

Out For Karma: Naruto

#Chapter 41: Preparation - Read Out For Karma: Naruto Chapter 41: Preparation

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Hyuga Hinata was over the moon.

She was cuddling to her boyfriend's side in his own bed. Naked. Circles were drawn on his chest by her index while she absentmindedly thought about the previous day. She had heard girls here and there talking about their first time. How it has been awful or painful or short or other negative things. It wasn't **all** bad, some described their experience as something great. There were only a few however and she was glad she could be counted into that group.

Riku had been nothing but caring and gentle at first. He let her mount him so she could be in control and decide the pace at which she wanted to go. He held one of her hands in support, his finger between hers, the second was stimulating her clitoris so she could be distracted from the pain of breaking her hymen by the pleasure. With that same hand he was using a bit of medical chakra to heal her "wound". Hinata felt an acute pain for a few seconds then nothing. What she felt afterwards was even better than Riku or Ino eating her out. She couldn't get enough of this feeling and Riku was more than happy to give her more. As long as she wanted it and needed it. One thing was obvious though, if not for her wrong time of the month she would have been pregnant with triplets already. The amount of seed he had let out inside of her had been shocking. She didn't care though, she loved it. Now she partially understood why Ino loved it so much. They would have so much to talk about once she and Karin were back from the mission they went on.

"Something tells me that I did a really good job, and that you wouldn't mind shouting about it on the roof. Up for more?"

She couldn't help herself and the beatific smile she had on her lips. Embarrassed, she turned her head to face his chest completely and tried to disappear by melting into it. She shook it negatively indicating she was done for now.

"Can't believe I left you speechless. Ino only does that when she sleeps." he joked and Hianta snorted, knowing perfectly well how much their blonde lover loved to talk and how loud she could be.

Riku lifted her head up then kissed her brow then her nose and then her lips. The last one transformed into a full blown kiss. She couldn't help herself and moaned in pleasure.

"We need to get up. Your father may wonder where you spent the night and I have to prepare for something."

For the first time in his life he saw Hinata pout and he had to say, that was quite a wonderful sight. He leaned down and sucked on one of her breasts for a moment and released with a loud 'pop' sound.

"I'm going to leave hickeys everywhere on your body like an octopus if you don't move and slap your ass with enough strength you won't sit for the rest of the day." he said and gently put his hand on her right buttcheek.

The effect was immediate. Hinata batted his hand away and 'escaped' out of the bed, taking with her the whole sheet to cover herself.

"Really? I memorized every inch and crannies of your body all day and all night and you're now hiding it from me?"

Hinata still had her stupid smile and nodded but her eyes were focused on his morning wood, not on his face.

"Go on or you'd be introduced to it again."

This time, she picked her clothes and ran out of the room with the bedsheet still covering her in a flash. Riku shook his head in amusement and used the Botib's shower to clean himself up. He was sure that Hinata would want some time alone in the manor's bathroom. Once done, he went to the kitchen and saw Tsunade already up and eating a breakfast that Shizune had made for her before leaving for the hospital. He gave her a gentle kiss on the lips out of the blue and began making some cinnamon rolls for Hinata.

"Good morning to you too mister *'I'm in a good mood.'* Did Ino spend the night?" she asked with a smirk.

"No."

"Oh, really? Usually, you're **that** chirpy when you had company the previous night. Since it's not Ino, not Shizune and certainly not me, I wonder wh-."

She froze mid speech when she saw Hinata walk into the kitchen. The young woman's smile still went from one ear to the other. She looked at Tsunade and bowed slightly for a greeting, before going to hug Riku with everything she was worth. She kissed him,

picked up the small toast he had just finished making for her and exited the kitchen then the manor. All under the gobsmacked face of Tsunade.

"HINATA?!" she yelled. "Hiashi is going to murder you if he finds out."

"Meh. He will try." Riku replied, sitting down at the table with his own food.

"If he doesn't succeed, Ino certainly will."

"She'd probably be upset that she wasn't there to participate."

"Partici- You're kidding, right?" she asked dumbfounded for confirmation.

"Nope. If she could, she'd have Hinata and you in a boobie sandwich, sensei. It's a recurring dream of hers actually." he answered which made her jaw drop to the table.

"Wow."

"Yep."

"I mean...**WOW**."

"I know, sensei. I know. My girlfriend has quite the beautiful dreams." he grinned.

"Ye- That's not what I was implying!" she shouted with a blush on her face and quickly got back on topic. "So Ino is fine with... sharing? So is Hinata?"

"Yes. Her idea. It's been going on for months now. Not the sex with Hinata, that is new but our relationship... They... didn't want to fight and break their friendship over me. Pretty sure because Ino wants Hinata in her bed too."

"Two girls huh? You-"

"Three. Karin joined the day I left for the mission."

"Three?!"

"You're still the one I love the most sensei." he said with an amused but genuine smirk.

"Cheeky brat."

"As for how it works? I don't know. Ever since we began to all hang out together years ago we've been close. Adding sex to the mix didn't really change anything. Though Karin and I... Well, she just kissed me once so far."

"So who's next? Yugao?"

"I'd love that but no. It wouldn't be right. Otherwise, no one. I have everyone I need in my life. With you, the girls and Shizune Senpai."

"How is that going to work long term, anyway? Both Hinata and Ino are heiresses of their clan. Karin might be hers too."

"Isn't Naruto the heir? Or is he the head of the Uzumaki clan now?"

"Naruto is neither the head nor the clan head. Karin is a pure Uzumaki and is older even if it's only for a few months. In theory she should be the head of the clan."

"In theory?"

"The Uzumaki clan was a clan from Uzushio, not Konoha. It is recognized as a clan but not considered as such in the village despite the only known survivors living in the village. In other words, there isn't any Uzumaki clan in the village and so no heir, heiress or clan head."

"That sounds like political bullshit to me."

"It is. For the Uzumaki clan to be officially seen as a 'real' clan in the village so to speak, either Karin or Naruto must start the process to integrate the clan as a Konoha one. They would also need the support of two of the great clans or five of the smaller ones for the request to be considered. They would have to respect some conditions too. Since there are only two members of the clan..."

"Let me guess, lots of children?"

"Not lots. Two and at least a male."

"I'm surprised there are no laws to force an almost extinct..."

"Oh, believe me it has been brought up and put on the table many times before. In the end a clan going extinct is considered clan business so if the last member of a clan doesn't want to procreate then that's it."

"I see. In any case... Well... the plan for now is to marry Ino since she's an only child and take Hinata as a concubine. Hanabi would become the heiress instead of her. As for Karin... Well the plan was made before she joined... We'll have to think about it. It's not even sure our relationship will last, it's pretty recent after all."

Tsunade nodded and gave the "kids" some credit for taking their weird relationship seriously and thinking ahead.

"By the way, what was up with Hinata? She's usually more... talkative when greeting someone."

“She hadn’t said a word ever since she woke up. She just... had that smile on her face.”

“Uh-huh. You fucked her speechless.”

“I fucked her speechless.” he confirmed taking a sip of his orange juice.

“... ”

“... ”

“When is my turn?”

He wasn’t expecting that at all and the orange juice went through the wrong pipe. The glare he gave her didn’t affect one bit the “innocent” smile on her face.

“Hiraishin? Any new development?”

“I’m close.”

“How close?”

“A prototype should be ready by the end of the week. The seal... is complex. More than what they did. It’s... multilayered with each layer working with the others. I won’t be able to inscribe it into a shuriken. A tag won’t be a problem but it’s a tag with all its weaknesses. So far it’s more for defense purposes but I’ll find a way to make it work offensively. It’s the medium the problem, so the solution shouldn’t be that difficult.”

Both finished their breakfast and Riku made a kage bunshin to clean everything up. When Tsunade was about to leave, Riku hugged her for a moment.

“What was that for?”

“I don’t know. I felt like it. I’m happy and I want to spread that happiness to the people I love.”

She rolled her eyes but didn’t comment on it. She liked being among his loved ones and thus receiving his care. Not even Shizune or Hiruzen, no one did things like that for her. Jiraiya may but she wasn’t about to risk it knowing what the consequences would be.

Riku released her and she left for work. For his part he created as many shadow clones that he could and stuck them inside his Botib to work faster on the Hiraishin seal. He didn’t want to use the time seal too much or risk being way older than the rest of his friends. He knew himself well, if he started using it, he wouldn’t stop unless he destroyed it or someone else did. The latter had way more chances of it happening.

With the clean up of Danzo and his root the next day he had entered the closet to see if there was enough of everything for everyone. It wouldn't do to go on the assault with low weapons and tools. Everything was in good quantity with the exception of Type X and S. Not much of a convenience. His regular dealings with Neji a few years earlier acquainted him with his teammate Tenten, whose adoptive father was running a shinobi shop up the 'nice' part of the market district. Higurashi Genzo was a fair man and gave him fair prices. The same as any other shinobi. Riku cursed himself for discarding the thought of trying shops in that part of the district in his younger years. He would have saved a lot of money.

Regardless, after one hour of shurifuin making, Riku went to visit Yugao. She was still living in her and Hayate's apartment and from what he saw and understood, wasn't ready to move out for another which wouldn't have the memories or her late fiance. He was a few feet away from her door when she came out of her flat.

"Morning, Yugao-chan."

"Ri-kun! Good morning to you too."

"Am I visiting at a bad time?"

"Not at all, I was going to give taicho an impromptu visit for tomorrow's mission but it can wait."

"That's actually the main purpose of my visit. I know he's always late for everything but I'd like to have some time to familiarize myself with the people joining us. The problem is, except for the memorial stone, I don't really know where Kakashi dwells in general and thought you might know."

"I do. I was going to-"

"Kakashi is waiting for you at location Alpha, Zeta, 3, Omega, 0, 8"

The deep and gruff voice which interrupted Yugao came from the ground between her and Riku. Looking down they saw a familiar pug, with a jacket and a Konoha head protector on its head.

""Hello, Pakkun.""

"Hello to the both of you."

"I have no idea where that is but you do, right?" he asked Yugao who nodded. "In that case let's go. Need a lift, Pakkun?"

"Why not?"

Riku picked up the pug and followed Yugao outside her apartment complex. From there, they walked aimlessly in the village's streets or it seemed at first glance. Slowly but surely they were making their way south until they reached the Naka river. They crossed a bridge and went into the forest area not far from sight. In front of a mighty tree, Yugao made a series of handseals and an entrance appeared right under the roots. Inviting Riku in, she went inside and they walked down a long corridor which opened to a larger room. He noticed Kakashi leaning over a table looking at some sort of map. Around him were familiar faces like Gai, Asuma, Neji, Hinae, Kurenai, Anko, even Shizune and others. Some were from Anbu, some were not and some were from clans. The pineapple hairstyle of two of them clearly indicated they were Nara.

That was a lot of people in Riku's limited opinion. He didn't know how many people were part of Roots but if the presence of all the ninja here were any indication the answer was definitely a lot.

