

POWER BEASTS

Episode 01:
"Flara: The Fiery Cat Beast!"

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TEASER

EXT. LEGENDS FOREST - DAY

Two small, round, furry pink ears poke out from a bush.

The forest is quiet. A path of dirt cuts through the grass and trees.

The ears wiggle.

FLARA
(curious, hesitant)
Meow...

Two greenish-red eyes peek out of the bush.

FLARA (CONT'D)
Maa?

A kitten's head emerges. FLARA, the kitten, has a flat, pink nose, black-spotted red fur, and white fur around the jaw and on her neck.

FLARA (CONT'D)
(calling out)
MAAO! MEOW!

Beat.

Flara looks both ways, eyeing the forest with trepidation.

She steps out of the bush.

She is small. Body patterned like her head. White on her belly.

Flara walks down the path.

EXT. FOREST - SOME TIME LATER

Flara looks tired.

FLARA
(calling out)
Maa! Maa! Meow!

DARROTE (O.S.)
(loudly, roaring)
AH-URR!

Flara looks behind her.

A big black bear with golden triangle patterns on its backside, a DARROTE, eyes her. Angry eyes.

DARROTE (CONT'D)
 (loudly)
 AH-URR! URR!

It charges.

Flara jumps, eyes wide, body tense. She runs. Darrote chases.

They weave between trees and over bushes and bramble. Darrote CRASHES and ROARS.

FLARA
 (desperate, tired)
 Maa...mao...mao...

They break out into the open.

The Darrote opens its mouth, CHOMPING down dangerously close to Flara's swinging tail.

Flara runs straight off a cliff.

FLARA (CONT'D)
 (freaking out)
 MAAO!

The Darrote jumps after her, swinging its paws trying to scrape her as they fall.

DARROTE
 URR!

They crash through the trees below.

FLARA
 (as she hits branches, in
 pain)
 Maa! Maa! Maa!

She lands in a river. The water RUSHES LOUDLY, dragging her along.

FLARA (CONT'D)
 (scared)
 Maa!

EXT. FOREST - LATER

Flara catches herself on a rock. Waterlogged, she slips and slides, eventually pulling herself on top of it.

Then, she slips again, landing on her belly.

FLARA
(defeated)
Meow...

Beat.

She pulls herself up on her feet, PANTING. Hops from one rock to another, eventually making it to the shore.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

Flara walks. Her tummy GRUMBLES.

FLARA
(sad)
Maa...

She curls up by a tree.

FLARA (CONT'D)
(yawning)
Ma-meow...

EXT. FOREST - MORNING

Flara's greenish-red eyes open.

She stands, legs trembling, weak.

FLARA
(desperately calling out)
MAAO!
(beat)
MEOW!

She walks.

EXT. FOREST - LATER

BETTEL (a beetle), roughly the size of her nose, crawls along the path up ahead, CLICKING.

Flara's tummy GRUMBLES.

FLARA
(resolute)
Grr.

Gritting her teeth, she hunches low to the ground, wiggling her body as she silently approaches the Bettel.

Bettel's carapace/armor opens, revealing two wings.

FLARA (CONT'D)

Hiss!

She pounces, kitty paws flailing. The Bettel BUZZES and its wings vibrate, lifting it into the air just before she can catch it.

BETTEL

Click click!

FLARA

(frustrated)

Maa. Hiss!

She goes up on her hind legs, trying to swat at it. The Bettel avoids her, flying high above the tree line and out of sight.

FLARA (CONT'D)

(sad)

Maa.

She walks on.

MAFIA GRUNT TRISHA (O.S.)

Capture beam, GO!

A blast of red laser light cuts through the forest, creating a small red dot on the tree next to Flara.

Flara's eyes go wide.

FLARA

(fearful)

Maa!

She runs.

MAFIA GRUNT TRISHA (19) stands two dozen paces away. Black pencil skirt. Black jacket. White shirt that reads "Don't Mess with Mafia." She points a device that looks like a cell phone at Flara.

MAFIA GRUNT TRISHA

Ugh! Come back here, you stupid mangy kitten!

Mafia Grunt Trisha gives chase. Flara HUFFS and PUFFS. Red laser beams cut through the forest, just narrowly missing Flara each time.

