

POKÉMON™

Kalos Region The Secret of Zygarde

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CHAPTER 1

The Kalos League championship had just ended, but Ash and Alain were running for their lives. Outside Lumiose Stadium, the city had turned into rubble. Thick vines had pierced through the earth and snaked around everything. The vines were laced with blood-red veins, and they slithered across the





streets, wrapping around lampposts, cars, and buildings. The sky had turned a haunting red. Ash wondered how so much could have changed in such a short time.

The largest city in all of Kalos, Lumiose was known as the City of Light. When Ash and his team of loyal Pokémon first arrived, Ash had marveled at the many plazas filled with fountains and flowers. There were charming old buildings with romantic stone arches. The hotels and cafés were full of people. The streets were laid out in a circular pattern and lined with lush trees.

At the center of it all was the Prism Tower—a glowing beacon against the crystal-blue sky. Prism Tower was home of the Lumiose Gym, which specialized in Electric-type Pokémon.

Ash was thrilled when he had advanced to the Kalos League finals and learned he would compete against the dedicated Trainer Alain. Alain had started his own Pokémon journey with Professor Sycamore, right there in Lumiose.

One of Ash's goals in joining the Kalos

competition was to learn more about Mega Evolution, which was a fascinating new transformation that certain Pokémon could undergo. The transformation was temporary, so it lasted only a short time. In addition, it required the Pokémon to have a special Mega Stone, and the Trainer needed a Key Stone. Professor Sycamore believed that Mega Evolution was only possible if the Trainer and the Pokémon truly believed in each other. There was still so much they didn't know about Mega Evolution, but they did know it was stupendously powerful!

But now, giant vines had erupted all over the city. Ash knew something was terribly wrong.



Ash's friends spread out all over Lumiose, and everyone was on a mission. Ash agreed to help Alain, who wanted to track down Mairin, his friend and fellow Trainer. Clemont, the Lumiose Gym Leader, was with Bonnie, who wanted to find Squishy—the mysterious, tiny Pokémon whom she'd befriended after it had appeared in her bag during the group's travels. But Squishy had just run off, and Bonnie was distraught.

There was confusion everywhere as people and Pokémon scrambled to safety.

In a flurry of zaps and blasts, Ash realized he was under attack! Team Flare swarmed around Ash and dragged him off to meet with Lysandre, the head of Lysandre Labs.

* * *

Meanwhile, Lysandre introduced himself to all of Lumiose in a grand video announcement. His face and flamelike mane of hair were on every screen across the great city. His deep voice sounded calm, but his message was one of hatred and destruction.

"To my beloved Kalos region and the entire world: I am Lysandre. Team Flare is here with me to do my bidding. We are here to remake the world into a place of pure beauty and peace. Yes, Team Flare's purpose is to transform our world into an exquisite example of creation!"

The screen flickered to show a Pokémon on top of Prism Tower. Lysandre called it Zygarde. It had a large, flattened, legless body. A frill fanned out behind its head, like a crown. Zygarde looked regal and powerful.

"As leaders of this new order, Team Flare and I have decided to join forces with this powerful guardian of creation. Zygarde is angry at the



behavior of both people and Pokémon. The discipline of this world has been lost. Humanity is out of control. We have forgotten how to share!”

People all over Kalos watched Lysandre on televisions, computer screens, and phones. They were confused and frightened by his harsh declaration, his claim that the world was lost. Lysandre insisted that not sharing led to people stealing, and that there was not enough for everyone. He said the only solution was to reduce the number of people on the planet, and he claimed the Legendary Pokémon Zygarde was on his side.

“Only the chosen ones will move into our bright, hopeful future! We of Team Flare, along with the fury of Zygarde, will be the ones who will make the judgment. The new order will do away with the chaos of the world and bring about the beautiful world we desire!”

All around, people reacted with fear and uncertainty. Who was this man, and what did he mean by a “judgment”? Was he really going

to decide who would—and who wouldn't—be part of a new world?

That was just the beginning of a long battle.

* * *

When Ash woke up from being captured, he was up in the air, high above Prism Tower. He was suspended hundreds of feet above the ground, restrained by electronic cuffs. Greninja, Pikachu, and his other Pokémon were in shackles, too, floating by his side. Below, Ash could see Lysandre and Alain standing on the roof deck of the tower.

Down in the streets of the city, Ash's friends



were waging battles of their own. The mysterious hero Blaziken Mask and his loyal Mega Blaziken joined up with Clemont, Serena, and Bonnie. Blaziken Mask wanted to escort them all home so they would be safe, but they refused. Clemont did not want to abandon Lumiose Gym, and Bonnie wouldn't rest until she found Squishy.

It wasn't long before Team Flare blocked them in front of Prism Tower, home of Lumiose Gym.

While they were figuring out what to do next, Bonnie suddenly could sense that her dear friend Squishy was near—and something big was about to happen.

It all started with a high ringing sound. Then there was a flash of neon green light, and Squishy appeared on the roof of a car, then on the side of a building. A brilliant green light glowed all around it, but Squishy stayed in one place for only a second before it disappeared and reappeared somewhere else.

The ringing sound grew louder, and a ball of light rose in the air. The sound seemed to vibrate with the bright green light until the light



began to take shape. A head began to form, and a tail. The green globe floated into the sky, zipping here and there. It grew larger and longer—a skeleton of neon green light. Finally, the light dimmed and a black-and-green body with a majestic frill around its head appeared.

Squishy had fully transformed. It let out a roar.

“Squishy, yay!” Bonnie cried.

“That’s unbelievable,” Clemont said.

The scientists of Team Flare were just as surprised. Now there was another Zygarde! Team Flare believed that this had to be a good sign for them, and for Lysandre’s vision for a new world.