

Out For Karma: Naruto

Chapter 56: Impossible is nothing

She was laying face down on the bed, her head turned to the side, wearing nothing but the engagement ring on her left finger. She looked with giddiness at it through the locks of her hair that had been made a total mess after the previous night activities with the one she loved above all others. She loved to feel his whole weight on her back, caging her between the mattress and his muscled chest. She loved even more feeling him deep inside of her, his cock pushing against the entrance of her womb that was full to the brim.

He had made passionate love to her for an hour when she ordered him to spice things up and to savagely fuck her like they usually did. She didn't quite remember the things she said to him but it had been the hardest he had pounded her ever since that very first time in that nightclub's bathroom. She did remember pleading with him to knock her up and breed her. That was one of his greatest kinks that got his engine really running full speed. He had delivered. He had come inside her again and again. Creampie after creampie and she took it all. Up to the very last drop of cum he had to offer her. She knew that if she didn't use the anti-pregnancy jutsu soon, she would definitely be pregnant. She was right in the middle of her risky time.

'But do I want to use it?'

She knew from Hinata that Riku wanted children. She had never really thought about them before, not being a joke about pregnancy at least. Now that she was though, she was finding the idea appealing. Any further thoughts were pushed to the side when she felt the crook of her neck being kissed. The smile on her face widened even more.

"I'm not too heavy, am I?"

"No, you're the right amount of heavy." she replied with her eyes closed. "Wish we could stay like this forever."

"Me too. Unfortunately, we can't."

Riku pushed himself up with his arms, pulling out slowly out of Ino who moaned at the sensation of him moving inside of her then whined for feeling empty. Riku laid down next to her and Ino naturally turned around to snuggle with him.

"I've been thinking, you know."

“What about?”

She didn't verbally answer him. Instead she took his hand and put it on her lower abdomen. Immediately he understood what she meant and began caressing her on that spot.

“With how much you put in there, for the first time I thought about being a mother and the idea is tempting. Really tempting. To the point that part of me doesn't want to use the jutsu at all. But we're 18... It's a bit too young to start shouldering the responsibilities of raising a child and I'd like to have a bit more fun first.”

“I was thinking about our mid to late twenties.”

“...I like the sound of that.”

Riku kissed her lips briefly and pulled her even closer to himself.

“I was thinking about putting a hiraishin seal on your ring but it is impossible and even if it was there are plenty of ways for an enemy to remove it from you. So I came up with two solutions that... well, you may not like?”

“You won't know until you ask.”

“The first is to put it on a choker but I don't know if you like those and with your fashion sense I doubt it would fit all your outfits.”

“Hmm... Probably not but I'm not against it. What else?”

“I write it directly on your skin.”

“... Any particular place?” she asked, perking up at the notion.

“No. I can put it wherever you want. It won't be visible unless you channel chakra into your body, if that's what you're worried about.”

“It wasn't. I'm not worried at all in fact. I just didn't want to have it on my face but since I can choose... I'd want it on my lower back. Just above my butt.”

“That's... peculiar. Why there?”

“Because that way the first thing you'd see would be my ass and who knows with a bit of luck...” her implicitness was not missed by Riku who chuckled at how perverted and how much of an anal lover she was.

“Then I'll put it there.” he announced and slapped her delicious bubble butt making her yelp. He got out of bed then took her in his arms. It was time for a very long shower. No

funny business happened but it was sensual. When they got out, Riku dressed in his normal clothes while Ino did as she always did and stole one of his shirts. This time however she felt frisky and didn't bother stealing one of his boxer-briefs too. It was fine, the shirt was longer than usual and reached her mid-thigh. When they got out of the Botib then his bedroom for breakfast they were the very first one to be there. Out of habit, he began to make breakfast with Ino embracing him from behind, content to just feel his warmth and the soothing beat of his heart. She wanted that everyday for the rest of her life.

"Good Mor- Ino?"

Both Ino and Riku turned their heads to see Tsunade at the entrance of the kitchen, a bit surprised to see the former here. They greeted her back but nothing more.

"Soooo. Finally tired of sneaking out in the morning?" the Godaime Hokage joked, sitting down at the head of the table.

"Why would I sneak out when I'll be living here from now on?" Riku snorted at his fiance's words.

"I think as the owner of the house I'm the one deciding that." Tsunade said in a flat tone.

"And here I thought you wanted to keep your son living with you. I guess we'll have to find a house to start our married life, hubby."

"What are-"

Tsunade's thought process stopped when she saw a grinning Ino showing her left ring finger.

"He proposed?!" The blonde shouted as she left her seat in a flash to hold Ino's left hand and have a better look at the ring.

"Hmhm." was the young engaged only reply, her smile going from one ear to another.

"Tell me everything!" the older blond said and dragged her future daughter-in-law outside the kitchen.

Tsunade was in such a hurry that she nearly bumped into Kushina, who noticed the ring on Ino's finger. Without saying anything she followed the two women leaving behind her husband and son with a squeal of delight.

"What just happened?" Naruto asked entering the kitchen.

"I asked Ino to marry me last night."

“Oh?! What did she say?!”

“Take a guess.” Riku replied, giving a deadpan look.

“She said yes, obviously. Your mother and Tsunade wouldn’t be **that** excited otherwise.” replied Minato, serving himself a glass of orange juice.

“Man... Are you sure? Ino’s dad is...”

“I know. He’s just protective of his daughter like any father should be. But he’s nice. Of course he loved grilling me yesterday at lunch but there was no real bite behind it. He was just enjoying his father’s privilege of making his daughter’s boyfriend squirm.”

“I want to see!” he heard his mother yell and three different types of footsteps moved quickly towards his bedroom.

He kept making pancake after pancake after serving Naruto and Minato and a few minutes later Tsunade came in with questions.

“How did you bring in the trees?”

“What trees?” a confused Naruto asked.

“I made a garden in the Botib. As for how I brought trees there? Well... I grew them.”

“““That’s impossible!”””

“Not if you can use the Mokuton.”

The nonchalance in his tone when he said that made his mother faint, while Naruto choked on the piece of pancake he was eating and Minato’s glass slipped from his hand and fell to the ground.

“I wasn’t expecting that.” said Riku looking at the unconscious body of his mother.

“Really?” Ino asked, not believing him. Next to Kushina who was hitting Naruto’s back to make him spit what he had lodged in his throat.

“Mokuton?! You can use mokuton?!” exclaimed Minato, who had just recovered.

“I’m a seal master, nothing is impossible for me. A simple thing like mokuton? Not really worth mentioning or making a fuss about.”

His tone may have been calm but inside he was cackling like mad. He created a clone to go fetch one of his mokuton tags from inside the Botib while he went to wake his mother.

“Ngh..” the big titted blonde groaned as she came to.

“Mom, are you alright?”

“Hm, Riku?”

“Yes, mom.”

“What happened?” she said as she raised herself into a sitting straight position.

“You fainted when I told you I could use mo-”

“Is it true?! You’re not bullshitting me, are you?” she exclaimed, grabbing his face in her hands.

“Seals. I use seals for it but I may be able to use it without it.”

“Show me!”

“Yeah! Show us!” Naruto agreed verbally now that he wasn’t dying of asphyxia.

Riku’s clone came back just in time with the tag and gave it to his boss. The original pulled her mother up and invited everyone to join him on the patio, where he put the tag on the frontyard’s ground and activated it. A tree began to sprout from the soil and reached a good fifteen feet high.

Turning around he was pleased to see the gobsmack faces of everyone.

“Kekkei genkai are bullshit. Anyone could potentially use any elemental combination to create a new element, it’s just a question of finding the right ratio between the natures with extreme precision. I suppose some people instinctively know how much they need to mix them without actually knowing it and we call it Kekkei Genkai.”

“““ ...””””

“OUCH! What was that for?!” Naruto yelled as Tsunade pinched his cheek.

“It’s not a dream, you really...”

“That means that Yamato can take a rest and that we’re going to have as much wood as we want and more. We can even recreate the forest. I might even put a bit of nature energy in it to make the trees sturdier and healthier. I even made an automated seal to create mokuton tags.

“““I want to see those seals!”””

Of course Kushina and Minato, the two fuinjutsu nerds, reacted on the spot at what they just learned.

“No.”

““Why?!””

“Senju clan secret.”

The flabbergasted faces they made nearly broke his serious facade into a fit of laughter.

“Honestly, showing you the tag is already too much.” he said, picking up the tag from the ground. “Now go eat your breakfast, it’s getting cold.” he added, walking to his mother and taking her in a hug as the others went back inside.

“I’ll make you able to use the mokuton if that’s what you want.”

“I never wanted to. I mean... yes, maybe a little bit when I was a child but my mother didn’t have it so I knew I wouldn’t either so I never focused on it but if I had it I would have liked it.”

“All I heard was *‘My awesome and handsome son, please make mommy able to use the mokuton’*.”

“ ‘Mommy’, huh?” she teased. “You never called me like that before.”

“Don’t change the subject.” he quickly shut her down.

“Fine! Yes, I want it. Happy?!”

“Not until I see the Sandaime and the old farts’ faces when they see that.”

The idea was so funny that it made her snort. Riku smiled at her and kissed her forehead. He then released her and went to Ino who was waiting to the side with an amused smile on her face. He pecked her lips and took her hand leading her to the kitchen.

After a good and unhealthy breakfast, Tsunade allowed Ino to move in with Riku if she wished to. The latter thanked her but said that she needed to talk with her parents first and more importantly with Hinata and Karin first. The dirty blonde interjected saying that he will propose to both of them soon but that it will take time to make preparations for each. More than it took Ino. And that was on top of developing new important seals for the security of the village.

“I thought you would have taken your time before asking her.” said Tsunade walking down the streets towards her office with Riku by her side.

"I know. Nearly dying and being completely crippled gave me a new perspective. What happened to Suna and the luck of detecting Nagato too. It's less about actually marrying her but more about showing her how much she means to me. I don't mind if our engagement lasts a few years."

"I see."

They kept walking in a pleasant silence until they reached their destination. Tsunade has been sitting at her desk for fifteen minutes while Riku was lost in his thoughts when Hiruzen, Koharu and Homura entered her office. They were surprised to see Riku present but quickly understood that some discussion was about to take place. He rarely appeared in this place anymore unless it was to present something new that de facto was considered an S-rank secret. With trepidation Hiruzen but also Homura who always had a thing for fuinjutsu despite a lack of talent, waited for what Riku had come up with. After exchanging greetings they all took a seat, Anbu were dismissed and the privacy seal that had been added the previous day was activated.

