

It's Raichu" to the rescue!

Raichu Shows Off
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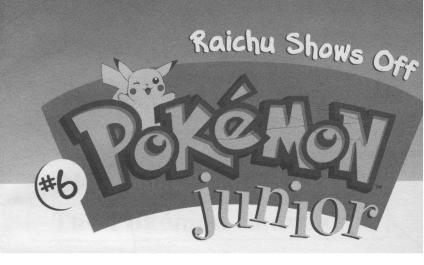
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By S. E. Heller

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ISBN 0-439-20095-4

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Designed by Joan Moloney

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Printed in the USA First Scholastic printing, August 2000

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CHAPTER ONE

The Pokémon Showboat

"Come one, come all! Hurry, hurry to the Pokémon Showboat!" called a clown.

Pikachu and its friends were excited! The little yellow Pokémon had never been to a show before.

"Sounds like fun, huh, Pikachu?"
Ash smiled.



"Pika!" Pikachu agreed with its human trainer. Ash and Pikachu always felt the same way. They were best friends.

Misty, another one of Ash's friends, was there with her Pokémon, Togepi.

"Brrr!" said Togepi. It wanted to see the Pokémon actors.

"I have never been on a showboat," said Tracey. Tracey was another friend of Ash's. He liked to watch Pokémon and draw them in his sketchbook.

Soon the friends were in their



seats watching the show. Togepi bounced up and down. It loved the stage fight!

Two Pokémon were fighting in a boxing ring. Machoke looked stronger and bigger, but Hitmonchan was quicker. It beat



"Hitmonchan!" cried Clefable.

The pink Fairy Pokémon hugged
Hitmonchan.

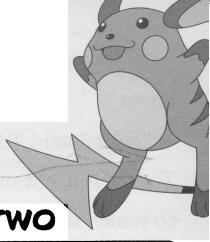
"I owe it all to you, my love!" said Hitmonchan.

When the show was over, Pikachu and its friends clapped.

"Great acting!" said Tracey.

"Wow! I guess Meowth isn't the only talking Pokémon," said Ash.

"Brrr!" Togepi was the most excited of all! The little Pokémon jumped from its seat. It wanted to find the actors.



CHAPTER TWO

Backstage Secrets

"Uh-oh!" cried Misty. "Where did Togepi go? Togepi!" she called.

The little Pokémon was headed for the stage. It looked like fun to be an actor!

Misty ran to stop Togepi. "You cannot go there," she said. "It is

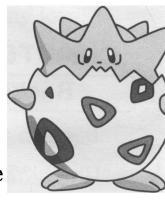


only for the Pokémon in the show."

"Brrr," said Togepi. Sorry!

Togepi did not mean to make Misty worry.

Just then, Ash and Pikachu saw people backstage. They were



talking into microphones.

"Hey, what are *they* doing?" asked Ash.

Misty and Tracey turned to look.

"I love you, Clefable," said one actor.



"And I love you, Hitmonchan," said another actor.

Pikachu looked at the stage.
Clefable and Hitmonchan were moving their lips. But they were not really talking! They were just pretending. The human actors were speaking for them.

"Hey, those actors were talking for the Pokémon the whole time!" cried Tracey.

Pikachu was surprised. How hard it must be for the



Pokémon to move their mouths at the right time! They must have practiced a lot.

The trainers and Pokémon must really be close, thought Pikachu. It smiled at Ash. We could be great actors together, Pikachu thought.



CHAPTER THREE

A Problem with Raichu

"Please be quiet backstage," an actress said to Pikachu, Ash, and their friends. Then her eyes lit up.

"Is that *your* Pikachu?" she asked Ash.

"It sure is!" said Ash proudly.

"Pikachu!" smiled the yellow Pokémon.



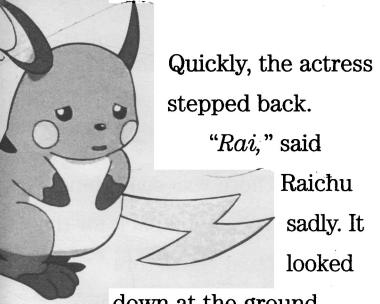
"It must be nice to be so close."
The actress sighed.

"Pika?" Pikachu and Ash loved each other very much. Pikachu wondered why that made the actress sad.

Just then another actor walked toward them. "Kay, let Raichu try dancing with the others," he said.

"Okay, Roger. Raichu!" Kay called. "It is time to go onstage."

But the Pokémon would not took at Kay. When she stepped closer, Raichu's cheeks began to spark.



down at the ground.

"Is something wrong?" Kay asked Raichu. "Please go out. You will have *fun* onstage."

Still, Raichu looked at the ground. It did not come close.

Kay did not go near Raichu either.

Pikachu wished it could help them. They looked so unhappy.

Pikachu and its friends stayed onboard the showboat as it sailed out to sea.

"I wish there was something we could do to pay you back for the ride," Ash told the actors.

Roger thought for a minute.

"Maybe there is something you can do," he said. "You and your Pikachu get along so well. I wonder if you could teach Kay about Electric Pokémon?"

Pikachu looked at Ash.

It knew its friend wanted to help,
too.