Flara jumps into an abandoned den, wiggling her butt to fit. She pulls herself deep inside, until she's no longer visible.

Mafia Grunt Trisha leans down in front of the den, holding her phone to it.

MAFIA GRUNT TRISHA (CONT'D)
Capture beam, go!

No matter which way she shines the phone, the red laser beam hits only dirt.

MAFIA GRUNT TRISHA (CONT'D)
Ugh. Fine. You win, mangy kitten.

INT. INSIDE THE DEN - CONTINUOUS

Flara trembles, fear on her face.

FLARA
(crying)
Meow.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

INT/EXT. SCHOOL BUS - DAY

CORY (11) plays videogames on a handheld device.

The bus is packed. Elementary-aged kids are TALKING LOUDLY. Some sitting up in their seats, gazing out the window.

The bus chugs along the street, school clearly visible only a little ways off.

CORY
(excited)
Oh my god. Ted, look, I found a
shiny Turtgra!

Cory looks to his right.

Nobody is there.

CORY (CONT'D)
Oh, right, you left.

Cory looks down at his game, suddenly sad.

Bus pulls into the school.

Cory presses a few buttons on his game.

CORY (CONT'D)
(under his breath)
Capture beam, go.

On his device:

Capture beam MISSED!

The bus doors open.

Everyone shuffles out.

Cory intently stares at his device.

Wild Turtgra used Hard Kick!

Cory grits his teeth. Presses a few more buttons.

Capture beam MISSED!

CORY (CONT'D)
Ugh!

Cory is the only one still on the bus.

BUS DRIVER (O.S.)
Alright, Cory, time to put away the
game.

Cory looks up. BUS DRIVER is looking at him. He shuts the
device.

CORY
Sorry, I didn't realize we were
already here.

BUS DRIVER
It's okay. But you do need to go.
Don't want to be late for class.

CORY
I know.

He shoves the game into his bag, gets up.

Bus Driver allows him past. Watches him head towards the
exit.

BUS DRIVER
Uh, hey, wait a sec, Cory.

Cory turns around, almost at the front doors. Bus Driver
hustles over to him.

BUS DRIVER (CONT'D)
You ever played the original?

CORY
Original what?

BUS DRIVER
Power Beasts. That's what you're
playing, right?

CORY
Yeah. Wait, you play?

BUS DRIVER
(smiles)
Sure do. They're great games, the
originals came out when I was about
your age.

Bus Driver reaches into his bag, grabs a device.

CORY
Whoa. What's that thing?

BUS DRIVER

This, my friend, is a Heracles Ultimate. And inside, you'll find one of the originals, it's called Power Beasts Kings.

CORY

I think I heard of that before.

BUS DRIVER

If you want, I'll let you play it. But you have to promise to give it back after you're done.

CORY

You mean after I beat the game?

BUS DRIVER

(chuckles)
Something like that.

He holds out the device. Cory takes it. Bus Driver CLAPS him on the shoulder.

BUS DRIVER (CONT'D)

Just a couple things. Don't play it in front of anyone else, okay? And be careful. It isn't quite the same as what you're used to.

CORY

I know, it probably has terrible graphics.

BUS DRIVER

(laughs)
Yeah. Now get going, Cory. You're going to be late.

Cory walks off the bus. Bus Driver watches him, a fond look on his face.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

MS. FRANCIS (mid-50s) stands in front of a class of students. Cory's at a desk near the window, middle of the class.

MS. FRANCIS

Alright, everyone. Time for a round of rapid-fire multiplications. Five times six. Tina!

TINA

Uh, 30.

MS. FRANCIS

Four times seven, Ben.

BEN

(quickly)

28.

MS. FRANCIS

Seven times nine, Robert.

ROBERT

Uh, well, fifty-three, I think.

MS. FRANCIS

Yes. Good job, that was a hard one.
Three times six, Cory.

CORY

(blanking)

Um, uh, I'm not sure.

MS. FRANCIS

Eighteen. Keep studying. Now Laura,
you're up next, five times...

INT. CLASSROOM - LATER

The desks have been moved together into five islands of six students each. Cory draws.

