

Duels Out

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Oh, Psyduck!

"This looks like the perfect place to stop and camp for the night," said Misty. She looked around. She and her friends Ash and Brock had spent the day hiking through a forest. Now they had reached a grassy clearing. A stream and some fruit trees were nearby.

"I don't know, Misty," Ash replied. "I was hoping we'd make it to the next town today. I want to battle with the town's Gym Leader for a badge."

"Pika, pika," Ash's Pikachu protested.

"I guess we could use a rest," Ash agreed.

Misty smiled at the little yellow Pokémon. Pikachu always cheered her up. Plus, it was a great playmate for Misty's Togepi. The baby Pokémon had hatched not long ago. It was so young that the bottom half of its shell was still attached to it. Togepi loved to play with Pikachu.

Misty and her friends began to set up camp. "We're right in the middle of nowhere," Ash complained.

Misty grinned. "Don't worry, Ash. We won't be here long. Besides, we might even spot some rare Pokémon."

Misty was used to Ash's grumbling. Ash was always looking for Pokémon to capture. He hated to waste time in the middle of nowhere.

Misty knew Ash pretty well by now. She had joined him on his Pokémon journey when he was first starting out. They'd had lots of adventures so far. They'd made some new friends, like Brock and Tracey – both boys were older and gave Ash and Misty a lot of great advice about training Pokémon. And they'd caught new Pokémon, too. Misty now had Staryu, Starmie, Goldeen, Horsea, Psyduck, and Togepi.

Ash hoped to capture all the different kinds of Pokémon in the world. He dreamed of becoming a Pokémon Master. Misty specialized in Water Pokémon. She loved the way they could float and swim and dive in the water. The way they waddled around on land was really cute, too!

"Togi! Togi!" Togepi cried. Its stomach gurgled.

"Oh, you're hungry!" Misty said. She scanned the clearing. Some juicy, ripe apples hung on the top of a tall tree. But how could she get them? Then it came to her. Her Staryu could do it. Staryu was a star-shaped Pokémon with a red gem in its center. Maybe Staryu could slice the fruit off the trees with its sharp points.

Misty reached into her backpack. She dug out a red-and-white Poké Ball. "Staryu, I choose you!" Misty called.