"Taicho." Yugao said, signaling her presence and Riku's.

"Yugao, Riku, you're right on time."

Pakkun was put on the ground and the little guy jumped on the table to sit next to his summoner. With the last two members of Team Yukari taking place around the table. Kakashi began explaining what the purpose of this secret gathering was.

"I won't beat around the bush. A week ago Team Yukari, in a bout of luck found Orochimaru's main base in the Land of Sound."

"So this is a briefing on an operation to take him down?" asked Anko with both seriousness, murder and giddiness in her voice.

"No. Orochimaru and his right hand man, Yakushi Kabuto, have already been eliminated by Team Yukari."

""""WHAT?!""""

"Why did nobody tell me?! Which one of you killed the fucker?!"

"I supposed I did technically. As for why the news was kept under wraps is because of the information we found in his base." Riku explained and Kakashi spoke up for more details.

"Documents pointing to multiple counts of High Treason by elder Shimura Danzo."

"Wait a minute! Are you telling me that your Team found a huge pile of dirt on that old War Hawk and that we're meeting here for... For what exactly?" Inquired Asuma.

“The huge pile of dirt is the size of the Hokage monument. Helping Orochimaru infiltrate Konoha during the chunin exam five years ago. Giving him test subjects from orphanages or from clans, bloodline theft and that’s just the lone tree hiding the forest. Hokage-sama has decided his fate: Death.”

Riku’s short explanation put everyone in a foul mood, especially the ninjas from a clan. After the Kyubi’s attack on the village, it was chaotic. Many children became orphans and among them some disappeared. Others were simply never found at all, believed to have died with their family. In a clan an orphan was raised by relatives in the clan and not an orphanage, no matter how distant they are in the family tree. That children of their blood had been snatched up was like staking a kunai in the heart for clan members.

“Danzo is a cockroach that will get away from everything and anything. That cannot happen. That is why tomorrow morning at 9, Hokage-sama will have a meeting with the whole council about Orochimaru’s death and the capture of Uchiha Sasuke. It’s a trap to capture that traitor, get some answers out of him if possible and kill him on the spot afterward. The reason why I gathered you all today is because Hokage-sama also ordered the destruction of Root. Knowing the man, he probably has contingencies in place in the event of his death thus by destroying Root we hope to stop any nasty surprises he will leave us with.”

The explanation being done with. Kakashi began to present the layout of the Root main base, right under Konoha. The multiple entrances and exits then went on to do the same with small bases around the village. They were well aware they wouldn’t be able to catch all of them but they couldn’t really do anything about it. When Hinae asked how they knew so much about root, Kakashi revealed that he used to be part of it for a time before Hiruzen got him out. He wasn’t the only one however, the brown haired man standing next to him was also a former member of root, one that had been instructed personally by Danzo.

“Say what now? You were Danzo’s... student?” Riku asked.

“I was, yes.” the man replied.

“And you’re not feeding us everything you know about the guy because...?”

“Yamato, like all root agents, has a cursed seal on his tongue. Danzo put him there himself. It forbids anyone to talk about Danzo and any of his activities or Root’s.” Kakashi explained and the man, revealed to be named Yamato, stuck out his tongue to show the seal.

“Yeah he has a seal on his tongue, so?” replied a confused Riku.

“So the guy can’t talk! Shit, did you lose brain cells over the years?”

“What I meant, Thot, was... Sure **he** can't talk but not any clones of his.”

His words prompted everyone to look at him in silence. Kakashi contemplated how that was possible. Noticing the looks but more importantly his teammate's pensive face, Riku explained himself.

“A clone is a chakra construct of the person that made the clone. Their **own** chakra. The seal is made from the chakra of **someone else**, ergo...”

“There is no reason the seal would be cloned too. That made sense but Naruto-”

“Has a seal that leaked **its** chakra into his own from what I could see from the picture I was given to study. Therefore in each clone is a small piece of **its** chakra.”

“... Yamato-”

The man didn't even wait for Kakashi to finish his request and was already making a clone.

“Danzo is a piece of shit that tried to assassinate Sandaime-sama.” the clone said. Realizing he could talk, the stoic face he had until now changed from one of happiness and vindictiveness. “God **that** felt good.”

“If you want to stop someone from talking, you put the seal on his brain. And it must be a very advanced one, not the one I've seen on that tongue.”

With his ability to share information not limited anymore, Yamato was very forthcoming with it. That allowed a much more detailed and refined plan to see the light of day. Within three hours everything was ready and the people scattered. Riku was caught by one sexy and single purple haired lady before he could leave.

“Where did you think you were going?”

“Home?” he replied nonchalantly.

“Nu-huh. You think I would let you go after revealing you killed Orochimaru?” she said in a sultry voice.

“... Thot, if this is some kind of weird reward sex you have in mind, can I have a rain check on it? Ino would kill me if she learned I had fun with you without her. And that would be a one time thing.”

“Oh? Blondie wants a piece of this fine ass too? And a threesome at that? My, what a kinky little slut she turned out to be.”

“You have no idea.” Riku replied with a knowing smirk.

“Fine, we’ll have that threesome. But you better not disappoint, Shit!”

“So do you. It’s a one time thing after all, you can’t really leave a bad impression, hm?”

“Oh, you’re on!”

With that said, both left the secret complex and went to prepare for operation ‘Gardening’.

Chapter 42: Operation Gardening

Team Yukari was in position.

They were at the secret entrance of Root’s headquarters ready to strike at 9:05 AM. So were the other teams in their own way inside the maze-like underground complex. The orders were simple: Subdue first, if impossible, lethality was allowed. Let no one leave, alive.

Kakashi was looking at his watch patiently. By his side, Yugao was sword drawn and taking slow but deep breaths. Riku was putting barrier tags all around the entrance so no one would be able to leave that way. He had given a bunch to each team to activate once inside. That way, if they miss a straggler, the said straggler would have to find another exit.

“Go.”

It was said in barely a whisper but in the silence that was all around it sounded like a yell. Team Yukari moved with Yugao taking the lead, followed by Riku then Kakashi. They ran fast but not at a speed that would leave them tired should the way forward be long. Riku’s shurifui were a godsend in this closed and narrow environment with lots of corners. Especially the smoke and flashbangs. Sometimes the Type-B2 were used to block an access that would force the root shinobi to take a detour that would lead them towards another team. In their mad rush, Yugao would cut down their opponents, Riku would heal them with his Iryoken and Kakashi would put restraining chakra and paralysis seal on them in one go. That was a very effective method of subduing. Should anyone be present to witness how they work, they would have thought Team Yukari had been doing that for years. They already dealt with three different Root teams before they arrived in a large room with plenty of passageways. After studying the layout meticulously and remembering every detail, they knew where to go to reach Danzo’s office. The sound on earth crumbling and explosion could be heard as they moved but they paid it no mind.

Riku was distracted by the memories of the clone he had left with his sensei. They contained vital information that he immediately shared with his teammates as he punched a Root agent in the face after dodging a tanto strike. The poor agent was knocked out.

“Danzo’s dead. It wasn’t pretty. Sensei and the council nearly died because of a dead man switch seal the asshole had on him. My Kage bunshin ate the dust though. Nasty seal he had on himself.”

“Wounds?” Kakashi inquired, throwing a B2 at his opponent, trapping him.

“I think Elder Koharu lost a hand up to just below the elbow. The Hokage’s office is completely trashed, so are part of the upper and lower floor. Everyone else is alright, I believe.”

“Not too bad.”

They reached the traitor’s office and before they entered, Riku held them back. Danzo clearly had some knowledge in fuinjutsu and there was no way he would have left his office unprotected. Even in his own lair with his own brainwashed minions.

That was the right thing to do as he noticed two seals on the door. If one didn’t have the right seal or chakra signature and tried to enter, they would have burned to ash in a matter of seconds. Fortunately for them, after Gaara’s rescue mission, Riku had delegated a shadow clone to the study of dealing with other people’s seals, with the help of Karin. He could potentially remove the cursed seal on every root shinobi’s tongue but since it was cursed he’d rather have more experience in removing the seal first. Who knows what kind of damage the seal would do if one tried to do that.

The seal trap was disarmed and the door opened. He tried to notice if other seals were present inside the room but apparently not. Just in case he created a few shadow clones to study the closed area and beyond two secret doors there were no more traps.

“We’re good.” he said to his teammate. “There is a secret door here and another one there.” He pointed to the left side and then right at the wall behind the desk.

“Alright. I’ll check with the other teams, Yugao, you sealed away every guy we put down, Riku begin searching this office. I want to know everything that’s inside this place.”

Member “Yu” and member “Ri” of Team Yukari nodded and did as ordered. Kakashi went back to the large room where he met a few teams. Among them was Gai’s.

“Gai, how did it go? Is everyone alright?”

“Neji, Hinae and I are fine. We encountered resistance as expected but we quickly subdue them.”

“For being shinobis of a black ops of a black ops, they were rather weak.” Neji commented.

“That’s because of their training.” Answered Yamato who just came in from the nearest entrance and heard the conversation. “They are trained to be textbook perfection of every move and with the brainwashing and the stunt of their emotions they have no creativity or emotions to build upon and push their limits further. In the end, they are very capable chunin level shinobi but nothing much more.”

“That’s the most un-youthful thing I have ever heard.” Gai replied with a frown.

“Such potential wasted for the greed and megalomania of a single man. Konoha would have been stronger with them in the corps.”

“There is still hope for them, Hinae-san. I’m sure after intensive therapy and deprogramming they would be properly functional again.”

“Let’s hope so, Kakashi-san. Let’s hope so.”

Kakashi pulled out his BoS and unsealed half a dozen captured crates.

“What’s this?” Inquired Gai.

“Special crates for capture and don’t ask for more. You can fit two people inside one. Once you put up the lid back on, a simple OX, Dragon, Dog, hand seals series will activate the barrier carved on the crates, locking the prisoner in.”

“Won’t they just break it down from the inside?” wondered Neji.

“They can try.” was the answer he got from the silver haired jonin. He got an eye smile as a bonus. The implication was clear: prisoners won’t be able to get out. “If you’re that worried, here.”

Kakashi flipped his BoS’ pages and unsealed a good pack of fifty tags. Checking they were the correct ones he tossed them at the young Hyuga.

“Chakra suppressing seal and paralysis seal all in one. Put one right onto their torso and they won’t do a thing. Now, once your crates are full bring them back here. So we can seal everything away.”

“Won’t that kill the prisoner inside?” inquired Gai.

“No.”

“Something tells me, Riku is the one responsible for that.”

“You’d be correct Hinae-san.”

“What are you talking about?”

Neii was completely clueless at the conversation happening.

“Neji, you can’t seal a living being inside a storage seal. They die, without exception.” his sensei explained.

“But why?”

“Nobody knows or rather knew. The crates must protect the prisoners from death, so someone, Riku-san I believe, knows.”