Ms. Francis approaches.

MS. FRANCIS

Very nice, Cory. That looks like an
interesting snake, with all the
armor on it.

CORY

It's a steel type.

MS. FRANCIS

Oh. Can't say I know what that
means.

CORY

From Power Beasts, the videogame.

MS. FRANCIS

Oh, well, very cool. Keep drawing,
you're great at it.

Cory smiles.

EXT. OUTDOORS - LATER

Cory hunkers down on a bench. Looks around the playground. Other kids run up and down the playhouses, slide down slides, and and swing across the monkey bars. A teacher hovers nearby, watching them.

Cory whips out the Heracles Ultimate and turns it on.

Start screen flashes.

On display:

Power Beasts: Kings Version. Press any button to continue.

Cory presses a button.

Beat.

He presses a few more buttons.

On screen:

Are you a boy or a girl?

Cory chooses boy.

On screen:

Remain calm. Here we go.

3...

2...

1...

Cory's body glows, then he disappears, as if snapped out of existence. The Heracles Ultimate falls into the grass.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

EXT. THE VOID - DAY

White space all around. A series of 1s and 0s shoot through the void at blazing speed. In between them, Cory falls, eyes wide, teeth clenched, SCREAMING.

EXT. LEGENDS FOREST - SAME TIME

The sky above is mostly clear. Small clouds move along slowly. The air is calm and the forest is silent.

High in the sky, a spec of light like a star appears.

The sound of SCREAMING breaks through the silence. Faint at first, it gradually grows louder.

The star grows in size, until it's revealed to be Cory!

Cory CRASHES through trees, SLAMMING into the ground belly first.

He GROANS.

CORY

Ow.

He rolls over onto his side.

CORY (CONT'D)

What in the world? Oh, everything hurts.

Cory gets up. Looks around.

CORY (CONT'D)

Where am I?
(beat, then calling out)
Hello? Ms. Francis? Anybody?

No response.

CORY (CONT'D)

Guess I better find a way back
before I get in trouble.

Cory pushes a branch aside, trudging through the forest.

EXT. VESTIA CITY - DAY

A large metropolis. NPC-type characters wander around.

A gleaming white skyscraper sits off one of the main roads, flying a flag with a red cross.

Scattered, one or two-story buildings hang signs that read things like:

New, Rare Cards For Your Power Beasts Every Day!

Friendly Tech Support for All Your Power Beast Needs.

Stay Safe on the Road! Stock up on Power Beast Supplies Here.

At the edge of the city, an exquisite building, a cross between a cathedral and a sports stadium, with a dome at the top, has a sign that reads: **Vestia City Arena.**

INT. VESTIA CITY ARENA - SAME TIME

SAGE (22), spiky yellow hair, sunglasses, black sports jacket, jeans, sits on top of a platform that overlooks that entire room.

An arena sits on one end of the platform. On the other end, an intricate maze, filled with people in similar attire to Sage, some with lightning bolts on their shirts.

ETHAN (30), archeologist hat, brown button down shirt, brown pants, boots, HUFFS and PUFFS as he hurries to the platform.

ARENA GRUNT WINSTON (O.S.)

Hey! Come back here! You have to beat us before you take on the Arena Queen!

ETHAN

I've no time for that! This is a matter of extreme urgency. Sage, I need to talk!

Sage gets up from her seat. ARENA GRUNT WINSTON (18), with a lightning bolt T-shirt comes to a stop behind Ethan, looking worried and frustrated.

SAGE

Let him through, Winston. If he's not challenging me, there's no need for you to battle him.

ARENA GRUNT WINSTON
 (sheepish)
 Oh, uh, alright. Sorry Sage.

SAGE
 No worries, dude. Go man your post.

Arena Grunt Winston hurries off back the way he came.

SAGE (CONT'D)
 So then, what can I help you with?
 You're an archeologist, if my
 pretty eyes don't deceive me?

She takes off her sunglasses. Smiles wickedly.

ETHAN
 That's right. My brother and I, we
 were working at the Binary Caves,
 when we stumbled upon something,
 um, rather dangerous.

SAGE
 Go on.

