

Fairy Tail 531

Chapter 531: The New Maids

After giving the loot, he obtained from taking down Danzo, to Porlyusica and taking his shift in the guild's kitchen, Alfonzo did more of what Elicia suggested and took some time to rest. Meaning, he did not train, hold up in his workshop, or do any work, of any kind for the next few days.

Before he took his few days of well-deserved rest, however, he did make sure to send a message, using his iPhone, to every newspaper company in Fiore. And that message was a request for an advertisement. An advertisement that mentioned that he would be hiring some live-in maids.

The advertisement asked that any interested parties show up at his mansion in Magnolia on July fifteenth for screening. And those that fit the criteria, and were found likeable by the mansion's residents, would be hired on the spot. Alfonzo even agreed to pay for any expenses they would incur when moving.

Naturally, the news of the richest man on the continent hiring maids caused quite an uproar. And many women, of all ages could be found making their way to Magnolia over the next few days.

And the day the interviews would take place, July fifteenth, finally arrived. And when it did, there were quite a few women seated in the entrance hall of the mansion floating on the lake, just waiting for their turns to be interviewed.

"Wow! There are a lot more people here than I expected." Marin said while poking her head into the entrance hall to see the turn out.

"Really?" Lucy asked in a confused tone. "But we had more maids than this when I was living with my dad. So, it doesn't look like all that many to me."

Hearing that, Marin could only turn back and look at Lucy blankly.

"Well, in Lucy's defense, her father's estate was quite vast." Erza said. "So, it would not surprise me if what she said was true."

"I mean, I know how big her house was. But still..." Marin replied, still not believing how many maids the Heartfilia employed before the Heartfilia Kanzen went under. "But it didn't look like it needed that many maids."

"To be fair, we probably didn't." Lucy replied with a shrug. "But having that many did make life easy on all of them. I mean, none of them actually had all that much in terms of responsibility."

"I guess that makes sense." Ultear replied. "But it also probably meant that none of them were particularly competent either, right?"

"Probably." Lucy replied while shrugging once again.

"Well, we definitely won't be going that route when we hire the maids who will be working here." Alfonzo said with a smile.

"Yeah, we're all about quality over quantity here.' Elicia added.

"I suppose that would be better than having a throng of maids here." Mirajane said while placing a finger on her chin. " I mean, who wants to see small groups of maids everywhere they look?"

"I don't really care how many you hire." Cana said after taking a swig from a bottle of cognac. "As long as they can recommend me a good bottle of alcohol depending on my mood."

"*Sigh* Then, I guess it doesn't matter who gets hired, huh?" Lucy said. "I mean, you'll drink anything, any time, right?"

"Hmm... Now that you mention it..." Cana replied while seriously considering Lucy's snarky come back.

"You've been awful quiet, Sun." Marin said, poking Sun in the side as she spoke. "You don't have an opinion on this?"

"Not really." Sun replied with a smile while shaking her head. "As long as they're nice, it really doesn't matter to me."

"Anyway, I think we should get these interviews started." Alfonzo said with a smile. "With so many applicants, if we don't get a move on, we'll be here all damn day."

Hearing that, all the ladies nodded in response. Then, Elicia turned her attention to Ikaruga, who was standing by quietly.

"Ikaruga, could you call in the first one, please?" Elicia asked with a smile.

"Of course, Madam Elicia." Ikaruga replied while bowing politely.

On a side note, Shizuka had not yet moved into the mansion. Reluctant to leave Rika, she had been spending as much time with Rika as possible before she moved.

On another note, Saeko, who was present when Alfonzo accepted Shizuka had also been thinking of ways that she could get closer to Alfonzo, as well. Unfortunately, since he had been taking the last few days to rest, her plan to train with him or ask him to go on a quest with her had been put on hold.

Back to the present, the interviews went on for the rest of the day, concluding around nightfall. In the end, the mansion would receive a total of five new maids.

The first was an eighteen year old, slender, red-eyed young woman, standing at 5'2" with long brown hair tied into a pony tail with a long, wavy lock of hair hanging down the middle of her forehead named Maria. According to her, she is proficient in general housework, and hates cockroaches. And from what everyone could tell, she is also highly intelligent.

On top of that, like all the other maids that were hired, Maria has a higher than average amount of magic power. On par with elite B-Class wizards. However, she does not practice any kind of magic. Despite that, she has trained her magic power extensively, using it to empower her body and martial arts if necessary.

Also, Maria happened to be extremely well-learned, despite her young age. So, it was decided, when the children were old enough, she would be their tutor.

The second maid that was hired was a twenty-four year old young woman named Mey-Rin. Standing at 5'5" she had straight, maroon-red hair tied into high pig tails with hazel eyes. Also, she wore a pair of thick, round glasses to help her see things up close.

Although she needed glasses to see up close, Mey-Rin's vision at all other distances was extraordinary. And that did not take into account her [Far-Sight Magic] that let her see things clearly from miles away. And when you combine that with her use of [Guns Magic] and B-Class magic power reserves, she was quite the talented wizard.

As for her skills as a maid, by her own admission, she is not much of a cook. However, she did well enough with other forms of general housework. Though, thanks to her eyesight, she was prone to have accidents. Still, the girls liked her enough that none of them were bothered by that.

Besides, Alfonzo and Elicia were certain that the next maid they hired would be able to help Mey-Rin with any bad habits she might have. Though, they were unsure why she was even in this world. Not that they did not have the same questions about all the other maids they hired today.

The third maid was a tall, thirty-three year old woman, who looked no older than twenty-three, standing at 5'8" tall with a voluptuous figure, long, back-length silver hair that ended in two braids, bangs that covered her forehead, and two long braids that framed her face and rested on her sizeable breasts and were tied off with blue ribbons, and red eyes.

This woman, named Grayfia Lucifuge, used to be the head maid of a famous family from another continent. However, the family fell to ruin after the first son took a position that required him to renounce his family name. And when his younger sister, a lazy, entitled girl eventually took over, she ran the family business into the ground. As a result, all the staff who used to serve that family was forced to find new employment.

And with her qualifications, Grayfia could have landed a job anywhere she wanted, even with most Royal Families. Possessing the magic power reserves of an S-Class wizard and mastery over several different magics, the experience of training an entire staff of servants, and the skills in all areas of housework to make even the most experienced maids feel inadequate, she was among the premier maids on all of Earth Land.

In fact, Grayfia had the qualifications to be anything she wanted. However, because of her love for the maid profession, she chose to be a maid.

Next was a young woman named Ai Hayasaka. Ai was eighteen years old, 5'4" tall with a slim curvaceous figure, blue eyes, and blonde hair that was tied into a side tail on the left side of her head with a blue scrunchie.

Ai was skilled in all aspects of housework, though not to the same level as Maria and Grayfia. Also, she had A-Class magic power reserves, was well-versed in using it to empower her body and was trained in hand to hand combat. She also employed a type of [Stealth Magic] that blurred other's perception of her. And she was also quite good when it came to information gathering.

In fact, her ability to gather information was the reason she decided to apply for the maid position at the mansion. During her investigations, she found out that Alfonzo was the one who invented the iPhones. And as it so happens, Ai has a great interest in all kinds of magical technology.

The last of the maids to be hired was also the youngest among them, at fifteen. She had chin-length black hair with bangs swept to the right and dark purple, almost black eyes with a slim curvaceous figure while standing at 5'1".

Despite being the youngest of all those who were hired, Miyuki was one of the more skilled when it comes to housework. She was raised to be a maid, after all. She was also skilled in self-defense and magic power usage. However, she also had the least magic power among the five, as well, with reserves equal to that of an elite C-Class wizard. And like Maria, she had not learned a type of magic. Instead, she would allow her new master to decide what kind of magic she should learn, as taught by the family who raised her.

Miyuki also applied specifically to be Alfonzo's personal maid. And Elicia actually agreed. She knew that Alfonzo had a tendency to overwork. So, she wanted someone to always be around and keep him from doing so.

After eventually hiring the five maids, everyone was sent home. While most would start searching for another job, Maria, Mey-Rin, Ai, and Miyuki would be returning in the next few days with their belongings to move into the mansion. Grayfia, on the other hand, had all of her belongings with her. In fact, they were in the hotel room she booked before the interview. So, she could move in immediately.

It was also decided that Grayfia would be the mansion's head maid. Though, it was a tough choice between her and Maria, who was equally excellent. However, thanks to Grayfia having more experience, she ended up winning out over the younger girl.

Finally, after a long day of interviewing and hiring potential maids, the mansion's residents, much more exhausted than they expected to be after a day like this, decided to go to bed early. Alfonzo and Elicia were exceptions, though. Despite the fact that they also wanted to go to bed. But someone had to be up when Grayfia arrived with her belongings to let her in, register her with the mansion's defense systems, and showed her to her room.

Luckily, thanks to her mastery over a type of [Storage Magic], she did not need any help moving her belongings.

So, at the moment, Alfonzo and Elicia were sitting together in the living room discussing the maids that showed up today.

"Seriously, what the hell is up with this world?" Alfonzo asked incredulously. "I mean, really... Some of the most iconic maids in anime and manga just became our maids."

"Yeah, I know." Elicia replied. "Hayate the Combat Butler, Black Butler, Highschool DxD, Kaguya-Sama: Love Is War, and Shomin Sample... Though that last one is more of a guilty pleasure anime than anything else. Still, all of them are good at what they do."

"You're right." Alfonzo replied with a nod. "And that's really all that's important. Though, we'll have to be careful with Mey-Rin. She could be pretty clumsy in her source material."

"Oh, I don't think we need to worry about that." Elicia replied with a giggle. "I don't think Grayfia will let things stay that way for long."

"Yeah, you're probably right again." Alfonzo replied with a smile. "Speaking of Grayfia, she's human in this world. That's seriously the weirdest thing I took from today. I mean, when I saw her, I would have guessed she was one of the Books of Zeref that broke away from her core programming or whatever."

Yeah, a human Grayfia really is weird, isn't it?" Elicia asked while tilting her head.

"Yeah, it really is." Alfonzo replied with a nod. "Anyway, Grayfia's almost here. I'll let her in and show her to her room. You should go on to bed. Don't wanna keep the little one up too late, right?"

"I wanna sleep with you tonight." Elicia said in a cutesy tone.

"Okay, then I'll see you later." Alfonzo said before pecking Elicia on the cheek and getting up to let Grayfia into the house.

Chapter 532: Life with the New Maids

A couple of weeks have passed since the maid hiring event took place. And in that time, Maria, Mey-Rin, Ai, and Miyuki have all moved into the mansion. On top of the new hires, Shizuka has also moved into the mansion, as well.

And all the ladies have loved having maids in the house. Especially since they're all Fairy Tail wizards, and most Fairy Tail wizards have a habit of making messes even worse whenever they are involved.

Still, all the new hires seemed to be enjoying their jobs, as well. With Ai trying her best to be around whenever Alfonzo is working in his workshop, and Maria and Grayfia simply enjoying being maids.

Then, there's Miyuki, who shadows Alfonzo almost everywhere he goes. Though, he does find it a little creepy whenever he wakes up and finds Miyuki staring at him. And if he did not know her source material, he would find it even creepier when the first words out of her mouth after he opened his eyes were: "You know, I really wouldn't mind if you never woke up."

The only one of the five new hires who probably was not enjoying their time in the mansion was Mey-Rin. That's not to say that she disliked the mansion or the people living in it. However, she has been getting some pretty strict training from Grayfia to correct her clumsiness. And even Maria has been pitching in to help the silver-haired head maid correct her behavior.

Luckily, Mey-Rin knew that they were only being so harsh for her own good. Otherwise, she would have thought they were bullying her. In fact, she had shake off the feeling that Maria really was bullying her whenever Maria decides to help with her training.

Despite all that, the Marcus Estate has been harmonious ever since the five maids moved in. And with the passage of time, Elicia's due date has been creeping closer and closer. But today was a day like many others. Currently, it was just after sun rise and Alfonzo was waking up around the time he usually does. And like most mornings, he was waking up with a woman, Ultear, clinging to him.

And just as he has come to expect, as soon as Alfonzo opened his eyes, Miyuki was hovering over him and staring intently at his face.

"Hmm... Good morning, Miyuki." Alfonzo muttered groggily. "What time is it?"

"*Sigh* You know, I really wouldn't mind if you never woke up." Miyuki replied in a manner that Alfonzo had gotten used to over the last couple of weeks. "And to answer your question, it's three minutes before half past six in the morning."

"*Yawn~* Why don't you just tell him that you like watching his sleeping face?" Ultear said, cutting into the conversation. "The way you say it makes it sound like you wish he would die in his sleep."

Immediately, Miyuki stood up straight with her cheeks turning a bright shade of red.

"Anyway, since you are awake, Master Alfonzo, you should get up and start getting ready for the day." Miyuki said quickly while avoiding eye contact with either Alfonzo or Ultear.

"*Yawn~* I guess you're right." Alfonzo replied. "I wonder what I should do today. I haven't gone on a quest in a while. Maybe I'll do that."

As he spoke, Alfonzo pulled the blankets off of himself and Ultear to reveal their naked bodies. Then, after separating from Ultear's arms, he swung his legs over the side of the bed and sat up.

Meanwhile, Ultear was debating pulling the blankets back over herself and going back to sleep. However, she also decided to get out of bed. At the same time, as soon as Alfonzo's feet hit the floor, Miyuki handed him a towel so he could take a shower. And despite Alfonzo's whole body being on full display, she did not react in the slightest.

"You know, Miyuki, it amazes me how hard you blush when it's pointed out that you like watching Alfonzo sleep." Ultear said with a smile. "But you don't turn red at all when you see him naked."

As she spoke the last sentence, Ultear, let her gaze roam up and down Alfonzo's body. As she did, she licked her lips as if she saw a juicy piece of meat.

"Mmm! I just can't get enough." Ultear added while continuing to stare shamelessly.

In response, Alfonzo rolled his eyes. Then he stood up and started walking towards his bathroom. Meanwhile, Miyuki's expression did not change in the slightest. Instead, she turned to Ultear after Alfonzo walked past her.

"It's because I am a maid." Miyuki said confidently. "Helping my master with any situation is part of my duty. And becoming flustered should I happen to see his naked body, no matter how delicious it may be, would be quite unbecoming."

Not expecting a response like that, Ultear could not help but open her eyes and mouth wide in surprise.

"Now, if you would excuse me, I must see if my master needs any assistance." Miyuki said as she bowed politely.

A moment later, Miyuki turned on her heels. Then, she followed Alfonzo into the bathroom, leaving the stunned Ultear sitting in the bed by herself.

A second or two later, Ultear snapped out of her stunned state. Then, she could not help but grin.

"That sneaky little girl." Ultear muttered as she, to, began climbing out of bed. "She's just using this opportunity to feel up Alfonzo under the guise of performing her duties as a maid."

After voicing her thoughts, Ultear, still naked, also stood up from the bed. Then, she started moving towards the bathroom to get cleaned up for the day, as well. However, by the time she reached the bathroom door, she was surprised to see Miyuki being pushed out.