“That’s correct and believe me, the answer is... both complicated and complex. Apparently, the Sandaime needed a fifteen minute explanation to get it.” confirmed Kakashi.

Neji wanted to ask more out of curiosity but Gai grabbed his shoulder and shook his head. Now was not the time for question if ever. Besides, the current mission was S-rank and everything learned during it was S-rank too. The less Neji knew or anyone for the matter and the better for them.

It turned out that they would need more crates than expected. Yugao had a few empty ones but a good dozen more were needed. Giving command to Yamato who was talking with children recruits their intervention had saved, Kakashi and Yugao went to see Riku. Both to get new crates but also to see what he had found out. They didn’t expect to find him sitting down, facing away from the door, with many many folders and files scattered all around him.

“Riku?” called out Yugao but she got no answer.

“Did you find something?”

Kakashi had no better luck. The two exchange a look and Yugao went to put a hand on their oblivious teammates. They both thought that something must have been very wrong for two reasons. One, Riku didn’t instinctively try to punch Yugao (who was always ready to block it in this situation.) and instead just turned his head to look at her, not letting go of the file in his hand. Two, Riku’s face was very pale as if he’d seen a ghost. That was a face they had never seen him have before. He seemed lost. Like he didn’t know what to do or think.

“Riku?”

“Y-yes?”

“Is everything alright?” his childhood crush asked him.

“I... No.” he replied, shaking his head. “I... I need some fresh air.”

“Then go. We’re finishing here. Leave your crates for the others on the-”

Riku’s own BoS impacted Kakashi’s face as Riku ran away outside the room. Alarm bells began to ring even louder in Kakashi’s mind and he was about to pursue when Yugao called him out.

“Taicho, look.”

He turned away from the entrance and walked toward his subordinate. She was holding the same file Riku did when they entered the room. Her face too was white as a sheet. The fleeting thought to **not** have a look at the file crossed his mind but he discarded it. He took the file and began to read. The more he read, the more his eyes grew big and the paler his face became. It took him a few seconds to deal with the information then a few more to deal with his emotions which were stirred. Absolute anger, sadness, sympathy, fear. He didn’t know what to settle on, so he settled on none and pushed everything down to be professional.

“We need to tell Hokage-sama. Right now. Don’t let anyone inside this room. Don’t-”

“Talk about this file to anyone, I know but what about Riku?”

Kakashi was stumped. He didn’t have an answer to give her. Taking a deep breath and wiping his face with his hand, he thought about changing the plan but ultimately didn’t.

“The only thing we can do for him now, is to leave him alone and be there when he needs us to.”

Yugao nodded and began organizing the files scattered around. Kakashi left to return to the hall. He opened Riku’s BoS and went to the right pages to unsealed crates. He tossed his own book at Gai.

“Page 50 to 70 contains empty storage seals. Put one or two crates inside. Don’t touch the seals on other pages.”

“You’re leaving?” his rival noticed.

“Important information to share urgently with Hokage-sama. Danzo’s office is off limits to anyone but Yugao, who’s there, and me.”

Leaving the room, he began to run towards the closest exit of the complex. Once outside he shushed as fast as he could to reach the Hokage Tower. He was quite exhausted when he reached his destination. With their leader's office gone, Kakashi was redirected towards Elder Homura's office two floors down. He knocked on the door and was invited to come in. He was welcomed by Tsunade, Hiruzen and Homura and Kakashi thought rightly that Koharu was at the hospital.

"Ah! Kakashi, is it done?"

"Yes, Hokage-sama. No casualty on our side and a few on theirs. Everyone else had been captured. A report is not why I came here though."

"No? What for then?"

"Team Yukari found Danzo's office. While Yugao and I dealt with the rest of the operation, Riku was to search it. When we got back to him he... had this folder in hand." he replied and handed the said folder.

Tsunade had an eyebrow raised wondering what this was all about but took the folder, opened it and began to read. Her reaction had been the same as each member than Team Yukari with the added malus of a massive killing intent permeating the room.

"I'M GOING TO KILL THAT CUNT AGAIN!" Tsunade yelled at the top of her lungs and broke Homura's desk into matchsticks. She didn't stop there and broke the wall of the office leading outside then Shushed away.

Both Hiruzen and Homura wondered what the hell had been in that folder and what had Danzo done to get a reaction like that from Tsunade. Picking the folder from the ground and with Homura looking above his shoulders, the two old men began to read.

Project Hokage

The nomination of Namikaze Minato to the post of Hokage had proven that shinobis from civilian or mixed heritage were able to reach the requirements for the job. So far only someone from a clan ever held the title. That an orphan child unaffiliated could become the leader of Konoha is a feat unprecedented and asked the question if it is possible to "raise" a Hokage.

As such I wish to determine, via experiment, if Namikaze Minato was able to succeed Sarutobi Hiruzen as a result of his status as a prodigy or as a result of his upbringing.

As a reminder, here is a brief recap of Namikaze Minato's life so far:

- Lost his parents at four and lived at the orphanage.

- Began to live alone at 6 when he could enroll at the academy. No outside help from anyone during his years at the academy, not from teachers, not from non-existent friends.

- Graduating two years early at 10.

- Learned under the tutelage of Jiraiya of the Sannin as an apprentice for ten years.

- All teammates died during the war.

- All but one student died during the war.

The experiment is simple and its goal is twofold.

1) Determine the possibility of “raising” a Hokage by making the subject go through the same experiences and upbringing.

2) Possibility to have another genius of Namikaze Minato’s caliber.

The test subject should of course be born from Namikaze’s seed and preferably of an ovum from a particularly strong kunoichi.

Dr. Kenkyuusha Isha

At the bottom of the page was Hiruzen’s Hokage’s seal of approval. Anyone who knew Hiruzen, knew he would never have approved of such a thing. Not like that. The next page was even more sordid.

Project Hokage

Agent 17 was selected to bear the subject. Her cover allows her to promptly get married and pass the subject as her husband’s and hers. As such, Agent 17 would marry Warudo Kaito and become Warudo Sora. The use of drugs and genjutsu to make Warudo Kaito compliant may not be necessary because of his infatuation with Agent 17’s public persona.

Once the test subject reaches the age of four, Warudo Kaito is to be disposed of and Agent 17 officially KIA. Her true fate is yet to be decided.

The test subject should only be observed. Contact is forbidden. Only observation.

Subject PH-000

Birth Name: Riku

Last Name: Warudo

Eye color: Grey Blue

Hair color: Dirty blonde

Distinctive signs: None

Sperm donor: Namikaze Minato

Ovum donor: Senju Tsunade

Hiruzen took a deep breath when he read that and he wasn't the only one. Now they understood why Tsunade completely lost it.

Reports:

Year 4:

Subject started living at the orphanage after adoptive father's suicide and adoptive mother's execution. (Agent 17 outlived her usefulness. Her death would distract the village from Orochimaru's real spy)

Year 6:

Agent 17's actions had resulted in the ostracization of Subject PH-000 from the village. Results are twofold.

1)Subject PH-000 has unlocked by himself his chakra and started training intensively in chakra control exercises. Created new and harder exercises to push further his chakra control. Ingenious. Study of viability of such exercises required. If useful, application on new recruits. Possibility of Subject inheriting his father's genius and talent.

2)Subject PH-000 has developed a strong dislike towards the villagers. Mainly the civilians. Suggest correction of such a view.

Year 8:

Genius intellect confirmed. Subject is top of the class by a wide margin and with perfect scores. Trains tirelessly but smartly. Failure to bond with others despite the wish to do so. Non-clan affiliated classmates were warned by parents to stay away from Subject. Classmates from clans look down on Subject for being an orphan and clanless. Still practicing his chakra control. Academy instructors sabotaged the ranking to make Uchiha Sasuke Rookie of the year. Refusing to let Subject graduate early.

Subject academically beyond the whole academy's course by the end of the year. Providing study material of a more advanced level may be required to not waste potential.

Year 9:

Subject remains friendless. Still sabotaged in favor of the Uchiha. Demonstrated a vivid interest in Iryo ninjutsu and fuinjutsu from the material he 'found' near his usual dwellings.

Year 10:

Subject demonstrated not just interest but very high talent for Iryo ninjutsu and fuinjutsu. Can use chakra scalpels, write storage seals and explosive tags. Discovered by accident (along the jinchuriki) his wind nature affinity. (Wind too for the jinchuriki, to add to his own file).

Year 11:

*Subject learned a simple d-rank wind jutsu: **Gale Palm**. In record time. Began writing barrier seals. Began carving shuriken with seals. Working on an object-less kawarimi. Create a book made of chakra sealing paper. Ingenious idea. Further study required for viability of such a project along the carved shurikens. Chunin instructor Umino Iruka is fair towards Subject who finally received his title of Rookie of the year and retroactively for all the previous years. As a result, a slight change in behaviour: more open towards Chunin Umino. Expected to be in a Team with either Inuzuka Kiba or the jinchuriki, both fighting for the dead last place. Hatake Kakashi is the most likely possible jonin-sensei. Precautions need to be taken in case the genin test is failed.*

Year 12:

Subject PH-000 ended in the genin corps. No Jonin-sensei wanted him in their team or as an apprentice. Experiment potentially compromised. Sandaime has a new particular interest in the Subject. Recommend stopping any close surveillance.

Year 13:

Subject PH-000 continued to study on his own by visiting the library. Began to be included in a team composed of chunin Kamizuki Izumo, Hagane Kotetsu and Tokubetsu Jonin Gekko Hayate. Entered the chunin exam as a third member of Team Hinae. Completely dominated the second phase by eliminating Konoha's enemies and helping Konoha genin teams. Made bonds with an Uzumaki female from Kusagakure (kidnapping impossible: Under Sandaime's watch). Severely outclassed the jinchuriki during the preliminaries. Anbu takes him away in the morning and brings him back to his home in the evening for the month until the finals.

Displayed clear superiority against Uchiha Sasuke (16 seconds of fight before victory).

Defeated the Hyuga prodigy by use of his special shuriken seals. Found six ways to defeat the Hyuga clan's ultimate defense in one display and used one (need to find what the five others are).

Match against Suna's jinchuriki in his favor thanks to his creativity and intellect before the invasion started. Ichibi's jinchuriki saved by his sensei. Would have probably died by Subject's hands otherwise.

*The use of the Sandaime's **Shuriken Shadow clone Jutsu** during the final implies that he trained the subject during the month of disappearance. Possibility of recreating the Jutsu himself.*

Subject PH-000 was detrimental in the survival of the Sandaime during the invasion and to the containment of the Shodaime and Nidaime.

Promoted without deliberation by the Sandaime. Came back from his first mission as such with Senju Tsunade and as her apprentice. Observation mission of Subject PH-000 severely compromised because of his new status.

The unexpected addition of a Sannin in the Subject's life puts the experiment on better tracks. While quite different from Namikaze Minato's path, it's only in the details. The overall big picture is still respected.