Tsunade fixed them without blinking and so did Riku.

"Well? What do you-"

Riku put the tag on his mother's desk and let a small sprout sprout on top of it. A familiar click noise echoed through the deathly silence in the office. Its origin? Tsunade who had taken a picture of her sensei and his teammates who were all looking down at the sprout, with their jaw reaching the ground and their eyes out of their orbits.

"See?"

"I'll give it to you, that was pretty great. I'm glad I could immortalize this moment."

The three elders raised their eyes from the sprout and showed they were long time teammates by speaking at the same time.

""HOW?!"""

""Clan secret.""

The mother and son synchronized answer nearly gave them a stroke. To add insult to injury, Riku removed the sprout, pulled out the automated seal for creating the mokuton tags and put it on the desk. He took a blank tag, showed it to them and put it in the middle of the seal. A flash of chakra later and the tag was creating another sprout.

"Elemental kekkei genkai are bullshit. Whoever said you couldn't combine nature without one simply didn't have the necessary chakra control to pull it off or the instinct."

"That changes a lot of things." Hiruzen said. He was the first to find his voice.

“Wait until I master it as a ninjutsu and then make it work without hand seals.”

“That’s not what we showed you this.” interjected Tsunade. “It’s-”

“For Konoha’s reconstruction. We don’t need to buy as many materials as before. Yamato helped greatly but he’s only one man. Even with the shadow clones and chakra pills, there is a limit. Chakra pills require plants and the clones are too dangerous to use for a long time. With this tag we could be self-sufficient in some aspects.” Nailed Koharu.

“We’d save a lot of money. The budget could be diverted to things we couldn’t before.” Homura added.

“It’s more than that.”

Riku put aside the automated seal matrix and used another tag to create ice and pull out the same jug of tea he had used the previous day for the picnic with Ino’s parents and which he had filled it back again. He added the ice to the tea and put the tag on the jug to cool it faster before serving everyone.

“We may also have access to resources we didn’t have before. Special training ground with special environments for example.”

“The village would have the most seasoned shinobi in the whole Elemental Nations.” Hiruzen realized what Riku meant.

“Indeed. On an unrelated topic. What happened to the Rinnegan?” asked Koharu.

“Sealed for now. Once I’m done with giving all the help I can for the reconstruction, I’ll study them and maybe booby trap them.”

“Why?” His mother asked. “We could...”

“No. Such power...It’s above the Sharingan and the byakugan and we all know how the people who have those behave.”

“You can’t destroy it!” Homura argued

“Never said I would. I said **maybe** booby trap them. I won’t be surprised if whoever gave those eyes to Nagato tried to take them back.”

“They should-”

“Nothing because they belonged to the Senju clan, not Konoha. Your opinion doesn’t matter on the subject.”

That stopped any argument or protest from the elders. Tsunade said nothing but agreed with Riku's statement. The Rinnegan should be studied then used as bait. Riku, having shared what he had to share, paid his respect and left the office after Tsunade lifted the lock down. He had work to do.

Chapter 57: Unexpected order

Making the mokuton usable through a seal had been relatively easy, making it usable through simple hand seals had not. No matter how much he tried he couldn't quite get it right. So instead Riku devised a modified seal for each wrist that would change the nature of the chakra and its output when using mokuton jutsu. Tsunade had been over the moon when she made a simple tree in the backyard. She was so excited she dragged him to her room and gave him the time of his life.

News of his and Ino's engagement went around quickly. Not like they bothered hiding that fact. He did reassure Hinata and Karin that their turn would come. He just needed time to make the experience memorable. Ino confirmed it when she told them how it went for her and advised them to wait patiently. They still went on dates. Public ones with Karin and clandestine ones with Hinata who wanted the elders out of the way before their relationship would be discovered.

Konoha's reconstruction accelerated greatly thanks to Riku providing loads of wood. Yamato had been grateful as he was being run to the ground to supply the material. In fact there was more wood than hands were able to use. The Suna refugees were joined by their Shinobi that got to take the wood for free and make a temporary quarter at the outskirts of the village. They didn't want to get in the way of the reconstruction of Konoha nor mingle too much with its people since their sojourn in the Leaf was only temporary.

The routine that had installed itself after weeks was however broken by an urgent missive that Tsunade received from the Raikage. After the Hyuga affair where Neji lost his father years ago, communication with Kumo had been mostly non-existent. It has been quite the surprise to get a message from them. The Raikage wanted a summit of the five kage in the Land of Iron to discuss important matters regarding the Elemental Nations. The first thing that came to mind was a matter regarding the Akatsuki, the second thing was that it was a ploy for... Whatever plan the Raikage had in mind. Nobody had forgotten what Riku had to do in Suna with Iwa.

"I think that the topic of discussion the Raikage wants to talk about is less important than whether we should go or not." Riku said to his mother. "Iwa and Kumo brushed off Gaara's attempt for a Gokage summit and now that they are probably in deep shit they want one. Except we're in a position of strength this time. We've dealt with most of the Akatsuki by ourselves including one of their leaders. What do they have to offer that could interest us? I also doubt Iwa wants to make friends after losing a thousand of their

Shinobis to me. The only reason I can see for going is to see if we can maybe make an alliance with Kiri which is an unknown ever since the end of their civil war. It will take years for Suna to recover if ever and I don't want to go to war against an Iwa/Kumo alliance alone. Also, why are you asking me? Is that why you summoned me?" he explained his line of thoughts.

Tsunade shared a look with Hiruzen and then with Homura and Koharu. None of them said anything, a silent conversation taking place. When it appeared to be over, she spoke up.

"I plan to go, taking Kakashi and Gai with me as bodyguards."

"Okay. How is that-"

"You'll be acting Hokage in my stead the whole time."

Riku's brain froze for a second before going full throttle in analyzing her words. He looked at Hiruzen who looked back. Unflinching. He wouldn't get help or an answer from the man, so he turned to the elders but got the same reaction. With no support his eyes landed back on his mother.

"No."

"You have no choice on the matter. I'm ordering you."

"First off, the council is there to act in the absence of the Hokage. Second, Jiraiya is-"

"Not in the village."

"Minato-

"Is busy with the academy and reforming the whole course. He's also not a shinobi anymore. And before you say their names, Kakashi is not yet strong enough and Kushina is not yet back to her previous level before her pregnancy, she's also busy with bettering the village's barrier. You're also the strongest shinobi in the village."

Riku pointed at Hiruzen with his thumb.

"I'm too old. I don't think I could defeat you either."

"My first point still stands."

"Usually we would but with the village's reconstruction, we need a visible leader to keep rallying under." Homura explained.

"Someone with the strength, the charisma and the authority to do so."

"You're the son of two kages, great-grandson of another and from the most prestigious clan which founded the village. You defeated the Kyuubi on your own and saved every villagers' lives while fighting a six against one battle against the man that destroyed our home. We can't do better than that. You're the best candidate and fit all the criterias by a large margin." was the blunt answer Hiruzen gave him.

"I'm 18."

"I wasn't much older when I took the hat."

"It doesn't matter. As I said, I'm ordering you."

Riku took a very deep breath and sighed, already tired of the argument. He couldn't do anything. Orders were orders.

"When do you leave?" he inquired, accepting his new role.

"A week from now."

"One week of travel, a few days tops for the talks. Fine. I'll manage the village for half a month."

"For someone who dreams of being Hokage, you sure don't want the job." his mother noted.

"I want the job when I'm older and you're old enough to break a hip."

"As if I'll wear the hat that long. Nuh-huh. See it as getting experience before you get the job for real."

"How come there is no one suitable between your generation and mine?"

"There was Minato. The war took most of them otherwise." Koharu said.

"I'm suddenly of the mind to fix his chakra network."

"“You can do that?!”" everyone exclaimed.

"No. But I may. Also maybe Karin? Thought for later. Anyway, don't yell at me if you don't like what I did when you come back."

That was all he said before flashing away in a green light. Tsunade gave the elders a look that said it all.

“He’s right, you know. You could take him with you and Kakashi would be the acting Hokage instead.” voiced Homura. He and Koharu were not very eager to see Riku wearing the hat temporarily.

“I trust no one more than him to protect the village in my absence. He already did it twice.”

“Protecting the village is one thing. Leading it is another.” Koharu retorted.

“Well, the three of you are here aren’t you?”

The old woman had nothing to say back to that.

For his part, Riku went home. With the state the village was in, there wasn’t any laboratory build back up. The hospital had been finished only four days earlier so anything else R&D related was out of the question. As such he could only use the equipment in his Botib and it wasn’t really geared towards analysis, especially a pair of eyes so in the end he gave up the idea of working on the Rinnegan on the way.

That left him with nothing but to think about the meeting he just came out from.

‘What the flying fuck. Acting Hokage. They’re mad.’

He needed to talk to someone about this. Someone that will just listen to him rant without saying a word. That would let him vent to his heart content and then cheer him up and he knew the perfect person for that. He changed direction from home to the hospital to pay a visit to Hinata. He was hoping that she’d be assisting there as a nurse. The medic-course had been temporarily put on hold until everything went back to normal and Hinata chose to put in practice what she had learned for the past months.

Along the way, not a single villager sent him a glare, an under their breath insult or a sneer. There have been polite nods and greetings, some thank yous but nothing negative. Riku politely answered them all in kind with a small smile on his face. On the inside, however, he felt bitter. He shouldn’t have had to save the village twice and be related to the Shodai or the Godai to be treated that way. The thought about how the world was unfair came and went as fast as it popped in his mind. Thinking about such things had never been his way and was nothing but a waste of time. He ignored the bad taste in his mouth and the blood in his veins boiling in anger and kept marching on to his destination.

Despite the state of the village the hospital was not as full as one would expect as a result. He had thought about asking the nurses at the reception desk if they knew if Hinata was working but decided to go see Shizune instead. As the head of the hospital she knew the planning of everyone or at least had access to it. He had reached her office on the third floor and was about to knock on the door when it opened, revealing his beautiful moon princess.