"I know this may make me sound like a hypocrite, especially since I started having sex the day I turned fifteen." Alfonzo said while pushing Miyuki out of the bathroom. "But I really don't feel comfortable having a girl as young as you touching me all over while I'm naked. So, why don't you sit this one out, Miyuki. You can change the sheets on the bed, or something. But I think I can handle this by myself."

By the end of his little speech, Alfonzo had succeeded in getting Miyuki out of the bathroom, completely. Then, he went to close the door. However, when he saw Ultear approaching, he opened it again, allowing her to enter with him. And once she was inside, he quickly closed the door.

Meanwhile, Miyuki stood in front of the bathroom door with an impassive expression on her face. However, when she heard the shower turn on, and when she was sure that no one could hear her, she clicked her tongue. Then, as Alfonzo asked, she went to change the bedding on his massive bed.

About half an hour later, Alfonzo, Ultear, and Miyuki arrived downstairs in the dining room where Elicia, who was only up because the baby let her know they were hungry, Cana, Erza, Mirajane, Marin, Sun, Lucy, and Shizuka were seated. Meanwhile, Ikaruga, Mey-Rin and Ai were moving about pouring tea, and alcohol in Cana's case, as would be expected of good maids.

Mey-Rin had even only spilled a few drops of the tea after misjudging the distance. However, she shuddered intensely when she did so. She knew that would land her in more of Grayfia's hellish maid training later on, after all.

"Hey, good morning, everyone." Alfonzo said in a happy tone. "How did everyone sleep?"

"Pretty good." Cana replied with a smile. "Probably not as good as Tear, though. I wonder how many times she tried to get you all wound up before she just passed out last night."

"Shut up, Cana!" Ultear squeaked as her face turned red.

"Seriously, Tear, aren't you getting a little too old for this?" Mirajane asked, her lips curling into a teasing grin as she did so. "You really need to just start telling him how much you wanna be ravaged. Then, the two of you can skip all the games."

"You too, Mira, shut up!" Ultear squeaked once again, her blush intensifying greatly.

"What kind of games are you talking about?" Shizuka asked while tilting her head cutely. "Whenever I sleep with Fonzie, we just go to sleep while hugging each other. Am I missing something?"

Hearing that, the rest of Alfonzo's girls looked at Shizuka in pity. Meanwhile, Mey-Rin was blushing like crazy while Ai's face was showing a hint of red, as well. Ikaruga, on the other hand, did not change her expression in the slightest, having grown used to the way the girls talk when they're at home. Shizuka, on the other hand, had invisible question marks floating above her head.

"Oh, you sweet summer child." Cana said in a tone filled with pity. "Just wait until Fonzie feels like you're ready. Then, you'll understand exactly what we're talking about. And you'll love it."

"*Sigh* I hope it doesn't happen too soon." Elicia said in a wistful tone.

"Why would it matter when it happens?" Lucy asked curiously.

"Yeah, you'll definitely be there to watch, anyway." Ultear added as her blush faded. "If you have to, you'll even come from a different town to do so."

With that statement, Alfonzo, Ultear, Marin, and Sun could not help but think back to the night when Ultear and Sun lost their virginities and how Elicia's "Fonzie Sense" alerted her that "something fun" was happening.

"*Sigh* I almost forgot about that night." Marin said while smiling nostalgically. "I avoided Fonzie, Lici, and Tear for a while after that. So embarrassing."

"But everything is okay now, right?" Sun asked cheerfully. "We can even all have fun together."

Hearing Sun's forever positive and upbeat tone, everyone in the dining room smiled. Though, Mey-Rin and Ai's blushes intensified at the implication.

"But seriously, I'm with Lucy on this one." Cana said after taking a sip of an Irish coffee. "Why does it matter when it happens, Lici? You'll definitely be there to watch, right?"

"*Sigh* Because if it happens too soon, I'll only be able to watch." Elicia replied in a forlorn tone. "But if it happens a couple months after the baby is born, I can join in, too."

In response, Cana, Ultear, Mirajane, Marin, Sun, and Lucy sighed in unison while thinking about Elicia's fetish. Meanwhile Erza, who felt no shame at having others present for her first time, was completely

unbothered. Shizuka, on the other hand, found herself even more confused. At the same time, Alfonzo was looking around the dining room after realizing a couple of people were missing.

"By the way, where are Grayfia and Maria?" Alfonzo asked curiously.

"Oh, they said they were gonna start cooking breakfast." Erza replied.

Immediately, Alfonzo's aura changed and he narrowed his eyes.

"I see." Alfonzo said as he started taking large steps towards the kitchen.

Meanwhile, the ladies looked at him in surprise after his demeanor changed. At the same time, Miyuki followed Alfonzo into the kitchen.

"Uh oh~." Elicia intoned. "Fonzie looks pretty serious."

"Do you think he feels challenged?" Ultear asked as she took a seat at the table before Ai poured a cup of tea for her.

"I wouldn't think so." Erza replied. "If I had to guess, he probably wants to see if they are up to his standard."

"That makes sense. I mean, ever since we hired the new maids, Alfonzo has done all the cooking." Mirajane said in a contemplative tone. "Grayfia and Maria, who love the work of a maid so much, probably feel like part of their duties have been taken away."

"Well, Fonzie is very particular about the food served in his home." Elicia replied with a shrug. "So, can you really blame him?"

In response, all the other women in the dining room shook their heads. They had all fallen in love with Alfonzo's cooking, after all. Even Mey-Rin and Ai, despite being maids, could not imagine living on someone else's cooking after only a week and a half, or so.

Meanwhile, in the kitchen, Alfonzo stood back and watched Maria and Grayfia cook. And just as Erza surmised, he was only there to see what standard they were at. He had no intention of interfering, though. But if they were not up to snuff, he would make sure they never had the opportunity to cook in his kitchen again. Not while he was in the house, at least.

At the same time, Miyuki stood by Alfonzo's side and compared her own cooking techniques to Maria's and Grayfia's. And when she realized she was about on par with them, she nodded to herself in satisfaction.

Eventually, Maria and Grayfia finished cooking breakfast, an egg and cheese omelet, link sausage, home fries, and grits, for everyone. Then, after plating everyone's food, putting it on a couple of platters, and cleaning up their work space, they prepared to serve breakfast for everyone.

At that point, Alfonzo was satisfied with what he saw. So, he, with Miyuki following behind him, left the kitchen and returned to the dining room before taking his seat at the head of the table, with Miyuki standing behind him, after pouring him a cup of tea.

A few moments later, Maria and Grayfia, each carrying a platter filled with plates and glasses of orange juice, entered the dining room. At the same time, the other four maids, Ikaruga, Mey-Rin, Ai, and Miyuki, each moved to take plates from the platters before setting them down in front of the nine people sitting at the table.

Then, once all the meals were served, all six maids took up positions that would allow them to best serve their master and mistresses.

Meanwhile, Alfonzo and the girls picked up their silverware once the food was served. Then, after a quick prayer, they all began to eat. And after taking the first bite, everyone stopped to evaluate the food.

"This is better than I expected." Cana said in a surprised tone.

"Yeah, it's even better than that girl, Erina, Fonzie hired a couple years ago." Marin added as she cut another piece of her omelet.

"Yeah, she was about eighty percent as good as Alfonzo." Ultear said. "But this is at least ninety percent as good."

"Maybe even more." Mirajane said before taking a bite from the sausage skewered on her fork.

"Indeed." Erza added with a nod. "They truly are quite talented. I wonder how good they are at baking. I'm curious to know how good their strawberry shortcake will be."

"They're definitely better than any maid or cook that worked in my old house." Lucy said while shaking her head. "Quality over quantity really is the way to go, I guess."

"It's really yummy." Shizuka said happily. "But Alfonzo's cooking is yummier."

Sun, on the other hand, only hummed while she continued to eat. However, she did nod her head to everyone else's comments.

At the same time, Maria and Grayfia could not help but twitch their eyebrows every time their cooking was compared to Alfonzo's. They would be the first to admit that Alfonzo was truly a wizard in the kitchen, especially after only eating his cooking for the past week and a half, or so. But their pride as maids still took a hit every time they were told they were worse cooks than the man they were hired to serve.

Meanwhile, the only one of the ladies who had yet to give their opinion on Maria and Grayfia's cooking, Elicia, continued to eat in silence. However, ever since she took her first bite, her gaze stayed glued on Alfonzo, who also continued to eat in silence.

"So, what's the verdict, Fonzie?" Elicia asked with a smile in a curious tone.

Swallowing the bite of food in his mouth, Alfonzo picked up his napkin and wiped his mouth before replying to Elicia.

"They pass." Alfonzo replied calmly while smiling gently.

Hearing that, Maria and Grayfia released a breath they did not even know they were holding since Elicia asked her question.

"To be honest, I never really questioned their skills in the kitchen." Alfonzo continued, surprising the two maids. "But... With Lici pregnant, I guess I was just a little too cautious. I wanted to make sure she got all the nutrition she and the baby needed. So, I made sure to do all the cooking. But after this meal, I know that her meals are in good hands."

With that said, Alfonzo smiled at Maria and Grayfia, who bowed their heads in gratitude. Then, Alfonzo continued.

"But if Lici hadn't been pregnant, I wouldn't have cared about their cooking standards, to be honest." Alfonzo said with a shrug. "I mean, with Mira the only one among you that can make anything edible, it really wouldn't have mattered how well they cook. As long as it could be eaten."

Immediately, most of the girls looked away in response. However, they did not retort. Instead, they started eating with even more fervor.

Eventually, Breakfast came to an end. And while Alfonzo and the girls left for the guild to train, with Miyuki and Ikaruga following along, as Alfonzo's and Elicia's personal attendants, respectively, Maria, Mey-Rin, Grayfia, and Ai cleaned up the dining room and went about their duties around the house.

Chapter 533: Amar'e Marcus

"Cucucu!" A man with snake-like features laughed after hearing a report from his most useful subordinate. "So, you're telling me that one of the coming Chunin Exams will be held in the Village Hidden in the Leaves? And it will be held jointly with the Village Hidden in the Sand?"

"Yes, Lord Orochimaru." The snake-like man's, Orochimaru's, subordinate, Kabuto Yakushi replied while bowing politely.

"Excellent." Orochimaru replied with a devious smile on his face. "This will be the perfect opportunity to get my revenge on both Sensei and the village. Cucucu."

After they were freed from prison by Junko, along with Mayuri Kurotsuchi and Nemu, Orochimaru and Kabuto fled the Kingdom of Fiore. And while Mayuri and Nemu returned to their home continent, the two rogue ninja set up a series of hideouts in Bosco, a country bordering Fiore to the north. On top of that, Orochimaru has been recruiting subordinates, mostly missing nin from the different Hidden Villages, along with the occasional traditional wizard, as well.

"What are your orders, Lord Orochimaru?" Kabuto asked respectfully.

"I want you to send a message to the Kazekage." Orochimaru replied. "Tell him I'd like to meet and discuss an alliance against the Leaf."

"Are you sure they will accept?" Kabuto asked skeptically. "The Leaf and the Sand are supposed to be Allies, after all."

In response, Orochimaru scoffed before looking away.

"The only reason the Sand signed an alliance treaty with the Leaf was because if they didn't, they would have been completely wiped out in the last war." Orochimaru said disdainfully. "So, I'm sure they would be interested in returning the favor. And with that arrogant fool, Rasa as the new Kazekage, I'm sure it won't take much in the way of convincing to get him to agree with my plan."

"Understood." kabuto said, still speaking in a respectful tone.

With that, kabuto finally straightened up. Then, he turned around, preparing to leave and draft the message to send to the Village Hidden in the Sand. However, just before he left the room, he heard Orochimaru speak once again.

"It's too bad Kimimaro and Guren were lost back then." Orochimaru said in a wistful tone. "They would have been quite useful in killing Rasa. *Sigh* Now I'll have to come up with another way to do it without being discovered."

Although his tone said that he regretted the loss of two of his subordinates, Kabuto knew Orochimaru well enough to know that he was only regretting the fact that he could no longer use them.

"Perhaps, I might have a suggestion to solve that issue, Lord Orochimaru." Kabuto replied, stopping before he left the room.

"Hmm?" Orochimaru intoned, his eyes urging Kabuto to continue.

"Perhaps we should contact the woman who aided our escape from prison." kabuto said. "Though it may cost us, I'm sure she would relish in the opportunity to cause chaos and despair."

Hearing that, Orochimaru's devious smile widened. Then, he shot an approving gaze in Kabuto's direction.

"I truly am grateful that you were brought in alive, Kabuto." Orochimaru said. "Cucucu. It truly would have been a shame if I had lost you."

"You honor me with your praise, Lord Orochimaru." Kabuto said, once again bowing respectfully as he did so.

With that, Kabuto was finally allowed to leave the room, leaving Orochimaru alone.

"I'll be able to complete more than one goal with this plan." Orochimaru said to himself. "Not only will I be able to kill Sensei and destroy the village, but I'll be able to get my hands on the perfect vessel, as well. I may have failed to get my hands on you, Itachi, but you left an even better vessel in the village for me. And once he is marked with my [Cursed Seal of Heaven], it will only be a matter of time before he comes to me of his own volition. Cucucu."

Earth land, Ishgar, Kingdom of Fiore, Magnolia.

At the same time, Alfonzo, Elicia, Shizuka, Ikaruga, and Miyuki were at the hospital in Magnolia. Porlyusica had also come to the hospital, as well. Currently, they were in the maternity wing of the hospital, as Elicia would be giving birth today. However, she would not be giving birth by natural means. Instead, she would be having a C-Section.

And although Elicia really wanted to give birth naturally, she was advised not to do so by both Porlyusica and Shizuka. The reason? Alfonzo and Elicia's baby was expected to be more than eleven pounds at birth. And once Elicia heard that, she stopped protesting immediately.

So, Elicia was currently in a delivery room with Porlyusica and Shizuka while Porlyusica performed the C-Section and Shizuka assisted her. Meanwhile, Alfonzo, who had been thrown out of the room, was sitting with the two maids and waiting to hear the cry of his first born child.

"Are you okay, Master Alfonzo?" Miyuki asked after seeing Alfonzo sitting in the waiting area with his head lowered. "There is no need to worry, with Miss Porlyusica and Miss Shizuka in there, Mistress Elicia will be fine."

"Yeah, I'm alright." Alfonzo replied while trying to calm himself down. "I'm just really fucking excited."

With that said, Alfonzo raised his head while smiling brightly.

When they saw Alfonzo's smile, Ikaruga and Miyuki were both taken aback. They expected Alfonzo to be a bundle of nerves from having to wait. But he was so excited, neither young woman knew what to think.

Seeing Ikaruga and Miyuki's shocked expressions, Alfonzo dialed back his excitement a bit.

"I know what the two of you are thinking." Alfonzo said while still smiling, though not quite as brightly. "Yeah, I'm nervous. I mean, I'm about to be a father. I have no idea how I'll do. But I'm not scared. I know Lici will be fine. I mean, the best doctor in the world is performing the procedure. So, what is there to worry about?"

Seeing how much Alfonzo trusted Porlyusica, Ikaruga and Miyuki could only nod their heads in understanding. However, before the two maids could respond to Alfonzo's speech, the quiet atmosphere of the hospital was broken.

