

Foreword

Hello, and welcome to the Chapter 6 outline for OBT! Despite having two main deviations in the script, there's really only one version of the outline that I was able to find, with the additional "Julius being a mentor" segment added like a fun little DLC pack. Even so, I hope you enjoy this peek into my process!

To read this document I've added helpful little comments featuring more insight and commentary, kind of like those director commentary tracks you never watch! To read them in full or see which comment is linked to a sentence or word, simply follow the footnote on the **highlighted part**.¹ Or you can ignore them to get the raw outline. So let's get shaking!

Chapter 6 Outline



¹ Yeah, that thing!

V.1 - Vanilla Gameplay Base²

The chapter opens with Rune narrating over a montage of the team completing various jobs in different dungeons, as well as the more domestic aspects of their life. "Since we received word about the expedition, Malachi has been keeping up busy with all the work we can manage so that our team can be selected to participate. It's not unheard of for newer, trainee teams to take part in expeditions, but the odds certainly aren't in our favor." There are some fumbles in the montage, but it appears overall to be a certain net gain for the team.

We see a new moon cast over Sharpedo Bluff, and Rune once again finds herself in the dream realm with Requiem.³ Requiem comments that she's finally starting to look like "her own person", and moves on quickly. She then says she's here to check in on Rune, and Rune takes the opportunity to admit she doesn't feel like she's fitting in, and asks Requiem if she ever had a "plan" for her destiny. Requiem says that there is no destiny, and to just live life how she wants. Rune then says she has many questions, and Requiem promises to answer them next time she visits, but they're out of time.

The next day, the team is assembled in the guild to hear about a briefing involving more information surrounding the expedition. Enter Team Skull. The trio step⁴ into the guild and immediately everyone is whispering about them, rumors surrounding their misdeeds leading up to the reveal: they supposedly have killed an explorer. We see Keaton enter the room, and he spots the group, looking surprised. And to everyone's shock he... Hugs the leader?! It turns out the pair used to be teammates! They split due to their lives leading in different directions, but still write to each other frequently. It also seems Keaton has some unresolved feelings... He gives Team Maelstrom their assignment, and when Malachi asks about the rumors, Keaton dispels them immediately. His friend couldn't possibly do all that! It turns out their job is... Yet another errand. The group is to go to Apple Woods with some goods to trade with the locals in exchange for perfect apples⁵, a favorite confection of the Guildmaster. Dielle and Yohann stay behind on this trip since it's a short errand.

In Apple Woods, we get to see the incredible intricate rooting that happens in the dungeon.⁶ It's mostly a smooth walk through, with Malachi explaining to Inigo what the appeal is for people to live in ever-shifting dungeons, and how the guild is built to help these people. In the heart of the dungeon, at the perfect apple tree, the group sees Julius and his henchmen waiting. "Chaw-haw, it's about time you rookies showed up!" He jumps down from the tree. "We were getting real hungry waiting for you, there aren't many apples left." "You can't just take

² Usually when I start out with an outline, I just use the vanilla story and build from there. In this iteration of the outline, Team Skull was meant to mostly become relevant at the end of the chapter, rather than being present throughout.

³ This outline didn't have a dream sequence planned initially! I'm glad I added it later, it has a lot of fun tasty treats that'll become relevant later on in the comic.

⁴ In this initial outline, I kept Koffing and Zubat as part of Team Skull! You may notice even in this outline I would forget they existed lol

⁵ This detail was dropped to save on time.

⁶ This dungeon trait was given to a different dungeon, and Apple Woods was instead given the giant moving tree!

them, those belong to someone!" "What, the wilds? C'mon kid, you can't really think that pokemon that live in mystery dungeons actually think things belong to them." "Of course it does! Pokemon who live in the wild work just as hard as town pokemon." "Seems I've struck a sore spot! Tell ya what, you hand over the goods, we'll make sure they get to the right channels, and you can do a real job while we handle this errand from here." Malachi hesitates quietly, clutching the bag closer. "Fine then. You wanna dance? Let's dance!" A short battle sequence begins, and the team is easily wiped out by Team Skull, despite even Inigo's best efforts. They get knocked out, and everything fades to black as Rune especially is struggling to breathe.

When she wakes up, she sees she's in a med bay in the guild, and Malachi is pleading with Keaton. "Sir please, this is all a big misunderstanding! Julius-" Malachi looks over at Skuntank, who narrows his eyes at him, and looks over at Rune. **Malachi stops talking.**⁷ "C'mon Keats, you don't have to be so hard on the kid." "I certainly do! The simple fact of the matter is, they lost our goods, failed a simple errand, and almost had a teammate killed. The Guildmaster won't be happy to hear about this..." He's pacing back and forth around the room, and Julius puts a paw on his shoulder to stop him. "Hey, it's okay. Breathe. You can take from my team's personal pantry to help feed your Guildmaster." Malachi looks like he's seething quietly. "Oh Julius, you don't have to-" "I insist. I'll investigate those woods tomorrow to see what pokemon could have hurt your little explorer, and bring back a suitable antidote from the apothecary. Ol' Wiggly doesn't have to worry." Keaton smiles.

