

POKÉMON
REBIRTH

BRINK

ARC ONE

PART FIVE

I've been working on cultivating more reasonable expectations of my own output, and a fact I don't want to accept, but I feel I must...

I really love the ideas I had for Brink. But the size of the story, combined with the lack of time I have for it, means that finishing it would be impossible. With that in mind, I've had to make the difficult decision to shelve the rest of what I had developed for Pokémon Rebirth.

However, I don't plan to leave you with unanswered questions. Rather, I am going to share the plan documents for what would have been the remainder of Brink. You will get an exclusive look at just how these stories were constructed, with plot notes, excerpts of dialogue and concept art to help you get an idea for what the finished work might have been.

If you are inspired by what you read and wish to create further illustrations, I would be honoured! Please send the art either via Twitter [NiloStudo] or my email [gemmaDOTbrightATgmailDOTcom].

- A month has passed. Our scene begins at Kanto's northern Agrarian Seer repository. One of the seers living at the repository is surprised to see Mewtwo's arrival. He is running an errand for the Fiore seers, but his visit also has ulterior motives.

??? - Brother Tsu? What brings you here to Kanto?

MEWTWO - Today is the day the man who ordered my creation is released. I felt it better if I was elsewhere during that time.

??? - I see... ...you must find his release very conflicting.

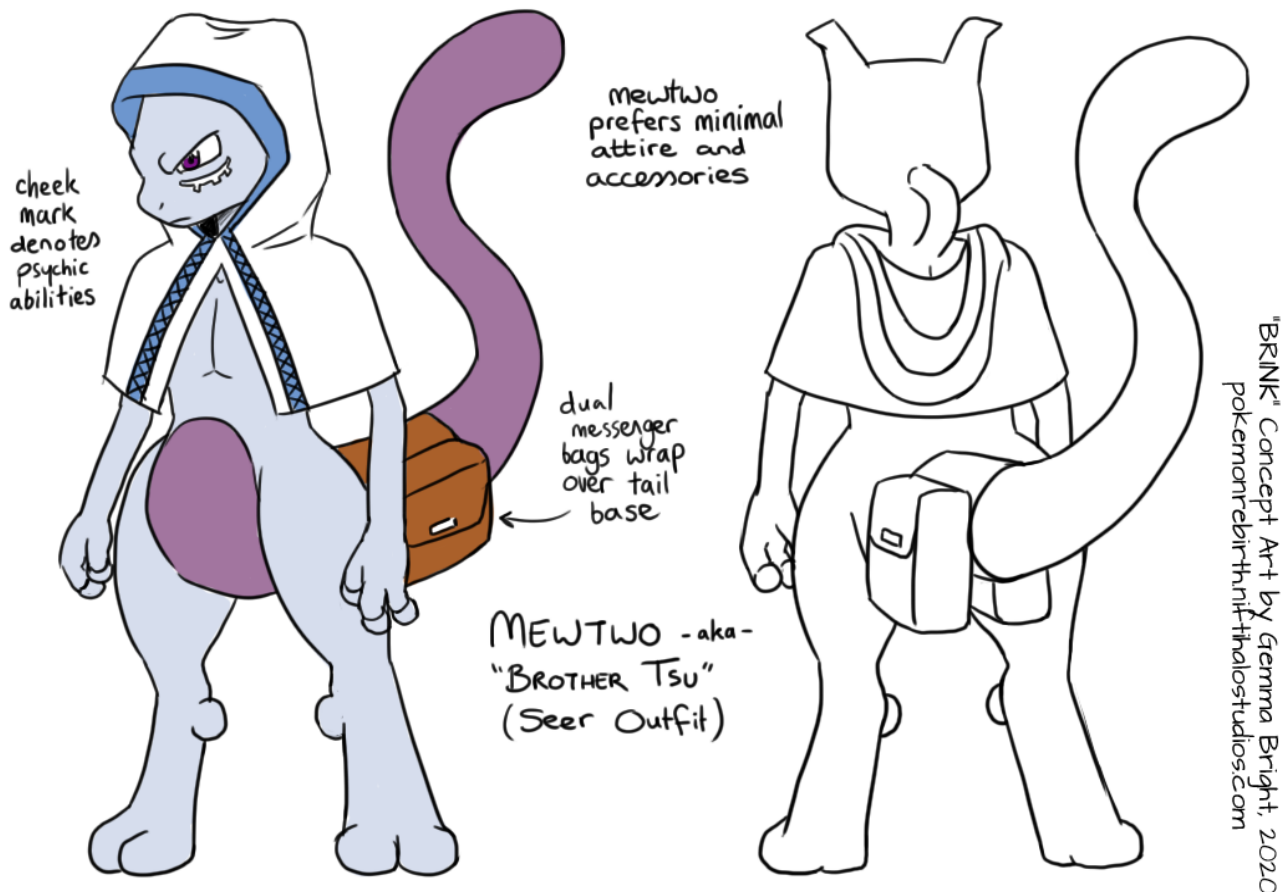
MEWTWO - It is. I understand the logic in Cosmoem's reasoning, but... can a man such as that be capable of a return to good?