"Fonzie! We're not too late, are we?" Cana, who had been reporting a completed quest to Ur when she got the call that Alfonzo had taken Elicia to the hospital, shouted as she came running down the hall.

"No, you're not late. Alfonzo replied with an awkward smile. "You should probably keep your voice down and stop running in the hospital, though."

When Alfonzo gave his advice, it was not only meant for Cana. Because Ultear, Erza, Mirajane, Marin, Sun, and Lucy were following her quickly. However, it was not just his fiancées who were storming through the halls of the hospital, either. Accompanying them were Gildarts, Ur, and all of their friends from the guild who were not away on quests.

Meanwhile, there were several nurses chasing the wizards of Fairy Tail while repeatedly asking them to be quiet and not to run. Naturally, they were completely ignored.

"Oh, yeah, I guess we should be quiet in a hospital." Ultear muttered in an embarrassed tone.

"Anyway, where is Lici?" Marin asked curiously. "And why aren't you in the delivery room with her?"

"Because she's having a C-Section." Alfonzo replied. "And Porlyusica kicked me out."

"Seriously?" Ur asked in a shocked tone. "Just how big is your baby gonna be?"

"Well, Porlyusica said it would weigh more than eleven pounds."

Hearing that, all the parents in the guild were dumbfounded. Those without children, however, were also amazed. Though, not nearly as much as the wizards with children.

"That's insane." Macao muttered. "Romeo only weight 7 and a half pounds when he was born. Yet, Enno said she felt like she was carrying a-whole-nother person for months. I can only imagine how Elicia must have felt."

"Yeah, and I haven't heard her complain even once.' Mirajane added. "She never really had any mood swings or morning sickness, either."

"And that just proves that Lici is built different.' Cana said, sounding proud of her best friend.

"Yeah, she didn't even scream when she got hit with Cana's [Super Nova] spell two years ago." Ultear added.

"Now that you mention it..." Cana muttered, stopping to remember that fight.

"It's true." Erza added with a nod. "Elicia truly is strong in both body and heart."

"Wahh~~~~~!"

Before the conversation could go on any longer, however, the sound of a crying newborn could be heard from behind the door opposite the crowd of Fairy Tail wizards. And before anyone could react, Alfonzo was covered in violet arcs of electricity before he vanished from in front of everyone and reappeared in front of the delivery room door.

Despite his eagerness to slam the door open and enter the delivery room, Alfonzo somehow managed to keep himself in control and waited for either Porlyusica or Shizuka to open the door and let him in. Unfortunately, the wait took longer than he expected. And that was because Porlyusica was stitching up the incision from the C-Section.

But the door was eventually opened before too long. And when it was, Porlyusica was standing in the doorway with her ever-present scowl. However, when she saw Alfonzo's expression filled with anticipation, she let a small smile make it onto her lips.

"Congratulations, Alfonzo, you're the father of a healthy baby boy."

Alfonzo smiled brightly at Porlyusica's announcement. A moment later, she stepped aside, allowing him into the delivery room to see his wife and son. Naturally, the members of the guild tried to follow him inside, as well. However, before they could enter, Porlyusica, with her usual scowl back on her face, stepped forward to block their path.

"Hey, we wanna see the baby, too!" Natsu shouted.

Immediately after his shout, Natsu ducked his head when Porlyusica glared in his direction. Then, Porlyusica let her glare sweep over the rest of the wizards, causing the others to duck their heads, as well.

Eventually, Porlyusica raised her hand. Then she pointed at a few of the wizards present.

"You, you, you, you, and you." Porlyusica said, pointing at Cana, Marin, Sun, Ur, and finally Gildarts as she spoke. "You five may enter. But the girl needs rest. So, you can't stay for long."

Hearing that, Cana, Gildarts, Ur, Marin, and Sun all nodded their heads in understanding. Meanwhile, the rest of the guild, especially the rest of Elicia's harem sisters, were disappointed. However, they did understand that Elicia had to be tired after just giving birth.

However, before Porlyusica allowed the five to enter, she glared at Gildarts as hard as she possibly could.

"As for you." Porlyusica said in a stern tone while continuing to glare at Gildarts. "I know you were friends with those two's parents. That's the only reason I'm letting you in, despite your habit of breaking anything and everything you come in contact with. But if you break anything in this room or do anything to cause the girl any undue stress, you won't like the consequences."

In response, Gildarts shuddered. He knew that was not an idle threat. And it scared him. For some reason, despite the passive amount of magic power he releases, not one of Porlyusica's brooms has ever been destroyed when she swung it at him. On top of that, they've always hurt much more than the worst pain he's ever felt. Even when he lost an arm, leg, and had his stomach ripped apart by Acnologia could not compare.

"I understand, Miss Porlyusica." Gildarts said with his back straight as an arrow.

Porlyusica continued to glare at Gildarts skeptically. However, she did eventually let him and the other ladies into the room. And when they eventually entered, what they saw was Shizuka smiling at Alfonzo and Elicia. Meanwhile, Elicia, who was barely conscious thanks to the anesthesia, was smiling up at Alfonzo, who was holding the newborn baby with a smile on his face and tears in his eyes.

The new born was small, especially when compared to Alfonzo. Yet, he had features that favored both Alfonzo and Elica. However, since his eyes were still closed, it was impossible to tell whose eye color he inherited. Still, that did not take away from the newborn's cuteness.

"Thank you... Thank you, Lici.... Thank you so much." Alfonzo muttered over and over while looking into his son's face.

Seeing how excited Alfonzo was about his first born, Cana, Gildarts, Ur, Marin, and Sun could not help but be happy for him. Sun even started crying along with Alfonzo. Then, they approached the new parents.

"Elicia, how are you feeling?" Ur asked as she reached Elicia's bedside and took Elicia's hand gently.

"Tired..." Elicia replied without taking her eyes off her husband and son. "Tired.... but oh so blessed."

"O.M.G. He's, like, super-duper cute!" Marin squealed as she approached Alfonzo and the baby.

"Uh huh!" Sun intoned while nodding emphatically. He looks just like the two of you."

"Yeah, the kid is probably gonna be a heart breaker just like his old man when he grows up." Gildarts added with a grin. "I bet Hughes is gonna be really wary of the kid when he gets older, despite the fact that little Elicia is, like, eight years older than he is."

Hearing that, Alfonzo, Elicia, Cana, Ur, Marin, and Sun could not help but giggle.

"I want a baby, too." Shizuka muttered while continuing to stare at the newborn in Alfonzo's arms.

That caused the room to fall silent. However, Cana, Marin, and Sun were all thinking the same thing after seeing Alfonzo and the baby. Even Ur glanced at Gildarts for a moment.

"Well, at least her baby will never go hungry." Cana muttered while staring at Shizuka's breasts. A moment later, she shook her head to rid herself of those thoughts, then she turned her attention to Alfonzo and Elicia as she continued. "Anyway, what's his name?"

"Now that you mention it, you never told us what you would name him." Marin added.

"That's because they never found out if it would be a boy or a girl." Gildarts said.

"So, now that you know, what's his name?" Sun asked excitedly.

"I wanna know, too." Shizuka added after snapping out of her daze and starting to clean up the tools used for the C-Section procedure.

Even Porlyusica looked at the new parents in curiosity.

Hearing their questions, Alfonzo finally looked away from his son's face. Then, he turned his attention to Elicia.

"Well, what's his name, Lici?" Alfonzo asked, sounding just as curious as everyone else. "We agreed that if it was a girl I would name her and you would name a boy, right? So, what you got?"

For a moment, Elicia's exhaustion seemed to be blown away. Then, with the brightest smile anyone had ever seen, and considering how often Elicia smiled, that was saying something, she opened her mouth to reply.

"His name is Amar'e... Amar'e Marcus." Elicia said proudly. "Now, let me hold my baby."

Smiling in return, Alfonzo once again looked at his son, Amar'e.

"Well, Mommy has spoken." Alfonzo said gently.

Then, he carefully handed Amar'e to Elicia, who, despite her exhaustion, held him steadily.

With that, they continued to chat for a short while. However, Cana, Gildarts, Ur, Marin, and Sun were eventually asked... or rather, ordered to leave by Porlyusica so that Elicia could get some rest. Alfonzo stayed for a while longer. However, visiting hours eventually ended, and Alfonzo was asked to leave as well. Meanwhile, Amar'e had already fallen asleep in Elicia's arms after being fed. And Elicia, after letting Porlyusica put Amar'e in a bassinette, fell asleep as well.

Chapter 534: Heading Back to the Village Hidden in the Leaves

Around two and a half months have passed since Amar'e was born. And his birth brought a wave of positive feelings to the wizards of Fairy Tail. Everyone was excited to meet the newest member of their family and enjoyed playing with the little bundle of joy.

Especially Little Elicia. She had decided that she would be Amar'e's big sister. So, she tried her best to teach him everything she knew about everything.

Naturally, this put Maes on guard. However, since Amar'e was only an infant, there was nothing he could do. Besides, he knew if he let his overprotective nature get out of control, he would have to deal with Alfonzo and Elicia. And even worse than the two of them, he would have to deal with Gracia.

Meanwhile, while taking care of Amar'e, Elicia, during her recovery from child birth, began practicing the magic power control exercises from the Village hidden in the Leaves that Alfonzo had stolen and copied from Danzo's base. And when she found out how easy it was to walk on walls and water with the assistance of her magic power, she was completely dumbfounded.

As it turned out, she could have been doing that for years. Her magic power control was far more advanced than what was necessary. However, since she never equated magic power to chakra, she had never tried it.

Along with the magic power control, Alfonzo, Elicia, Ikaruga, and Irene also spent a lot of time working on the hand signs employed by the shinobi. However, instead of using them to cast the Jutsu they learned from the village, they studied how the magic power in their bodies moved when they performed each hand sign. That way, they would be able to cast Ninjutsu and Genjutsu without using the hand signs.

On a side note, even though he was not supposed to teach anyone other than the four who first traveled to the Village Hidden in the Leaves, Alfonzo also taught Laki some of the stuff he learned from all the information in Danzo's record room. Namely, all the [Wood Style Ninjutsu] Danzo had records of.

And Alfonzo could not wait until Laki had mastered all of it. Though, she probably would not be able to use the [Sage Arts] the First Hokage, Hashirama Senju, was known for, he could see her putting her own spin on all of his Jutsu. Especially since even before learning [Wood Style Ninjutsu], she had managed to use [Nativity of a World of Trees] on her own.

Training was not the only thing the wizards of Fairy Tail did after Amar'e's birth, however. The Harvest Festival had come and gone, as well. And like the year before, the Thunder God Tribe claimed victory in the Battle of Fairy Tail Tournament. Also like the year before, they were not satisfied with their victory, as Team Steel Threads did not participate in the tournament.

The miss Fairy Tail Pageant also took place earlier in the day. And this time, perhaps thanks to her fame after winning the Miss Fiore Pageant, Mirajane won. And as soon as she did, she walked up to Alfonzo and told him that she wanted to get married soon.

However, Mirajane was not the only one. Ultear, Marin, Lucy, and even Shizuka, made the same request. So, it was decided that Alfonzo would hold a grand, five-way wedding with them next year.

On top of the Miss Fairy Tail Pageant and the Battle of Fairy Tail Tournament, the Fantasia Parade also occurred on the day of the Harvest Festival. And like every year, it was a great success. And this year, Alfonzo and Cana, who had gotten married at the end of last year, were chosen to be the King and Queen of the Fairies. And all the members of Fairy Tail were grateful for it.

With Cana acting as the Queen of the Fairies, she had much fewer opportunities to break anything. So, there was a lot less work for the rest of the guild during the parade prep stage.

Then, the day after the Harvest Festival, Alfonzo finally married Erza and Sun. And like his other two weddings, the ceremony and reception were held in the mansion. Also like other years, Alfonzo sang during the two first dances.

For Erza's dance, Alfonzo sang "Let's Stay Together" by Al Green. Though, that caused their first dance to be a little faster paced than usual. However, that did not seem to bother Erza, as she danced rather enthusiastically.

The highlight of the evening, however, was the song Alfonzo sang to, or rather, with Sun. The two, both accomplished singers, sang a duet during their first dance. And the song was "spend My Life With You" by Eric Benét and Tamia.

The reception went on for hours after that. And Amar'e was the life of the party. Everyone wanted a chance to hold him. And Amar'e seemed to enjoy the attention. However, as an infant who was only a few days older than two months, he eventually fell asleep and was put to bed and cared for by the maids.

After the reception, Alfonzo began preparing for his return to the Village Hidden in the Leaves. And on the first of November, the day to return finally arrived. This time, instead of bringing Elicia, Ikaruga, and Irene, Alfonzo brought Wendy, Saeko, and Rika. And as his personal attendant, Miyuki was also allowed to come with them, as well.

Although Alfonzo was only allowed to bring three additional people with him due to the rules stipulated by the village, he was allowed to bring an additional person because Hiruzen had requested that Wendy come along. So, Miyuki was added to the roster. On top of that, Carla also came, as she went everywhere that Wendy went.

And now, the group of six were standing around the S 600 and waiting in the Valley of the End for their escort from the village. And the reason for that was simple. Despite the fact that Alfonzo knew the way to the village, Hiruzen still wanted to keep it a secret from the others. So, like last time, everyone other than Alfonzo would be blindfolded.

"Are you sure they asked me to work at the hospital, Alfonzo?" Wendy asked, a bit nervous because of the responsibility she would have during this trip. "I mean, I'm not that good at healing."

"Calm down, Wendy." Alfonzo said while smiling gently and rubbing Wendy's head. "You've been helping in the infirmary at the guild, haven't you? And we've all seen how much you've improved over the last two years, or so. You'll do fine."

Because of Alfonzo's head patting, Wendy lowered her head with a blush on her face. And despite what it looked like, Wendy had not developed romantic interest in Alfonzo. She was only blushing because Alfonzo was still treating her like a child.

In the last few years, Wendy had not grown much. From 4'11" when she was 12, Wendy, now fifteen, had grown to 5'1". And she was still as petite as ever. Though, she had filled out her frame a little more. She had also developed more feminine curves. She had also started wearing her long blue hair in twin tails. In all, she had grown into quite the beautiful young woman.

Smack!

Seeing how embarrassed Wendy was, Carla, who was still the same size as she had been since the day she met the wizards of Fairy Tail, flew up and slapped Alfonzo's hand away from Wendy's head before landing and standing in front of Wendy protectively.

"Alfonzo is right, Wendy." Carla said while glaring at Alfonzo like a mother lion protecting its cubs. "You've improved a lot. You just have to believe in yourself like the rest of the guild does."

After the slight falling out Wendy and Carla had at Mermaid Heel's Headquarters and the subsequent heart-to-heart, Carla had lessened her overprotective nature towards Wendy. However, she was still hellbent on keeping Wendy from getting too close to Alfonzo... except for during meal time, that is.

Carla, though not in stature, had also grown quite a bit in the last few years. She had taken it upon herself to learn [Transformation Magic from Panther Lily. With her new magic, Carla had gained the ability to take a human form. However, because of the limited space in the magic vehicle combined with the fact that it used quite a bit magic power, Carla remained in her little cat form most of the time.