"Hello~, Hinata-chan" he greeted with a very happy voice that made her smile.

"Hello, Ri-kun."

A thick current of emotion went from each other in a sudden silence that was quickly broken.

"And what am I? Chop liver?" the annoyed voice of Shizune came from behind Hinata.

"... Of course not, Shizune-senpai. I..." he began but stopped not finding the words. "I have no excuse to get me out of this so I'll just say that I need Hinata-chan's help for something related to the security of the village and it cannot wait."

"Uh-huh. As if... I'm going to kill him. Nobody flashes on me! Especially not my own Kohai!" she spoke loudly in anger after Riku disappeared in a green light with Hinata.

The secret couple reappeared in the Botib that Riku left open and accessible in his bedroom. To Hinata's surprise however, Riku didn't get inside and sat down on his bed, pulling her down with him. The fact that she was not being assaulted by his wandering hands and his lips made her understand that it wasn't a booty call. Not like he would ever do that to her. Ino maybe but not her. Something was on his mind and she knew that she just had to give him time to formulate properly what he had to say. Pushing him to talk would just be counter productive. When he took a big breath and laid down on his back on the bed she backed up a bit but stayed seated..

"In one week, mom is going to the Land of Iron for a Gokage summit and she put me in charge of the whole village during her absence." he blurted out.

The bluenette's surprise was displayed by her thin eyebrows nearly reaching the beginning of her hairline. She hadn't been expecting that at all and didn't know quite what to say. Fortunately for her, Riku functioned by himself, he said aloud his problems, came up with multiple solutions on the spot and you just had to be there.

"That's insane. The worst is that the Sandaime and the elders agreed! Lost their minds! It's what they did. All of them. How am I supposed to lead the whole village when I'm just 18 and the village just started to see me as... not... me? UGH!"

At this point Riku shifted his body and laid face first inside her lap. Immediately, Hinata put her hand on it and slowly began to give him some pats. She felt how tense he was and how bit by bit he relaxed under her touch.

"You'll do fine. It's only for a week. And you're not alone. You have plenty of people to help you. Chief among them Sandaime-sama and in a certain measure your father. Although I'm pretty sure you'd do well on your own. You have a gift with Leadership. When you talk people listen, no matter what they end up doing. You have what it takes to sway them in your favor and get them moving like you want. As for the rest? You've

been assisting Hokage-sama for years. You know everything you need to know and with how smart you are you won't have any problem acting accordingly.

"I hate when you make sense like that." he mumbled between her legs.

"Someone has to keep you level-headed." she replied with a smirk he couldn't see.

That was her "job" so to speak. Ino would have just kicked his ass, told him to suck it up, gave him a blowjob and sent him on his way with a kiss and a 'good luck'. Karin? She would have panicked and shut herself to avoid thinking about things she didn't understand and didn't care about after telling him that everything would be fine.

She, on the other hand, used logic against him. Logic, he understood and found strength in it. She loved that only she could calm him down like that. That made her feel important, feel needed in his eyes.

"I guess I found my personal assistant then." he declared, turning his body and head to face her from down her lap.

"If that's what you wish, I'll assist you any way I can to the best of my capabilities."

"... You're not supposed to agree! You're supposed to decline, proving my point!" he whined.

"How would that prove your point? It makes no sense, Riku." she inquired. She was half confused and half sure he was bullshitting her.

"It does in my head."

"Uh-huh."

"I'm this close to propose to you after Karin after this." he said with his thumb and index almost touching.

"Nu-huh. You wouldn't do that."

"Oh? And how do you know that?"

"Because I'm asking you not to and I know you'll respect my wishes. Also, I came first before Karin hence I got to be proposed to before her."

The finality in her voice made him realize that his conversation wasn't going to end up in a victory for him. Sore loser that he was, he decided to win at something else. Raising himself from her lap, he pinned her down and kissed her. Hinata was surprised for a fraction of a second before responding in kind.

"There. I didn't completely lose the argument." he said with a smug smile when he pulled back and released her.

A grave mistake. Hinata used the Juken to paralyze his arms and in a fraction of a second he was the one pinned down. She didn't hesitate to rub herself on his hardening groin and the gleam in her eyes told Riku that maybe he shouldn't have done that and accepted the loss.

It was a very hurt and sore, but with a pleased smile on his face, soon-to-be acting Hokage, who fell asleep at the end of the day. Used as a giant plushie by his very smug and satisfied girlfriend.

A bit before dawn they both woke up in each other's arms. Hinata needed to go back to the Hyuga compound to not get caught for spending the night somewhere else. He was fed up with having to hide his relationship with Hinata. He wanted to walk down a street holding her hand and be all lovey dovey in public, except that couldn't happen with the Hyuga elders still in power. He did have an idea which he shared with Hinata as she had just pulled up her panties and was brushing her hair.

"What would happen, if one morning, all the old coots of your clan woke up with the bird cage seal on their forehead and everyone from the main branch without it. Replaced by a seal protecting the Byakugan but not enslaving them?"

Hinata stopped what she was doing slowly, contemplating the consequences of such an event. That would drastically change the dynamic of her family but would it be for the better?

"I don't know. I need to know more details."

"Provided they all find themselves in a room sealed by a barrier with a Hiraishin on it, they could find themselves inside a... room inside a Botib filled with sleeping gas. While someone puts the seal on them, the member of the branch family would get their seal removed and a new one placed on their scalp would protect their eyes in case of death." he explained as he got up, took the brush for her hair and continued doing her hair.

She thought about it. The cage bird seal on the elders would be justified and a good comeuppance but she wasn't like that. That wasn't her way and would go against the unification of her family even if most of the side branch would want that. She knew that if their family should strive again they couldn't use the same methods and sealing the elders would just perpetuate those methods. No, they needed to be taken down in a duel. She knew she was ready, her weekly secret spar with Neji had proven that she was, winning almost half of them. Even her prodigious cousin had been impressed by her level of skill. With the Juken. She had never shown her new tricks and skills. If she was to rate herself she'd say she was an A-rank Kunoichi. Riku's plan was interesting but would need to be altered, she would also need the help of her father to organize everything. The difficult part of the plan was to remove the seal.

“Why the sudden interest?” she asked, looking at his reflection’s eyes in the mirror in front of her.

“I don’t want to hide anymore. I want us to be free to sleep in in the morning, to hold hands or kiss publicly. I believe that with you at the head of your clan or-”

“Okay.”

“... don’t say that if you’re not-”

“I said okay, Riku.” she repeated and turned around to directly look at him. “Let’s do it.”

“Just like that? No talk about protecting Hanabi or waiting until she’s older or-”

“No. I’m tired of hiding our love too. I’ll speak with my father about your plan. See if he can give you the notes on the seal for you to find a way to remove it. As for Hanabi... She’s a chunin now. She may not be an adult by civilian laws but she’s mature beyond her age regarding our clan politics. I just... wanted for her to enjoy her life more before I renounced my heirship in her favor but... It’s... I don’t want to do it anymore. Ino, Karin... They’re free to do as they wish and I... I guess I’m jealous.”

Riku leaned forward and gave her a simple but powerful kiss on her lips.

“I love you.”

He said nothing more and just pulled down the straps of her bra. His hands didn’t stop there and reached her waist. He picked her up and brought her back to bed. Hinata didn’t fight it. She would be late and it was fine. She was done hiding.

Chapter 58: WAR

The repetitive task of the job was driving him crazy. Read a document then stamp the document. Either validating it or not. The amount of stupid things he had come across was astonishing. The last thing he saw was the permission to make a pool because it was hot outside when plenty of people still needed lodging. He had denied it of course.

“I’m curious as to why you allowed a brothel to be made but not a pool?” The Sandaime asked from his side.

“Simple, men and women returning from the borders need to be able to unwind. Hard working people in the village too. People in this line of work need to be active. Sex, money and power are what rule the world. It varies from person to person but if you

have control of what a person believes the power lies in then you won't get much trouble from them. They'll be satisfied and leave you alone."

"Until they're not."

"Until they're not." Riku nodded his ascent. "Then the use of one or the two others to put down the threat becomes necessary. Ugh! I'm so glad mom listened to me about organizing and filtering the paperwork before it lands on the desk but even then there is still no end to it." he complained.

His mood skyrocketed when his beautiful assistant came in, carrying a new pile of documents to sign. He shouldn't in truth but his eyes were stuck to the big watermelons resting on the top of the pile and the deep cleavage they showed. And the smile. Hinata's amused smile was just so uplifting that he felt he could do this all day. After she put everything on his desk, she left the office swaying her hips a bit to Riku's greatest delight.

"How you got Hinata to be your assistant is beyond me."

"She's my girlfriend."

"She's the heiress of her clan. I doubt Hiashi would have allowed this. It's a bit humiliating from someone of her status and from a clan like hers."

"Hmm. Sex, money and power." was the vague answer Riku gave Hiruzen.

The old man understood immediately which of the three Riku waved to the head of the Hyuga clan. Sex was out of the question and money was something that the clan had in abundance. It was a major clan after all. That left only power but what did it entail exactly? Hiruzen wasn't sure.

"You didn't make concessions with your temporary position, did you?"

"No. The village comes first over my desire. And you know my stance on nepotism and abuse of authority. It's the downfall of a militaristic village. What I gave him or promised to, is something that I could give as Riku, shinobi of the leaf."

The old retired Hokage didn't need to be a genius to understand what was that something. Riku was one of the best medic in the village and the best seal master. The former was not really in favor of the Hyuga clan but the latter...

"Things are going to change soon in the Hyuga clan, I presume?"

"Yes. The old ways must give in to the new if it wants to survive. Whether it's done in blood or not is the question. The interested party wishes for the latter. Preferably. They will do what's necessary for the best of the clan though. As I said once, tradition is just

peer pressure from the old and the dead. If it's dragging you down and compromising your safety then it's not worth it to continue to respect it because we're shinobis and surviving is the goal. Of course it shouldn't go against the very principle that defines everything we believe in, morality wise. I'd rather die than betray the Will of Fire."

"Hmm... A thin line to walk on without falling on either side." Hiruzen commented.

"Yes."

A brief silence came between the two as Riku stamped and stamped away, documents after reading them. In no time the pile that Hinata had brought in has been done with.

"What do you think about Jiraiya's intel?" questioned the Sandaime.