There were no more entries after that.

Both Hiruzen and Homura didn't know what to say about what they had just read.

"If it wasn't for the unknowing involvement of Tsunade and Minato... I might have agreed to such a project, providing circumstances were a bit different. But this... This is a mess. Kami... We need to tread carefully with both of them."

"Especially Riku, Sandaime-sama. Hokage-sama will deal with this but Riku? He just found out his whole life is a lie."

"Indeed but this is also a great opportunity."

Both Kakashi and Hiruzen looked at Homura, not seeing what he was talking about.

"No matter what we may think or feel about it, the project is a success so far. More importantly, the Senju are not extinct."

"That's...! I didn't think of that." Hiruzen confessed.

With Riku being Tsunade's son, there was still a chance for the Senju to make a comeback. That would be an incredible boon politically. Furthermore, should Riku be recognized as a Senju; the villagers - since they're idiots - would change their tune

about him which in turn would make things easier for Riku to have the recognition needed to become Hokage. The reemergence of the Senju clan from Hashirama's own line may also bring back the Mokuton. It was a bit far-fetched but the possibility was there. Of course, not Riku since he didn't manifest the famed kekkei genkai but his descendants may.

"Maybe this day may not be that horrible, after all." Homura commented. "Koharu will probably shit bricks when she hears about this."

"I nearly did." Hiruzen answered to his friend. "Kakashi, who else knows?"

"Hokage-sama, you two and Team Yukari. Also possibly the agent or agents charged with Riku's surveillance. T&I will find out. The doctor who got the idea for the project too."

"No, the doctor is dead. Died 8 years ago of old age." Homura confirmed. "He was an acquaintance." He explained his knowledge of the dead man.

"Regardless, this needs to be hushed for now. It's a private matter between Tsunade and Riku."

"Hiruzen..."

"I know. But it won't do if we both push them. You know how Tsunade is and while Riku is more polite about it, he's the same. Gosh, how did I not see it at all between the two? Heck! Riku always reminded me of Minato. Now I know why."

"I thought the same, Sandaime-sama. Riku has sensei's body build and his face... It's subtle but it's a mix of sensei and Hokage-sama. It's all so well blended together that it's difficult to see. I can't unsee it now."

"What do we do, then?" Asked Homura.

"We wait for Tsunade to calm down and hope their relationship will get stronger. That aside... Kakashi, transfer all roots agents to T&I. Make sure to impress Ibiki and Inoichi that any mention of Riku or Project Hokage by one of the prisoners is an S-rank secret and needs to be locked down on the spot. They should not ask questions about it either."

"Understood. If I may, Sandaime-sama. What happened with Danzo, exactly? Riku said he had a deadman switch seal on him and that Elder Koharu lost an arm but he couldn't tell more."

"When Riku activated the suppressing seal under Danzo's seat, his own suicide seal activated in answer. From Homura's expertise on the subject, the seal activates when the one it's written on dies. To do that it checks the chakra flowing inside the body."

“And with the suppression seal on, it detected none.” mused Kakashi, understanding what happened.

“Yes. It created a vacuum sphere around Danzo and sealed anything that was inside the sphere into the seal. Unfortunately when the seal activated, Koharu wasn’t fast enough to escape unscathed.”

“I hope she will recover well.” the jonin said out of politeness.

“With the findings of young Karin and Riku, be they medical or fuinjutsu related, she should have a new arm by the end of the day.” commented Hiruzen.

“Those two are really prodigious in those fields. They remind me of...”

Homura stopped there to not reopen old wounds but Hiruzen went with it.

“Minato and Kushina, yes. Not for the first time the idea had crossed my mind.”

“Were Orochimaru’s files on the Shodai cells accurate?” Inquired Kakashi, changing subject.

“They were. Danzo had a fully functioning arm made out of Hashirama-sama’s cells. To the point that his face grew on his shoulder.” The answer was given with such distaste by Homura that internally Kakashi was surprised by it.

“That wasn’t the worst. A dozen Sharingan were grafted to the arm and he even had one in his right eye socket.”

“How... He stole them from the Uchiha dead bodies.” Kakashi realized. “But... To have so many... The Uchiha were all processed during the day. Danzo would have needed to know that Itachi...”

“Kakashi!” Hiruzen interrupted. “Think no further on this. It’s better for everyone.”

“The Uchiha will be gone soon and nobody will miss them.” added Homura.

Knowing a warning when he heard one, Kakashi let go of this line of questioning. That wouldn’t stop him from thinking about it. Itachi had been his subordinate and he always found it weird that he had snapped and killed his whole clan. Now if Danzo was involved...

Bowing to the older men, Kakashi left the office and went back to the Root’s Headquarters. He knew that today would suck but not how much. The worst? It was only 10 am.

Chapter 43: Surprise Motherf*cker

After destroying her private training ground she got with the hat, Tsunade felt numb. She was still a mess by the recent revelation. She felt... violated. Abused in many ways. That someone took her ovums to make children behind her back made her sick. If she could, she would kill Danzo again. And again and again until she got tired of it. She wanted to drown herself in alcohol.

'I have a son. An 18 year old son.'

She had planned once to have children. Dan was still alive at the time and they were in the middle of the war. With how their relationship was developing she had no doubt that they would have married and started a family had he lived. But he didn't and all her hopes and dreams died with him. His death messed her up badly. For years she had hematophobia for failing to heal him in the field and it was thanks to Shizune that she overcame it but more importantly she had given up on being a mother. She may not have had the happy marriage of her dreams but she could have had children. She chose gambling and alcohol instead.

'And all this time I had a son. An orphan son that the village shat upon. Danzo's little experiment to create a Hokage. Was it luck for us to meet? Something determined by fate? What were the odds for me to meet him and take him as my apprentice? To spend so much time with him that I started considering him as my son. Isn't that ironic, thinking of my son as my son? And gosh, I slept with him! I slept with my own son! Fuck me! Or not, he's my son! Watch out what you say Tsunade, damn it! I have a son... Fuuuuuuuck. What am I supposed to do with that? Huh? How am I supposed to interact with-'

"Riku!" she said with a gasp.

She had been so busy feeling angry, sorry for herself and getting her head around him being her child and what to do about it, that she didn't think about how affected Riku was.

'Shit! His whole life is a lie. Even before he was born. He's just the product of a mad man's experiment. Fuck, how do you deal with that shit in the first place? Damn it! I need to find him. Where does he go when he wants to be left alone? Maybe I should ask... No, Ino and Karin are still on a mission. Hinata? Where is... The hospital! She's part of the medic-nin program!'

Tsunade shushined away and rushed to the hospital as fast as she could. She went up the third floor and made a stop at the 'classroom'. Composing herself to not appear like a mad woman, she took a deep breath and opened the door. The doctor stopped on the spot talking, turning his head to see if a nurse needed urgently or not. He was surprised to see Tsunade.

“Hokage-sama? May I help you?”

“Yes. I’m looking for Hyuga Hinata.” the blonde woman said in a whisper as she got closer to the man.

The doctor turned around and looked at the bluenette at the small operating table near the window. She was the only one with a fish moving.

“Hyuga-san? A moment please?”

Confused, Hinata looked up and saw Tsunade. Fear began to grip her heart when she saw the panic expression of the woman. Quickly she made her way to the front of the classroom and followed the Hokage outside.

“Is-”

“Do you know where Riku goes when he wants to be alone?” Tsunade asked bluntly, taking Hinata aback.

“I...That depends what for. If it’s for studying fuinjutsu then in his Botib. If not... Either on your head on the Hokage Monument or... South-East. Beyond the residential area and south Nara’s forest. Close to the Naka river.”

“Thank you.”

With the information she wanted in her possession she left in a hurry, leaving a puzzled Hinata. She was not afraid anymore but she was worried. She wanted to follow Tsunade but she knew that if the woman wanted her to come she would have said so. Promising to find what this was all about later, she went back to class.

Tsunade didn’t go outside the hospital immediately. She went to the rooftop first to have a better vantage point. With the proximity of the building to the Hokage Monument it was easier for her to verify that Riku wasn’t on her head.

“Not grandfather, nor uncle, nor sensei. Not even Minato. Mine.” she muttered as she jumped down the building to go to the second location Hinata had spoken about. She couldn’t understand why of all the Hokage it was her head he went to. She knew Naruto went on his father’s because Minato was his hero, like most of the children born the year or after the Kyubi’s attack but Riku didn’t.

‘Uncle and Minato are morons in his eyes so that’s probably why but why not sensei or grandfather?’ she thought as she reached the forest and began to tree hop. *‘Question for later.’*

The forest was big and she realized when she reached the river that she landed right in the middle of the bank. Riku could be to her left or to her right. While wondering which

side to go, the corner of her eyes saw a stone skip on the water to reach the other side. Turning her head, she saw him a bit more than a hundred feet away, ready to throw another stone. She was about to shushin to his side when a simple thought crossed her mind and stopped her from doing so.

'What am I going to say to him?'

She didn't know, no matter how much she racked her brain. Did she accept him as her son instead of just her apprentice? Did she want to? Did he? She wished someone could give her an answer. Since no one would, she decided to winged it. Taking a big breath to ready herself, she shushined to his side. She landed in a swirl of leaves a few feet away.

There was no way he didn't notice her. Or perhaps there was. Riku tended to be oblivious to the rest of the world once inside his own mind. She walked slowly towards him and spoke up.

"Riku... Are you... alright?"

He threw another stone atop the water. This time it made it to the other side.

"I should be the one asking you that." he replied not looking at her and instead picked a small handful of flat stones at his feet. He knew what she was talking about. There was no doubt in his mind that Kakashi and Yugao read the folder and shared it on the spot with her.

"I'm... a mess but you-"

"I what? Shocked that my whole life is a lie? That you're my mother? That I'm an experiment?"

"Yes."

"No really in truth. I mean... Yeah I was shocked but I got over it quickly."

"You did?!" Tsunade exclaimed. She was totally flabbergasted.

"Well, yes. I mean... I don't remember my father at all beside him killing himself in front of me. That was such a dick move that I stopped considering him as my father long ago. With time... he's just a stranger that I have only this memory of now. My mother... I remember the color purple. She wore a lot of clothes with that color but if you ask me to describe her... I couldn't. I always thought that... she loved me or rather... I think I convinced myself that she did. Because... What kid wants to know that he's so awful that even his parents don't love him? Since my father certainly didn't love me, I may have doubled down on my mother doing so. The truth is... Ever since you took me in, I

thought of you as my true mom. So it doesn't really change anything if we're actually blood related or not from my point of view."

"I-I see." she replied with a bit of a stutter, her mind still blown.

"What I'm mad about is... That you didn't have a choice. You didn't give your consent for... well... Me existing." he said, throwing another stone.

"To be honest... I don't quite know how to feel. I'm both happy and furious. Happy because I have a child; something that I gave up on long ago. Furious because... Less because it was without my consent and more because I didn't carry you to term or raised you." she confessed with a bit of hesitation.