Wigglytuff enters the room, looking very stern. There's a chill in the air. "I want a word with Rune." Everyone looks at each other nervously, and leave the pair alone. Outside the room, Julius takes his leave. Chatot turns to address the team, and tells them that Rune is lucky to be alive after such a thorough dusting of poison powder from one of the wild Butterfree. He also tells them that given Rune's condition and the failure of the job overall, they should not be expected to join the upcoming expedition. He exits, and the rest of the team pours in to tend to Rune and comfort Malachi. Inigo asks Malachi why he didn't tell the truth to Chatot, and he dryly responds "Who do you think he'd believe, anyway? The recruits he never wanted?" Inigo sighs. "I'm not gonna let them beat me again. Mark my words."

Meanwhile, we cut to Rune and Wigglytuff in the room. Rune begins to apologize for the apples, and Wigglytuff stops her. "Hey. They're just apples." He then says that he's glad Rune is safe and sound, and she says she's glad it was her and not anybody else (especially Dielle). Wigglytuff says she should care more about her own safety, and then transitions into how he's glad she isn't hurt as she's the only other human around. Rune seems confused, and he finally admits his motives for recruiting her. He's a human champion. Rune seems shocked, but rather than confirming his suspicions, just expresses even more confusion since she's not human. Wiggly seems shocked, and tries asking her about her champion status, but she doesn't remember anything, which he notes is very unusual. He apologizes for putting her on the spot, and leaves. The chapter ends with Rune looking at her paws. "I can't be human... Can I...?"

⁷ While I think Julius intimidating the team into silence is a cool idea, I also like how frustrating it is watching Keaton steamroll the gang :)

V.2 - Julius Mentor⁸

The teams enter Apple Woods together, and we begin our trek through the dungeon. Julius talks about the mission objective to get perfect apples, but mentions that they can keep an eye out for rarer treasures in the dungeon as well. Soon they come across a pokemon living within the dungeon, and Julius advises they attack first to show them who's boss. Malachi contests this, saying that they shouldn't fight someone unless provoked. Julius makes a point that if they wait until provoked, then the enemy will have the chance of an upper hand. Inigo seems to think this is sound logic, and Rune waffles on it. They fight the pokemon, causing them to faint and teleport out of the dungeon. They leave behind money,⁹ and Julius takes it as "fair's fair".

Further through the dungeon, they continue fighting pokemon, and Julius prods the gang to feel out the current situation at the guild. In doing so he sows seeds of distrust for Wigglytuff, which causes Malachi to doubt the guildmaster. (wife suggestion: He also talks about team composition with them, and mentions that part of the reason they may be struggling is because their team is hybrid-heavy. Smth smth self loathing of his own abilities?? I'd have to really work on this.)¹⁰

Soon they approach the perfect apple tree, and Julius starts beating the shit out of the tree to get the apples down. The team gathers a few, and Malachi says they're ready to go and can probably give Braeburn the goods. Julius stops them, and keeps knocking down more apples. Malachi barks at him to stop, but he refuses, saying that "feral" pokemon won't know the difference anyway. He and Malachi get into an argument about wild pokemon and their sapience (with Julius equating them to animals), and Malachi threatens to go back and tell Keaton about this. Julius retorts back, saying that Keaton didn't want them as recruits, and we see a "flashback" of Keaton talking about them (in purple, quoted text to indicate Julius is the one repeating what he "said"). Malachi says he'll stop them himself, and Rune and Inigo pitch in. This initiates a battle between the two teams, but Team Maelstrom is easily wiped by a noxious gas combo (which consists of two poison moves from Julius and Koffing, and a hypnosis from zubat).¹¹ As Rune fades out, we see Julius step in front of her.

⁸ The addition that made it to publishing! I still think this really improved the chapter, giving a glimpse into why Keaton would want to defend Julius (because he's a cool charismatic guy) while also making the team loathe him WAY more as a result. Though, there is one major change you'll see between the outline and the script shortly lol

⁹ Changed this to oran berries so the "stealing" part feels slightly more morally gray

¹⁰ I didn't end up exploring this, since I don't think Julius cares about being a hybrid, and is way more hung up on the town vs. dungeon pokemon thing.

¹¹ Ah, there's that change I mentioned in footnote 8! Yeah, apparently Zubat and Koffing were still here when I was writing this iteration of the outline lmao