"He will come. He has nothing else to do. It's understandable really. We forbade him to kill Itachi by locking him up. We took his vengeance from him so he will get vengeance on us. Sasuke is one-track minded like that. We took what was his by... right. It's a huge slight against him and the Uchiha. In his mind at least. It doesn't really matter though. The village will deal with him like it did his clan."

That prompted Hiruzen to turn his head to look at Riku so fast that it was a miracle it didn't snap.

"Oh, don't look at me like that. It's obvious Konoha got rid of the Uchiha once you think about it a bit. 600 people murdered in a single night by a sole individual and absolutely no one saw or heard anything? No civilians, no passing shinobi, no Anbu? Puh-lease. Then there was Danzo's arm and his stash in his headquarters. To get that many sharingans he must have known in advance. It's impossible that the other clans didn't find out or I seriously would be worried about how smart their leadership is."

"..."

Neither Hiruzen or his teammates actually thought about that. Itachi was such a prodigy that everyone gobbled the tale right up that he killed his whole clan alone. That some wouldn't believe it should have crossed their minds but didn't.

"The fact they said nothing means they either were on it or approved after the act. If they approved the slaughter of a whole clan, a founding clan at that, which set a precedent, then it means the Uchiha were doing something that would have put the whole village in danger. Knowing how power hungry, set in their ways and how badly they overestimated their strength, I guess they were preparing for a coup?"

"..."

"Itachi must have been a spy for you and he chose the village over his clan. Leaving only Sasuke alive to rebuild it. What I don't understand is why the whole clan? The olds,

the young, the civilians... I doubt they were in on it. Why not just cut off the head of the snake?"

"...Danzo." said Hiruzen, speaking for the first time on the subject. "And in a way, Homura and Koharu too."

"You argued for peace talk and compromise. They argued for blood. Though, I'm surprised your teammates went along with the slaughter of the whole clan."

"They didn't. Just the heads of the coup like you suggested. The sharingan and the name Uchiha were still important for the village. That the whole clan was killed reflected badly on the village and me."

"Ah! A power move from Danzo I see. He got rid of a clan he was brainwashed to hate, took their power and weakened your position as Hokage."

"Brainwashed?"

"Mom gave me Uncle Moron's journals. He didn't hate the Uchiha, you were right about that but he had no love for them nor trust. With how extreme Danzo was, you can't tell me he wasn't brainwashed into hating them. Not something Uncle did on purpose I believe but that was the result. It's more like Danzo brainwashed himself into it since he's an extremist."

"Hm... maybe." Hiruzen pondered.

"Anyway. If Sasuke shows his face here, I'm killing him on the spot."

"Will you now? Naruto won't be happy about it."

"Naruto can kiss my ass. It's time he realized that Sasuke was never his friend. A teammate perhaps but not a friend. He seriously needs therapy with how he tries to connect with people like that. It's disturbingly unhealthy. I understand trying to connect with a total stranger, but someone hostile that wants your life?"

"He's trying in his own way to understand people to avoid fighting and make peace."

Riku turned in his chair to look at Hiruzen with an eyebrow raised.

"I never said it was the right thing to do."

"You never said it wasn't either." Riku shot back.

"I do believe in understanding being the best way to achieve peace. Just like your great grandfather."

“He was an idiot. A good man, yes but an idiot. Too idealistic and blinded by his dreams. Understanding doesn’t lead to everlasting peace. It helps yes, but it’s not the magical solution to everything. Just because we understand each other doesn’t mean we will compromise. Kumo wanted our bloodlines and to prove they were the best and we didn’t. We plainly understood each other and yet three wars happened. Understanding is useless if both parties don’t want the same things. And there will always be some asshole that wants to rule above others or just wants to see the world burn. The more peace lasts, the more time those people have to prepare for war. It’s a cycle that we cannot stop anymore than the life and death cycle. We can delay it but in the end it happens.”

Hiruzen took a moment to contemplate what Riku had just said. From his long experience as the leader of Konoha he couldn’t deny it. Yet he couldn’t accept it either. The whole Will of Fire was based around making peace with your enemies.

“Are you implying something?”

“Hm?”

“You sounded like talking to make peace or maintain it is impossible or useless. The only other alternative is conquest. You crush your enemies and without any opposition you make peace. It sounds like Madara and Danzo.”

“Not at all. I was more of a mind that... we educate the young generation better. Children born in a time of peace don’t understand the horror of war and take peace for granted. I should know I was among such a generation. If they don’t know nor understand what was needed to achieve peace, they will become complacent and generation after generation it will come to a point where someone would start shit up again and they will not be prepared. A thing to do against that would be to have some war veterans teach the academy students. To show them that the peaceful life they’re enjoying now, comes from the sweat, blood, tears and lives of their predecessors and that it’s up to them to work hard in maintaining it so that one day their children would replace them and teach their own children. How many young shinobis were at loss when Suna and Oto attacked six years ago?”

‘*Too many.*’ thought Hiruzen. The veteran shinobis, be they from the war or not, did spectacularly well, the youngest however were not ready. Riku’s idea had merit and would be more effective than simple retelling of History from history books.

“Of course, sometimes extermination is necessary too.”

“Oh?” That caught Hiruzen’s attention.

“How many times do you have to defeat someone so they learn from their mistakes? When is the price too high for that to happen? Let’s take Iwa for an example. They participated in three out of three shinobi wars and started two as far as I know. They

were ready to put down Suna for good and steal everything from their cold dead hands. Clearly they don't want peace. Or to be more precise, peace with others. If the opportunity to curb them is there, should we let them live to try again, costing thousands of lives or do we exterminate them for good, putting a final end to the problem avoiding further bloodshed down the line?"

"...You're not the first person to tell me I made a mistake in seeking peace with Iwa at the end of the third war."

"Mistake? I don't see it that way. We were losing and the tables were turned thanks to Minato but he is only one man, with limited chakra reserves and a hiraishin that is difficult to counter but not impossible. You made the right choice in my opinion. You were more concerned about the well being of your people than your hatred against Iwa and made your call. It was wise of you to do so. That allowed us to have a better starting point in the rebuilding of the village and its population than we would have had we kept on fighting. Our standing amongst the big five would have fallen from 1st place to 3rd. Kumo and Kiri would have pressed on their attacks. Instead they took the opportunity to fall back. Especially Kumo who became stronger than ever and had Kiri not started a civil war they may have been even greater and become the 1st in power."

"...That's the first time someone said that I made the right decision regarding this."

"Because no one had been Hokage before. It's easy to say 'just do this or do that' or 'you should have done this or you shouldn't have done that.' when you're not the one shouldering the responsibilities and consequences of those choices."

"You're not Hokage either."

Riku gave him a dirty look and Hiruzen didn't bother to hide his amused smile. The acting Hokage gave him an answer he wasn't expecting.

"Do you know the difference between a wise man and a fool?"

"Of course. A wise man learns from the past to not make the same mistakes. A fool doesn't."

"Not quite the definition I have in mind. To me, a fool learns from his mistakes, a wiseman learns from others' mistakes. And I'm no fool for the most part. I will be Hokage one day. How can I lead the village to a better future if I'm ignorant of the mistakes and successes of my predecessors? I didn't just study the medical field and fuinjutsu all those years since I became mom's apprentice, you know."

Hiruzen loved hearing that. Plenty of young children claimed to want to be Hokage but very few actually worked towards it beyond simply training as a shinobi. Minato had been one of those very few that understood that wearing the hat and leading the village was not just about throwing powerful and cool jutsu around. It was about politics,

planning, making hard decisions and enduring everything. The critics, the complaints, the burden of the choices made.

'He's really just like Minato in that regard. Oh, Danzo... Your foolish plan may have been what the village desperately needed.'

Hiruzen was about to speak when a red alarm, up against the right wall of the office, activated. It was a new system Kushina and Karin had made to warn the Hokage that someone unknown had infiltrated the village. The two Uzumaki had worked hard to remake and make better the village barrier from Mito's notes and came up with small things like this among others. Riku immediately stood up and activated his Byakugou, channeling nature energy into his body and creating nature chakra. Now in sage mode he sensed his surroundings to detect the intruder or intruders. His eyes widened in realization and he disappeared in a green flash. Less than two seconds later a huge explosion was heard from all around the village.

Hiruzen called for Anbu and looked at the village through the window to see what had happened.

"I want a report yesterday!" he said and threw away his robe to reveal his battle gear. He may be retired but retired or not a shinobi was always ready for a fight.

He opened the window, went outside and went up the wall up to the top of the Hokage tower to have a clear view of what was happening. Despite the huge explosion the village was not damaged in any way. The huge column of smoke in the forest one mile away from it indicated that Riku teleported whatever it was there.

On Riku's side of things he was dealing with a small invasion from every front. Since he killed Deidara before he could unleash his huge explosive jutsu from the top of a clay bird a few seconds ago, Riku was pretty sure that it was Akatsuki coming for a second round. The whole organization this time. Taking a deep breath he focused on his senses to try to discern the enemies among the 15 thousands people present around. He got one with enormous chakra reserves and believed it was Hoshigaki Kisame who was called the 'Tailless-beast' because of those reserves. Not finding others and with the little time he had, Riku flashed away to Kisame's location. He was glad to have incorporated the Hiraishin fully into the barrier's core. It allowed him to teleport anywhere inside the village's barrier. That was how he had flashed right behind Deidara who was flying a hundred feet above Konoha.

When he reappeared, he was right behind Kisame who was swinging around his huge sword and using powerful water jutsu to kill as many people as he could. Riku slashed at the man's head with a wind laced kunai but was dodged.

"Eh! Nice trick but not enough, Kid." said the shark man with a grin on his face. "I'm glad I'm the one to find you, I've been dying to tear you apart after your stunt last time."

“Did we meet before?” Riku replied, feigning remembering the man. “If we did, sorry but I don’t remember. Don’t take it personally though, I just don’t remember weaklings.”