Riku threw another stone and pondered something. Then sighed for the decision he made in his mind.

"I feel the same but not for the same reasons. I... To think I'm related to that moron and that retard... I just...Ugh." he said with the most serious expression and tone she has ever seen him have.

Tsunade snorted, then laughed at how ridiculous his answer was. Of all the things he could be mad about it was the least of them. That he was Minato's son and Naruto Half-brother. She couldn't help herself. It was too absurd.

"I also don't know if I should be proud or ashamed of myself for being a motherfucker." he added after a beat of silence. He didn't look at Tsunade when he said that but he knew her face had frozen in shock with her mouth open in a "o" like a fish.

"RIKU!" she shouted at the top of her lungs.

"Yes?" was said in such a cheeky way that she held herself back to glomp him with everything she had.

"T-that's n-not..."

"Important. It doesn't change anything. Unless you still can have children? Because otherwise it doesn't matter."

"That's not the point!"

"If you say so."

"I say so!"

He didn't insist on this particular topic, it was more a joke than anything and there was more important matter to deal with.

“What now?” he inquired.

“Now? I don’t know.”

“Should I call you ‘mom’?”

“I... That sounds nice.” she replied with a small but genuine smile. “But I don’t think it wise to do it in public for now.”

“Oh, so I’m still your dirty little secret.” he joked with a knowing smirk and his eyebrows moving up and down in a suggestive manner.

“RIKU! I SWEAR-”

“What are you going to do? Send me to my room?”

“ ... ”

That stops her right in the middle of her sentence. Taking a second to think about it, she began to laugh. Riku dropped the stones in his hands and dusted them. Moving toward Tsunade, he took her in a hug. With the difference in height her head reached just below his chin.

“You know... Almost killing me aside, you’re a great mom. You even tone down your drinking a lot. Are you sure, you’re fine with-”

“I am. It’s been years since I thought of you as my son. I wished that had I had one, he would have been like you.” she replied, closing her eyes to feel his heartbeat better.

“You are right. Nothing changed. We just know.”

Riku forced himself to stay silent about the ‘nothing changed’ part. The moment was too good to ruin it with a joke about them keeping on having sex.

“I wonder if that’s why we always were in a great mood after cuddling.” Tsunade said.

“Like... our bodies knew when we didn’t?”

“Perhaps.”

“We’re not stopping that.”

“Oh, hell no, we don’t.”

They stayed like that a few more minutes then separated. Tsunade was Hokage and she still had a job to do. So did Riku. Between skimming through Danzo’s secret files and helping Koharu with her arm. He chose the latter.

When he arrived at the hospital he directly went to the elevator, going down three levels. Floor B3 was actually a bunker in case of invasion but was repurposed for the use of Riku's Time seal during Gaara's rescue mission. Karin and Jiraiya had to both work on it to understand the principle and how to place things in the correct position for everything to work. The Time seal itself, only Karin understood a bit of it.

As such two operating rooms were equipped and not the whole basement. It was still a work in progress and Riku needed to remodel everything with his expansion jutsu. The floor had only six rooms and three operating rooms. That was not nearly enough for what the plan about the floor was about.

'That will come after the Hiraishin is done. Or half done.' he mused and asked the nurse at the 'front' desk in which room Koharu was.

After getting his answer he walked toward the double door leading to the patients' room, checked his ID with the chunin guarding the door and went through it. Two doors down and he entered the Elder's room. Her teammates were present too.

"Sandaime-sama, Elders. I've come to help."

"Found a way to heal my arm back into existence?" asked the woman in a bitter tone. Riku paid it no mind, he would be bitter too in her situation.

"Not exactly." he replied and pulled out his Bos. He turned it to page 56 and unsealed a prosthetic that looked like a real arm.

"... That's not a dead-"

"It's not, Elder. That's the fruit of my research from Sasori of the red sands' body. You may not know but beside his heart his whole body was just one giant puppet. The difference with normal wooden parts was he kind of recreated the chakra network by simply creating tiny artificial... veins in the wood and manipulated his chakra to make the body parts move like a real body. I was thinking that maybe you would be able to use it too."

"That's a good idea and all but that's a left arm. Koharu needs-"

Riku cut off Homura by simply turning the wrist joint in 180° angle.

"There. I took into consideration the fact that making a right or left arm would take too much time and would be way too expensive when I could just do one for both. Each joint can rotate at 360° in any direction."

"Ingenious," said Hiruzen.

"The only problem is the length. It won't do if the prosthetic is too short or too long."

Koharu took the arm from Riku's hand and looked at it with fascination. There were many seals carved onto it and she inquired about them.

"The seals?"

"Most of them are to make the wood sturdier. A few near the wrist are actually storage seals. The biggest ones are for the expansion or shrinkage jutsu. You'd be like a wooden Akimichi, though this arm won't grow as big or as long and would be easier to break the longer you make it. Finally, the one in the palm is simply a henge. That way nobody would know the arm is not real. The seal needs to be recharged once a week on average."

Already, Koharu's mood had changed for the better. Ever the pragmatic kunoichi, she almost didn't regret anymore the loss of her arm.

"Now let's see that wound." Riku said and the woman presented him with her stump. It had healed nicely "Karin finished her healing tag I see."

"She did. It's the first time they were used actually." she commented.

"I'm glad to see my notes could help." Riku said as he examined further. "Alright, let's see that length."

He used the prosthetic arm for a comparison with her healthy one and her amputated one. It didn't take long to get the right measures and channel his chakra into the correct seal to make the wooden arm shrink a few inches. It has been puzzling to make sure that such a seal wouldn't mess with the other seals carved into the wood but in the end he succeeded.

"Okay, that's good. Now the connecting seals."

He picked up from his book the seals he had thought about when he wanted to connect an actual arm on Hiruzen all those years ago. He put one against Koharu's stump and activated it, lines of black ink coursing through the whole area. He then created a shadow clone to put the arm against the stump and maintain its position, while Riku made a long series of hand seals. Once done, the area connecting flesh and wood lit and lines of black ink came from the prosthetic side. They linked themselves with the ones from the stump and disappeared.

"The link was successful. It's attached to you for good. Now try channeling chakra into-."

Koharu didn't wait for him to finish his sentence and did it. Her hand made a fist that relaxed quickly. The fingers move independently one by one, then two by two then in random combinations. They all bent in ways that shouldn't normally be possible.

"I'm impressed by your chakra control and creativity to test it." the jonin confessed.

“That’s experience for you, young man.”

“Verdict?”

“It’s perfect. I don’t need to get used to it for normal usage. This is really good work.”

“I’m still working on a better sensation. So far it’s your chakra that’s coating the wood that sends to your brain the knowledge that something touched the arm but it’s quite limited. I believe that artificial skin may be able to get back all sensations and feelings. We just have to make it but that’s more Karin’s thing. I could but I have more important duties to take care of.”

“Hiraishin?” asked Hiruzen.

“Yes. I’m almost done with the prototype. I’m still searching for a way to apply the seal offensively.”

“Couldn’t you have just recreated it?” Homura asked.

“You’d catch me dead before I use those idiots’ doodles.” Riku replied with a cool tone. “Now, since everything is in order, I’ll take my leave. Homura-san, be careful. You know what people say about two without three.” was the last thing he said right when he exited the room.

Hiruzen and Koharu couldn’t help but laugh.

“That brat.” commented the third teammate.

“He’s not wrong.” said Koharu.

“That insolence...Definitely Tsunade’s son.” commented Homura.

“Tsunade’s what?!”

“Oh yeah, you weren’t there for **that**.” remarked Hiruzen who had an amused grin splattered on his face.

“What did I miss?!”

Meanwhile Riku was already back to the ground floor. He was about to exit the hospital when he heard someone shout his name.

“Ri-kun!” Hinata repeated as she closed the distance separating her from him.

“Hello, Hinata.” he answered with a smile.

"Is everything alright?" she quickly asked.

"Yes. Why wouldn't they be?"

"Hokage-sama came to class an hour ago to speak to me. She wanted to know where you were. She seemed worried and a bit in panic so-

"You told her where to find me. It's alright."

"I thought that... something happened." she said after a moment of hesitation.

"It kind of did but nothing to worry about. I was about to go back home for lunch. Interested?"

"I only have half an hour before class resumes."

"You'd have but a second and that would be enough but I suppose the view inside the Botib is not very glamorous. Hmm, maybe I can do something about that. In any case I was thinking of sandwiches. Quick to make and tasty."

"Then let's go."

Riku nodded and they went to the Senju manor. They ate quickly to spend some intimate time together (mainly kissing and some heavy 'molesting') before Hinata had to go back. Afterward, Riku stayed home and worked on the hiraishin prototype. A simple bracelet with the seal carved into it. He already had the anchor point to teleport too. Using a shadow clone he gave it the bracelet and made it channel his chakra into it.

The clone disappeared on the spot and Riku rejoiced. For two seconds before being horrified. The anchor point was inside the Botib which was sealed inside his BoS. Quickly pulling it out, he opened the door of the closet and saw the clone inside.

"Holy shit. That works too." he exclaimed, dumbfounded at the realization that his version of the Hiraishin teleported through dimension. It was more complex than that and not quite true but that was the result.

"What does?"

Tsunade's voice came from the entrance of the living room. She was looking with pride at her newly found son.

"The prototype. It works."

"Not really surprising here. You said it did and all you needed was to make the seal itself."

“No, you don’t understand. It works **through dimensions**.”

“... Come again?”

“The anchor, or rather the point of arrival was inside the Botib which was inside a storage seal! I didn’t think of that when I began the test!”

“Isn’t it because the anchor and the bracelet while inside a different barrier were inside the same dimension? That’s what you explained to me.”

“Yes but both barriers were in the same dimension to begin with in my explanation. Here, the Botib was in the storage’s seal while the bracelet was in ours. It simply crossed dimensions.”

“I... see. That’s good then.”

“In a way, yes but it’s also very dangerous. Teleporting inside a storage seal? I’m not trying that. Ever.”

“I understand your point.”

“Welcome home by the way.” he said and went to hug her. “Is the day already over?”

“Hmhm.”

“Crap. I forgot to go back to-

“Yugao and Kakashi understand, considering. Yugao has done a great job so far. Tomorrow, sensei is going to help her and I’ll send a few kage bunshin too. You are free to work on your seals or at the hospital. Your choice.”

“The hospital is off limits as long as the basement is not done. I don’t want to deal with villagers.”

“Then help with it.”

“Once I’m done with the hiraishin. By the way, I tested-”

“I know. Koharu showed me. Excellent work.”

“I’ll give you my notes on it later but it’s possible to equip retired veterans if they want to serve again.” he explained, and took her by the hand. He led her to the bathroom.

“And what do you think you’re doing?”

“Share a bath with you, then cuddle.”

“Is that so?”

“You have years of birthday presents to make up for and I chose to share a bath.” he simply said as he began to remove his clothes.