ETHAN
 It's a tablet that holds the key to
 an Ancient Power Beast. One of
 unimaginable strength, capable of
 great destruction. Have you ever
 heard of Ateros?

SAGE
 The name does sound familiar. It's
 a children's story, isn't it?

ETHAN
 Yes, but not just a children's
 story. Ateros was an Ancient Power
 Beast that ruled with cruel greed
 and terrible force long ago. He was
 locked away in a deep sleep, but
 this tablet contains the key to
 awakening him.

Ethan produces a piece of rock from his jacket. It's cracked
 along one edge, as if it's only half of a whole.

ETHAN (CONT'D)
 (nervously)
 My brother and I uncovered the
 tablet recently.
 (MORE)

ETHAN (CONT'D)

I wanted to keep it secret, hidden away from those who might use it to gain power for their own ends, but my brother had other ideas. He decided to team up with the Mafia. By luck, I was able to escape with half of the tablet. But they are looking for me. I need your help, Sage. I need to store this thing somewhere safe.

Sage wipes the hair out of her face, looking exhausted.

SAGE

And you didn't just destroy the thing, why?

ETHAN

It's a valuable artifact. It needs to be preserved, not destroyed!

SAGE

(sighs)

Well, we can't keep it in my arena. Maybe the Power League would be willing to guard it. I can escort you there.

ETHAN

Thank you.

SAGE

(calling out)

Hey Winston, get over here, I'm gonna need--

She's cut off by multiple SHOUTS. A BARRAGE of sounds, a BATTLE RAGING.

She hustles down the stairs, looking concerned.

Clouds of smoke emerge, obscuring the room around her and Ethan.

SAGE (CONT'D)

Who's there? Show yourself!

An EAR-SPLITTING SCREECH. She and Ethan cover their ears.

TINMANTIS, a four-foot long preying mantis-type creature with a body made of soiled metal, hops through the air, slicing at the two of them.

Sage raises her phone.

SAGE (CONT'D)
Go, Eleduck!

Her phone emits a blast of light, and an elegant, skinny duck with a lightning bolt on its chest appears.

SAGE (CONT'D)
Electric barrier!

Eleduck raises its wings. An electric netting forms in front of it, catching the Tinmantis.

A ROAR comes from behind Sage and Ethan, followed by several STOMPING sounds and the BLAST OF A HORN.

MAFIA GRUNT #1 (O.S.)
Tinmantis, use Razor Spin!

The Tinmantis spins, cutting itself out of the net, then hops away from the Eleduck.

The smoke is clearing now, and it reveals that Sage and Ethan are surrounded by five Mafia Grunts and their Power Beasts:

A Darrote.

Two IODONS, moose-like creatures with frosty-blue and white coats of fur.

A BLARO, a rhino-like creature, but instead of a sharp horn, it has a musical horn.

And the Tinmantis.

MAFIA GRUNT #1 (CONT'D)
Hand over the tablet, and we'll
leave nice and quiet!

SAGE
(gritting her teeth, to
Ethan)
The hell have you gotten us into?

ETHAN
Don't worry. I can get us out. Can
you open the roof?

Sage looks up. Scratches her chin.

SAGE
Well...I can think of one way,
yeah.

ETHAN

Do it.

SAGE

(grins)

Alright, Eleduck, fly up and use
Volt Drill!

ELEDUCK

WA!

Eleduck spreads its wings. Soars, spinning towards the roof.

MAFIA GRUNT #1

Don't let them escape!

Tinmantis, Darrote, the Iodons, and Blaro CRY OUT, charging.

Ethan holds up his phone.

ETHAN

Go, Telenero!

A purple bird with eyes all over its feathers appears.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Use Psychic Flight!

TELENERO

Chi...

Eleduck BLASTS a hole through the roof. Rubble rains down with a ROAR, but Telenero clears it with its telekinetic abilities.

Ethan, Sage, and Telenero are lifted psychically into the air. The Tinmantis, Darrote, Iodons, and Blaro collide into each other.

Rubble hits them.

MAFIA GRUNT #1

Tinmantis, fly after them!

SAGE

Oh no you don't! Eleduck, use Zap!

ELEDUCK

Wa-WA!