Still, she had trained in magic power and magic power usage extensively. So, she was now able to help Wendy when she took quests without the rest of Team Natsu. And the two have become even closer than before thanks to their shared adventures and struggles as wizards.

"Carla's right." Saeko said with a smile. "There were a few times that I would have ended up seriously injured if you weren't at the guild when I came back from a quest. You have truly become quite the accomplished healer and magic doctor, Wendy."

"Yeah, you've helped my team more than a few times, too." Rika added. "I don't know if Kohta would still be alive if it weren't for all the times you've healed him."

Like Rika said, Wendy had healed Kohta more than a few times after he returned from quests with Alzack, Bisca, and Rika.

Over the years, Kohta and Rika had been accepted as part of Alzack and Bisca's team, as they were both skilled in the use of magic guns. However, Kohta often ended up injured because he had been training with Rika in the ways of a knight from the Special Forces Unit. Meaning, Rika had trained Kohta in weapons other than magic guns. So, he often fought on the front lines with a spear or sword. And due to his inexperience in real fights, he had been injured quite a few times, some of those injuries being rather serious.

On a ppositive note, Kohta had lost a lot of weight over the last two years. And although he was not as fit as someone like Gray or Natsu, he was much slimmer. Though, that did have a downside, as well. For example, he spent a lot of money on smaller clothes. Not to mention getting replacements for all the clothes that were damaged on quests.

Hearing the encouragement from the others, Wendy clenched her fists in front of her chest while putting on a determined expression.

"I'll do my best." Wendy said quietly. "I won't let the guild down."

Seeing that, Alfonzo, Saeko, and Rika smiled at the younger girl. Meanwhile, Carla nodded her head in approval. Miyuki, on the other hand, looked towards the forest.

"master Alfonzo..." Miyuki said. "There are four people approaching."

After hiring Miyuki and the other maids, Alfonzo had made a point of teaching them [Magic Power Detection]. And thanks to their training in magic power control and usage, they all learned it quickly. They were all adept in its usage, as well. And Miyuki, who had activated her [Magic Power Detection] ever since the group exited the S 600 had just picked up some unfamiliar magic power signatures.

"I know." Alfonzo replied, though he did not seem to be concerned at all.

Not only Miyuki and Alfonzo had noticed the approaching presences, but Wendy, Carla, Saeko, and Rika had also noticed them. However, like Alfonzo, none of them seemed to be concerned, either.

A moment later, Alfonzo stepped away from the rest of the group. Then, he raised his hand.

"[Dynamic Entry]!"

Bang!

In the next instant, the group heard a shout from the forest. Then, faster than everyone other than Alfonzo and Rika could comprehend, a foot slammed into Alfonzo's raised hand.

"Hey, Guy." Alfonzo said with a smile while holding the foot that slammed into his hand. "You've gotten a lot faster since I left. How much more weight have you been training with in these few months?"

Just like Alfonzo said, the one who had attacked Alfonzo was Might Guy of the Village Hidden in the Leaves. And he was so fast that everyone under the very peak of A-Class reserves could not even see him move.

"Alfonzo, my friend!" Guy said happily. "It's good to see you again. And it looks like you've grown, as well. Your youth looks to be exploding splendidly!"

Chapter 535: Love at First Sight

"Hey, Guy." Alfonzo said with a smile while holding the foot that slammed into his hand. "You've gotten a lot faster since I left. How much more weight have you been training with in these few months?"

"Alfonzo, my friend!" Guy said happily. "It's good to see you again. And it looks like you've grown, as well. Your youth looks to be exploding splendidly!"

It should be noted that during this exchange, Alfonzo was still holding Guy's foot while the rest of Guy's body was suspended off the ground. On top of that, Guy was holding his kicking position, as well. And he was perfectly still as if he were still flying through the air.

This showcased the two's physical strength perfectly. While Guy had put himself through hellish amounts of weighted training, making him one of, if not the, physically strongest shinobi in the Village Hidden in the Leaves. Alfonzo, on the other hand, had been strengthening his body with the Techno Organic Metal for years, making him one of the physically strongest wizards on Earth Land.

In fact, Alfonzo also tried using the same method to strengthen his lovers. However, the only one who could withstand the pain was Erza. As a result, her already monstrous strength had been improved to a whole new level.

Despite Alfonzo's show of strength, Guy was smiling brightly. Alfonzo would have even bet a significant amount of money that he saw one of Guy's teeth sparkle for a moment. However, Guy's next action did not seem quite as bright. In fact, it would be considered quite vicious in normal situations.

After giving his greeting, Guy twisted his body. Then, with all his strength, he brought down his other foot towards Alfonzo's wrist. And despite how strong he had gotten, Alfonzo was certain that if that kick had landed, it would have broken his wrist, no questions asked.

So, Alfonzo released Guy's foot. Then, once he evaded the kick aimed at his wrist, Alfonzo threw a jab aimed at Guy's chest.

In response, Guy used his left hand to bat away the punch. Then, once his feet touched the ground, he through a round house kick at Alfonzo's right shoulder.

"[Leaf Hurricane]!" Guy shouted as he spun at high speed.

In response, Alfonzo ducked down to avoid the incoming kick. However, Guy followed up by riding the momentum of his kick and attempting to sweep Alfonzo's legs out from under him. Yet, Alfonzo was once again able to react quickly, flinging his legs upward, resulting in him suspended in the air, parallel to the ground.

But Guy's attack did not end there, as he followed up with a spinning heel kick at a medium height. And with his feet off the ground, there would be no way for Alfonzo to avoid the kick.

Or at least, that's how it should have been.

With a display of great bodily control, Alfonzo reached out with his hands, and caught Guy's leg. Then, while being dragged along with Guys' kick, he raised his body into a hand stand and threw a kick at Guy's head.

Though he was surprised at the reversal, Guy's smile widened even further. Then, he responded by lowering his leg quickly, ripping it from Alfonzo's grasp in the process, while simultaneously ducking his head under Alfonzo's kick.

This once again left Alfonzo suspended in the air with nowhere to exert force. So, Guy followed up by performing a summersault towards the airborne Alfonzo.

"[Dynamic Action]!" Guy shouted, naming his attack once again.

With the momentum of his summersault, Guy lowered a kick towards Alfonzo. In response, Alfonzo slapped at Guy's descending leg, forcing himself out of the path of the attack. However, as soon as Guy's feet were on the ground, he sent a flurry of punches and kicks at Alfonzo, who had still yet to touch the ground.

Meanwhile, Wendy, Carla, Saeko, Rika, and Miyuki stood to the side and watched the ongoing fight. Though, Wendy, Carla, Saeko, and Rika, who had met Guy when Alfonzo and Cana got married, knew it was more like a spar than a fight. Miyuki, on the other hand, was surprised that Alfonzo had been attacked so suddenly. However, after seeing that her companions had not moved to intervene, she did not move, either.

"That Guy, he never changes." Rika said with a grin.

"Yes, he did something like this when he met Alfonzo last year, as well." Saeko added with a nod.
"However, I can tell that he's improved quite a bit since then."

"I bet he sparred with Alfonzo a lot while Alfonzo was in his village last time." Wendy said.

"Of course he did." Carla said with her arms crossed in front of her chest. "There's no way he did not challenge Alfonzo as often as he could."

And Carla was right. Guy, every time he came across Alfonzo and Kakashi during Alfonzo's last stay in the Village Hidden in the Leaves would challenge one or both of them to some kind of competition. And more often than not, it would be a spar.

"Now this is what I call youth!" Guy exclaimed while continuing to throw punches and kicks at the airborne Alfonzo.

Alfonzo, on the other hand, could only smile at Guy's enthusiasm. Meanwhile, he was batting away all of Guy's incoming attacks, which forced him to stay in the air. However, as soon as Guy threw a particularly powerful punch, Alfonzo used the momentum to gain some distance and finally land on the ground.

At that moment, Guy's team of Genin, Neji Hyuga, Tenten, and Rock Lee also exited the forest. Originally, they were running through the forest with Guy. However, at one point, Guy smiled brightly. Then, he said: "One of my rival's has arrived. I'll go give him a youthful greeting." And in the next instant, he vanished in a burst of speed.

Luckily, Neji, as a member of the Hyuga Clan, had the Byakugan. So, he was able to figure out where Guy went. Otherwise, the three young teenagers would have been left confused by their teacher's disappearance.

And now, after running after Guy at full speed, they had finally reached the Valley of the End, only to see Guy fighting with Alfonzo.

"Wow! I knew Alfonzo was good, but he's even keeping up with Guy-Sensei." Tenten said as she stopped at the edge of the forest with Neji and Lee.

"Their youth is exploding!" Lee exclaimed excitedly.

Neji, on the other hand, remained silent. Instead, he was observing the fight with his Byakugan active.

'Although Guy-Sensei doesn't have much magic power, he's still using it to empower his body.' Neji thought to himself while watching the fight. 'I can tell he hasn't opened any of the [Eight Inner Gates], though. But Alfonzo is matching him blow for blow. And what makes it even crazier is the fact that Alfonzo's magic power is not circulating to strengthen his body at all.'

That observation made Neji even more interested in Alfonzo. If he could keep up with Guy without using his magic power, just what could he do if he were using it at its maximum?

Then, Neji, using his Byakugan, glanced at Rock Lee, who did not even have enough magic power to strengthen his body.

'Alfonzo is a prime example of what Lee could be if he worked hard enough.' Neji thought to himself. 'I'd better up my training if I don't wanna be surpassed.'

During Alfonzo's last trip to the village, he was able to break Neji's chosen one syndrome. As he often ran into Guy, he also ran into Guy's team quite a few times, as well. And after telling the three about himself and his and Elicia's past, he was able to make Neji realize that no one was destined to be strong.

Sure, Alfonzo and Elicia both had parents who were S-Class wizards. However, they did not have special bloodlines. The only reason they were as strong as they were was because they worked hard. Really hard... Harder than anyone they knew.

Alfonzo even allowed all the Konoha 12 to watch one of his training sessions. And when they saw how he trained, they were all flabbergasted.

On top of wearing weights while he trained, Alfonzo also used his [Electromagnetism Magic] to create a high gravity field around himself, making his training even more strenuous. And when the kids compared their own training to what Alfonzo was doing, they were all humbled quite a bit. As a result, they took his words about most things more seriously.

The fight between Alfonzo and Guy continued while the Fairy Tail wizards and the team of Genin continued to watch. However, while Wendy, Carla, Saeko, Rika, and Miyuki noticed the three Genin, Neji, Tenten, and Rock Lee were completely focused on the fight. So, they did not notice the five ladies at all. Though, Neji did see them with his Byakugan, he chose to focus on the fight, instead.

However, the fight did not last much longer. After exchanging a number of blows at highspeed, Guy once again threw a named attack.

"[Leaf Rock-Destroying Rise]!" Guy shouted as he threw an elbow strike with his right elbow at Alfonzo's torso while adding more force with his left hand.

Despite the power behind Guy's blow, Alfonzo raised his right hand, putting it between his torso and Guy's elbow.

Bang!

Then, with no issue, he stopped guy in his tracks. Though, a small shockwave was created when Guy's elbow came in contact with Alfonzo's palm. And despite the high intensity exchange of blows, both Alfonzo and Guy were smiling brightly.

"Yeah, you really have gotten stronger in the last few months, Guy." Alfonzo said while maintaining his position. Then, his smile turned into a battle hungry one as he continued. "One of these days, we're gonna have to fight after you've released a few of those [Inner Gates]. That should really be fun."

"*Sigh* As much as I'd enjoy that..." Guy replied while continuing to smile as well. "... I'm afraid that would severely damage our surroundings. And I would hate to damage the village just for some fun."

"*Sigh* I guess you're right." Alfonzo replied, sounding a bit disappointed. "Still, next time you get a chance to come visit Magnolia, I'm sure the training room in my house could handle it. So, maybe we can give it a shot then. You know, I'll be getting married again next year, I bet that would be a good opportunity."

"Hahaha! I've seen many men with multiple wives, Alfonzo." Guy said as he pulled his elbow back. "But I don't think I've seen any get married as many times as you have. By the way, I'm sorry I could not attend your last wedding. I was unable to leave the village now that I'm in charge of a team of Genin."

"Eh... Don't worry about it." Alfonzo replied while waving off Guy's apology. "I know you would have if you could."

"Indeed." Guy replied with a nod. "By the way, your child should have been born recently, yes? How are Elicia and the child."

Hearing that, Alfonzo brightened up immediately.

"Yeah, he was born on August 12." Alfonzo replied happily. "His name is Amar'e. Lici named him. And would you believe it? That little guy was 13.2 lbs. when he was born. Hell, he came out as a god damn grown man."

By now, Wendy, Carla, Saeko, Rika, Neji, Tenten, and Lee had approached the duo. And the team of Genin had finally registered the presences of the others. And when they did, Rock Lee came to a complete stop, only staring at the group of ladies approaching Alfonzo and Guy from the opposite side.

Naturally, Lee's actions, or lack of action, caused Neji and Tenten to be surprised. Especially since Lee was so much like their Sensei. Meaning, very loud and outspoken.

"Hey, Lee, what's wrong with you?" Neji asked curiously, having never seen Lee act like that.

"Oh my God..." Tenten mumbled after seeing the look in Lee's eyes. "Did he just...?"

"Did he just what?" Neji asked after hearing Tenten's mumbling.

At that moment, Lee snapped out of his daze. Then, before Tenten could reply to Neji, he started walking towards the group of ladies from Magnolia. After a moment, he was standing in front of them. And when he did, he put on his most charming smile and spoke.

"Hello, Miss." Rock Lee said, gaining everyone's, even Alfonzo's and Guy's attention. "My name is Rock Lee. And if you would let me, I'd protect you with all of my youth for the rest of my life."

"He just fell in love at first sight." Tenten said, replying to Neji's earlier question.

In response, Neji only rolled his eyes. After hearing Lee's declaration, he could figure that out on his own. Despite that, he turned his attention towards Lee to see how things would play out.

Meanwhile, the person Lee stood in front of, Wendy, was thoroughly embarrassed and completely confused by Lee's heartfelt declaration. At the same time, Saeko, Rika, and Miyuki were watching Wendy with curiosity. They could not even begin to guess how she would respond.

Carla, on the other hand, was ready to step in and tell Lee off. However, after seeing how sincere he was, she was caught off guard. There had been many men who declared their love for Wendy over the years. She's a cute girl, after all. However, Carla felt that all of them had ulterior motives. But this boy in a green jump suit was different.

As a result, the Valley fell into silence as the entire group waited for Wendy's reply.

Chapter 536: Back in the Village

The atmosphere in the Valley of the end was awkward and silent after Lee's declaration. Wendy had no idea what to say. Carla was caught completely off guard. The others were waiting for Wendy's response. Yet, as time went by, the awkwardness of the situation only grew.

The seconds felt like hours. However, there was one person among those gathered who was completely incapable of reading the atmosphere.

"What a youthful confession!" Guy, the only person who could not read the atmosphere, shouted excitedly. "Lee, my youthful disciple I'm so---"

Smack!

"Shut the hell up for a minute, Guy." Alfonzo ordered after slapping Guy upside the head.