Tsunade just shook her head at how quickly he took advantage of something he had just learned in the morning. She didn't object though and disrobed too. In the end, Riku sat in front of Tsunade and rested his head on her bosom. He had his eyes closed and was just enjoying the moment in peace. Tsunade found her son cute at that moment and began to let her fingers comb through his dirty blonde hair. Hair like hers. She didn't hesitate to gently scrape his scalp with her fingernails. That had an unintended effect however.

“Mom...” The more she heard him say that, the more she loved it. “That wasn't a smart idea.” he said, his eyes closed. She didn't understand until he pointed out at his penis breaking out of the water. “I guess now I know that my scalp is the way to arouse me on the spot.”

Tsunade sighed. She knew her son well and knew how that blasted thing would have to go down. They already did the deed plenty of times the past two years. There was no need to be shy about it now.

‘Besides, he is a very good lover and returning to my toy is less than appealing.’

Making her decision. Tsunade's hands moved downwards.

Chapter 44: Lot of works to be done

Tsunade woke up in a good mood. Sore but in a good mood. For the first time, Riku had used shadow clones during their intimate time and that had been quite a challenge. She didn't regret it though. Either the involvement of the clones or the act itself. He was her apprentice, her friend, her son but also her lover all in one. And she wouldn't change a thing. The previous night had been way more intimate than they ever did previously. And if that was wrong? Then she'd be wrong and keep on doing it.

She couldn't help herself and looked happily at her son, his head buried in her chest. She wanted one thing in that moment and that was to let her hand roam through his hair. She knew what such a thing would lead to however. Many more rounds of sex. Massaging his scalp, completely unleashed him. She had felt that while he pressed her against the mattress from above. She had grabbed his head and he went all the harder on and in her. No matter what she said, he was lost to lust at that moment. She didn't complain, quite the contrary but she sure as hell won't be able to take that kind of pounding the whole night let alone everyday. She was quite glad that he had girls in his

life. Speaking of girls, she worried about what Shizune and Ino would say when the news would be out that they were mother and son. That was a problem for future Tsunade though so she put it out of her mind.

Thinking about Riku's parentage made her think of Naruto's. The boy was not much of a boy anymore by being nearly 18. Tsunade could understand why Hiruzen had hid from him who his parents were; Naruto was young, couldn't protect himself and was such an attention seeker from what she was told that he would probably have blurted out the secret. Had Iwa or maybe even Kumo known whose son he was, assassins may have been coming endlessly to take his life. Considering that the Kyubi was sealed inside of him, had Naruto died the fox would have been free right in the middle of the village. Again.

No, not telling Naruto about his parents was the smart choice at the time. Now? He was still a bit naive and immature but he wouldn't blab about it. That left the relation with Riku up in the air. Should she tell him or not? Considering that Riku and Naruto didn't particularly like each other it was better not to. There was also Jiraiya to take into consideration. He had viewed Minato as his own son and saw Naruto as his grandson. Would he see Riku the same?

'So many questions. All for later.'

She tried to push Riku away gently so she could get up but failed. He used his hands to hold onto her breasts and wouldn't let go without possibly ripping them off. While she wouldn't mind her breasts recovering their normal size she didn't want no boobs at all. She thought for a moment and simply created a shadow clone. A very naked copy of her which was standing up, laid down on Riku's back and tempted him with her own factice breasts. A few enticing words in his ear and Riku let go of the original Tsunade and turned around to latch himself on the clone. The chakra construct then rolled them around so Riku was back into his starting position: head buried in her cleavage.

Now free, Tsunade got up and left her bedroom. As she turned the corner of the corridor leading to the bathroom, she came across Shizune.

'Shit! I totally forgot about her!'

"Good Morning, Tsunade-sama." the raven haired kunoichi said with a teasing and knowing smile.

'She must have heard us the whole night.' "Good Morning, to you too."

"Taking an early bath?"

"You can drop the act, Shizune. Now if you don't mind and as you can see, I'm in a dear need of a shower. You're free to join."

Tsunade wasn't wrong. She may have had her womb and ass full of Riku's seed but her breasts and neck had been completely painted white multiple times. Riku wasn't able to resist sliding his dick between her beauties and honestly, she couldn't blame him. She would have done the same.

Shizune accepted her invitation, or rather jumped at it, and followed her inside the bathroom. After cleaning themselves up, they enjoyed a hot bath together.

"How is the situation, Tsunade-sama?"

"If you mean regarding Danzo then he's dead. The bastard destroyed my office while doing so but almost no one was hurt."

"Almost?"

"Koharu lost her right forearm but Riku already fixed it. She's very happy with her new prosthetic."

"Speaking of Riku, is his... problem solved?"

"Yes, and no. Depends on which part."

"Which part? What do you mean?"

"Riku is the product of an experiment conducted by Danzo to... well, recreate the fourth Hokage."

"Oh." was the shocked answer of her eldest student. "I...This... What can I say to that? On one hand the experiment seems successful as I believe that Riku would make a great Hokage one day, on the other... That implies that..."

"His mother was a root agent. His father, just an idiot in love."

"Was his mother's arres-."

"All staged by Danzo."

"Despicable." Shizune commented with a grunt. "Using a woman's child to..."

"Riku wasn't her child. She carried him for nine months but they're not blood related in any way."

"Y-you mean... They succeeded in doing an in vitro conception?!"

"Yes."

“Who are Riku’s parents then?”

‘It’s break or swim.’ Tsunade mused. “Namikaze Minato and I.”

Shizune’s head turned so fast, Tsunade was surprised she hadn’t broken her neck.

“YOU?!”

“Apparently.”

“B-but! That means... Riku and... and...”

“Yes.”

“Oh. And you still...”

“Yes. What’s done is done. It’s been two years anyway at this point. No reason to stop because we now know about it. It’s not like we can have children so there isn’t any reason not to pursue our relationship beyond societal impropriety.”

“...Kinky.”

“What?!” the blonde exclaimed, this time her own head turning to look at the woman beside her.

“Didn’t know you had that kind of fetish, Tsunade-sama.”

“I do not! It’s... Riku being my son is last on the list of the many things he is to me.”

“If you say so.” Shizune dropped the conversation with a knowing smirk.

Nothing more was said for a while. Until they heard Tsunade’s own voice screaming in ecstasy.

“He sure doesn’t mind.” teased Shizune, understanding that a shadow clone was with Riku. Her sensei didn’t even give her an answer. There was no point in her opinion.

Five minutes of moaning later and Tsunade had had enough. She dispelled the clone to stop the embarrassing noises it was making. That was a bad call because she remembered everything the clone experienced and that switched her internal engine back on. Raising from the bathtub, she went to take a very cold shower and after drying herself left the bathroom and a very amused Shizune.

‘Note to self; next time use shadow clones on Riku.’

She entered her bedroom and saw a very unhappy Riku under her sheets.

“That was very cruel, mom.”

“Maybe next time you’d put up the soundproof seal? That way the whole manor won’t hear your sexual escapade. Shizune was very amused.”

“Oh. I forgot about her.” Riku replied with a bit of shame on his face.

“So did I. Now get up. Time to start the day.”

He almost let out a retort about her already being an annoying mom after only a day but kept quiet. That would have been bratty of him and she was right. He had plenty of things to do. He got up and went to hug her from behind, his hands taking her boobs in them from below and lifting them up, juggling them gently and his dick sinking into her butt’s crack.

“You really can’t help yourself, can’t you?” she said, doing her best to not sigh

“Only with you. I guess... I want to be spoiled.”

“We’ll have all the time tonight.”

“True.” he admitted. “I’ll have clones keeping on testing the Hiraishin prototype and a few working at the hospital’s basement. I’ll also have a look at the cursed seal. Anko had suffered enough from it. That is if I’m not needed anymore to comb through that asshole’s files.”

“That’s a good idea actually and no. You’re good regarding the files, there are more important things for you to do.”

Riku kissed the back of her neck and released her. Quickly he went to the bathroom and found Shizune still enjoying the hot bath. Of course, since he was still erect (he had been stopped in the middle of things after all), he didn’t miss the opportunity. He put a sound proof seal this time and meticulously took care of giving his senpai the best morning ever, to her greatest joy.

Afterwards, he did as he planned. He created clones to test his prototype and a few more to work on the Hospital’s basement. He, the original, began to work on the curse seal. Orochimaru’s notes were very informative. The cursed seal did three things.

One, was releasing an enzyme inside the body changing bit by bit the brain chemistry. The subject grew more violent when the seal was active, less rational and addicted to the sensation the seal was giving them.

Two, the seal was releasing nature chakra. That has been a new one for Riku. The knowledge that nature chakra, a new type of chakra, existed beyond the yin and yang

was mind boggling. He wondered why no one knew about this. Regardless, it was this chakra that helped the body transform and the production of the enzyme.

Three, and here Riku nearly lost his mind, the seal contained a part of Orochimaru's soul. In other words, the seal was designed for Orochimaru to take over the body more easily and make it permanent. It also made it so if he died he could be "resurrected" thanks to the seal.

Here and there, Riku decided to remove the seal from everyone who had it. Orochimaru couldn't be allowed to stay alive, dormant inside the seal or not. That gave him an idea for the Edo Tensei and he made a clone to pursue that thought.

His musing was stopped by a sudden visit from Hiruzen.

"Sandaime-sama. Please come in. I'm not going to lie, I'm surprised at your visit." Riku said, inviting him inside. Quickly, he led him through the living room to the patio where they sat down on the wooden floor (on pillows) to have some tea.

"I just wanted to check on you. I briefly saw you yesterday and you left too quickly for me to ask questions."

"I thought it was better that way. It seems to me like a team moment and I didn't want to intrude further."

"Hm, you may be right on this. It's been years since Koharu, Homura and I just... talk and laugh like we used to. Before I took the hat and responsibilities and duties piled on our shoulders. For the first time in years we sat and just drank and talked. Good times."

"I supposed that it's a very good lesson for when I'll be Hokage. Never forget to enjoy what I'm working for. What's the point of protecting the village if I don't enjoy the village from time to time to remember why I'm doing it in the first place?"

"Too true. I wished I had known that beforehand. That would have made the job more pleasant."

"I'm fine by the way. Sensei being my mom... Well... That's the best news I've ever had."

"Really?" Hiruzen asked in surprise. That wasn't what he expected at all.

"Yes. Being related to the Yondaime and Naruto on the other hand... That's my problem. He's going to be insufferable when he finds out about it. The simple thought is already giving me a headache. I already have two loud blondes in my life, I don't need a third. Especially one that will do his very best to connect with me because 'we're alike and we suffered too'."

That made Hiruzen chuckle. He knew Tsunade and her temper well and he has been made aware of his son's team's kunoichi. Yamanaka Ino seems to be just as troublesome.

"That asks the question when will he be told of his parentage?"

"Today, actually. Tsunade decided it was time."