That wiped the smile on Kisame’s face which was replaced by an angry scowl. With a snarl, the tall man charged forward to strike Riku down. The acting Hokage slashed away to reappear in front of the man but crouching down. Kisame’s instincts were good as he had demonstrated a few moments earlier but not good enough to know that Riku would reappear in front of him but not standing. As such the shark man completely missed his swings while Riku cut his legs fully. The akatsuki member fell face first in shock and was dead before hitting the ground, Riku cutting his body more, from the torso to the head, during the fall. To make sure the man stayed dead he made a rasengan in his hand and grind away his head completely. Quickly sealing away the body and the sword in his BoS, Riku went back to sense his surroundings again. He noticed Naruto fighting someone alone and ignored it. With Itachi and Kisame dead, there was little chance anyone would be able to counter him. He focused on the second fight he was sensing and it was not going well. Plenty of shinobis needed healing, some were already dead.

“Shit!”

Teleporting away, he arrived to see what he had sensed. Hiruzen was on his knees, vomiting a huge amount of blood. That much blood meant that he had a serious hemorrhage in either his lungs or his stomach yet he had no wound on his body from what Riku could see. He immediately got to the old man and hit him with his Iryoken to heal him but to his surprise it did nothing.

“Ah! Another cocksucker to offer to Jashin! What a lovely day!”

The akatsuki member that spoke was weird. His skin was all black. Not brown or dark like people from the Land of Lightning but as black as Shizune’s hair. He sported white marking on his face making Riku think of a skull but what was most peculiar about him was the three-bladed scythe stuck into his chest, perforating his stomach, spleen and lung.

“The... circle...” Hiruzen gargled before falling to the ground on his way to take his last breath.

Riku understood immediately that the old man was referring to the ritualistic circle drawn onto the ground and inside which the immortal man was. Flashing right next to him, Riku grabbed him and teleported away to get him out of there. He reappeared not far away and put a chakra and paralyzing tag on him. Quickly he went to Hiruzen and used his Iryoken again. This time it worked. The internal wound began to heal leaving only to deal with the blood that had flooded parts of the body it shouldn’t have.

“I’m sealing you away, I don’t have time to operate now.”

A barely conscious Hiruzen nodded and Riku put him in a sealing crate he unsealed from his BoS before sealing it back in a storage seal. Looking at the shinobis present he gave orders.

“Go to the hospital if you’re wounded and can walk there. If you’re fine, take care of the people in need of help then of our dead. Lock that shitstain up.”

He teleported away to the next location where a fight took place. The battlefield was even more gruesome than the previous one. Kushina and Jiraiya were fighting some kind of weird beasts made of steel strings, attached to a string man. It seems they were able to handle things with the help of other shinobis and Riku began to go from wounded to wounded hitting them with his Iryoken if it was needed and requesting immediate evacuation if more needed to be done.

“Senju-sama!” a Hyuga called out to him. “An army is approaching! It’s Iwa and Kumo!”

“From where?!”

“East and West! They’re a lot sir!”

“Damn it!” *‘How the hell did they pass the border without being noticed? With Konoha being rebuilt inside a crater it would be a field day for those earth specialists to deal with us.’* he thought and quickly made a plan. “Do **NOT** let them enter the barrier! Meet them outside. Fight defensively and be ready to go back under the barrier at any moment. I’ll teleport everyone under it back to the underground bunker, if you’re outside you’ll stay there so be careful! As for me, I need to deal with Akatsuki first. The teleportation won’t discriminate between our people and our foes. It would be a disaster if Akatsuki found themselves inside. I want Nara Shikaku to be in charge of the Eastside. Aburame Shibi on the west side. Tell them that I’d be there soon! Now get away from here, all of you!”

““Understood!”” answered the surrounding shinobi and shushined away on the spot, leaving only Kushina and Jiraiya fighting the string thing.

He needed to be quick. He created a rasengan to which he put his wind nature into it. Bit by bit he compressed the chakra into a marble no bigger than a fingernail.

“MOVE!”

He didn’t have to tell his allies twice. They jumped backward a dozen feet then jumped again and again, barely avoiding the hurricane of chakra and wind that engulfed the enemy and created a twenty meter radius hole into the ground, having shredded everything when the rasengan exploded. Riku knew their opponents were dead when he didn’t sense their chakra anymore.

“Holy crap! That’s a perfect rasengan?!” Jiraiya punctuated his words with a loud and long whistle.

“We don’t have time to gawk. Kushina-san, Kumo is attacking the East. Be there to restrain the eight tails if it shows up. Jiraiya, go to the west.”

“What about you?” the toad sage asked.

“Naruto seems to be struggling with defeating his opponent, so I’ll help him. After that everyone wounded or civilians must retreat under the barrier and be teleported to the bunker for safety. Everyone outside will stay there and fight. So be careful of a flare in the sky. I’ll teleport everyone five seconds afterwards.”

With that said, he left them alone and teleported to Naruto’s location and what he saw baffled him. He knew Naruto was a sentimental idiot but he never imagined that he was in fact completely retarded. He was fighting Sasuke who, from what he was seeing and from his Uncle Tobirama’s notes, had the evolved version of the Sharingan. The mangekyou sharingan, as it was called, was a more powerful version of the Sharingan that unlocked when someone with a fully matured sharingan experienced a very traumatic event. The notes said seeing the death of a loved one would normally do the trick. He knew Itachi had it but he wondered how Sasuke did. The last Uchiha loved only himself and his vengeance so he may have found an alternate way to get it. There was also the possibility of ‘Madara’ giving Itachi’s eyes to Sasuke. Sasuke was wearing an Akatsuki cloak so it wasn’t far fetched.

From what Riku remembered, the mangekyou gave access to immense power at the price of the user’s gradual loss of sight until they became completely blind. The only way to counter that was to implant a close blood relative’s own mangekyou sharingan to make it ‘eternal’ and which gave even more power. The only one his Uncle Tobirama knew to have gotten those eyes was the real Uchiha Madara himself by allegedly stealing them from his younger brother. To Riku, it was just a bullshit kekkei genkai and the epitome of what he believed the Uchiha were all about. Stealing jutsus to get power. For someone who had worked hard almost every day since he unlocked his chakra, the existence of eyes like the sharingan was infuriating.

It wasn’t as infuriating as Naruto trying to reason with Sasuke by going easy on him while their third Teammate, Sakura, was on the sideline watching the two duke it out like children at the playground. With not one but two armies closing in, Riku had no time for this bullshit and flashed right in front of Sasuke who saw in very slow motion his death coming in the form of a fist without being able to do anything about it. His head exploded in a bloody red mist and the rest of the body fell to the ground. A second of silence was all it took for Sakura and Naruto to react.

“YOU KILLED HIM!” shouted the pinkette in a screeching wail that nearly burst Riku’s eardrums.

“I killed a trait-”

The chakra laced punch that hit Riku's face sent him flying twenty feet back. It hurt and burned but Riku couldn't focus on the pain as Naruto, clad in a chakra cloak with three tails was upon him on the spot. He barely dodged the fist by jumping to the side. Shurikens hit his side and he teleported away just before Naruto could land a roundhouse kick on him. He reappeared behind Sakura and hit her neck, knocking her out.

'I'll deal with the bitch-'

"SAKURA!! I'LL KILL YOU!"

Naruto charged Riku again, losing the reason he had left bit by bit by the second.

"ENOUGH! IWA AND KUMO ARE-"

Trying to talk reason back into Naruto had been a mistake. A chakra claw pierced his stomach and began to burn his inside. Thankfully he was in sage mode and the damage was healed just as fast as it was made. With a Kunai laced with chakra he cut off Naruto's arm that was impaling him and kicked him away. He removed the appendage and began to heal the wound at very fast speed while keeping an eye on Naruto who sprung two more tails.

"Fuck me."

The chakra cost to heal himself had been rather heavy, he hadn't used much of it until now. He still needed to fight two armies however and now a furious jinchuriki with five tails. The idea to touch Naruto and teleport him right at the barrier's edge and find a way to unleash him on their enemies crossed Riku's mind but it was way too complicated and dangerous for his own comrades. Naruto may attack them. With no other choice he focused on his chakra and used a jutsu he had not yet tested in battle.

'Wood Release : Laughing Buddha Jutsu'

Two gigantic hands made of wood sprouted from the ground and restrained Naruto who roared in anger not liking this at all. Quickly Riku brought out one of the seals Karin had given him to suppress her if she lost control of the Kubi's chakra and rushed forward to put it on Naruto's head. The effect was immediate and the Biju's chakra disappeared, revealing an unconscious Naruto behind. Not wanting to let both his half brother and Sakura go free for what they did, especially during these dire times, he sealed them both inside his BoS.

"Here goes my plan of Naruto fighting on one side while I fight the other. Shit."

With no time to waste, he created a shadow clone and sent him to the West, while he flashed to the East. Since the village was still standing, Riku believed that the eight tails may not have been among the troops or weren't out fighting yet. Regardless, the East

front was a priority compared to Iwa who had no jinchuriki on their side as far as he knew.

When arrived on location he immediately sent the flare and counted up to five. All leaf-nin retreated if they could but not all of them went through the barrier, choosing to stand and fight because they weren't too injured to do so. At five, he used the jutsu to activate the Hiraishin matrix on the core of the barrier and everyone inside the village was sent to the underground bunker in a green flash. While the teleportation itself was handled by the matrix, chakra wise, its activation used Riku's own chakra. With the distance it took a lot and with having made a shadow clone moments before his chakra reserves were nearly in the red. Things would be simpler if he could lure the enemies inside the barrier but the village was two-thirds rebuilt and he didn't want to have people rebuild it again so soon. It wouldn't have been good for morale. His clone would be fine by eating chakra pills in bulks but he wouldn't and he wasn't sure what chakra he had left would be enough. With no other option he began to take his wooden shurifuin to use the **Shuriken Shadow Clone Jutsu**, when Karin landed next to him.

"Bite me!" she said, knowing what he was about to do and seeing how low his chakra was.

Riku looked at her with thankfulness and apologies in his eyes as he bit her finger instead of her arm. If he had to leave a bite mark on her body it would be as small as possible.

He had stopped using sage mode because of the imbalance such an infusion of chakra would have made with nature energy involved. He felt her chakra go through him and restored his own reserves to the maximum. He loved the feeling and the taste of it. It reminded him of the sea.

"Thank you. Be ready to pick me up after the fight?"

"Of course." she replied with a smile then left.