The sound of the loud voice and the crisp smack that followed finally broke the atmosphere. And when it did, Wendy began to blush like a tomato. Meanwhile, Carla finally snapped out of her daze, as well.

"Absolutely not!" Carla shouted. "Wendy is too young to think about dating. Besides, how old are you, anyway? You don't look old enough to be thinking about it either."

As she spoke the last sentence, Carla pointed her right paw at Lee after once again positioning herself in front of Wendy defensively.

"So your name is Wendy?" Lee asked while continuing to smile in the most charming way he could. "Such a lovely name for such a lovely girl."

This caused Wendy to blush even harder. Meanwhile, Carla was about to explode from being ignored. However, before she could say anything, Lee looked down at her while continuing to smile.

"And to answer your question, Miss Cat, I'm thirteen years old." Lee said.

"You're even younger than Wendy!" Carla shouted. "Absolutely not! I won't allow it!"

"Carla!" Wendy shouted, finally snapping out of her embarrassed stupor. "We've talked about this before! I'm old enough to make my own decisions! I'm fifteen, I'm not a child anymore!"

Hearing that, Carla ended the glare she was shooting at Lee and spun around to glare at Wendy.

"Just because you're legally an adult doesn't mean you're mentally mature enough to make decisions like this for yourself." Carla shot back. "For this matter, just listen to me."

"Carla, you're even younger than I am." Wendy shot back. "And besides, you've never had a boyfriend, either. So, what do you know."

"Who said I've never had a boyfriend?" Carla asked sharply. "Me and Happy---"

Upon reaching that point, Carla shut her mouth while her ears and tail stood up straight. Meanwhile, Wendy was thoroughly surprised by what Carla just said. At the same time, Saeko and Rika's eyes zeroed in on Carla, intent on getting the latest gossip.

"Carla, you..." Wendy said, looking at Carla with a look of betrayal on her face. "I can't believe... So, that's why you always disappear after we get back from a quest. You've been seeing Happy."

"I have no idea what you're talking about." Carla replied while sheepishly looking away.

However, Wendy was not hearing it. So, she continued to bombard Carla with questions. And Carla could only weakly deny or evade them all. Saeko and Rika had also began their own interrogations, as well.

Meanwhile, Lee was left standing there. He had not received a reply to his declaration and he did not know what to do.

Eventually, Alfonzo approached Lee from behind. Then, he patted the young shinobi on his shoulder, drawing Lee's attention.

"Well, sorry that I couldn't stop Guy before he ruined the mood." Alfonzo said while smiling consolingly. "But look at it on the bright side, at least she didn't say no. So, you've still got a chance, right?"

Hearing that, Lee's confused and awkward expression turned back into his usual determined expression. Then, he nodded his head emphatically.

"That's right." Lee said in a determined tone. "And until she says no, I won't give up."

"Good." Alfonzo replied with a satisfied nod. "But you might wanna tone down the enthusiasm a bit. Wendy's a pretty reserved girl. So, it makes her uncomfortable. Also, you might wanna think up another pickup line. Especially since Wendy is stronger than you right now. I mean, she's an A-Class wizard, or equivalent to a Jonin in your village."

Hearing that, not only Lee, but Neji and Tenten opened their eyes in surprise. Wendy was so unassuming that they never would have guessed that she was so strong. However, when he heard that, the flames of determination and youth burned even brighter in Lee's eyes. But Alfonzo's next words almost extinguished them.

"On top of that, she's been trained by Master Tsunade." Alfonzo added, surprising the three young shinobi even more. "And Master Ur basically adopted her a few years ago. So, you'll have to get permission from two of the scariest women in Fiore if you really wanna pursue a future with her."

That piece of information made all three Genin drop their jaws in surprise. At the same time, Tenten, who idolized Tsunade, looked at Wendy with both envy and awe. Even Guy raised an eyebrow and looked at Wendy with interest.

"Well, that is quite interesting." Guy said with a smile. But I believe we've spent enough time here, in the Valley. So, I think we should get going. Our youth will not wait for us, after all."

As he spoke the last part, Guy stood up straight and raised a thumb while smiling brightly.

Meanwhile, everyone else, other than Lee, rolled their eyes at Guy's declaration while thinking: 'And whose fault do you think that is?' Lee, on the other hand, looked at Guy with admiration.

"Well, I expected this when I saw you here, Guy." Alfonzo replied while shaking his head gently. "But you and your team got the mission to escort us, huh?"

"That's right." Guy replied. "Now, let's get going."

With that, Neji, Tenten, and Lee each pulled out a blindfold with [Seals] on it. Then, they realized that they did not have enough blindfolds for everyone. There were two extra people from Fairy Tail, after all.

"Um... Sensei... We're two blindfolds short." Tenten said awkwardly.

"Oh, don't worry about it." Guy replied with a winning smile. "Lord Hokage told me that Miss Wendy and her cat are allowed to know the location of the village because of their training with Lady Tsunade."

"I have a name, you know!" Carla protested angrily. "And it's Carla!"

"Ah! My apologies, Miss Carla." Guy replied while continuing to smile. "Since we never got around to the introductions, I was unaware of your name."

With that, the group did the introductions. Then, Saeko, Rika, and Miyuki were blindfolded before boarding the S 600 again. After that, Alfonzo, Wendy, and Carla followed Team Guy towards the Village Hidden in the Leaves while Alfonzo floated the magic vehicle behind him.

Earth Land, Ishgar, Kingdom of Fiore, the Village Hidden in the Leaves.

About an hour later, the group arrived in the village. And when they did, the three ladies got out of the magic vehicle and Team Guy removed the blindfolds before the group headed to the Hokage' Tower. Then, they were introduced to Hiruzen. However, Koharu and Homura were nowhere to be seen.

As it turned out, a lot of people were implicated by the information Alfonzo gave to Hiruzen after he raided Danzo's base. And unfortunately for Koharu and Homura, they were two of the village's worst criminals after Danzo.

And Hiruzen, with his Will of Fire, the ideal that all citizens of the village supposedly live by, had no choice but to prosecute them for their crimes. So, as of now, they were serving a life sentence in prison for all they had done to aid Danzo.

"So, how much longer do you think it will take to complete all the training grounds?" Hiruzen asked after getting the introductions out of the way.

"If I really hustle, probably a year." Alfonzo replied. "And I intend to do that. I don't wanna be away from home any longer than I have to, I'd hate to miss my little boy growing up."

Nodding in response, Hiruzen let a smile make it onto his face.

"Ah! That's right, Elicia was pregnant when you were here before." Hiruzen said. "I trust there were no issues with the delivery?"

"Yeah, Lici is fine." Alfonzo replied with a smile. "And Amar'e was healthy, too. Even if he was the biggest newborn I've ever seen."

With that, Alfonzo and Hiruzen started a conversation about parenthood while the ladies and Team Guy stayed quiet.

"Anyway, we should get going." Alfonzo said, bringing the conversation to an end. "We don't wanna hold you up from your work."

Hearing that, Hiruzen flinched. Then, he glared at the paperwork on his desk before returning his gaze to Alfonzo.

"Very well." Hiruzen said with a nod. "But should you need anything while you are here, don't hesitate to let me know. And that extends to all of you. Oh, and Miss Wendy, I'll send someone to show you to the hospital in the morning."

"I understand." Wendy replied in a determined tone while nodding her head.

"Oh, yeah, one more thing." Alfonzo said before the group left the office. "I'll be going home every weekend to see Amar'e. But don't worry, I'll be making the trip alone so you don't need to make a mission to escort Saeko, Rika, and Miyuki out of the village and back every time."

"As long as you register at the gate when you come and go, there should be no issue with that." Hiruzen replied. "It's not like I would keep you from going to see your new son, after all."

Smiling in return, Alfonzo turned around and led the rest of his group out of Hiruzen's office. Then, they were closely followed by Team Guy after they bowed politely to Hiruzen.

After meeting with Hiruzen, when the group left the Hokage Tower, they found Kakashi leaning against a wall while reading his favorite book.

"Yo, welcome back." Kakashi said, not looking up from his book as he did so. "And I see you brought some new faces. I'm Kakashi Hatake, it's nice to meet you."

"So, this is the guy you were talking about, huh, Alfonzo?" Rika asked while looking Kakashi up and down. "Yeah, I'm really curious to see what's under that mask. And I wouldn't mind a little spar after he shows that hidden eye of his."

"I would like the chance to battle him, as well." Saeko added while lowering her left hand to her hip.

This was a subconscious action, as there was no katana on Saeko's hip at the moment. And the reason for that was simple. After joining Fairy Tail, Saeko learned [Requip Magic] from Erza to go along with the [Sword Magic] she learned from both Erza and Sun. That way, when she was not on a quest, she would

not have to carry her weapon at all times. Though, she did make a habit of keeping her sword on her hip at all times whenever she went on a quest.

Hearing that, Kakashi finally looked up from his book with an eyebrow raised. He had never mentioned his covered eye to anyone from outside the village. Note even Alfonzo. However, this woman he had just met knew something about it.

"Chill out, man." Alfonzo said after seeing Kakashi raise his head. "Everyone in our guild has a way to sense the magic power flow of our surroundings. And I mentioned to everyone that you're left eye had a different signature than the rest of you. ON top of that, I know Sasuke. So, I put two and two together. Didn't know it was supposed to be a secret, though."

Hearing that, Kakashi took his attention off of Saeko and Rika and turned it to Alfonzo. Then, he held eye contact with him for a while. After that, he exhaled a resigned sigh.

Naturally what Alfonzo said was not the whole truth. Although he could sense Kakashi's eye, which was a Sharingan, he already knew about it before ever meeting Kakashi. He also knew that he had received it during the last Shinobi War when his best friend died. But Kakashi did not need to know that.

"I guess I never told you not to say anything." Kakashi replied. "Anyway, you'll be staying in the same house you stayed in last time. So, let's get going."

It should be noted that Team Guy was still with Alfonzo and the girls. However, Kakashi willfully ignored them. Although he loved Guy like a brother, he was in no mood to deal with one of his challenges at the moment.

On another note, it was common knowledge among the higher ranks of the village that Kakashi was normally, at least, two hours late for appointments. However, ever since Alfonzo met him, he's been on time, without fail.

"Kakashi, my rival!" Guy shouted as Kakashi started to lead the visitors away. "Why don't we have a race to the destination? This should finally break our tie!"

Hearing Guy's shout, Kakashi stopped in his tracks before sighing.

"Oh, hey Guy, didn't see you there." Kakashi said in an unenthusiastic tone. "Sorry, but I can't have a competition with you now. I'm on a mission."

Guy's reaction to Kakashi's refusal was rather dramatic. His shoulders slumped, his knees began shaking, and he looked as if he would cry. However, Kakashi seemed completely unbothered by it. Instead, he simply continued to lead the group from Magnolia towards the residence they would be using.

Meanwhile, Guy and his team were left standing in the middle of the road in front of the Hokage Tower. While Lee tried to console his Sensei, Neji and Tenten could only look at him awkwardly, still having not gotten used to their teacher's antics over the, almost, one year since they've been his students.

"So, I heard you got married again, Alfonzo." Kakashi said as he continued to read his book while the group walked through the village. "Congratulations."

"Thanks." Alfonzo replied with a smile. "But isn't it about time you got married, Kakashi? I mean, you're like twenty-six, right? You don't wanna die alone, do you?"

"Nah, I'm not interested." Kakashi replied. "Being an Elite Jonin takes up too much of my attention. I wouldn't have time to give a family the attention they deserve."

'*Sigh* Losing his father, two best friends, and teacher, not to mention all the other comrades that fell on missions, in less than ten years probably hit him way too hard to create connections like that.' Alfonzo thought while shaking his head at Kakashi's response. 'I'd try setting him up with someone if I could, but all the girls I know are into someone else. Oh well...'

Eventually, the group made it to the same residence Alfonzo stayed in last time. Not before stopping at the market to buy ingredients for lunch, though. After that, Alfonzo cooked for the group, inviting Kakashi to stay for lunch, as well. Then, once the meal was finished, Kakashi reminded Wendy that someone would arrive to show her to the hospital in the morning tomorrow before leaving to attend to his other duties.

On the other hand, Alfonzo, Wendy, Carla, Saeko, and Rika decided that they would rest for the rest of the day while Miyuki would follow Alfonzo's arrangements. The next day, however, Saeko and Rika decided they would explore the village while Alfonzo, Wendy, and Carla went to work.

Chapter 537: Calling Home

"Hey, Hinata, can you check again with your Byakugan." Naruto asked impatiently.

Currently, Naruto was sitting on the training grounds of the Ninja Academy during the lunch break with Shikamaru, Choji, Kiba, Sakura, Ino, Hinata, and Shino. Aside from the eight of them, Sasuke, who was pretending to be uninterested in their conversation was not too far away and listening for Hinata's response with anticipation.

The reason Naruto seemed so impatient was simple, today was the day Alfonzo told the group of kids that he would return to the village. And they were all excited to see him. Especially Naruto and Sasuke, who had been orphaned thanks to various circumstances. Even so, the other kids were also excited to see him, as well.

During Alfonzo's first stay in the village, they all improved a lot as shinobi. And ever since he left, they noticed that their rate of improvement had slowed tremendously, despite the fact that they were still training hard.

Even Shikamaru, who was the laziest of the group acknowledged just how much training with Alfonzo and Ikaruga had helped him grow.

"O-Okay." Hinata replied while blushing furiously.

A moment later, Hinata closed her eyes. Then, she channeled her magic power into her eyes.

"[Byakugan]." Hinata said quietly as she opened her eyes.

Like Neji of Team Guy, Hinata was also a member of the Hyuga Clan. So, she could also employ the Byakugan. And as it turned out, her Byakugan was even purer than Neji's. So, despite the fact that she was weaker than her older cousin, she could cover quite the distance with her Byakugan. However, she was still incapable of covering the entire village. But that would not be an issue.

After activating her Byakugan, Hinata turned her head in the direction of the residence where Alfonzo and Elicia stayed during their last trip. Then, she focused all her ocular power in that direction, extending the distance she could see in a straight line. And when she did, she smiled slightly.

It should also be noted that the Byakugan was able to see through solid objects. So, despite there being many buildings and structures between the academy and the residence where Alfonzo stayed, they did not hinder her in the slightest.

"They're here." Hinata said quietly in a happy tone.

Despite her low volume, everyone was able to hear her clearly. And when they did, most of them smiled, with Naruto, Sasuke, and Choji being the most excited.

While Naruto and Sasuke were just happy to see Alfonzo again, Choji was looking forward to his cooking. Meanwhile, the others were looking forward to getting stronger from his training.

"But Miss Elicia is not with him this time." Hinata continued. "Neither is Miss Ikaruga or Miss Irene."

"Really?" Shikamaru asked curiously. "Did he come alone?"

"No, there are three or four women with him..." Hinata said while continuing to watch the mansion.
"And a... cat walking on two legs?"

"A cat?" Kiba asked, reacting explosively.

"*Bark* *Bark*" Akamaru, Kiba's young ninja dog also barked in dissatisfaction.

"Is it cute?" Ino asked curiously.

"Um... Yes." Hinata replied after flinching at Kiba and Akamaru's response.