Eleduck discharges a bolt of electricity, zapping Tinmantis, sending it crashing to the ground. They soar through the opening in the roof.

EXT. LEGENDS FOREST - DAY

Cory STOMPS through the forest, leaves and twigs CRUNCHING under his shoes.

Sunlight filters through the treetops. There's not a soul in sight.

CORY
(calling out)
Hello? Anybody?

He stops. Surveys the grassy hills, crowded trees, and then his eyes land on a small yellow butterfly, flapping its wings, its texture as smooth as butter.

The butterfly moves erratically, slowly approaching Cory. Its face is beet red, and the outside of its wings have a pattern on them, like a dancing girl.

CORY (CONT'D)
Oh my god. I recognize that.
(puts hand to his mouth)
It can't be. A-a Racofly.

The butterfly (Racofly) flies up higher, above Cory's head. He tilts his head to watch as it makes for the treetops.

CORY (CONT'D)
But that must mean...

The Racofly disappears into the foliage.

CORY (CONT'D)
(with awe)
I'm inside of Power Beasts.

Cory looks ahead, searching the forest.

CORY (CONT'D)
Oh, if only Ted were here!

He continues forward, STOMPING over the leaves and twigs.

EXT. LEGENDS FOREST - ELSEWHERE

The Den where Flara was before, trapped by Mafia Grunt Trisha.

All is silent. Calm. The dirt near the den is spewed aside, and a small red paw breaks through.

Flara emerges headfirst from inside, looking exhausted.

FLARA

Mao.

She collapses onto her tummy.

Beat.

Gets up on shaky legs.

FLARA (CONT'D)

(weakly)

Mao.

She sways back and forth as she walks, almost like she's dizzy.

FLARA (CONT'D)

Mao...

EXT. LEGENDS FOREST - BACK TO CORY

A stream lies ahead. Cory hikes to it. A couple fish swim down it, mottled tan and gray with catlike whiskers.

CORY

(amazed)

Wow! Those are Tofins! So cool.

Off in the distance, birds CHIRP.

Cory looks up, eyeing the tree branches. He puts a hand to his forehead, blocking out sunlight.

A GROWL interrupts him. He drops his hand, turning around.

A small hoof kicks up dirt a dozen or two feet away. Something like a wild hog, with oversized tusks and indian warpaint on its face, as well as overly large, muscular front legs, eyes him with aggression.

Cory's eyes go wide.

CORY (CONT'D)

(fearful)

A...a Brokic.

The wild hog (the Brokic) GROWLS, kicking up more dirt. Cory cautiously moves away from it, following the water downstream.

CORY (CONT'D)

(scared)

Uh, uh, okay, you want the water,
it's all yours, I'm leaving, no
need to--

The Brokic SNORTS, then charges.

Cory SCREAMS.

EXT. FOREST - ELSEWHERE

As Flara weakly trudges through the forest, Cory's SCREAM
pierces the air.

She looks up, stops, ears twitching. She surveys the
landscape.

Another SCREAM, this one a bit closer.

Then the sound of BRANCHES BREAKING, STRONG HOOFBEATS, and
SNORTS mixed with GROWLS.

Flara's eyes go wide as Cory CRASHES through the bramble,
headed straight for her, the Brokic hot on his trail.

FLARA

(freaking out)

MAAO!

She tries to run away, but she's too slow. The Brokic crashes
right into her.

FLARA (CONT'D)

(in pain)

Maaoo! Hiss!

The Brokic GROWLS. Lowers its gaze. She's collapsed in a heap
on the ground, bruised, dirty, and frail.

BROKIC

Grr...grr...

(it bristles, lifting a
muscular leg)

Grr-AH!

Just as it kicks her, a shadow passes over her.

FLARA

Hiss!

It's Cory. He shields her with his body and the Brokic's hoof
connects with his back instead.

CORY

Ow!

The Brokic bristles. GROWLS.

BROKIC

(angry)

Grr...

Cory shuts his eyes.

The Brokic GRUNTS, kicking Cory again. Cory bites down hard. The Brokic kicks him a second time, then a third.

Tears run down his face.

A look of compassion on Flara's face. She wiggles out from under Cory, faces the Brokic, steadying her trembling legs.