Riku threw his shurifuins and multiplied them as much as he could. Thousands of them landed on the battlefield. Thankfully they were made of wood and the tips were rounded. No allies were hurt when they were hit by them. Kumo ninjas however were confused and understood what was going on when the back of their lines began to explode. With the chakra Riku had left, he had made as many shadow clones as possible and began flashing away from the back, cutting Kumo's retreat and killing every shinobi he flashed near with a simple touch of his hands. With no way to flee from where they came. Kumo tried to flee forward obstructing their own allies that were not yet aware of what was happening at their back and were busy trying to pierce the sturdy and close line of defense the two thousands leaf-nins had made. Despite being outnumbered two to one they held on as best they could. Kushina using shadow clones and her chains to make barriers had been a godsend and made things easier.

When Riku stopped in front of his comrades, he was alone. All his shadow clones had used all their chakra. While he still had some chakra left the physical and mental exhaustion took a toll on him and he was ready to pass out. When his clones on the West side of the village dispelled too, it was too much and he fell unconscious.

Chapter 59: What happened at the summit?

Konoha had prevailed once again. This time however there were hundreds of casualties on their side and thousands of injured. The loss was nothing compared to Iwa and Kumo who from the report attacked with eight thousand ninja each. Roughly a bit more than Konoha's total military force to which half of it were watching the numerous borders of the Land of Fire. How such a large force made the incursion inside the country without being noticed was a question no one had the answer to.

The good news was that from their knowledge of Iwa and Kumo, their military force was diminished by 70 and 50 % respectively. The village was also mostly intact beyond the original Akatsuki attack. Another good news was that the death toll had been mitigated by the help of the Suna ninjas. The refugees from the sand village had been put in the west side of Konoha and took arms to fight Iwa. After the destruction of their village they were ready to vent their pain, anguish and anger and Iwa troops were the perfect target.

After being dragged inside his Botib by Karin, Riku had recuperated quickly thanks to the Time seal. As such, to everyone he was barely out for a few minutes. As soon as he was rested enough, he brought out Hiruzen from his seal and operated on the man with Karin, removing all the blood that was where it wasn't supposed to be. He exited the Botib afterward; a few seconds later Karin and Hiruzen joined him. The old man was as brand as new and commented that the Time seal was really the ultimate cheat. It would have been nice if Riku had had the time to put them again in the hospital. More people would have survived.

Riku had ordered to strip with dignity every dead enemy shinobis to find any information about this invasion. Something difficult to do because almost all of them had exploded from the inside thanks to Riku's Iryoken.

Most leaf-nins, look at him with respect and with a bit of fear. After the feat he had done less than an hour ago it was understandable. People were already let out of the bunker and Riku made a resounding speech about how again they came up victorious and congratulated every one for doing his part. Telling them that their predecessors would be proud at how much everyone was enduring and moving forward to protect the peace they held dear.

He then let the Military police do its job inside the village and Anbu led the many shinobis tasked to loot the enemies. He and Hiruzen were met by a bloodstained

Koharu and Homura inside the Hokage office. Nobody said a word. Riku sat at the desk and began to search for something, drawer after drawer.

“Ah!Ha!” he exclaimed in victory, pulling a bottle of sake from a double bottomed drawer. He opened it on the spot and drank from it directly. After a few mouthfuls he tossed the bottle at Koharu who caught it. She looked at it for a moment, shrugged and drank too before passing to Himura who did the same and finally Hiruzen.

“...” Riku stood up, opened his BoS and brought out his Botib. “Go in there, clean yourself up and take a rest. There are clothes you can borrow.”

“I’m good.” Homura said, pulling his own BoS and showing it to Riku as he went inside the closet.

“Me too. Plenty of spare clothes.” added Koharu who followed her friend.

A few seconds later they came out.

“Beautiful garden.” the woman commented.

“Thank you. I made it to propose to my fiance.” Riku replied with a smile.

“Lucky young lady. I wish my husband had done that for me.”

“Well... I can sell you a few mokuton tags to make a garden if you want but that's a discussion for later. Now, I would like to talk about what to do. I'm just the acting Hokage. I'm limited in what I can do, you know that, so gathering troops and sending them to fuck Iwa and Kumo is impossible for me. In a minute I'll be open to suggestions because frankly I'm a bit lost here. That aside, their attacks don't bode well for the Gokage summit. I fear that-”

“Hoka... I mean Senju-sama. Hatake Kakashi and Maito Gai have been spotted at the North gate.” An Anbu with a boar mask said as he entered the office and kneel down.

“What about my m- the Hokage?” Riku asked with worry.

“She’s not among them, however they are not alone. Kazekage Temari, her escort but also the Mizukage and hers are with them.”

“... The what now? Why the hell is the Mizukage here?” inquired Riku after blinking his confusion away.

“I don’t know, Senju-sama. They will be here soon.”

“I see... Thank you, Boar, you can go back to your duties.”

The Anbu bowed and disappeared in a whirl of leaves.

“... What the fuck?” he whispered to himself. “Why is she here? If Kumo and Iwa launched an attack here, then they definitely launched an attack there. Not only did they start hostilities inside a neutral country but...”

To the side, the leaders and Hiruzen just looked at him think. More than that, they were observing him minutely.

“...Failed to make an alliance with Kiri. Understandable. Kiri has plenty of kekkei genkai users, despite the years of purge of the Yondaime Mizukage. They're still weak and allying itself with Kumo who is known for wanting bloodlines and using underhanded tactics for that and Iwa who are backstabbing greedy pieces of shit, for the purpose of taking us down is not appealing at all. They would be next once we fell. That put a stop to their isolationism and neutrality. Suna being done for was the perfect opportunity for them to ally themselves with us instead. From their point of view we need them as much as they need us. Or at least they thought that way. If the Mizukage is here she may have witnessed the result of the battle and may change her tune. Still wants an alliance but she'd be more wary of us.” Riku spoke to himself and after a small pause continued. “They should be in the Land Of Iron. The summit started yesterday. If they are here then they use the Hiraishin to come back. Meaning the Mizukage is aware of it.”

“The whole Elemental Nation is aware.” commented Koharu.

“Pardon?”

“Does an Anbu have a recent bingo book?”

A Tori appeared in front of Riku and gave him a small black book then disappeared again.

“You're saying that I'm... Noooo. Really?!”

“See for yourself.” the woman said.

Riku opened the book and began reading. Turning page after page when he saw that the picture on the page wasn't his. He reached page 69 and began to read his own entry.

Name: *Senju Riku (formerly Warudo Riku)*

Title: *Green Death*

Affiliation: *Konohagakure*

Rank: *S (Jonin)*

Skills:

Taijutsu: S

Ninjutsu: S

Genjutsu: Unknown

Bukijutsu: Unknown

Fuinjutsu: SSS

Nature affinities: *Main: Wind, Secondary: Earth (possibly)*

Known Jutsus

: Wind Release: Gale Palm, Wind Release: Great breakthrough, Earth Release: Hiding Like a Mole Technique, Hiraishin.

Supplementary information: Use special shurikens in battle (explosive, smoke, blinding and barriers)

Relations:

- *Namikaze Minato, Yondaime Hokage. (Father, deceased)*
- *Senju Tsunade, Godaime Hokage. (Mother)*
- *Copy-ninja Hatake Kakashi (Teammate)*
- *Green Beast of Konoha Maito Gai (Teammate)*
- *Uzumaki Karin (Jinchuriki of the Kyuubi)*
- *Uzumaki Naruto (Fake jinchuriki of the Kyuubi)*

Known for:

Slaughtered by himself a thousand Iwa shinobis in less than half a minute by using the Hiraishin. Unlike his father, Senju Riku's flash is forest green.

Bounty:

Iwa: 30 Million Ryo

ORDERS: FLEE ON SIGHT

Riku couldn't help himself, he laughed.

"Apparently, I'm rated S in Taijutsu and Ninjutsu! That's... So wrong. I feel like a fraud now. Then again it's Iwa so, meh who cares? I think the cherry on top of the cake is the difference in size font for the Hiraishin in the known jutsu section. They must be traumatized by now. That begs the question, why did they make an assault despite knowing?"

"Maybe they thought you would accompany Tsunade to the Summit." Hiruzen voiced his thoughts.

"That would make sense, yeah."

Riku may be in possession of an army killer jutsu but if he is not present to use it it is useless.

A knock on the door was heard and Riku took a deep breath before allowing entry. Kakashi followed by Gai, then Temari got inside. Behind them was the Mizukage accompanied by a short blue haired spectacle... kid? Riku was a bit confused, but considering his own age he was no one to judge. Especially when he noticed the shark teeth and the sword wrapped in bandage on the shinobi's back. Riku got a flashback of Kisame and thought that odds were in the favor of him being one of the seven swordsmen of the mist. Or the last one since all of them seemed to have defected during the civil war.

"Now that's a bit offensive. It's the first time that a man doesn't devour me with his eyes in a first meeting."

Riku looked from the bodyguard to the Mizukage herself. She was taller than the average woman by a lot. If he had to guess at least 175cm give or take a couple cm. She had long auburn hair reaching her calves which hid her right eye while the left presented a beautiful azur color. Her dark blue dress revealed her naked shoulders to the world and the top of it was made of fishnet that half hid what he believed a nice view of her cleavage. She seemed to be in her late twenties early thirties and was an absolute beauty. Her demeanor was seductive but between Ino's attitude and his mother's beauty, Riku was immune.

"When your mother is the most beautiful woman in the Elemental Nations, your sense of beauty becomes screwed a little bit. As an apology I can spend the day admiring you if that's your wish but I believe we have more important things to discuss. Like introducing ourselves. Senju Riku, Temporary Acting Hokage. This is Sarutobi Hiruzen, Sandaime Hokage and his teammates, Elder Uatatane Koharu and Elder Mitokado Homura. Welcome to Konohagakure, Mizukage-dono. You and your bodyguard."

"This is Chojirou and I'm Terumi Mei. We appreciate your welcome." replied the woman.

“Kazekage-dono, it’s a relief to see you back. You too, Kakashi, Gai.”

Kakashi was already leaning against the wall reading his porn and Gai gave him a nice guy pose, with a smile full of teeth and a thumbs up.

“Now that the introductions are over, can someone fill me in on what happened in the Land of Iron. Kazekage-dono?”

He knew that asking Temari was the safer bet. Kakashi was already zoned out, completely disinterested in the conversation. He didn’t know the Mizukage and her bodyguard (wondering where the other was) and Gai was... Gai.