"He's not going to be happy with you."

"No." Hiruzen replied with a tired sigh. "I did what I had to do for the village and him at the same time. He didn't make things easier with his behavior."

"He'll get over it. One thing I respect and admire about him is that should you truly be sorry for what you did, he'd forgive you and let it go. A bit naive for a shinobi but it's endearing."

"That it is. It gives me hope for a better future."

"Yours or the village?"

"Both. Mainly me as he still needs to grow up and mature a bit more for the village. He **is** getting there, however. Now enough about Naruto, you're the one I came to see and talk to. Tsunade said you were done with the hiraishin?"

"Yes. The prototype is being tested by some clones but the results so far are excellent. Good enough that I started to work on removing the Orochimaru cursed seal to kill him for good." the tidbit of information made Hiruzen's brows go down into a nasty frown.

"For good?"

"He put a piece of his soul inside the seal. As long as there is a piece somewhere he could come back."

"Then removing those seals is a priority."

"It is. I'm a bit stumped though because he's using something he calls 'nature energy' or 'nature chakra'. Since I don't know what it is and what that does I can't recklessly break down the seal like I would usually do."

"Nature energy is just that. Nature energy. It's all around us. In the air, the earth, the water... Anything that is organic but not sentient."

"Not sentient means no spiritual energy, so no Yin chakra."

“Correct. And I see your question coming so I’m answering it now. Nature energy doesn’t depend on Yin and Yang chakra, it’s its own chakra. More unrefined, more raw, more... natural. By taking that energy into your own body you become what is called a sage and your body capabilities are enhanced extremely.”

“There must be a real downside to that, otherwise everyone would be a sage.”

“A great downside, yes. By taking nature Energy inside your own body you need to balance it with your spiritual and physical energy otherwise... You’d probably die. As I said, nature energy is... wild and powerful, finding the good balance between the three when you spent years finding balance with only two... Difficult. Your great grandfather was a sage himself, he may have a few scrolls on Senjutsu. Maybe they could help you with the seal?”

“I’ll have to ask mom about them.”

“Mom, huh?” smiled Hiruzen and Riku just shrugged.

“It’s in private for now and I have already been seeing her as such for years already. I’m just verbalizing it.”

They each drank their tea in silence, taking advantage of a lull in the conversation.

“Studying the seal made me think of the Edo Tensei. I believe that a real resurrection, not into a corpse but into flesh and blood, is possible.”

Hiruzen put his tea cup down and pondered for a moment.

“The dead should stay dead, Riku.”

“I know. I won’t argue about that. Although some should not be dead. Naruto should have his parents with him and the village would only be stronger with them back. Of course it would be their choice if they wished to stay or go back to the pure lands.”

“You just want to punch Minato for being an idiot.”

“Maybe. But what about Kushina? I’m not related to her in any way.”

“One more Uzumaki member? One with the adamantine sealing chain, a seal mistress and an excellent swordmistress and... Okay that sounds really nice to have them both back. You led me to convinced myself, huh?”

“Well... genjutsu is a bit overrated in my opinion.” the cheeky grin on Riku’s lips made Hiruzen’s eyes twitch in irritation.

‘That brat! Manipulating me! Me! Kami, I’m old...’

“Let’s say Tsunade agrees to this. How are you going to make them flesh and blood again?”

“That is the hard part. We need their own yang to properly connect with their yin. In other words their own body to connect with their soul. I have no clue how to start with that but given time I will find a way. But it’s neither here nor there.”

The subject was dropped and the conversation turned towards more mundane things. One of them was Hiruzen’s grandson who would participate in the chunin exam that will take place in Konoha soon and about his hilarious relationship with Hyuga Hanabi. Konohamaru was really a source of endless entertainment to the aged man.

After a while, Hiruzen excused himself and left. Wanting to take a break from his brainstorming, Riku got out of the manor and went to see Kakashi and Yugao, probably still in the Root HQ. It was proven right when many teams of Anbu were swarming the place and Kakashi along with Yamato were giving orders right and left.

“Kakashi, Yamato-san.” the dirty blonde greeted.

“Riku. I’m surprised to see you here after... yesterday.” said the cyclops.

“Meh, it’s fine. I got over it.”

“You got... over it?” was said in a very skeptical tone.

“Yeah.” was the nonplussed answer Riku gave. “I came to check if there was any seal that needed my expertise.”

“Not to process everything?” Yamato asked, finally entering the conversation.

“Nope. The Hokage said that I’m officially off-duty due to some... life changing revelation from the previous day. So I’m just enjoying my fuinjutsu hobby and if that leads me here in the lair of a paranoid man with a penchant for cursed seals then all the better for everyone, no?”

“That’s... I don’t even know what to say. Way to go in abusing the system to not do the annoying work, I guess?”

“I’m a ninja. Finding ways to go around things is a skill.” joked Riku to an unamused Yamato.

“There is one seal we need your help with, actually.”

“Oh?”

Kakashi signed to follow him with his hand and led him to the deepest part of the complex. After a good ten minutes walk, they arrived at a huge metal double door. The numbers of seals on it were staggering.

“Holy... That seal matrix is freaking huge! What must be beyond that door is definitely something important.”

“I think so too. I sent Pakkun to give the Hokage a message about it one hour ago. She replied that Jiraiya would be in the village soon to take care of it.”

“I could do the job but it will take time, I’m not quite there yet in my seal breaking skills. Karin may be back from her mission.”

“She doesn’t really have the clearance you know.”

“But she’s the only seal mistress who can deal with this at the moment. She’s also Shizune’s apprentice and privy to some S-rank secrets because of her skills. I don’t think sensei will object but I’ll send a clone to ask for permission.”

He created a clone who immediately left. In the meantime he pulled out a notebook and began to take notes of his observation with the seals. He didn’t even notice Kakashi leaving and coming back an hour later with Karin.

“Holy... That seal matrix is freaking huge!” the redhead exclaimed and made Kakashi snort.

“Riku said exactly the same thing. Now, I’ll leave you both to it. Warn me when you find a way and do not undo the seal without me present.”

Both Karin and Riku waved him away without giving so much as a look. They were too focused on the seal to pay him any mind.

‘It’s sensei and Kushina-san all over again. When seals are involved, nothing else matters to them.’ he thought with a tired chuckle as he left.

“I think the weak point of the matrix is this symbol here.” Riku said after a while pointing to the top Right of the door.

“Hmmm.... It is but there is a problem.”

“It’s connected to three double anchors.”

“Six actually.”

“Huh? Six?”

"Yes, look. The three you saw are directly linked to the symbol but if you look closely, it has six ... 'hooks'. And here." she said, pointing out one of the three Riku missed. "They're not connected to anything but you can tell from the chakra that it's-"

"No, I can't. I don't have your sight Karin. I can't see chakra."

"...I forgot. Sucks to be you then." she joked, making Riku growl.

"Kekkei genkai are bullshit!"

Riku said that so often that Karin joked it was his own verbal tic, like hers was 'ya know'. She found it cute, so much that she grabbed him by the arm, turned it around and kissed him right on the lips.

"So... I guess you're in then?" he inquired after separating his mouth from hers.

"Yep. I still find it weird but between Ino's relentless madness, Hinata's sinful body and you... I couldn't really say no. I mean... Our relationship is still the same, we all loved each other before. Now? We just love each other more and sex is involved. Back to the topic at hand though or we'll never open that seal."

"Hm. Seal now, love later." he agreed and turned back to the door. "So, How do we do this? The anchors needs to be undone at the same time but there are six and -"

Golden chains sprouted from Karin's hands - six to be exact- and each one of them touched one of the anchors.

"Kai!"

The redhead channeled her suppressing chakra ability through the chain and the anchors dissolved. As a result the symbol dissolved too and the whole matrix began to fail in an epic chain reaction.

"... Kekkei genkai are-" he was stopped by Karin putting her tongue in his mouth for a brief moment. When she pulled back, she looked amusedly at him.

"I know."

The lovey dovey moment stopped there and they pushed the heavy door open. What they found inside was fuel for nightmares. Dozens of medical pods filled with green or blue transparent liquid. Inside were body parts. Arms for most of them. Uniquely deformed and disgusting to look at. Sometimes the face of Senju Hashirama was present, sometimes not. It wasn't what caught Karin and Riku's eyes as they explored this lab of horrors together. No, it was the redhead woman with a giant hole in her abdomen floating around a clear liquid that caught their attention. The woman was

clearly dead and from what they could see it happened very shortly after giving birth. All thanks to her very distended stomach.

“Holy crap. I think... I think that’s Naruto’s mother.” whispered absentmindedly Riku. Karin didn’t miss it though.

“His mother? Why would she be kept here as a ... trophy? Lab rat?”

“I... “ he wanted to say that she didn’t have the clearance for it but she already knew about the Kyuubi, Naruto and Uzumaki Mito, the first jinchuriki. “She was the second host.”

“Of the fox?!”

“Yes. As for why she’s here...I’m not sure if I can tell you.”

“You can’t.”

They turned around and saw Kakashi standing behind them.

“What happened to: ‘Warn me when you find a way and do not undo the seal without me present.’, Hum?”

“You said something about that? Did he?” Karin asked Riku who shook his head.

“Not that I remember.”

‘Bloody fuinjutsu nerds.’ “**I did.**” he replied then looked up at the familiar redhead he hadn’t seen in nearly twenty years. “It is indeed Naruto’s mother, Uzumaki Kushina and she should have been buried next to her husband.”

“You can say his name, you know. I found out years ago the Yondaime is Naruto’s father.”

“It’s the whiskers.” Riku explained and Karin nodded in agreement.

“The whiskers.”

Ignoring their unknowing attempt at humor, Kakashi diverted his eyes from Kushina and looked at the two young adults with him.

““No words of this to anyone but the Hokage. We know.””

“Mah... You’ve been trained well.” the cyclops joked with an eye smile.

“What should we do? Seal the place back up or put everything into my Botib?”

“Hmm...Seal the place for now. We need to tell the Hokage first. She will decide what we do with all this.”

With a new task on their hands. Karin and Riku began to seal the door from the outside. Riku left an anchor inside the room to be able to come and go with a simple reverse summoning. Once done, they went to see Tsunade.

Chapter 45: A toad in distress

“There was no bottom low enough for that man it seems.”

That was Tsunade’s comment as she looked around the secret Root lab Karin and Riku had opened. She felt disgusted by the things inside the medical pods. Her eyes landed on Uzumaki Kushina and she wondered what she was going to say to Naruto. He had taken the revelation of his parentage rather well considering it had been hidden from him for so long and on purpose. He was mad as hell but not enough to tap into the Kyubi’s chakra. He was now busy with looking at his parents' mementos and other things they left behind. Except for Minato's journals. Riku had them for study. He had a right to them too after all.

“Hm... Sensei?”

“Yes?”

“This morning, just before lunch Sandaime-sama visited the manor and we talked about some things which included the Edo Tensei-”

“Absolutely not!” Tsunade interjected on the spot.