The Brokic GRUNTS. Flara HISSES.

FLARA

Grr...grr...

She releases a small burst of flame. It hits the Brokic in the face.

The Brokic looks angry, but unhurt. It lowers its tusks.

Cory looks up, catching sight of it just as it begins to charge.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

EXT. FOREST - CONTINUOUS

The Brokic charges at Cory and Flara.

MAFIA GRUNT PETER (O.S.)
Capture beam, go!

The charging Brokic is hit with a beam of red light. It slows, then is pulled backwards, kicking and GROWLING.

Eventually, it is sucked into a phone held by MAFIA GRUNT PETER (19), broad shoulders, arms like logs, towering height and arrogant smile.

Cory's eyes widen with surprise.

MAFIA GRUNT PETER (CONT'D)
(calling out)
Trisha! Look what I caught! Trisha!
Come over here!

STOMPING and RUSTLING comes from the distance.

Cory crawls over to Flara.

CORY
Flara. Are you okay?

Flara nods. Eyes Peter with apprehension.

A figure is approaching in the distance.

Cory's eyes go to Flara's bruises, where the Brokic collided with her.

CORY (CONT'D)
We've got to get you to a hospital.
There should be one in a city, if
we can find one.

Flara eyes him curiously, as if she doesn't understand what he means.

Mafia Grunt Trisha emerges from the forest, spots Peter.

CORY (CONT'D)
Come on, I'll carry--

MAFIA GRUNT TRISHA

(shouting)

There it is! Mangy kitten! I've
been looking all over the place!

Mafia Grunt Trisha steps in front of Peter. Holds up her phone.

MAFIA GRUNT TRISHA (CONT'D)

You're mine now! Capture beam, go!

A red beam of light shoots from her phone. Flara's eyes widen as the beam hits her.

EXT. THE SKY ABOVE - DAY

Sage and Ethan hover through the sky, surrounded by a psychic aura from Telenero.

Eleduck flaps its wings, spreads them wide, flying alongside them.

The city is to their rear. The forest ahead.

The river is clearly visible, cutting through the trees, where it lets out into a large lake.

Ethan points at the lake.

ETHAN

Bring us down there, Telenero.

TELENERO

Chi chi!

Telenero waves its purple wings, and the group descends towards the lake.

Eleduck slows the beating of its wings, following them in descent.

EXT. - LEGENDS FOREST - BY THE LAKE - SHORT TIME LATER

Sage and Ethan touch down on solid ground. The aura from the Telenero's psychic abilities fades.

Telenero and Eleduck descend next to their partners.

Both Sage and Ethan hold up their phones.

SAGE

Good work, Eleduck.

ETHAN

Take a rest, Telenero.

The phones emit beams of red light, sucking each of the Power Beasts back into them.

Beat.

Sage eyes Ethan with annoyance.

SAGE (CONT'D)

Man, what the hell? They destroyed my arena.

Ethan clutches the tablet tightly.

ETHAN

I am sorry. I never expected my brother to do this. We've been close, um, ever since we were kids. This came out of nowhere.

SAGE

Yeah, man, I gotcha. I ain't blaming you, I just want my arena back.

She takes out her sunglasses, dusts them off, puts them on.

SAGE (CONT'D)

You're in a dangerous line of work, aren't you?

ETHAN

Um, I suppose so. I never thought I was. It's never been dangerous before. I always thought you arena kings and queens had the dangerous jobs, actually.

SAGE

(smiles)

Hah! I just sit around and play most days, not a whole lot of people have the talent or guts to take me on.

Ethan stares at the tablet, which depicts a small drawing of a humanoid beast with a long, broad tail, broad shoulders, a huge mouth, and eyes that look like clocks. Its fingernails, which are more like claws, drip with black marks.

The rest of the tablet is filled with some ancient form of hieroglyphic writing.

Sage peers at it.

SAGE (CONT'D)

Can you read that?

ETHAN

A little.

(pointing to a section)

This part is a date. You see, the T means 10, and two dashes means repeat twice, so that's 10 three times, or thirty. And the drawing of the man with wild hair, we know from previous writings that it refers to the first month of fall.