??? - Only he can give us that answer. Our job is to allow him the chance.

- Mewtwo carries out his errand and is about to leave to return to Fiore, but another seer tries to stop him.

??? - Brother Tsu! I really don't think it's safe to go out right now. The wind's got up something terrible.

MEWTWO - Thank you for your concern, but this weather does not affect me.



Mewtwo stands under a shelter in the garden area, glancing up at the sky with a frown.

MEWTWO - *thinks* Odd. These air currents feel artificially manipulated. Is a pokémon behind this? Or...

He looks down, to see a black-haired young man wandering the corridor which is visible across the courtyard. The figure appears to be about eighteen years old, is dressed in a light cotton outfit and looks very upset.

MEWTWO – Hmm...

Cut to a closer shot of the young man wandering. Mewtwo floats into the corridor ahead of him. The man's eyes widen.

YOUNG MAN - Mewtwo! o_o

MEWTWO – Now there's a name I haven't heard in some time. Have we met?

YOUNG MAN - You don't remember? There was that big fight with Team Rocket and-

Pauses, heaves a sigh.

YOUNG MAN - I guess things have changed a lot since then...

MEWTWO – You seem deeply troubled. What is concerning you?

The figure doesn't reply. He's turned his head away and his shoulders have started to twitch, as if he's fighting back the urge to sob.

YOUNG MAN - I'm so confused... everything's a mess. u_u

MEWTWO – **hesitant** Would it...help to talk about it?

The young man glances round.

Cut to a more secluded area. Mewtwo and the young man are now sitting down.

YOUNG MAN - I woke up at this place two days ago...

Enter a flashback from the young man's point of view. As he surfaces from consciousness, we see a blurry looking room with some decorative plants.

YOUNG MAN – Ugh... **attempts to clear his throat**

A woman dressed in a pale robe approaches with a faint smile on her face.

??? – Hello there :)

YOUNG MAN - ...who are you? **tries to clear his throat a second time**

??? - I'm Verity - I've been taking care of you while you recovered. What's your name?

The young man's eyes widen suddenly. He leaps from the bed and cries out in alarm as he travels higher into the air than expected, and lands in a crumpled heap on the floor.

VERITY – **shocked** Careful! Your motor responses are going to need to catch up with the rest of you first.

YOUNG MAN - Motor what?

The young man gazes up from the floor with a bewildered look in his eyes. The woman pauses.

VERITY - Just how old are you?

YOUNG MAN - **frowns** Uh... I'm sixteen.

VERITY - **awkward** Well I don't know how best to say this, but... until a few hours ago, you had the body of an eleven year old.

YOUNG MAN - Wha...

An unsettling voice echoes in his head.

"I lengthened your days..."

The young man winces and places a hand to his head.

YOUNG MAN - **thinks** What was that?

VERITY - **sheepish** I'm sorry, that was a pretty big piece of news, wasn't it?

YOUNG MAN - **murmurs** It's okay... Can I...can I have a mirror?

Verity hands him a small mirror. The young man stares into the deep brown eyes of his reflection, studying his lengthened, angular face. There's just enough familiarity to stop him completely breaking down in shock over his physical ageing. However he is still notably panicked, lowering the mirror and staring wildly into space.

YOUNG MAN - **distant, hoarse** ...I gotta see my buddy.

VERITY - Your- ...oh, your pokémon? You can't, not yet.

YOUNG MAN - **desperate look in his eyes** Why? What's happened to him?!

VERITY - I-I don't know. He's very ill - the doctors are treating him right now, I can't let them be disturbed.

YOUNG MAN - **on verge of tears** Please... Please let me see him. I don't even have to go in the room, I just...