"I've never seen a cat that walks on two legs before." Sakura commented. "I wonder what it's species is."

With that, the kids began discussing about Carla with curiosity. However, before the conversation could go on for too long, Naruto interrupted.

"That's not important right now!" Naruto shouted. "Instead, we should all be talking about going to see Alfonzo after the academy lets out!"

Naruto's excited exclamation silenced the other seven children. Then, after exchanging glances, they all nodded in agreement. Even Sasuke, who had not participated in the conversation, had resolved himself to go to see Alfonzo in the afternoon.

Ding! Dong! *Dong! Ding!*

At that moment, the bell signifying the end of the lunch break rang. And when it did, not only the nine who were acquainted with Alfonzo, but all the kids eating lunch on the training ground, as well as throughout the academy, packed up and made their way to their classrooms for their afternoon classes.

Meanwhile, Alfonzo, Wendy, Carla, Saeko, Rika, and Miyuki had just finished lunch. Currently, everyone was seated in the living room while Miyuki was serving them tea. And Alfonzo had just started a video call on his iPhone.

"I don't know how you come up with some of the things you invent." Rika said while watching Alfonzo operate his iPhone. "I mean, people have been using communications lacrima for centuries. But you somehow came up with a much more convenient way to communicate over long distances."

"Yes, it's quite impressive." Saeko said. "Buying one was one of the best purchases of my life. And since my father bought one, as well, I've been able to keep in touch with him rather easily since I left Takanosu."

"What can I say?" Alfonzo asked while smiling sheepishly. "I just have an active imagination."

'Like I could tell them that smartphones were such a big thing in my previous life and I felt naked without one in these last sixteen years.' Alfonzo thought to himself.

["Oh, the woes of being a world hopping reincarnator."] Bedlam said sarcastically.

'Shut the hell up!' Alfonzo replied internally.

"Still, the iPhone is really cool." Wendy said with a smile. "I can talk to Ur even when I'm out on a quest."

"Yes, it really is convenient." Carla added.

The older wizards in the room could only smile at Wendy and Carla. Meanwhile, Miyuki agreed with Wendy. Although she was not particularly close with her family after her brother passed away, she was grateful that she could use the iPhone to talk to them from time to time.

At that moment, Alfonzo raised an eyebrow. Then, he looked in the direction of the Ninja Academy. And when he did, he smiled.

"I guess they know we're here now." Alfonzo muttered while continuing to smile.

At the same time, an image of Elicia appeared on the screen of his iPhone. However, she was not alone. Amar'e was cradled in her arms.

{"Hey, Fonzie! Looks like you're in a good mood. Did something happen?"} Elicia said excitedly after the video call connected. Then, she looked down at Amar'e, who was looking curiously at the iPhone propped up on the table in front of them. {"Mar'e, look, it's Daddy."}

Hearing Elicia's voice, Alfonzo turned his attention back to the iPhone in his hand. And when he did, he saw Elicia smiling brightly while Amar'e was reaching for the iPhone eagerly.

"Amar'e, how ya doin', Little Man?" Alfonzo asked, his smile widening after seeing his son's face on the screen.

Over the two months since Amar'e was born, he had grown nicely. His skin tone was somewhere between the shades of his parents skin tones, he had a head full of curly black hair and grey eyes like Alfonzo's. Also, it looked like he would turn out to be an extremely active child.

On top of that, the happy sounds he was making gave Alfonzo a warm, fuzzy feeling in his chest.

Meanwhile, as soon as the others heard Alfonzo mention Amar'e, they all gathered around Alfonzo to look at the screen of his iPhone. None of them ever got tired of seeing Amar'e, after all.

"Hey, Lici." Alfonzo said after watching his son for a moment. "I just wanted to call and let you know that we made it safely. As for what happened, I just felt Hinata looking at us with her Byakugan. So, Naruto and the others should know we're here."

{"*Sigh* I wish I could have come with you this time, too."} Elicia said wistfully. {"I would have loved to introduce them to Amar'e. I bet they would have loved him. Oh, and it looks like everyone is with you, too. Hey girls, how ya doin'?"}

"Hey, Lici." Rika said while waving at the iPhone. "I don't know how you handled being blindfolded when you came here last time. Especially when it's so useless for wizards as strong as us."}

"Hi, Amar'e~, I miss you~" Saeko said, gaining Amar'e's attention with her higher pitch. "When you get older, Auntie Saeko will teach you how to use a sword, okay?"

To everyone's surprise, the calm and collected Saeko turned into a totally different person when she was around Amar'e. On top of that, she really wanted to make Amar'e her disciple when he was old enough to hold a sword. To her disappointment, however, Alfonzo and Elicia had not agreed to her proposal, stating that Amar'e would be able to decide what path he chose as a wizard on his own. If he even wanted to be a wizard, that is.

"Hello, Elicia, how are you?" Wendy asked politely.

"Amar'e, we'll play some more when I come back home, okay?" Carla asked with a gentle smile on her face.

Like Saeko, everyone was surprised when Carla adopted a different demeanor around Amar'e. Whenever she was around the infant, her standoffish demeanor would evaporate, replaced by a doting older sister vibe.

Seeing all the other girls, Elicia smiled brightly while Amar'e reached for the iPhone with even more vigor. Unfortunately, his short arms would never allow him to grab it.

{"Aww, look Mar'e. All your aunties and big sisters miss you." Elicia cooed while gently rocking Amar'e in her arms. Then, she turned her attention back to Alfonzo while continuing to do so. "["So, I guess you guys will have some guests this afternoon."]}

"Probably." Alfonzo replied with a nod. "And they'll probably either want to start training immediately or have me cook for them. And in some cases, both."

{"Hehehe. Well, your cooking tends to do that to people."} Elicia said with a smile. {"I can't wait until Mar'e gets to taste your cooking. I wanna see the look on his face when he does."}

Hearing that, everyone in the living room could not help but imagine a slightly older Amar'e trying Alfonzo's cooking for the first time. And when they did, they started to giggle.

"Hehehe. Maybe you should hold off on feeding him Alfonzo's food for a while." Rika said with a smile. "Otherwise, you'll ruin other food for him."

"Rika's right." Saeko added. "Ever since I first tried Alfonzo's cooking, I can no longer eat food below a certain quality."

Wendy and Carla nodded in agreement with Saeko's statement.

"Well I don't know if there's anything I can do about that." Alfonzo said with a shrug. "Even if it's not my cooking, he'll be eating stuff Maria and Grayfia cook."

{"Yeah, and they're almost as good as Fonzie."} Elicia added.

"Really?" Rika asked in a shocked tone. "I haven't tasted their cooking yet. Now, I wanna try it to compare."

{"Trust me, you won't be disappointed."} Elicia said proudly. {"Even if it's not as good as Fonzie's it's really close."}

Like that, the conversation continued with the occasional peel of laughter sprinkled in. However, when Amar'e started getting fussy, letting Elicia know that it was time for his nap, the conversation began to wind down.

"Oh, I almost forgot." Alfonzo said just before Elicia could end the call. "The Hokage agreed to me leaving on the weekends to come home and see you and Amar'e."

{"Really? That's great!"} Elicia replied happily. Then, she looked down at Amar'e and continued in an excited tone. "["Did you hear that, Mar'e? Daddy will come home once a week to play with you."}

Unfortunately, Amar'e was too cranky because of sleep. So, Alfonzo would not get to see him smile again before the call ended.

"Hahaha! It looks like my little man is too sleepy to care if I come back or not." Alfonzo said happily. "So, I'll let you go, Lici. Go ahead and put him to sleep. I'll talk to you later."

{"Okay."} Elicia replied with a nod. {"Bye, everyone. I'll talk to you later. And make sure to call home a lot, okay?"}

"We sure will." Rika replied with a smile. "Talk to you later. Bye, Lici. Bye, Amar'e."

"Talk to you later, Elicia." Saeko said with a smile. "Bye, Amar'e~"

"It was nice talking to you, Elicia." Wendy said politely. "I'll bring back a souvenir for Amar'e."

"Bye, Amar'e~! We'll play lots when I get home, okay?" Carla added.

"Well, I'll talk to you later, Lici." Alfonzo said with a smile after everyone else said their goodbyes. "I'll be home this weekend. Love you. Bye Little man, Daddy misses you."

With that, Elicia smiled before she reached forward and ended the video call.

Knock! *Knock!* *Knock!* *Knock!* *Knock!*

Not even five seconds after the video call ended, loud, hurried knocking could be heard from the front door of the residence. And when it did, Miyuki wasted no time going to answer the door. Meanwhile, Alfonzo looked at the lock screen of his iPhone to check the time.

"Damn, we were on the phone a lot longer than I thought." Alfonzo said. "The day at the academy is already over."

"Does that mean that those kids you told us about are here?" Rika asked. "You and Lici spoke so well of them, I'm curious to meet them."

"Yeah, that's them now." Alfonzo replied. "And you'll have plenty of time to get to know them. They'll probably be here every day after school."

With that said, Alfonzo turned to Wendy.

"And Wendy, if you're not too tired after working at the hospital, could you take some time to teach one of the girls about Tsunade's healing technique?" Alfonzo asked. "From what I could tell from the last time I was here, she's got really good magic power control. On top of that, she's really smart. So, I think becoming a medical ninja would be good for her. Plus, I'll be teaching her some of the village's Genjutsu, too."

"I don't mind." Wendy replied.

"As long as you don't overwork yourself." Carla said in a stern tone.

"Carla, I'm not a kid anymore!" Wendy shouted back. "So, stop trying to tell me what to do!"

Like that, the two best friends began to bicker. Meanwhile, Alfonzo shifted his gaze to Saeko next.

"And Saeko, I'd like you to train one of the boys who are coming to visit in the way of the sword." Alfonzo said. "I think it would really suit him."

"I would love to." Saeko replied.

"Thanks." Alfonzo replied with a smile.

"You don't have anything for me to do?" Rika asked with a grin. "Isn't there someone to teach how to shoot?"

"Unfortunately, [Guns Magic] doesn't really fit too well with the customs of this village." Alfonzo replied while smiling wryly.

In response, Rika only shrugged her shoulders, as she was not really asking that question seriously.

A moment later, Miyuki led a group of nine children into the room. And as soon as they saw Alfonzo, they all smiled. Even the corners of Sasuke's lips slightly curled, as well.

"Hey, guys." Alfonzo said with a smile. "Let me introduce you to my guild mates and new maid."

Chapter 538: Naruto's Dilemma

"So, how have you all been since I last saw you?" Alfonzo asked after getting the introductions out of the way. "Have you all kept up your training."

"Of course!" Naruto shouted in reply. "I'm gonna be Hokage someday, you know? So, I gotta be the strongest."

"Yeah, right." Kiba shot back. "There's no way you're gonna be Hokage, Naruto. Because I'm gonna be the Hokage."

"Oh, yeah?" Naruto asked challengingly.

"Yeah!" Kiba replied in the same challenging tone. "Bring it on!"

With that, Naruto and Kiba started literally bumping heads over who would become Hokage. Meanwhile, everyone gave them a glance before returning to their own conversation.

"Hey, Alfonzo, where is Lici?" Ino asked after deciding to ignore the quarrelling idiots.

"She's at home with Amar'e." Alfonzo replied with a smile.

"Amar'e is so cute!" Carla squealed after just thinking about Amar'e.

"Amar'e?" Sakura asked in a confused tone. "Wait.! Does that mean she had the baby?"

"Yeah, she sure did." Alfonzo replied while smiling like a proud father. "He was born August twelfth. And he was big when he was born... Like really big. 13.2 lbs. to be exact."

Hearing that, the kids were astonished. Still, they were excited by the news.

"I really wanna see him." Hinata said quietly with a gentle smile on her face. "You are so handsome and Miss Elicia is so pretty. I bet he's really cute."

A moment later, after realizing that she called Alfonzo handsome, Hinata blushed furiously. Then, she quickly snapped her head in Naruto's direction. And when she realized he was still arguing with Kiba, Hinata exhaled a sigh of relief.

Having noticed Hinata's actions, Rika, who was sitting on the same couch as Alfonzo, grinned mischievously. Then, in a burst of speed, she disappeared from where she was sitting and reappeared next to Hinata while wrapping an arm around the timid girl's shoulders.

"Oh, it looks like someone's got a little crush." Rika said quietly, making sure that Naruto would not be able to hear her.

In the next instant, something no one thought was possible happened. Hinata's blush grew in intensity as it extended from her cheeks to her ears and neck. At the same time, steam started to shoot out from the top of her head.

"Hahahaha! Oh, this girl is the cutest little thing." Rika said as she laughed uproariously.

Before Rika could continue, Hinata vanished from her grasp, confusing everyone in the room. A moment later, after scanning the room, they found Hinata sitting on the couch where Rika once sat.

"Huh?" Hinata exclaimed in confusion when her field of view changed so unexpectedly.

"Okay, Rika, don't tease the poor girl too much." Alfonzo said while smiling wryly. "She's way too thin-skinned for someone like you."

"Tch! You always ruin my fun, Alfonzo." Rika grumbled. Still, she let it go and decided to remain sitting on the floor among the other kids.

Meanwhile, Shikamaru, Choji, Sasuke, Ino, Sakura, and Shino could only look between Alfonzo, Rika, and Hinata with awe in their gazes. And that caused the atmosphere to get awkward. So awkward, in fact, that Naruto and Kiba stopped their argument with confusion.

"Um... What happened?" Naruto asked while scratching his head. "I feel like we missed something."

"Beats me." Kiba replied while shifting his gaze between the faces of his classmates.

"*Bark!* *Bark!*" Akamaru added in agreement with Kiba.

That short conversation was enough to snap the other kids out of their stupors.

"Wait! Does that mean you moved Hinata onto the couch, Alfonzo?" Sasuke asked in an astonished tone. Then, he pointed at Rika and continued. "But I activated my Sharingan as soon as I felt her move. So, I kinda saw her get next to Hinata. But I couldn't see you move at all."

Hearing that, Rika could not help but pout. She was quite confident in her speed, after all. That was how she had never been seen by the enemy on a quest. Because, after shooting from a sniping point, she would quickly relocate to another vantage point. Yet, it was clear that Alfonzo outclassed her in speed. And by a lot.

'How the hell is someone so big so damn fast?' Rika asked herself while pouting at Alfonzo. 'Well, at least he's not so fast when it counts. At least, that's what Lici and the other girls say. I wonder when Shizuka is gonna get some. Maybe I should convince her that we could test it together. *Sigh* But if I'm not at least his girlfriend, he won't even consider it.'

Despite the thoughts running through her head, Rika glanced at Sasuke with interest. The fact that he could barely keep up with her movements was impressive. And she knew that his eyes were the only reason he could do so.

'I bet he would make a great marksman.' Rika thought to herself. 'With the ability to track a target like that, he'd probably be an even better shot than me. I wonder if he'd consider picking up magic guns. Actually, I wouldn't mind having an eye like that, too. That Kakashi guy has one, right? I wonder what it would take for me to get one? I'll have to ask Alfonzo about it later.'