SAGE

(smiling)

Damn, you really are an archeologist, bro.

Ethan nods.

ETHAN

Still, there's a lot of work to be done. Aside from that date, I've only been able to decipher a few scattered words, and I'm not sure what they mean yet.

SAGE

Well, let's get this thing to the Power League, then. They'll guard it real well, seeing as how they're the most powerful tamers in the world.

ETHAN

Right. Um, which way are they again?

SAGE

Other side of the forest, then straight through Clarin City and up Challenger Mountain.

Sage motions for Ethan to follow her.

SAGE (CONT'D)

Come on, brains! The brawn is impatient.

EXT. LEGENDS FOREST - BACK TO CORY - DAY

Flara flails. She paws at the ground, scraping up dirt as the beam pulls her closer to Trisha.

MAFIA GRUNT TRISHA
(laughing)
Hahah! Mine now! You're all mine!

Cory jumps in between the two of them, right in the path of the red beam.

The beam flickers and dies.

MAFIA GRUNT TRISHA (CONT'D)
Ugh, get out of my way, little boy!

Flara's legs tremble.

MAFIA GRUNT GERTRUDE (18), short, glasses, freckles, calculating eyes, approaches from the foliage behind Trisha.

MAFIA GRUNT GERTRUDE
What's all the commotion about, guys?

MAFIA GRUNT TRISHA
(eyeing Gertrude with
resentment)
Mind your own business, Gertrude.
I'm just capturing a Flara.

Gertrude shoots Trisha a dirty look, turns to Peter.

MAFIA GRUNT GERTRUDE
Peter! Did you capture anything good?

Mafia Grunt Trisha approaches Cory, angry.

MAFIA GRUNT TRISHA
Get out of my way, little boy, or you're gonna regret it!

Flara hides behind Cory's leg.

MAFIA GRUNT TRISHA (CONT'D)
That mangy kitten's mine! I saw her first!

Trisha tries to shove him aside. Cory stands his ground. He shoves her back. She slips, CRIES OUT, and lands face first in the dirt.

Gertrude LAUGHS.

MAFIA GRUNT GERTRUDE
 (holds up phone)
 Go, Planarose!

A red beam of light releases a short, green fairy-like creature, with sparkling gold wings and a giant white flower on its head.

MAFIA GRUNT GERTRUDE (CONT'D)
 Planarose, use Drowsy Scent!

PLANAROSE
 Shh! Shh!

It jiggles its arms and head, releasing a golden mist that wafts towards Flara and Cory.

They both waver on their feet, then collapse, sleeping.

Mafia Grunt Trisha gives Gertrude a dirty look.

MAFIA GRUNT TRISHA
 I don't need your help.

MAFIA GRUNT GERTRUDE
 Of course you don't, twinkletoes.

Trisha gets up, brushes herself off. She approaches Flara, picks her up.

Cory blinks, regaining consciousness. Everything is fuzzy, but he can see Trisha holding Flara.

CORY
 Flara. No.

MAFIA GRUNT TRISHA
 Give it up, little boy. She's mine now.

Cory gets up. He sways back and forth, dizzy. He lunges at Trisha. She steps out of the way.

CORY
 Let her go right now!

Mafia Grunt Trisha LAUGHS.

Cory lunges again. And again. Each time, Trisha and Flara evade his grasp.

MAFIA GRUNT TRISHA

Peter, catch!

She tosses Flara over Cory's head. His eyes go wide.

Peter catches her in one hand. Eyes her with wariness.

EXT. LEGENDS FOREST - NEARBY - SAME TIME

Sage and Ethan stop walking and stare. Flara is being tossed from Peter to Trisha, over Cory's head like it's a game of monkey in the middle.

SAGE

Those are Mafia Grunts.

ETHAN

What are they doing out here?

SAGE

(annoyed)

Stealing some kid's Power Beast, it looks like.

EXT. LEGENDS FOREST - BACK TO CORY - SAME TIME

Cory runs one way then the next. He jumps, trying to catch the sleeping Flara out of the air.

CORY

Stop it! You're going to hurt her!

Peter CHUCKLES.

Trish LAUGHS heartily.