He sags in defeat.

VERITY - Okay. I shall take you to the window. But we must not enter.

Cut to the room where the young man's pokémon is being treated. It is a somewhat grotesque mixture of pikachu and raichu appendages. Various murmurings can be heard from the seers.

"Its body is rejecting the evolution,"

"Some kind of strange energy...like a poison."

"This is...no..."

"It feels like it has been here a very long time."



"Where could this pokémon have possibly been to come into contact with that substance?"

"Call the North Totto Repository – this needs further guidance"

From where he had been watching outside, the young man's eyes grow wide with horror. The surroundings are blotted out, all he can see is his pokémon companion suffering. He dives for the door.

VERITY - **alarmed** Stop!

The Seers look up in surprise as the young man bursts into the room.

YOUNG MAN - **angry/horrified** What are you doing to Pikachu?

Before they can do anything, he's by the table where his pokémon is lying.

SEER DOCTOR - Please! You mustn't handle the patient, it's very vulnerable!

YOUNG MAN - Let go!

The others in the room try to pull him away, but the young man lashes out – with the extra strength from his older body, he downs them easily.

A medicham seizes the young man with telekinesis, only for it to freeze in alarm as if stunned. The medicham releases him, but he ends up being restrained by an ivysaur's vines and then sleep powdered.

A repeat of the previous wake up.

YOUNG MAN - **thinks** Uugh... what a weird dream. Wait...

...oh.

He sits up slowly, looking a mixture of frustrated and ashamed at Verity who had been sitting in the corner with a grass type pokémon in her arms. The pokémon is humming softly, wafting a gentle aroma into the air.

VERITY – Your pikachu is in a stable condition. He's still not well, but he's not getting any worse, at least.

YOUNG MAN – **upset** What was wrong with him? He looked so weird.

VERITY – Well he was a raichu when we found you both. But the evolution started to undo itself.

YOUNG MAN – Of course it would! Pikachu never wanted to evolve!

VERITY – Even if he didn't, it's unheard of for pokémon to reject evolution *after* it's happened.

YOUNG MAN – **angry, almost accusing** Who even tried to evolve him in the first place?

VERITY - **awkward** I don't know. I'm sorry... ^-^;

The young man pauses, looking guilty.

YOUNG MAN – And...*I'm* sorry. For going into that room when you said not to. I got scared for Pikachu and I acted without thinking. But there was nothing I could do, even when I *was* in there.

VERITY - It's only natural to be protective of those you love.

YOUNG MAN – Yeah, but...I felt so useless...

VERITY – That's understandable. Your pikachu's situation had baffled our top Seer doctors, and medical studies have been their life's work.

The young man stares at the floor, as if searching for some answer there. His expression has become a mix of confusion and disbelief. Verity searches for a change of subject, anything to take the man's mind off what appear to be very troubling thoughts.

VERITY – You're a Pokémon Trainer, right?

The young man flinches his head upright in surprise – Verity's plan has worked.

YOUNG MAN – H-how did you know?

VERITY – It was something of a guess, to be honest. We found a Pokédex in your belongings...

...how long have you been training?

YOUNG MAN – Six years. I was sure I'd become a Pokémon Master some day, but... I don't know... everything that's happened lately has really messed me up.

Verity eyes the young man with a note of concern.

VERITY - 'Pokémon Master'? Where did you even hear about that?

YOUNG MAN – Some history programme they had on the night before I started my journey. I'd only really been waiting for Professor Oak's show, but...it sounded like the best thing a trainer could be - 'Pokémon Master'. Why, is it new to you?

VERITY - Not at all. I was just surprised to hear that Pokémon Masters had been spoken about on a TV show. Such a title is rarely used these days.

YOUNG MAN – *head tilt* How come? Is it that hard to become one?

Verity puts on a sympathetic expression.

VERITY – You don't really 'become one'. You're born as one.

YOUNG MAN – ...what?

VERITY - 'Pokémon Master' was a name used by those in ancient times for people with Cho'moken, elemental abilities similar to those of pokémon.

YOUNG MAN – *struggling to comprehend this* Then I...I...

**stands up, angry* ...what have I been doing?!*

VERITY - *unnerved* What do you mean?

YOUNG MAN - *angry* Six years going after something I could never even have, no matter how much I trained! *voice cracks* All these years, I've been wasting my time!

