explorers live, get their missions from higher-ups and create explorer teams. The pokemon that are leading these guilds are called guildmasters and all of them also have a right-hand pokemon, basically something like a Secretary.

- overdrive evolution is a new concept in this fic not found in the pokemon games. overdrive evolution is a state a pokemon can which boosts their power FAR beyond what their bodies are meant to handle and can be activated by using several empowerment seeds in quick succession. Symptoms of overdrive evolution include heavily excessive Bleeding, spasming muscles and cramps, unnatural swelling, indescribable pain and in some cases exploding limbs, bones randomly fracturing, parts of the brain temporarily dying off and potential organ failure, hence why its used extremely rarely and only sometimes in life or death scenarios. This sudden increase in power can usually only be maintained for barely a minute by most pokemon before actual life threatening symptoms set in.

- outlaws are a special kind of rogue explorers that work independently from any guild and most often in their own groups or networks, often for financial gain through finding treasures for themselves or robbing explorers or other more personal reasons as we will see once the story progresses. They have been around the moment exploring became a thing and are often the targets of explorers missions that consist of hunting them, but surprisingly few of them are genuinely evil and they’re more so another side of the same coin.

The info you need on the different guildmasters are here in order to properly understand the whole thing (only vileplumes right-hand pokemon is mentioned as the others play no role in this scheme):

- Guildmaster Umbreon: founded the Umbreon guild. A strict yet caring and competent leader with a strong sense of intuition. He has been having a lot of mood swings since a messy divorce from his ex wife several years ago where guildmaster Umbreon only got partial custody of their daughter.

- Guildmaster Vileplume: suddenly had to enter his father's footsteps after a sudden dungeon accident he didn't survive. This led to guildmaster Vileplume being very incompetent and

lacking experience when it comes to actual exploring,but he proved himself as a good leader and guildmaster so far. He is slightly naive as well as sensitive and spends a good chunk of his time trying to help those around him and make them feel better.

- Vileplumes Right-hand (a bellossom): guildmaster sylveon Recommended her to guildmaster Vileplume pretty much right he became guildmaster,she listens to a lot of things he has to say and gently corrects his mistakes and gives advice.

- Guildmistress Azumarill: managed to create her own guild after a very successful explorer career. Her leadership style is rather strict for the sake of "raising" good and hardworking explorers. Has past affiliations with Sylveon and led an exploration team he was part of. She is good friends with Umbreon's ex-wife and has been supporting her financially since her divorce

- Guildmaster Sylveon: a paraplegic Sylveon in a dogs wheelchair that managed to create his own guild after becoming unable to continue his exploring career after an incident about 6 years ago. An extremely charming, almost adorably innocent and democratic leader whose entire being is all about harmony and being a peacemaker...atleast on the surface. He has very strong deceptive tendencies and connections to many ruthless outlaw networks he uses to put stones onto the ways of others. His end goal was to slowly put an end to the exploring business without anyone noticing (at least in the fourfold plaza as that's the main hub for many explorers). The reason for this goal is explained later. He became Deeply prideful partly due to his status as a rare shiny and as a publicly adored figure. The reason so many outlaws are working together with him is for more potential missions Sylveon gives and pays generously for, and because Sylveon makes sure to misdirect many explorers in the fourfold plaza from directly hunting them.

Here's the scenario and scheme:

Azumarill guild has been suffering unknown financial difficulties for months now and it has been confirmed that the Azumarill guilds missions have been sabotaged many many times over the course of months now. At first, guildmaster Vileplume is heavily suspected of being behind the sabotage since he and azumarill had a pretty big public fight shortly before the sabotages began (stuff like explorers being

suddenly ambushed, items disappearing from the guild storage or some places where rescued clients are supposed to be being empty, ect.) , combined with the stereotype that vileplumes are secretly pretty cunning pokemon (confirmed by the actual canon Pokedex btw), reinforcing the idea that vileplumes stupidity might just be a Persona he deceives others with.

Sylveon has managed to pit azumarill and vileplume more and more against eachother. one time by poisoning the azumarill guilds breakfast, which once again led azumarill to point the finger at vileplume because of him partly being a poison type (the only poison type ouf of all the guildmasters and right-hands mind you) and still being the only one with a motive to do this to her. This also means that the food was likely poisoned before it was delivered to the azumarill guild, which is only possible by knowing the trading routes of the items through different dungeons. That is something only guildmasters and right-hands are known to have information about, which narrows it down to only 7 possible culprits to avoid outlaws or random explorers being blamed to keep the tension fixed between the higher-ups.