Saeko was thinking the same as Rika, though in regards to swords instead of guns. And she was wondering if Sasuke was the one Alfonzo wanted her to training swordsmanship. She was also wondering if it would be possible for her to get a Sharingan for herself.

While Saeko and Rika drifted off into their own thoughts, Alfonzo reached for his iPhone, which he had sat on the coffee table in front of the couch. Then, after unlocking it, he started scrolling through the pictures he had taken.

"Well, if you wanna see him, I have a lot~~~ of pictures." Alfonzo said, replying to Hinata's earlier mumbling with a smile.

Then, Alfonzo scooted a little closer to Hinata before showing her the screen of his iPhone. And on the screen was a picture of Amar'e in his crib while he reached up towards the camera.

"Aww~~~!" Hinata cooed while staring down at the iPhone screen.

While Sasuke scowled at not getting an answer to his question, Ino and Sakura were the first to move closer to Hinata so they could see the picture of Amar'e. Shortly afterwards, Shikamaru, Choji, and Shino also got closer in curiosity. Eventually, even Sasuke moved to see the pictures of Alfonzo's son.

"Huh? What's going on, now?" Naruto asked in a confused tone.

"I have no idea." Kiba replied, sounding just as confused as Naruto.

"They're looking at pictures of Alfonzo's son, Amar'e." Wendy said, explaining what was going on for Naruto and Kiba.

While Kiba was curious to see Alfonzo's pup, as he put it, Naruto acted in a much more explosive manner. As soon as he heard Wendy's explanation, Naruto dashed behind the couch. Then, he leaned forward from right behind Hinata. As a result, his face was directly to the left of Hinata's head. In fact, he was so close that his right cheek was touching Hinata's left one.

Unsurprisingly, Hinata's blush, that had receded after seeing the pictures of Amar'e, returned with a vengeance when she realized that her cheek was touching Naruto's. Then, steam once again shot out of her head before she fainted immediately.

"Huh?" Naruto exclaimed in confusion when he felt Hinata's weight on his head. Then, when he looked to his side and saw Hinata had fainted with a glowing red face, he panicked. "Hinata, are you okay? Alfonzo, something is wrong with Hinata, what should we do?"

In response, everyone sighed at Naruto's densesness. However, Alfonzo moved to lay Hinata down on the couch so that she could recover.

Naturally, that ended the picture viewing session. Then Alfonzo got back to the original topic.

"It sounds like all of you have been working hard while I was gone." Alfonzo said with a smile. "So, how about showing me your progress?"

The shinobi kids, other than Hinata, for obvious reasons, nodded in response. Then, after asking Miyuki to look after Hinata, Alfonzo led the eight children outside to check their progress. Wendy, Carla, Saeko, and Rika followed them in curiosity, as well.

When they got outside, Alfonzo spent about an hour assessing the progress of the children. Hinata and Miyuki even joined them after about a half an hour. And what Alfonzo saw impressed him.

With the exception of Naruto, the others had greatly increased their magic power control. However, when he saw that Naruto was still struggling to control his magic power, Alfonzo was not disappointed. He knew the reason for it, after all.

After that, he tested them in physical strength, shuriken technique, and hand-to-hand fighting, letting all of them spar with him for a few minutes each. Then, he had them all perform the three academy level Ninjutsu, the [Substitution Jutsu], the [Transformation Jutsu], and the [Clone Jutsu].

And once again, he was impressed with what he saw. Other than Naruto, the other eight kids were able to use all three Jutsu without issue. Naruto, on the other hand, was only able to perform two of the three. However, his [Clone Jutsu] was subpar, at best.

After all the test were over, Alfonzo invited the eight children to have dinner. And since Alfonzo would be cooking, they all accepted eagerly. However, everyone could tell that Naruto was quite down after having such a poor showing when it came to magic power control and the [Clone Jutsu].

After dinner, the nine kids left. However, as they were leaving, Alfonzo stopped Naruto to talk to him.

"Hey, Naruto, can I talk to you for a minute?" Alfonzo asked.

"Huh?" Naruto asked as he turned around. "What's up, Big Bro Alfonzo?"

Hearing that, the other kids also stopped, curious what Alfonzo would say to Naruto.

"You guys can head home." Alfonzo said, waving off the others. "I just wanna talk to Naruto for a second. He'll be right behind you, I promise."

Though they were curious, the others eventually turned back around and continued home. Then, Alfonzo sat down to the residence's veranda and patted the spot beside him, signaling Naruto to take a seat, as well.

"So, what's up, Big Bro Alfonzo?" Naruto asked once again after sitting down.

"I know you're disappointed in yourself because of how you did when it comes to magic power control and the [Clone Jutsu]."

Alfonzo replied in a consoling tone. "And I won't say there's nothing to worry about. Because that could be a serious issue in the future."

Hearing that, Naruto lowered his head and clenched his fists in frustration.

"I've worked so hard to get it right." Naruto said in a frustrated tone. "But no matter how hard I try, I just can't do it."

By this point, though they were in the house, Wendy, Carla, Saeko, Rika and Miyuki were eavesdropping from the front door. And although Alfonzo knew they were there, he did not worry about their presence. Naruto, on the other hand, had no idea they were nearby.

"Yeah, I can see how hard you've worked." Alfonzo said while patting Naruto on the head. "And I know why you're having so much trouble."

"really?" Naruto asked as he lifted his head.

"Yeah." Alfonzo replied with a nod.

"Then, please tell me." Naruto asked eagerly. "And tell me what I should do. I don't wanna fail the graduation exam."

Unlike in the canon version of Naruto's story, Naruto had not taken the graduation exam early. And the reason for that was simple, he thought he would have more time to train with Alfonzo if he remained at the academy. He wanted to be strong enough to become the Hokage someday, after all.

"Chill out, Naruto." Alfonzo replied with a smile. "I'm gonna tell you. Just take it easy, alright?"

Instead of calming down like Alfonzo said, Naruto stared at him with great intensity, causing Alfonzo to smile even wider. And because he could see the eagerness in Naruto's eyes, he decided to not keep him waiting any longer.

"The reason you have so much trouble controlling your magic power is because of how much you have." Alfonzo explained, his expression turning serious as he spoke. "You outclass your friends in the amount of magic power by a lot. And because of how much you have, it's hard to control."

'I wanna tell him about Kurama, too.' Alfonzo thought to himself. 'But for some dumb, fucking reason, the village decided to keep it a secret. And that's dangerous as hell. I mean, both Mito and Kushina were aware they were Jinchuriki. So, why the hell would they keep it a secret from Naruto. I need to talk to Hiruzen about this tomorrow. You know what, I'm gonna ask him about why their keeping it a secret that his father is Minato, too.'

To explain what a Jinchuriki is, we would have to talk about the Tailed Beasts. These Tailed Beasts are giant, sentient creatures created from magic power itself. However, they were not formed naturally. In this world, they were actually created by Zeref. They were the first of demons he created centuries ago.

However, unlike the rest of his demons, or rather, Etherious, they were simply the products of his first experiments to create life. Meaning, they did not have the same programming as the others. And because of that, he was unable to control them.

These Tailed beasts were a group of nine Beasts each having a number of tails from one to nine. And the number of tails denoted how powerful they were.

And when one of these Tailed Beasts is [Sealed] inside of a shinobi, that is when a Jinchuriki is created. AS for Mito, or rather Mito Senju, formerly Mito Uzumaki, she was the wife of Hashirama Senju, the first Hokage, and the first Jinchuriki of the Tailed Beast, the Nine-Tailed Fox, Kurama.

Then, just before Mito passed away from old age, Kurama was transferred to Kushina, or Kushina Uzumaki, Naruto's mother, making her the second Jinchuriki of the Nine-Tailed Fox.

Unfortunately, because of the plots of others, with Danzo having a huge hand in them, Kushina was killed on the day she gave birth to Naruto. And to keep Kurama from rampaging, as well as to keep him as a strategic resource for the village, Minato Namikaze, Naruto's father and the Fourth Hokage of the Village Hidden in the Leaves, sacrificed his life to [Seal] Kurama into the newborn Naruto.

But for some reason, after Minato and Kushina passed away, the village thought it was a good idea to keep the fact that he was a Jinchuriki and who his parents were a secret from Naruto. And Alfonzo intended to talk to Hiruzen about that, tomorrow after he finished working on the training grounds.

It should also be known that Minato wanted Naruto to be seen as a hero in the village. Because had the Nine-Tailed Fox not been [Sealed] inside him, it would have continued to rampage in the village. And that would have more than likely destroyed it in the end.

As for how he knew who Naruto's parents were? Well, he had no obvious reason to know about Kushina. But Minato's face was carved into the Hokage Rock, a monument like Mt. Rushmore for the Village Hidden in the Leaves, and Minato and Naruto were almost identical in every way. So, you would have to either be completely unobservant or a total moron to not be able to put two and two together. Which made Alfonzo question the collective intelligence of the citizens of the village.

On a side note, the species of nine-tailed foxes that could be found on Earth land are all offspring of Kurama after he mated with fox-type magical beasts over the years.

"That's also the reason you are having trouble making a decent clone." Alfonzo continued while pushing those thoughts to the back of his mind for now. "But don't worry, I'll make sure you have damn near perfect control of your magic power by the time you graduate."

Hearing the confidence in Alfonzo's tone, Naruto finally calmed down a bit. However, his emotions had spiked by quite a bit, as well. Then, he flung himself at Alfonzo and wrapped him in a tight hug.

"Thank you, Big Bro." Naruto mutter quietly after getting his emotions under control.

As previously mentioned, Naruto has not been treated well by the citizens of the village for as long as he could remember. He had either been bullied or outright ignored for years. So, to have someone show so much concern, he was truly moved.

'He's just like Iruka-Sensei.' Naruto thought to himself while continuing to hug Alfonzo. 'I should introduce them some day. I bet they would get along great.'

With that thought, Naruto released Alfonzo. Then, he sprung up and started running after his friends.

"I'll see you tomorrow, Big Bro Alfonzo!" Naruto shouted while running away. "Bye!"

Meanwhile, the visitors from Magnolia simply watched him go. Then, once Naruto could no longer be seen, Alfonzo stood up from the veranda before turning around to return to the house. When he did, however, he saw the five ladies all staring at him with gentle smiles on their faces.

"Amar'e's really lucky." Saeko said while continuing to smile.

In response, the other ladies all nodded their heads while Alfonzo smiled.

"Anyway, I'm gonna hit the sack." Alfonzo said, deciding not to comment. "I gotta get up early to train and work. So, I'll see you all in the morning."

With that, Alfonzo stepped onto the veranda before entering the house and heading to his bedroom to get some sleep. Meanwhile, the ladies all watched him go. Then, they all decided to head to their bedrooms, as well.

Chapter 539: Talking with Hiruzen

"Hey, Kakashi, I wanna talk to the Hokage." Alfonzo said after finishing his work for the day on the training ground.

Currently, Alfonzo was working on the Twelfth Training Ground. And because this training ground had a river running through the middle of it, the job would be a tough one. Though, that fact did not bother him. He would just spend a lot of time drying off after he was done working.

"Didn't you just see him yesterday?" Kakashi asked curiously while looking up from his book. "What else could you have to talk to him about?"

"It's about Naruto." Alfonzo replied, knowing that Kakashi was once the student of Naruto's father, Minato. "I can sense the foreign magic power sealed inside of Naruto and I wanna know what's up with that."

Hearing that, Kakashi was surprised, though he did not show it on his face or in his body language. Instead, he simply shrugged his shoulders. Then, when Alfonzo started moving to exit the training ground, he followed him.

"I'm guessing you know about that magic power, right?" Alfonzo asked, not expecting an answer. "And you probably can't tell me about it, right?"

"That's right." Kakashi replied. "It's an S-Class Secret of the village. So, there's a high chance Lord Hokage won't tell you about it, either."

"Well, I'm still gonna ask." Alfonzo replied with a knowing smile as the duo walked through the streets of the village. "I mean, at worst he'll just tell me no, right?"

"I suppose." Kakashi replied.

Little did Kakashi know, information about Kurama was in Danzo's records, though he had no idea of the Nine-Tailed Fox's name. So, Hiruzen already knew that Alfonzo knew about it. Still, Alfonzo's smile made him think that things would end differently.

In fact, Hiruzen knew that Alfonzo knew about a lot of the village's secrets. However, he never talked to Alfonzo about them.

Over the six months Alfonzo spent in the village the first time he came, Hiruzen had gleamed a lot about his character. So, he did not think that Alfonzo would spread the village's secrets. Unless the village became his or Fairy Tail's enemy. But now that Danzo was dead, he did not think that would happen.

That's right, Danzo was now dead. During the time Alfonzo had left to see the Grand Magic Games and stay with Elicia when Amar'e was born, Danzo had been executed for his crimes. And though it pained Hiruzen to do so, he was the one who personally cut off his old friend's head.

Despite the fact that he often let Danzo get away with murder, even letting the fact that Danzo tried to have him assassinated after Minato died, Hiruzen's Will of Fire would not let him forgive Danzo after having proof of all his crimes.

Eventually, Alfonzo and Kakashi reached the Hokage Tower. And when they did, they wasted no time heading up to Hiruzen's office. However, they had to wait for about twenty minutes, as Hiruzen was meeting with a team who was about to go out on an important mission. So, they engaged in casual conversation until they were invited into Hiruzen's office.

"So, why don't you let me introduce you to a few nice girls, Kakashi?" Alfonzo asked with a smile. "There are some pretty cute girls in my guild, you know. But I got the hottest of them in my harem, though."

Looking up from his book, Kakashi could see the smug smile on Alfonzo's face when he mentioned his harem. In response, he only rolled his eyes, though.

"I already told you, Alfonzo." Kakashi said, returning his gaze to the pages of his book. "I don't have time for a girlfriend or a family. They'd probably just get fed up and leave me."

Smack!

"Oh, come on, man." Alfonzo replied as he slapped Kakashi on the back. "That's just an excuse. You'll never know if you don't try, right? I mean, if you ask a wizard, I bet they'd be able to put up with you. We take weeks at a time, sometimes, when we take high class quests. So, I'm sure a girl like that would understand."

'I bet Laki would really like him... If she's over me, that is.' Alfonzo thought, feeling a bit guilty about rejecting Laki all those years ago. 'I mean, Kakashi's definitely a sadist. I've seen the way he messes with people in the anime and during my time in the village. Then again, maybe that wouldn't be such a good idea. I could see some serious fights for dominance between those two.'

Still, after six months, when he brought Saeko and Rika back to Magnolia, Alfonzo decided to bring Laki as one of his companions for his last trip to finish his work in the village.

Eventually, the door to Hiruzen's office opened. Through it, a group of three shinobi Alfonzo was familiar with walked out of the office.

"Yo, Genma, Raidō, Iwashi." Alfonzo said, greeting the three shinobi. "How's it going. I was expecting to see the three of you when I showed up yesterday."

"Oh, Alfonzo." Raidō replied after hearing Alfonzo's greeting. Then, he shrugged his shoulders as he continued. "Yeah, we thought we'd get the mission to escort you, too. But we didn't."

"Well, them's the breaks sometimes." Alfonzo replied with a shrug of his own.

"Elicia should have had the baby by now, right?" Genma asked. "She was pretty far along when you left."