VERITY – That's not true! That one thing doesn't make your *whole* journey meaningless...you must have learned so much! All those places you visited, the sights you saw.

The young man calms a little, his expression a little distant, like he's only just realising what Verity is telling him.

YOUNG MAN – Yeah...

Verity smiles, feeling like she's making a positive difference to the man.

VERITY – And think of the people and pokémon you've met, how you've made an impact on their lives.

The young man smiles faintly, then a painful memory surfaces in his mind – one Verity isn't privy to - and he grimaces and hunches his shoulders. Verity's face falls.

VERITY – Would you...like to be alone for a bit?

The young man nods.

VERITY – Okay. I'll let you know if Pikachu's condition improves.

Verity leaves. There is silence. The young man breaks down in tears.

Back to the present.

YOUNG MAN - *very upset* They...they haven't been able to make him better, yet.

MEWTWO – Hm~

I could see if I could help.

YOUNG MAN – Really? You'd do that?

MEWTWO – I owe that pikachu of yours for making me rethink my decision, back on Mt. Quena.

I can't guarantee I'll be successful, but I shall see if I can heal him...

...Ash.

Mewtwo floats off, leaving Ash standing in the corridor all forlorn-like.

ASH – Th-thank you...

MEWTWO - *thinks* What twist of fate should bring that human back into my path again?

- **Cut back to the intensive care room that Pikachu is in. Mewtwo approaches the other seers in charge.**

??? - Brother Tsu! I thought you were leaving.

MEWTWO – I heard this pikachu was in a dire condition. I thought perhaps I could assist in some way.

??? - Oh, thank you.

??? - The pikachu's body contains a high level of Distortia, which seems to have prevented its evolution from being permanent.

MEWTWO – What is this...'Distortia'?

??? - It is a rare, volatile energy from a dimension beyond this one. The average pokémon would never normally come into contact with it, and yet... this one undoubtedly did. Its trainer, too.

MEWTWO - I see...

??? - We contacted the Tatto Repository for more information on how to purify the pikachu. It requires a considerable amount of aura infused with bio-energy...

MEWTWO - I have an idea. Do you have any biocite shards in this Repository?

"BRINK" Concept Art by Gemma Bright, 2020
pokemonehr-thrft-halosstudios.com



Ash
Aged 16
(restored physique)

Cut again to a little later. Mewtwo is now standing over the bed where Pikachu is lying, partly evolved. Mewtwo levitates a biocite shard into each of his hands, then places his hands onto Pikachu's body. Energy ripples out across Pikachu, causing a dark energy to arise also.

Inside Mewtwo's mind, there are flickers of Pikachu's memories. We see from Pikachu's point of view, in a forest. A shadowy humanoid creature lunges at him with a maniacal expression. A bolt of electricity courses from Pikachu. The creature freezes, clasps at its head, turns and runs away.

Mewtwo's eyes shoot open and he takes a gasp, dropping the shards. On the table Pikachu is shifting back to more of a pikachu shape, splatterings of dark violet energy ebbing away.

??? - You've done it! :D The Distortia has been purged.

??? - We are in your debt, Brother Tsu.

MEWTWO - *shaken* It is...it is nothing.

??? - Are you okay?

MEWTWO - I'm fine. The process has exhausted me momentarily, that is all.

??? - I will fetch you some herbal tea.

- Mewtwo is unsettled by the creature he saw in Pikachu's memories.
- Before Pikachu is allowed to reunite with Ash, Mewtwo decides to talk to him about what he saw in the pokémon's memory. Pikachu tells him of what happened at Brandon's Pyramid a few years ago (Ash being overtaken by a being Brandon called the King of PokéLantis).
- Pikachu thought it was caused by an artefact Ash touched in the ruins under the pyramid, and thought the being had left when Brandon confronted it. Pikachu says he knows the being has left *now*, because he saw it happen. However, Ash seems to have no memory of the creature having even been in his body.

- Mewtwo says he needs to find out more about this, but he needs to get Ash's permission to look in his memories.

ASH - Pikachu! You're alright!

Your fur's got weird patterns on it now... but who cares, I'm just happy to see you, buddy!

PIKACHU - Pi-kaa! ^-^

MEWTWO - Where did you and your Pikachu go to have such a high level of Distortia energy in your bodies?

ASH - Distortia?

MEWTWO - They tell me one of their Medicham nurses detected it in you.

ASH - I don't know! I didn't even know it was there!