Gertrude rolls her eyes.

GERTRUDE

Enough playing around, guys. We have--

SAGE (O.S.)

Go, Eleduck!

Sage and Eleduck rush through the foliage.

SAGE (CONT'D)

I'll give you sad losers one chance. Give the boy his Flara back, or Eleduck and I will have to make you.

Trisha LAUGHS.

MAFIA GRUNT TRISHA
 What're you, some stupid Arena
 Queen? Who cares?
 (holds up phone)
 Go, Rosnout!

A giant gray rat-like Power Beast appears.

MAFIA GRUNT PETER
 Go, Geary!

A giant iron ball Power Beast appears.

SAGE
 Eleduck, use Zap!

ELEDUCK
 Wa!

Eleduck releases dual bolts of electricity, hitting both Geary and Rosnout. They collapse. Trisha and Peter rush over to them, concerned.

While they're distracted, a psychic aura surrounds Flara and lifts her away from Trisha.

Behind a tree, Telenero uses its psychic powers, setting Flara down next to Cory. He scoops her up, looking relieved.

MAFIA GRUNT GERTRUDE
 Did they seriously beat you in one
 hit? You two are useless.
 Planarose, use Root Power.

PLANAROSE
 Urr...

The ground SHAKES.

SAGE
 Eleduck, dodge it!

Roots shoot out of the ground at Eleduck. Eleduck evades them.

SAGE (CONT'D)
 Use Volt Drill!

ELEDUCK
 Wa!

Eleduck spins, descending beak first, zooming straight towards Planarose.

GERTRUDE
Use Petal Barrier!

Planarose spouts petals from its body, encasing itself like those petals are armor.

Eleduck slams into the petals, scattering them.

MAFIA GRUNT GERTRUDE
Now, use Carnivorous Grip!

Planarose's hands CHOMP down like vicegrips on Eleduck's wings.

SAGE
Uh-oh.

Mafia Grunt Gertrude looks excited. Gestures wildly.

MAFIA GRUNT GERTRUDE
Now for the finishing blow. Collect light, and use Sunbeam!

Planarose collects light through the flower on its head. It glows.

SAGE
Eleduck, use Zap!

ELEDUCK
Wa!

MAFIA GRUNT GERTRUDE
Endure it, Planarose! Don't let go!

PLANAROSE
(gritting teeth)
Urr...urr...

ETHAN
Give 'em some backup, Telenero! Use shadow cast!

TELENERO
Chi!

A giant black cloud descends upon Planarose and Eleduck, blocking out all light.

GERTRUDE
 (gritting her teeth)
 Not fair.

SAGE
 Thanks, dude! Now Eleduck, use Zap
 again!

ELEDUCK
 Wa! Wa! Wa!

This time, the bolt of electricity causes Planarose's grip to weaken. Eleduck wiggles free.

SAGE
 And now, use Tempest!

ELEDUCK
 Wa wa wa wa waa!

Eleduck flaps its wings like crazy, building up a storm of wind. The wind knocks Planarose into Gertrude with a THUD, and then they CRASH into Trisha and Peter and their Power Beasts.

Finally, they are blown into the sky, disappearing above the treeline.

EXT. LEGENDS FOREST - A SHORT TIME LATER

Sage and Ethan approach Cory.

SAGE
 You okay, kid?

Cory nods, looking down at Flara. Her eyes open slowly.

CORY
 I'm fine. I need to get her to a
 hospital, though.

Sage leans down to look at Flara.

SAGE
 You should stay away from the
 Mafia. They're bad news.

CORY
 I know. Do you know where the
 nearest city is?

SAGE

(nods)

Other side of the forest. We're headed there now. You wanna come with?

CORY

(brightens)

Yeah, that'd be great!

Sage looks at Ethan, motions him on.

SAGE

C'mon dude! Sooner we get your tablet thing to the Power League, sooner I can go back to manning my arena, like I'm supposed to.

Cory's eyes go wide.

He chases after them.

CORY

Your arena? Wait, you're really an Arena Queen?

Sage flashes Cory a smile.

SAGE

That's right, dude. And don't you try to challenge me, cause I'll whoop your butt.

END OF ACT THREE