Another tactic of creating further conflict was when three volcanos in the region went off only a short time apart from each other. After the protagonist advises guildmaster umbreon that something might be wrong with heatran (a legendary pokemon that is canonically responsible for keeping volcanic activity stable), a guildmaster meeting is soon arranged where azumarill quickly volunteers to take her two most trusted explorers (a poliwrath and milotic) to go check up on heatran. at heatrans location deep in a volcanic dungeon, they find heatran knocked out and about to wake up and suddenly get attacked once they were noticed. Heatran roars at them that they will pay for what they did before launching their items to the ceiling with a stone pillar shooting out of the ground.

After a short but exhausting fight, the three managed to get their items back and show Heatran their explorer badges that were among them, which seems to calm Heatran down. Heatran explains that they were ambushed by a team of outlaws consisting of an azumarill,milotic and poliwrath (so sylveon basically predicted what pokemon azumarill will take with her too and sent an according outlaw team that looked similar enough) which forced him to eat several sleep seeds to the point of being knocked out (basically anesthesia). That's why heatran couldn't control the volcanoes around the region. Back at the fourfold plaza, Azumarill directly publicly assaults guildmaster Vileplume, unable to hold back her anger, before being pulled apart by the vileplume guilds bodyguard and sylveon himself. Azumarill reasons that it must have been three outlaws sent by vileplume that ambushed heatran so that they

would be attacked by heatran themselves upon waking up and yells at Vileplume that this is one of the worst times for him to try anything stupid.

This move is what really made azumarills and vileplumes dynamic boil, completely crushed vileplumes reputation by making it look like he was behind several natural disasters, made azumarill look impulsive and aggressive and also narrowed the number of potential culprits down from probably one of 7 to definitely one of 3, since the only people that knew about this mission were the other guildmasters.

The public pressure against Vileplume increases day after day for about a full week, even making several explorers quit at the vileplume guild out of shame at what he has possibly done. Vileplume then eventually (very guiltily) releases a piece of evidence that is a graph of guildmaster Umbreons mood swings that he has documented over the past months (he did this because he wanted to make a new blend of tea to help Umbreon calm down and had to look which herbs are the easiest to get during the times of day,he's just like that. His right-hand bellossom gently encouraged/manipulated him by using that desire to help those around him and suggested keeping track of that.)

Guildmaster Vileplume made this evidence public because the patterns of sabotage match with guildmaster Umbreons mood swings,this makes others suspect Umbreon of impulsively attacking other guilds instead. This makes Vileplume feel extremely guilty for shifting the blame onto Umbreon to save himself,which could potentially be exploited further with manipulation and heavily strains Vileplumes and Umbreons relationship.

sylveon also anticipated that after umbreon would ask what kind of motive he would possibly have, azumarill would quickly figure out that umbreon would massively benefit from this because azumarill is financially supporting his Ex-wife because azumarill and Umbreon's wife were already friends for a long time, so if Umbreon financially damaged the azumarill guild, his Ex-wife couldn't support their daughter anymore and he would get full custody over her and get back at his wife too. This gives guildmaster Umbreon an extremely watertight and plausible motive and completely shifts the blame onto him. vileplume releasing the graph only after an entire week of this also makes him look very cowardly or lacking of backbone as well as incompetent, a decent hit to his reputation.

Since Umbreon has a very keen intuition, he will sense something off about guildmaster Sylveon and will naturally try to convince people. This falls flat however due to being the current main suspect and looking like he is trying to deflect blame onto the innocent guildmaster everyone loves, turning one of his biggest strengths into a big weakness that hurts his credibility further.

Sylveon planned that Vileplume would eventually release that graph to the public because he couldn't handle the pressure (the evidence of the graph being made over several months is backed by his right-hand Bellossom and several guild members. To further prove it, guildmaster Vileplume had to spend a lot of money for ink dating to prove beyond the shadow of a doubt that the graph was made over the course of months, further damaging the guild). This makes it so it looks like Umbreon used the last fight between Vileplume and azumarill and the general prejudice against vilplumes as a species AND the theory of his stupidity and lack of exploration knowledge being a persona to frame him.

Sylveon knew about vilplumes graph because vilplumes right hand was recommended to him by Sylveon and is secretly working with Sylveon by giving him important info about vileplume. Sylveon manages to keep bellossom under his control by pure fear mongering and threatening her family's lives with a letter (since this was before communication orbs were found) he later told her to get rid off (she didn't but that's a can of worms that gets opened later).

This way Sylveon could time with sabotages to align with each day Umbreon's mood was especially bad, framing Guildmaster Umbreon to look like he framed Guildmaster vileplume for sabotaging azumarill out of impulse and to get back at his Ex-wife and get full custody of his daughter. Stress makes someone often lash out for little reason,after all.