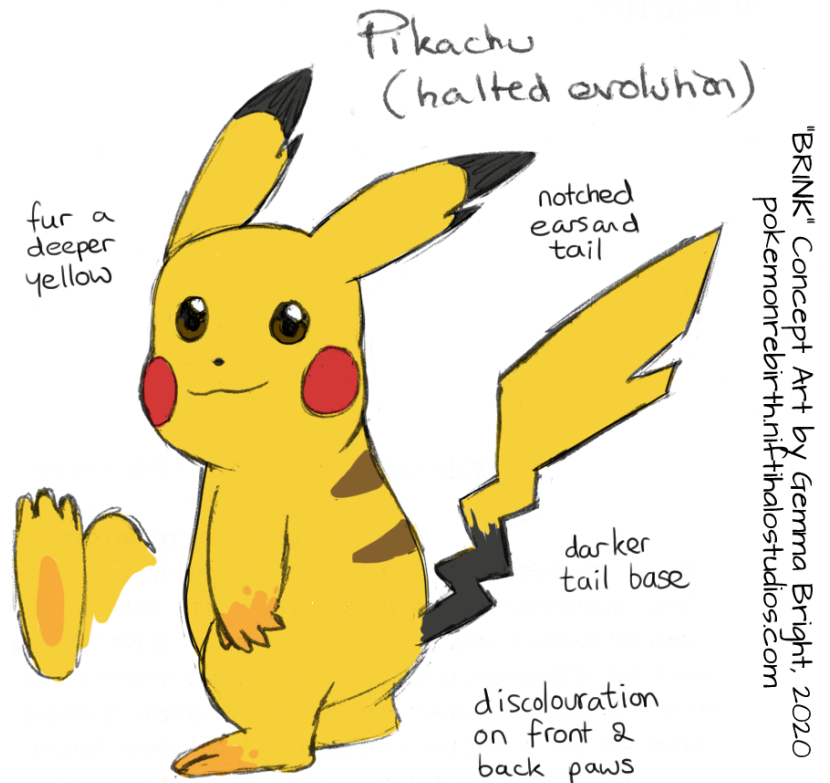
Actually... Mewtwo, you're a psychic pokémon, right?

MEWTWO - I am.

ASH - There's just this weird gap in my memory, and it's really been bugging me. Can you help?

MEWTWO - *nods* I will take a look for you, if that is what you want.

ASH - Yeah. I need to know.



- Mewtwo accesses Ash's memories.

Cut to Ash Ketchum running through the forest, the brim of his hat shadowing his face.

ASH - *thinks* What's happening to me...? Why did I say those things? Why did I push my pokémon so hard?

stops running, hunches shoulders, upset I don't blame Misty for getting mad at me. I've become no better than Paul...

PIKACHU - Pika-pii!

ASH - *stunned* Pikachu?

He turns around to see Pikachu, standing a short distance behind him.

ASH - *sad smile* Even after how I've acted, you won't give up on me, huh.

Pikachu shakes his head.

ASH - *sighs, walking towards Pikachu* Where did it all go wrong, buddy?

Before either human or pokémon can reach each other, the ground becomes all slooshy and weird, like in the nightmare Ash had during the 10th movie. Pikachu cries out in alarm as he gets sucked into the ground.

ASH - *yells, horrified* PIKACHU!!

He tries to run to save Pikachu but he is unable to do so. Pikachu vanishes, and an ominous shadow raises itself, plunging the forest surroundings into black also.

Yelling angrily, Ash dives at the shadow.

PIKACHU - *echoey* Pika-piiii!

ASH - ...Pikachu?

He struggles.

ASH - Pikachu, where are you?!

PIKACHU - Pika-pi! Pika ka-there somewhere!

ASH - *momentarily surprised by being able to understand Pikachu* Whuh? ...ugh!

Ash writhes and struggles again. The surroundings go from pitch black to a cloudy black/red/violet. A hazy orb opens before him, Pikachu is in Ash's line of sight, standing his ground. He is wounded and looks desperate.

Before Ash can respond, he sees a shadowy-claw arm thrust out in his vision, an inky orb of energy fired at Pikachu who dodges aside.

ASH - NO!

PIKACHU - Ash, listen to me! You've got to fight this!

ASH - What am I doing? Why can't I stop myself?!

A sudden chill as realisation dawns.

ASH - *horrified* Something else is here...in my body.