Temari spoke on the spot. Her team and Tsunade encountered Mei and her team on the road to the summit. Of course there was mistrust between the two groups but nothing happened. They arrived late in the day at the Samurai fortress and were welcome by Mifune who assigned them rooms for the duration of their stay. Onoki of the two scales, the Tsuchikage of Iwa and A of Kumo had already arrived earlier in the day. Talks were supposed to start in the morning. During the night, Mei found a way to meet in Tsunade’s quarters without being caught and revealed to her that Iwa and Kumo had asked for an alliance earlier in the evening. Just as Riku had thought, Mei saw the writings on the wall and requested an Alliance with Konoha instead. So far she didn’t give an answer to either Onoki or A and was considered neutral in these talks and would stay that way unless they acted offensively. Still from Temari’s mouth, Tsunade had come to see her afterwards and shared the content of the conversation. The consensus was to be cautious and act accordingly.

When morning came, A began to talk about Akatsuki, pointing fingers at everyone but Suna for obvious reasons. Onoki ‘opened his mouth’ and laughed at the sand village’s situation or rather its lack of situation since it didn’t exist anymore. He went on with mocking Temari and her people saying that without a village Suna had no business having a kage and no business being at a kage summit. Tsunade intervened and asked if Onoki was present to be a jester or to discuss the terms of his surrender, after all he lost a thousand of his ninjas in trying to finish Suna. A village that by his own terms didn’t exist anymore. ‘Then again Iwa’s ninjas had always been subpar.’

When he heard what his mother had said, Riku almost snorted.

Tsunade didn’t stop there and ignored the outburst of anger from the Tsuchikage. She said that talking about Akatsuki was a bit late now. Konoha had supported Suna for the request of a kage summit almost a year ago to talk about the terrorist organization, the threat they represented and their goal. Yet with the exception of Kiri (which was a lie) no one answered favorably. Now a year later when they have lost their jinchurikis, Konoha wasn’t interested in anything Iwa or Kumo had to say. They defeated half the organization already and if this summit was just a way for Iwa and Kumo to ‘cry like little bitches’ because they didn’t have their weapons anymore while Konoha still had theirs then she was going home.

Things went south from there. A broke the table in front of him ready for a fight and Onoki joked that even if she got out of here alive there was no Konoha for her to return to as they spoke. Both men broke the non-aggression pact and attacked with their bodyguards. The tremor of a huge explosion was felt in the whole fortress and Onoki revealed that it would be their tomb.

After an intense fight with Mei and her entourage siding with his mother and Temari, it was revealed that Iwa and Kumo had come with a thousand thousand troops each. It was less to kill Tsunade and company but more to deal with the samurai forces that would have gotten in the way. Mifune had upped the security like he had promised nearly a year earlier but his men were outnumbered four to one.

Tsunade acted fast and broke the floor everyone was on, separating both sides of the conflict. She told everyone they could bail out in a flash and everyone understood what she meant. Everyone grabbed a member of Konoha's delegation and a flash later they were inside Tsunade's own Botib at the border of the Land of Iron. She apologized to Mifune for what happened but he waved it away saying it was Iwa and Kumo's fault. She led everyone outside and the people not in the know were shocked to learn they had been inside a simple closet. The leader of the samurai wished them good luck and promised an exceptional alliance to deal with both shinobi villages to which Tsunade agreed along with Temari and Mei.

Afterward the ninja got out of the country and made a beeline to Konoha. Once close enough for the Hiraishin of the village to work they used it again and arrived at a location prepared for that kind of arrival.

"I see... Thank you for sharing this information, Kazekage-dono. As you may have seen, Iwa and Kumo did decide to pay us a visit. They liked it so much they stayed to serve and feed the trees. Permanently. Neko, Inu."

Two Anbu appeared in front of Riku in a kneeling position.

"Please, politely escort the Mizukage and her entourage to our diplomatic quarters. Be at her disposition if she needs anything."

"Yes, Senju-sama."

"Mizukage-dono, whatever talk you wish to have, I'm sure it can wait tomorrow. The day is only half over and I'm sure we could all use a bit of rest."

Mei nodded and gave a short nod of salute to everyone in the room before following the two Anbu assigned to her.

"Temari. I already thanked them but I want to thank you for the help your people gave us by fighting Iwa's troops by the Konoha ninjas. There were no casualties and a few

wounded but nothing that can't be fixed from what I've been told. Even though I know you don't need it, please allow Gai to escort you to your destination."

The desert blonde thanked Riku and left the office with Gai in tow.

The only one left was Kakashi and he had already stashed his porn book back into his back pouch. Riku's eyes landed on him and he was blunt with his words.

"Kakashi. Where the fuck is my mother?"

"Well..."

Chapter 60: Consequences

"Where is she?"

"She reverse-summoned herself to Shikkotsu Forest." Kakashi replied to his former teammate.

On the spot, Riku bit his thumb and summoned a small Katsuyu on top of his desk.

"Hello, Katusyu-chan."

"Hello Ri-kun. What can I do for you?"

"Nothing much, just summon my mother here, please."

"No."

"...No? Why 'no'? Katsuyu I'm not..."

"She's undergoing her sage training." revealed the little slug.

"...Now? Of all time?"

"She also said she deserved a vacation from the job and that she had faith that you have everything in hand."

Riku was dumbfounded for a moment, then his anger began to boil the blood in his veins. Just before he could explode, Katsuyu told him goodbye and reverse summoned herself in a puff of smoke. Riku began to take deep, deep breaths to calm himself down. Nobody dared talk.

“Is matricide still illegal?”

“Last time I checked, yes.” answered Kakashi.

“... I’m the acting Hokage, can’t I change-”

“““No.”””

Team Hiruzen answered in unison to Riku’s dismay and he had no choice but to let it go.

“Alright, I’m done with this shit and I need a break. Kakashi, could you find Minato and Kushina, please? I have to talk to them and to you. Thirty minutes at my home. Elders if you would be so kind as to check if the civilians are alright both ours and from Suna. Sandaime-sama, please meet me at my home in ten minutes. I have a personal matter I’d like to talk to you about.”

With that said, Riku disappeared in a green flash and Kakashi left the office through the window.

“What was she thinking?” Homura commented.

“That Riku was ready to take the hat.” replied Hiruzen. “You saw how he dealt with the situations as they were coming one after the other. I wouldn’t have done nearly as good in my prime.”

“Even Anbu... They already see him as the Hokage.” commented Koharu.

“That’s not what I was talking about. I’m not senile yet. I was talking about Tsunade undergoing sage training before she made it back and gave directives or at least words of encouragement. Riku also killed nearly ten thousand shinobi on his own out of the sixteen that attacked us. Ten thousand! The impact on his psych... Tsunade should be present to deal with that.”

“He’s officially the greatest killer in History now.” said Koharu in realization. “Perhaps this is what he wants to talk to you about, Hiruzen.”

“I’m not sure I qualify for such a talk. I’m not sure anyone does.”

With nothing to say anymore, Hiruzen took his leave and made his way to the rebuilt Senju manor. The door was opened and after calling out to Riku but not getting an answer, he let himself in. He found him resting his head in Hinata’s lap on the patio. The bluenette was comforting him with sweet, reassuring words that Hiruzen couldn’t all hear, but it was clear that the action Riku took during the battle was affecting him. The retired hokage had a sense of nostalgia looking at them, remembering his beloved wife, Biwako doing the same for him from time to time, after a very difficult decision he made.

Hinata noticed him and invited him over with a wave of her hand, while telling Riku of his presence. Hiruzen sat down next to them and waited for the dirty blonde to speak. Hinata kissed her boyfriend on the cheek and left the two men alone.

“One of the members of Akatsuki was Uchiha Sasuke. He’s dead.” Riku started with.

“Then the Uchiha are gone for good. I don’t know if it’s a shame or not.”

“If I base my impression on them through Sasuke, then yes. If not... It happened ten years ago. Itachi was a fool to obey Danzo like he did. Regardless, that’s not what I want to talk about.”

“No?”

“No. What I want to talk about is who he was fighting. Naruto and Haruno Sakura. When I arrived at their location, Sakura was watching from the sidelines and Naruto was taking it easy on Sasuke. He was trying to reason with him, to make him come back to the village. With Iwa and Kumo attacking...”

“There was no time for that and you killed Sasuke.” Hiruzen filled in.

“Yes. One fist to the head and it didn’t exist anymore. That’s where everything turned to shit. Naruto attacked me with a three tail cloak.”

Hiruzen didn’t like where this was going and asked preventively.

“Is he alive?”

“He is. Only because I didn’t want to deal with the Kyubi on top of dealing with Kumo and Iwa. While I was busy dodging and telling him he was needed on the front lines, Sakura actively supported him. She threw some shurikens that broke my concentration and were it not for the hiraishin I would have died. I appeared behind Sakura and hit her neck to knock her out and tried again to reason with Naruto. He lost it even more and he impaled me through and through in the stomach with his arm. I cut it, then kicked him away. He went up to five tails. That was... horrifying . I used the **Laughing Buddha Jutsu** and put a biju chakra suppressing tag on him. I locked them both inside a seal. Now the question is...”

“What should you do with them?” said Hiruzen, not being able to hide the sadness in his voice. He always believed Naruto would become great one day. It was reaffirmed when Sasuke had been imprisoned and Naruto accepted it. It was as if his naivety and immaturity were gone. Clearly he had been wrong.

“What they did is treason. Anyone else but me would have died from Naruto’s blow. They attacked a superior officer, tried to murder him. There is also the way they dealt with Sasuke and the fact that their actions technically helped Iwa and Kumo. I don’t

know how many witnessed the fight and I don't know what to do. I was hoping mom would be back to deal with this, it's her job after all but now the decision falls on my shoulders. An unstable and traitorous jinchuriki..."

"Should have the biju extracted. You can't do that, Riku. He's your brother."

"Half and yes I can as the Acting Hokage."

"Ri-"

"I will not, however. Naruto will have his chakra sealed and will be locked up. The same for Sakura. Her career as a kunoichi is over. Naruto on the other hand cannot retire. What I want your advice on is the length of the sentence. Sakura, apart from the shurikens, didn't really... Well she wasn't really a threat. So her sentence shouldn't be long but Naruto?"