Sylveon used the chance of recommending an informant to Vileplume years ago when he was brand new as guildmaster and didn't have a right-hand yet (the one of vileplumes father quit their job after he died). This not only gave Sylveon immediate information about a new unpredictable variable but also instantly made vileplume like him.

to expand a little more on his character: Guildmaster Sylveon's motive for the whole sabotage was the fact that before becoming a guildmaster he was part of team pastel, a very known exploration team that

Azumarill led. after a dungeon incident where Sylveon had to resort to using overdrive evolution to save his teammates from dying, which is actually what caused him to become kinda crippled because of overdrive evolutions side effects. The incident also left him blind on his left eye and damaged his body's ribbons.

After that incident, his team had to remove Sylveon with no hard feelings involved, despite his objections and insistence on staying an explorer (at least there weren't any hard feelings on Azumarill's side, but Sylveon didn't show any grudges either, at least not openly). His team viewed it as protecting him from further harm from a dangerous job and giving him a well deserved break, but Sylveon viewed it as someone discarding a tool and spitting on it the very moment it broke. This has massively hurt sylveons mental state, especially considering how unwavering his passion for exploring was, and transformed his mindset into thinking that the exploring business is greedy, damaging and exploitative. (which is actually proven right to quite some extent over a big chunk of the story). Sylveon thinks he is genuinely doing the right thing by taking down a corrupt business, as a necessary evil so to speak.

This scheme also further boosts his own guilds reputation and popularity by putting the others down. Guildmaster Umbreon is revealed as an impulsive mess that holds grudges and tried framing someone, guildmaster Vileplume is revealed as incompetent and cowardly and both his relationship with Umbreon and Azumarill are pretty hurt (which further causes Vileplume to fall into guildmaster Sylveons arms more as sylveon is the only guildmaster that doesn't hate him yet) and guildmistress Azumarill suffers huge financial strain and is exposed as someone who can't keep her anger in check and an amateur whose explorers working under her can't carry out basic missions without being sabotaged. Eventually the tide turns so much against Umbreon that he ends up being imprisoned after several public protests, completely eliminating the so far other biggest threat from the equation, which makes many of the previous Umbreon guild members waddle over to the Sylveon guild to apply there, including the protagonist and deuteragonist.

but Here is additional info on the scheme that would be good to know too. As far as I know nothing here conflicts with what's Already established if I remember correctly:

Sylveon purposefully picked someone like Bellossom to recommend to vileplume because he knew from the previous guildmasters description about his son that they would likely be a good match, both platonically and romantically. This further solidified and practically guaranteed vileplumes' choice to take her as his right-hand pokemon. This also made him more susceptible to Bellossoms manipulation.

Sylveon also orchestrated the dungeon accident that killed vileplumes father years ago (this will be revealed as more of a twist in the story) since he was the only one in the Fourfold Plaza who could consistently see through him (but he wasn't nearly as vocal about his suspicions as Umbreon), So Sylveon got rid of him and knew that his inexperienced son would take his place. The previous right-hand would then quit their job upon the death of vileplumes father like sylveon anticipated, so sylveon then offered Vileplume a new right-hand pokemon that was already under his own control (Sylveon threatened to send dangerous outlaws to take care of Bellossom's family if she ever talked or gave info that she was helping sylveon) and would be guaranteed to get accepted by vileplume.

Sylveon then ordered Bellossom to manipulate vileplume into making the graph so he could later set something up that would make Azumarill and Vileplume fight to initiate the whole sabotage scheme. In that time between Vileplumes fathers death and Vileplume and azumarill fighting for the first time, Sylveon also explicitly made sure to lightly pressure azumarill and Umbreon into getting more protection,claiming that "we already lost one guildmaster,there's no need to make it two". The Umbreon and vileplume guilds both since then have a bodyguard pokemon protecting the gates, which increases their respective guildmasters paranoia and once again elevates his own standing.

With this context it seems a bit less opportunistic and more completely planned out.

By the way I'm planning for this verse to cap at around the high end of low tier to the low end of mid tier. It's very much possible that it scales higher with analysis when the chapter covering this does come out but this is the whole thing for now. I would really like to know if this scheme reaches around that level in SCD and what its weak and strong points are. I'm pretty bad at judging my own stuff. Apart from that I'd also love to hear feedback on any potential holes, mistakes or inconsistencies! also if its

possible, to get further insight in how others interpret this too, i would like whoever is reading this to also tell me which scheming subcat is the strongest here (strategy/planning/tactics) and maybe rank the subcats of that scheming subcat too if possible, but that's completely optional. it'd also be cool to know which SCD scheme/character this would theoretically come the closest to.

and the most obvious thing of all: if you have any questions I'll be happy to answer.

anyways, hope you had fun reading.