Momentarily cutting to outside of Ash's psyche.

PIKACHU - *angry, cheeks sparking* Pi pi-kachuu! Kachu pika cha!

The creature lunges, and Pikachu fires his most powerful attack, but the creature blocks it with one claw and extends the other in a violent lunge.

ASH - *furious* STOP!!!

Back inside Ash's psyche, Ash is standing angrily, looking around him into the red/black void.

ASH - **angry** I know you're in here! Quit hiding and show me what you really are!

The shadow with the strange glowing circle on its forehead rises out of nothingness.

??? - **unimpressed** I see you have awakened.

ASH - ...Darkrai?

??? - **a noise like a bemused snort** An intriguing title, but not one that belongs to me.

ASH - **frowns** Then...who are you?

??? - That is not important.

ASH - **angry** It's important to *me*! You're in my body!

??? - I was dying. There was no one else willing enough to accommodate me.

ASH - **caught off guard** ...what?

Flashback to the scene of in Mewtwo Strikes Back, where Ash has been put into the stonelike catatonic state. These memories are Mewtwo's own, as they have been triggered from what he's overseeing.

??? - You were...sleeping. I quietly arrived, hoping you would accept my presence.

Shot of the glowing cloud representing the unknown creature, rising through the ground of the island and seeping into Ash as above ground, the aura filled tears of the pokémon gravitate toward Ash's body.

??? - Your strength saved my life. In return, I shared my own strength. I lengthened your days. I granted you and your Magilia extraordinary power.

And when you gave up...I gave you the desire to fight on.

Ash's eyes widen.

ASH - **murmurs, distant** Wait...I remember now. The day Team Rocket...

There's a flashback of the advanced TR mech stealing a bunch of Ash's pokémon, after drawing him and them away from the safety of Professor Oak's Ranch. You see Ash's helpless, distraught expression as the mech leaves - he crumples to his knees, head sagged.

ASH - **murmurs, distant** And from that moment on, I knew I had to be stronger.

In the flashback, Ash is now in his bedroom, standing in front of the window. He lifts his head, his reflection in the window shows that the pupils of his eyes have changed and look odd.

Back to the present.

ASH - **flustered** But this is not what I meant! This isn't what I wanted! You made me hurt my pokémon!

My friends...

??? - Progress involves sacrifices.

ASH - **bitter** Not like that. Winning means nothing, if you're alone...

He struggles some more, harder this time.

ASH - **angry** Get out! Get out of my head!



Illustration by Dani (Skribblekin @ Tumblr/Twitter)

The creature subdues Ash, but barely. It makes a dissatisfied sound.

??? - Your struggling is more trouble than it is worth. I shall look for a more compliant host to carry out my will.

ASH - **moans in pain/exhaustion**

The scenery fades to black.

- Mewtwo is uncomfortable. He had sensed something dormant, yet alive, resting in the earth of New Island, but had been so angry/determined over his plans to rebuild Doctor Fuji's lab and make pokémon clones, he had thought little more of it.
- He puts two and two together that the momentary deathlike state Ash was in after getting exposed to Mew and Mewtwo's dual aura blocker beams had given that creature a chance to enter Ash's body.

- Ash is also uncomfortable because he now remembers what had evaded him. He asks if the creature is still there. Mewtwo assures Ash that the creature has left him, but this doesn't console Ash much.
- Ash feels the creature's powers working through him means that his training achievements are lies, since it gave him and his pokémon enhancements he wasn't aware were present. Combined with finding out his childhood goal is impossible to achieve, he's not even sure how much he has personally accomplished, now.
- Mewtwo feels sympathy for Ash. In some ways, he wonders the same thing about himself, considering his power was artificially amplified by Team Rocket. He feels guilt/responsible for Ash's current emotional state. Despite this, Ash is very grateful for having his out of reach memories unlocked.
- The storm calms. Mewtwo says he must return to Fiore now, as that is where he has been living.
- Mewtwo explains to the Seers what he saw, before he leaves. The Seers murmur amongst themselves unhappily, wondering where the creature that was in Ash has gone, and the identity of it. They endeavour to do research.

TO BE CONTINUED

This eBook is not officially endorsed and is intended for
FREE DISTRIBUTION ONLY

Enjoy Pokémon Rebirth? Please support the Pokémon franchise by purchasing licensed official products.

Read more tales from the deeper side at
www.pokemonrebirth.niftihalostudios.com