"Seal his chakra and put him under house arrest." suggested Hiruzen.

"...You think that the circumstances were...that he wasn't in his right mind so the punishment should be reduced? That won't stand in front of the population."

"Not if you request a psychiatric evaluation."

"That's even worse! A mentally unstable jinchuriki of the Kyuubi? They will want his head!"

"Not if the report shows that it's a result of the village's treatment of Naruto. We can argue that now with his parents in his life and a lot of therapy, Naruto is receiving the help, support and healing he always needed."

"That's... You have too much faith in people. And what about Karin? She's indirectly splashed by his actions except she doesn't have-"

"She has you. She has Ino, and she has Hinata. Three heirs of their respective clan. You alone would be enough. Let's not forget Karin's own actions either. She's popular with the people for being a really good medic and sacrificing herself for the village by taking the Kyuubi inside of her."

Riku sighed, tired of the bullshit.

"House arrest poses a problem. Naruto lives here now. For whatever reason the Namikaze family didn't leave and find themselves a home. That would make things awkward."

"What things?"

Both men turned around to look inside the manor and saw Kushina making her way towards them, followed by Minato and Kakashi. Again Riku sighed. He didn't want to have this conversation but had to.

"Naruto and the two of you living here when he's under house arrest for treason."

Hiruzen facepalmed loudly at the bluntness and lack of tact Riku just displayed. That stopped the three newcomers on their tracks.

"W-what?"

"Naruto wouldn't!" Kakashi said with a bit of anger in his voice.

"I'm sure there is a good explanation for this." Minato for his part was reasonable but there was definitely displeasure in his tone.

Once again Riku took a deep breath and shared what happened during the invasion. Kushina was floored and began crying, Kakashi was mute. Riku believed he was blaming himself for Sasuke's turning the way he did and not curbing Naruto and Sakura's feelings towards their traitor of a teammate. Minato had an unreadable face but Riku discerned disappointment. Was it in Riku or Naruto? Both?

"What's the sentence?"

"MINATO!" his wife screamed.

"Jail for Sakura. After discussing it together, Sandaime-sama made a suggestion and I agreed to it; House arrest with his chakra sealed for Naruto with mandatory therapy. It's not normal that he sees Sasuke as his best friend when Sasuke was anything but. It's not normal for him to focus more on one traitor than on the safety of the village and its people when war is literally at our doorsteps. His attitude towards Sakura is worrying too. Now that I think about it, Sakura will have to undergo mandatory therapy too. Until further notice, Naruto is officially on probation as a shinobi. Sakura's career as a kunoichi however is over. She may work as a doctor at the hospital when her sentence is over, her talent in the field is too great to waste it."

Minato let out a relieved sigh. His youngest son would live. At his side Kushina was relieved too but not very happy with the situation, understandably. Kakashi on the other hand? Nobody could tell what he was thinking.

"I don't know if you're aware but you are his hero. Chances are... he will listen to you." Riku said to his father. "Regrettably, his house arrest can't be done here for obvious reasons."

Neither Minato nor Kushina said anything against it. They understood that it was not their home.

"You can stay until you find a new place to live in. Until then I think it's better if Naruto stays sealed. For everyone and especially him." Riku added, pulling out the page out his BoS with Naruto sealed inside and gave it to Minato. He added some chakra suppressing seals, biju chakra suppressing seals and a Hiraishin to it. "I trust you to put them on him and to keep him inside your home. Should he break house arrest... Then I'm sorry but I won't be able to do anything more for him. Now if you'd excuse me, I need to see what repercussions his actions did for Karin. Kakashi if you could come with me."

Riku stood up, bowed to Hiruzen and left the manor followed by Kakashi.

"I'm sorry, you know."

"For what? Killing Sasuke? Arresting Naruto and Sakura?" The silver haired jonin asked but without any bite or anger in his voice.

"No. They're all responsible for their actions. Each broke your rule in a different way and are now suffering the consequences. I did my duty, I have nothing to be sorry about regarding them. What I'm sorry about is that my doing my duty hurt you."

"Mah~ It's fi-"

"It's not. Denying will only hurt you more in the long run. Especially when you're the type of blaming yourself for things outside your control."

"You don't know that! I could have-"

"You couldn't. Sasuke has been a basket case ever since the academy. Years of untreated trauma led him where he is today. Sakura already had mental problems too back then so did Naruto. Unless you're secretly a trained psychologist, I don't think there was anything you could have done to avoid... this. And frankly, you should see a therapist too. I know I will."

"Why would you?" the cyclops asked, ignoring anything related to him and his team.

"Didn't you hear?"

"Hear what?"

"Iwa and Kumo forces numbered up to 16 thousand. I killed ten thousand of them."

"..."

"I'm pretty sure I'm officially the greatest monster in History of the Elemental Nations. Even Nagato's kill count didn't reach that high when he destroyed Suna."

Kakashi had nothing to say to that revelation. It was too mind blowing to believe it to be true yet he knew it was.

“Here.” Riku said as he stopped and pulled a storage seal from his BoS. “Sakura is inside. I think it would be better if a familiar face was there when she wakes up. Just like I trust Minato and Kushina to do their duty regarding Naruto, I trust you to do the same regarding Sakura.”

It was only then that Kakashi noticed they were in front of the Military Police Headquarters. The meaning was clear for him.

“You don’t have to worry about that.” Kakashi replied. He took the page and went inside the building.

“I’m going to get piss drunk at Yugao’s tonight, you should join!” Riku shouted before leaving.

When he arrived at the apartment of his first crush ever, no one answered when he knocked on the door. The idea that Yugao may have perished during the battle never crossed his mind, so instead he went to the hospital. Six years may have passed but the purple haired kunoichi rarely got out of her apartment if it wasn’t for a girls night out with her friends, training or for a mission. Riku really felt bad that she was just surviving the loss of Hayate and not just living. He wished he could do something but so far he had been too busy or had no idea. Her wish to try and become a jonin sensei had taken a step back for some reason and he always held himself back asking why.

When he entered the hospital and went to the reception desk and asked for his friend's whereabouts. The nurse looked up Yugao’s name on her computer and gave him the number of the room where she was. Riku felt relieved and realized that he had been worried for her for a moment. When he entered the room, she saw her on the bed with a cast on her right arm and leg and a bandage over her eye on the same side.

“Hey.” He said softly, noticing that she was just resting with her eye closed. Eye that she opened when she heard him.

“Hey.” she answered with a weak and tired smile.

He approached the bed and took the diagnosis attached to it. Reading it quickly, he put it back down and came to sit sideways on the edge of the bed. The side which was not injured.

“You’ll be fine.” he said, taking her hand in his.

“I know, the doctor told me. Except the eye. It’s gone for good. The scars around it are permanent too.”

“You’re still the most beautiful Kunoichi I have ever met.”

“I knew you’d say that.” her smile grew bigger.

“Of course, you did. You know I’m an honest man. I tell the truth. If you can’t handle it, that’s your problem.”

That made her chuckle a bit.

“I went to your place to see if you wanted to get shitfaced. Even invited Kakashi. Guess it’s for another time, hm?”

“If you can get me out of here...”

“Oh, I can. But with the state you’re in, I’m not leaving you alone at your flat. It’s Senju manor or the hospital.”

“Or, you bring me inside your Botib, fix my bones and we’re back into the real world in less than a minute.”

“... Alright. But I get to braid your hair.”

“...”

“...What? Isn't that what women do during a sleepover?”

“Shut up and get me out of here.” she said with an amused smile.

Riku didn’t need to be told twice. He picked her up in his arms, and flashed right back home. He brought her to his bedroom and put her on his bed. The one eyebrow raised she had said everything.

“Did you expect me to bring out the Botib while carrying you?” he replied and unsealed the closet from his BoS. He created a clone to find Kakashi and to tell him where they were and Yugao’s situation. Then, he entered the closet and asked where she wanted to go. The garden to rest or the bed?

“You have a garden?”

“Yep. Made for Ino when I proposed. Want to see it?”

“I’d like that very much, yes.”

And so, they went to the garden just like that. She admitted aloud that it was beautiful and she enjoyed the calm and quiet of nature. They stayed seated in the Gazebo in silence for at least an hour when Kakashi came in with a big box full of alcohol.

“Damn it, I feel left out now! I’m the only one with two eyes.” he said, helping his former teammates settle in and passing around the beers.

“You were completely eye-less a few months ago.” reminded Yugao.

“True. And I have two eyes too.”

“You know I wonder if it’s not possible to put a seal that would just... turn on and off your sharingan.”

“Knowing you, possibly.”

“That makes me think. Want one of those Yugao?”

“I’m good, thank you.”

“Rinnegan? Wait no, we don’t have them anymore. Guess we-”

“Wait, wait, wait! What do you mean we don’t have those anymore?” inquired Kakashi, putting down his bottle that was about to meet his lips.

Riku took a deep breath and sighed.

“They’re gone. I think ‘Madara’ took them away during the fight. I left them in the lab to study.”

“You... don’t think that... Akatsuki’s attack and Iwa and Kumo... A diversion to steal them?”

“At this point I’m sure of nothing. Except that they must be the only pair in the world since they were stolen. For now.”

“For now?” questioned Yugao.

“The bit I was to discover was... full of surprise to say the least. The eyes had both cells from the Uchiha and the Senju.”

“... An evolution of the sharingan thanks to the Senju cells?” Kakashi wondered.

“Possibly. I’m not about to remove my eyes for a sharingan for the purpose of testing that.”

“Fair. Still if the mix of both clans could produce the Rinnegan and that only one had appeared... Must be something else to evolve the sharingan.”

The conversation went back to Yugao and what kind of cover she'd used for her eye. A simple eye-patch or a head protector like Kakashi? Apparently she was for the former all the way. They were joined an hour later by a disgruntled Minato. The man had come to tell Riku that they had found a small house not far from here. To everyone's surprise he took a beer and down it in one go.

"Sorry but... I needed that."

"No one's judging here. Our objective is to get shitfaced to forget today. At least I am."

"I can imagine."

"I would if I wasn't on painkillers!" An unhappy Yugao said, drinking apple juice.

"I guess we'll have to do it again then." Riku said with an amused smile making his drinking buddies chuckle.