“I can perfect it without the need to sacrifice someone! And it wouldn’t be a corpse but a true resurrection!” He quickly said, stopping the blonde’s woman's rant sequel.

“You... You’re serious?”

“Yes. My idea was to bring back the Yondaime and Kushina back. The problem I had was that I needed their actual bodies in pristine condition. Now that I've seen this room and that we have Kushina's body. I’m pretty sure that I can bring her back. She’s dead but it’s obvious she’s been well preserved shortly after her death. Honestly the body is in better condition than Sandaime-sama’s arm used to be. We can heal the damage to her body by recreating the organs. Or simply connect her body to someone else's organs to make it function. From there, we can use my Iryoken, the medic-seals or even Karin’s kekkei genkai if she’s willing-”

"I am! She's my relative!"

"To completely heal her body, then I use the modified version of Edo Tensei and... Tada?"

"That's insane, Riku." Tsunade said after a moment. "Insane but... That should be doable."

"We can do the same for the Yondaime too. I mean, his body must be a skeleton now but if Danzo could recreate parts of the Shodai with just his cells. We may be able to do that to Minato too. And better since we're actually the best medics around."

"Except Minato's soul is trapped inside the Shinigami's belly." Tsunade retorted.

"That's not that much of a problem. In Lady Mito's notes she spoke of an uzumaki temple in the outskirts of the village. In there, is a mask that allows the summoning of the Shinigami to bargain for the soul of someone he ate. It cost the life and soul of the wearer though."

"That's not a problem either."

"Riku, we're not sacrificing someone for freeing Minato." Tsunade interjected.

"No even Orochimaru?"

"That's... Maybe but he's dead so the point is moot."

"He's not quite dead, actually."

Tsunade took a deep breath and knew she would regret asking.

"What do you mean he's not dead?"

"His cursed mark? He put a piece of his soul inside of them so he's technically still in this world. If we can extract it and put it inside an empty vessel..."

"Then we may free Minato. Shit, I can't believe this. It's actually possible. We may bring them both back."

Taking a moment to think about a plan of action, Tsunade finally gave her orders.

"Alright. I want the two of you to work on healing Kushina's body first then getting rid of the cursed mark and trapping Orochimaru's soul. The hiraishin is put on the back burner for a while."

"It's fine. My clones dispelled earlier and I have a second working prototype. They can just make more by themselves at this point."

"Good. Until further notice you're off duty for those tasks. No more work at the hospital and no more missions. Of course nothing about this leaves your lips."

"Yes, Hokage-sama." / "Yes, sensei."

Tsunade dismissed them and popped in a puff of smoke. Back at her temporary office the real blonde received the memories of her clone and began to massage her temple.

'This is such a... Ugh. I shouldn't be dealing with this shit.'

A month and they had removed the cursed seal from Anko, the two Oto-nin they had captured years ago from Orochimaru's own personal guard and finally Sasuke Uchiha. The last one had to be put to sleep with all the rage, insults and spit he threw Riku's way when he recognized his voice. His sharingan had been removed and no one bothered with giving him any eyes as a replacement.

The first time they removed the seal Orochimaru actually came out of it in the flesh. Was it not for Karin being so shocked that she used her chains as a defensive mechanism to subdue him, the snake may have gotten away. That has been quite the surprise. Anko, who recovered first, lodged a kunai in her former sensei's head and finally got the satisfaction of killing him. She kissed Riku right on the lips and promise two more fucks for that and the removal of the seal. Afterward, since they were now aware of what was going to happen with the mark, Riku and Karin were ready. In the end, they had three Orochimaru in custody and the look on Tsunade's face had been priceless when she was told that. Of course to avoid any escape, Riku had completely destroyed the Orochimarus' chakra network, forbidding them forever to ever mould chakra.

Only two things were left to do. One, was to recreate Minato's body and that was easier said than done. Riku had let Karin work on that but changed plans when they found out that the Yondaime's body hadn't decayed at all in the past 18 years. The redhead theorized that it was because of the Shinigami's seal on his chest or rather it was the only explanation that made sense. Regardless, with a mostly intact body they could make it undergo the same procedure they did Kushina's.

The second thing left to do was actually modifying the Edo Tensei. On paper it was simple. In practice, Riku had to reverse engineer the whole thing. His research was put on hold when Tsunade summoned him for a mission. Surprisingly he was the last to arrive.

'I don't know what the mission is about but if Kakashi is not the last one to get here, I'm pretty sure it will be a cluster fuck.' he thought when he saw his cyclops of a teammate.

“Good, you’re all here. Let’s begin then. Jiraiya got intel that Akatsuki was stationed in Amegakure. Apparently Hanzo the Salamander has been dead for years and nobody outside the country knew. At least until now. I ordered Jiraiya to wait for back-up before infiltrating the place but I know he won’t listen. You’re that back up. Help him in any way you can but at the first sign of trouble I want you to bail out with him. Got it?”

She got two “Yes, Hokage-sama” and one “Yes-sensei” for an answer then dismissed them. As was their routine now, they gathered at the gate they would go through to leave the village and went inside Riku’s Botib.

“Ri-kun, do you have any seals for infiltration? Ame has been a dead zone for nearly a decade now.”

“Hmm.. I have sound proof seals? It suppressed any sound in a small area. If you put them on each surface of a room the whole room is mute to the outside but if you apply one on your feet or yourself, you should be totally silent. That also means your own voice. Communication would be done by hand signs.”

“How good are you at them?” Kakashi asked as he picked said seals from its rack and handed a few to Yugao.

“I know the standard and a few words from Anbu by watching them.”

“Good enough. Any other seals?”

“Yes. It’s not for infiltration though it’s for bailing out.”

With that said he pulled out free bracelets from his BoS and gave one to each of his teammates and himself.

“What does it do?” the purple haired woman inquired turning the bracelet between her finger to have a better look of the seal.

“Teleport you back in here.”

“Tele-”

“That’s the Hiraishin?!” exclaimed a shocked Kakashi.

“My version, yes.”

“What’s the difference?”

“By channeling a bit of chakra into the bracelet you’re sending a signal to the matrix over there.” Riku began to explain and pointed at a huge seal against the wall. “The matrix then uses its chakra reserves to teleport you here. That way you can escape at

any moment as long as you have a drop of chakra in your body. The original used your own chakra for the teleport. Very limiting in the distance you're allowed to travel and taxing on your chakra reserves. Sensei, Sandaime-sama and the Elders each have one but it teleports them to a secured bunker with everything they would need in case of an attack. I have one for Jiraiya too."

"Neat." commented the masked Jonin.

"Wait till I find a way to incorporate it into a shurifuin. Combined with the **Shuriken Shadow Clone Jutsu** and shit is about to hit the fan for any enemies."

The grin he sported on his face and the brief mental picture of such an event made Kakashi laugh.

"That's about it. I didn't have much time to come up with new things. Oh! Yes, I forgot! The bracelet actually creates an invisible barrier around you when you use it. As such nothing will be able to stop the teleportation. Not ninjutsu nor regular seals. I mean... blocking a spatial displacement to begin with is hardcore in terms of seals and I don't think there are many people able to make one but that's a problem for the two idiots' version. My version would need an even more complex seal that I doubt anyone but me could make to counter the teleportation. So if an enemy tells you it's useless don't bother listening."

"Well... That's good enough for me." Kakashi said and put the bracelet on his wrist and so did Yugao.

Team Yukari left in a hurry towards the west where the Land of Rains and Amegakure was located. Just before crossing the border, Kakashi proposed to bury Riku's Botib into the ground for a quick retreat just in case. The idea was sound and Riku did so. They did use it to rest before that and crossing the border.

The Land of Rains really deserved its name. The whole country was engoggled in perpetual downpour. Riku rather liked it and wouldn't have minded living here but only for weeks at a time. How the people of Ame could stand the gloomy atmosphere was beyond him. The country being relatively small and Ame not far from the border they reached the village in a matter of hours without being detected.

Under a henge they passed themselves as inhabitants and searched for Jiraiya in the streets.

"Any idea where he could be?" Riku asked his teammates.

"The first place to look for is Hot Springs but with this weather I doubt they have any. That leaves with the second place to look for: ba-"

A huge explosion coming from the tallest tower caught everyone's attention. Theirs but also the civilian's.

"How high are the odds that he's there?" Riku answered flatly.

"A 100%." replied Kakashi and signed with his hands a plan of action.

Immediately they shushed away to reach the tower and ran up off its wall. Another explosion surged and they had to dodge falling debris to not be squashed to death. That presented an opportunity for them as the destruction had left a big hole into the tower. Going through it they got inside and saw a very bad looking Jiraiya with two toads on his shoulders and a missing arm, fighting for his life against one blue haired woman, three ginger head men and one more.

Team Yukari didn't even stop for a second to formulate a plan. Yugao drew her sword and attacked the one that looked like a bodybuilder and was definitely a taijutsu specialist. Kakashi began using Katon jutsu against the blue haired woman who was using paper as a medium for her attack. Riku reached Jiraiya's side. Putting the Hiraishin bracelet on his one arm. Before he could tell the man how it worked, he was sent flying by a blast of powerful Chakra from the man Yugao was fighting. Riku barely had the time to put his hand in a defensive posture to block the hit. It had been so strong that his left arm completely disintegrated, along with it his Hiraishin bracelet. Getting up and using his one good hand to stop the bleeding, he barely dodged out of instinct the hit from a fourth ginger haired man that came out of nowhere.

"We need to bail out! Now!" Kakashi yelled as he was getting overwhelmed by the two women in the group. The ginger headed one had summoned huge beasts to fight for her.

"What do you think I've been trying to do?!" Jiraiya shot back, being attracted forward by an invisible force towards an enemy who had his hand raised.

"Channel chakra into the bracelet!" Yelled Riku as he dodged another strike and used his Iryoken into his attacker as a counter attack. The hit landed but there was no reaction. *'Shit! They're dead people! Sensei's super strength it is then.'* he thought as he crouched down and avoided a roundhouse kick. The punch that followed hit the corpse's abdomen and pulverized it.

Yugao was the first to retreat, followed by Kakashi who would have died had he not. With his only way out being Jiraiya who had not yet used the bracelet, Riku tried to Kawarimi next to him but just as he was finishing molding his chakra for it. Two blades came from the man Yugao had fought and cut his legs, sending him backward toward the hole in the wall. Knowing it was probably the end of him, Riku would go out with a bang. He picked some explosive shurifui with his remaining good hand.

“The bracelet, Asshole!” he yelled at Jiraiya who got convinced to use it by the toads and disappeared in a green flash. At the same time he threw his shurifui right onto the big one that cut off his legs and that was right above him ready to give the coup de gras. It was too close and the explosion sent Riku’s fall down to his death. His insides were completely destroyed or burnt. The last thing he saw before he closed his eyes was the rain and the dark clouds in the sky.