"Yeah, it was a boy." Alfonzo replied, his proud father smile making a reappearance. "We named him Amar'e. Wanna see some pictures."

As he spoke the last part, Alfonzo started reaching into his pocket to get his iPhone.

"Congratulations, Alfonzo." Iwashi said while waving off Alfonzo's offer. "Although I'm sure we'd all love to see pictures of the kid, we gotta get going. We have a mission."

Genma and Raidō nodded in agreement, causing Alfonzo to deflate. However, as an experienced wizard, he knew how important it was to be focused on the mission. So, he removed his hand from his pocket and wished them good luck.

The three shinobi also congratulated Alfonzo once again. On top of that, they offered to treat him to a drink when they returned from their mission before they hurried out of the Hokage Tower. Then, Alfonzo and Kakashi stood up and entered Hiruzen's office after the receptionist told them Hiruzen was ready to see them.

"Alfonzo, is there anything I can do for you?" Hiruzen asked in a grandfatherly tone after Kakashi shut the door behind him and Alfonzo.

"Yeah, I have a question." Alfonzo replied. "Two actually."

"If I can answer them, I will." Hiruzen replied casually.

"Is it really a good idea to not train your Jinchuriki in the use of his Tail Beast's power?" Alfonzo asked in a solemn tone. "You know Naruto is having a lot of trouble controlling his magic power because of it. And if you don't do something about it, he might not be able to graduate from the academy. I mean, he can't even make a decent clone with the [Clone Jutsu]."

Immediately, Hiruzen's casual demeanor disappeared. Then, he glared at Kakashi, whose visible eye had widened to a comical degree. After a moment, however, he remembered that Alfonzo had seen all the records in Danzo's base. So, he looked away from Kakashi, who was clearly surprised by Alfonzo's first question.

"*Sigh* I forgot just how much information you had found in Danzo's base." Hiruzen said in a defeated tone. Then, Hiruzen turned to Kakashi again before continuing. "And Kakashi, you don't have to worry about how Alfonzo knows this information. He found it when Danzo was brought in."

Just then, Kakashi remembered that Alfonzo was the one who brought in Danzo after he was declared a fugitive when he tried to kidnap Alfonzo and Elicia. So, he relaxed by quite a bit.

Then, Hiruzen picked up the smoking pipe lying on his desk, brought it to his lips, used a bit of [Fire Style Magic Power] to light it, and took a puff.

"*Sigh* It was decided that the Nine Tailed Fox's presence would be kept secret from Naruto until he was ready." Hiruzen said.

"Yeah, that was something Danzo pushed for." Alfonzo said, the solemnity in his tone not reducing in the slightest. "And that was so that he could break the kid's spirit before making him a loyal member of Root, remember?"

Hiruzen also knew that. However, things in the village were peaceful. So, he did not see the need to mess with the status quo. But Alfonzo's following words made him reconsider.

"So, I have a proposal." Alfonzo said. "Why don't you let me train him in the use of that power. I've done a lot of research about [Sealing]. So, I can figure out how to let only a small amount of the Nine-Tailed Fox's magic power through the [Seal] the Fourth Hokage put on him. That way, Naruto can get used to its power slowly and gradually. And if things get out of control, I can [Seal] it right the fuck back up."

"How is that possible?" Hiruzen asked in an astonished tone. "It's only been four months, or so, since you gained access to information about [Sealing]. There's no way you should have enough experience to do something like that."

Not only Hiruzen, but even Kakashi looked at Alfonzo skeptically. Alfonzo, on the other hand, only smiled at the two dumbfounded shinobi.

"Did you forget? I've been training with sigils for years." Alfonzo replied. "And I'm considered the best at what I do. And since [Sealing] is basically just another kind of [Word Magic], it wasn't that hard to understand."

That was the first time Hiruzen and Kakashi had heard anyone make learning about [Seals] sound so easy. [Sealing] was considered a very obscure art among the shinobi of the Hidden Villages. So, there were not many shinobi who could be considered masters in the field. And Minato and Kushina, Naruto's parents, were considered grand masters. So, their [Seals] would be very difficult to crack. However, Alfonzo claimed that he could do it without an issue. That was simply unbelievable.

"I can tell neither of you believe me." Alfonzo said, not offended by the disbelief he could see in Hiruzen and Kakashi's eyes. "So, why don't you test me. And if I pass, you let me handle Naruto and the Nine-Tailed Fox. Having your Jinchuriki trained would be a good thing for the village, too, right?"

With that, the Hokage's office fell into a tense silence.

That was something Hiruzen could not deny. Having a trained Jinchuriki would be great for the village. However, if Alfonzo was not as capable as he said, not only could the Nine-Tailed Fox break free from the [Seal] in the worst case, causing Naruto to lose his life, but the village could be destroyed, as well.

Kakashi was also worried about all this, too. Naruto was the child of the people he respected the most. So, he did not want anything to happen to him. Unfortunately, the decision was not in his hands.

In fact, Kakashi wanted to adopt Naruto when Minato and Kushina died. However, due to village politics, he was not allowed to do so. And that was mostly due to Danzo's machinations. So, he was glad that the old schemer was dead. However, so much time had passed since Naruto was born that he did not know how to interact with the mischievous young man.

"*Sigh* I can't pass up the opportunity to have Naruto trained properly." Hiruzen said, ending the silence. "I'll test your skill in the [Sealing] arts. And although I'm no grand master in [Sealing], we do have examples of grand master-level [Seals]. If you can unravel them, I'll agree to your proposal. Otherwise, I'd ask that you do nothing and leave things as they are."

"I can agree to that." Alfonzo replied with a nod. "And I'll show you just what level I'm at when it comes to [Word Magic] of all kinds."

Both Hiruzen and Kakashi could feel the confidence and pride rolling off Alfonzo in waves. So, they relaxed slightly. Still, they were not fully confident in Alfonzo's ability to employ the [Sealing] arts. Even so, they're attitudes had warmed up to the idea considerably.

"And what was your second question?" Hiruzen asked after taking another puff from his pipe.

"Why the hell haven't you told Naruto who his father is?" Alfonzo asked sternly.

That question caused Hiruzen to freeze momentarily.

"Not that it's all that hard to figure out." Alfonzo continued. "I mean, I can understand why Naruto can't figure it out. He's not the sharpest tool in the shed. But how in the hell doesn't everyone else in the village know. The man's face is carved into that mountain..."

As Alfonzo reached that point. Alfonzo pointed out the window facing the Hokage Rock.

"... and the two look so alike that it should be impossible to not figure it out." Alfonzo said, finishing his tirade.

Once again, the office fell into silence when Alfonzo was done. However, instead of a tense silence, this one was quite awkward. So awkward, in fact, that Hiruzen and Kakashi could not look Alfonzo in the eyes.

"*Cough* *Cough* It's because of the rumors that had been spreading around the village about Naruto being the reincarnation of a demon." Hiruzen said sheepishly. "Because of them, the villagers refuse to believe that Naruto, a demon, could possibly be the child of the Fourth Hokage."

Hearing that, Alfonzo could only look at Hiruzen in dumbfounded amazement.

"*Sigh* I seriously doubt the collective intelligence of all your citizens." Alfonzo said, sounding extremely tired. "Either way, I really think the kid deserves to know who his parents were. There's no reason to keep it from him."

"But that could invite assassins." Hiruzen argued.

"I bet all the spies in the village already know who the kid's parents are." Alfonzo said while shaking his head. "And by extension, all your enemies and allies probably already know, too. Only the dumbasses of your own village are in the dark. Besides, he's already twelve years old. If no one has sent an assassin after him by now, I doubt it will happen any time soon. Unless he starts showing genius-level talent, or something like that."

That was another point Hiruzen could not deny. Then, he realized exactly how much Danzo had manipulated his thinking over the years. Since, all the reasons for not training Naruto and keeping his identity secret from him were put into his head by Danzo.

'Damn that Danzo.' Hiruzen thought to himself while clenching his fists under his desk. 'I treated you like my best friend for so many years. Yet, you did everything you could to undermine me and pervert the village into your image.'

"*Sigh* I guess you're right." Hiruzen said while shaking off those thoughts. "I'll tell the boy who his parents were myself. He deserves to know. And I owe him an apology, as well."

To that, Alfonzo nodded in agreement.

'Had you continued to be stubborn about this, Hiruzen, I would have let Orochimaru kill you during the Chunin Exams.' Alfonzo thought to himself. 'But since you got your head out of your ass, I'll save you. Hell, I'll even kill Orochimaru for you.'

["You should let the old mother fucker die, anyway."] Riot grumbled. ["He's clearly senile if he couldn't see through Danzo's bullshit. In fact, we should just burn down this whole village full of dumb fucks for believing those stupid rumors."]

During his last trip to Magnolia, Alfonzo had found out that Orochimaru had been broken out of prison. However, he had no idea how that happened. Just like when Jellal broke out, it was a mystery.

Ignoring Riot's violent outburst, as usual, Alfonzo continued discussing about Naruto with Hiruzen. Then, after a bit more conversation, Hiruzen eventually brought Alfonzo to the Forty-Fourth Training Ground, the Forest of Death to test his proficiency with [Sealing]. As this place was usually restricted to shinobi over a certain rank, barring special circumstances, it was a perfect place to conduct the test in secret.

On a side note, this would be the only one of the training grounds that Alfonzo would not have to modify, thanks to its role in the Chunin Exams.

In the end, Alfonzo passed Hiruzen's test, amazing him and Kakashi greatly. So, as per their agreement, Alfonzo would be allowed to train Naruto as a Jinchuriki. However, Hiruzen would be the one to tell him about the Nine-Tailed Fox being [Sealed] inside of him.

And that conversation would take place tomorrow after the academy let out, along with the conversation about Naruto's parents. Unfortunately, Alfonzo would not be there to console Naruto. However, he would do his best to help the blond boy through it when he eventually showed up at his residence.

Chapter 540: Polar Opposites

{"I'm definitely coming with you next time."} Cana said in an exasperated tone through the speakers of Alfonzo's iPhone. {"I mean, I really wanna see what kind of village is populated by so many idiots. Are they always drunk or something?"}

{"Are you aware of the irony in that statement?"} Lucy asked in a sarcastic tone. {"Or do I need to explain it for you?"}

{"Now's not the time for your retorts, Lucy."} Cana shot back. {"I mean, most of us have had some pretty messed up things happen while we were children. But for the whole village to hate him since the day he was born? That's ridiculous. And all because of a stupid rumor."}

{"Yeah, I know what it's like to have your whole village hate you."} Mirajane added as she lowered her head while remembering how her village treated her when her magic was first awakened. {"But I only had to deal with it for a few days, maybe a week. Meanwhile, this boy has been going through this for as long as he can remember."}

{"Yeah, it's really sad."} Sun said quietly while her tone showed pity.

{"It's amazing he doesn't hate that village and everything in it."} Ultear said while shaking her head.
{"That boy is what you called a Jinchuriki, right? And they are supposed to be really powerful strategic resources for those villages, right? Weren't the leaders of that village afraid of turning such a dangerous resource onto itself?"}

Currently, Alfonzo was on a video call with the ladies of the mansion on the lake in Magnolia. However, Elicia was not a part of this call, for now. And the reason for that was because she was putting Amar'e to bed.

As for the conversation that was going on, Alfonzo had just told his lovers about the conversation he had with Hiruzen regarding Naruto. And they all had slightly different reactions. However, the thing they all had in common was the fact that they were not happy with the way Naruto had been treated.

"Yeah, honestly, I'm amazed that he doesn't hate the village, too." Alfonzo replied. "But after getting to know him, I can say he's a kid with a really strong heart. At most, the only thing he's ever done is play pranks. And none of those pranks were malicious in nature. Instead, he only wanted people to pay attention to him."

{"*Sigh* People can be so cruel."} Marin said in a sad tone.

{"But if he can remain positive, as he has..."} Erza said in a solemn tone. {"... he will grow to be truly acceptional in the future."}

{"He probably really needs a hug."} Shizuka added. {"I really wanna give him a hug."}

{"Something tells me you'd just end up suffocating him."} Lucy said dryly.

{"Huh? What do you mean?"} Shizuka asked while tilting her head in confusion.

Through the iPhone's screen, Alfonzo could see Cana, Ultear, Erza, Mirajane, Marin, Sun, and Lucy all turn their gazes to Shizuka's breasts in unison. Meanwhile, Shizuka seemed to get more and more confused as time went by. At the same time, Alfonzo did all he could to not laugh out loud.

A moment later however, the strange atmosphere was broken when the last of Alfonzo's lovers, and his first wife, Elicia entered the room.

{"Okay, Mar'e is finally sleep."} Elicia said in a relieved tone. {"Seriously, it's like he knew Fonzie was on the phone, or something. He just refused to go to sleep tonight."}

"Hahaha! Just yesterday, he was too sleepy to even care if I came home." Alfonzo said while laughing uproariously. "And today, you say he didn't wanna go to sleep because he knew I was on the phone. Our son is so fickle."

Hearing Alfonzo laughing so happily about his son, the nine women in the mansion could not help but smile.

{"So, what did I miss?"} Elicia asked curiously after Alfonzo's laughter died down.

With that, they all explained to Elicia what they had been talking about. And when she heard about Naruto being told about his parents and the Nine-Tailed Fox, Elicia smiled.

{"Good."} Elicia said while nodding emphatically. {"He should have been told about his parents a long time ago. What kind of stupid reason is 'There might be more assassins coming after him' if he knows? That was one of the dumbest things I've ever heard. If he wasn't already dead, I would go to the village and kill that Danzo myself for making Naruto go through all that. In fact, he's lucky Fonzie got to him before I did. How dare he think of kidnapping me and Mar'e to make Fonzie into a puppet. I would have made what Fonzie did to him look like a relaxing dip in the hot tub."}

With that, Elicia continued to talk about Danzo, how much she hated him, and how much worse her torture would have been if she had been the one to catch him. And while Alfonzo, Cana, Ultear, Erza, Mirajane, Marin, Sun, and Lucy were used to this side of Elicia after all the years they have known her, Shizuka found herself dumbfounded at Elicia's change. Still, she completely agreed with her. She even added her own two Jewels.

{"Yeah, you should punch him in the pee pee, too."} Shizuka added in a solemn tone.

Immediately after hearing that, Alfonzo, Cana, Ultear, Erza, and Mirajane, the members of Fairy Tail who were part of the guild when Alfonzo became an S-Class wizard, all slowly looked towards Elicia. Meanwhile, Marin, Sun, Lucy, and Shizuka were confused by the change in atmosphere.

Elicia also felt the different atmosphere. So, she ended her rant about how she would have tortured Danzo had she been the one to catch him. Then, she tilted her head in confusion.

{"What? Why are you all looking at me like that?"} Elicia asked in a confused tone.

After seeing Elicia's confused expression, the girls were finding it harder to keep their composure. But the others, like Marin, Sun, Lucy, and Shizuka were getting more and more confused as time went by.

"I think they're wondering what you think about Shizuka's suggestion for punishing Danzo." Alfonzo said with a smile on his face. "Now that I think about it, I don't think you've done that to anyone since I made S-Class, right??

With that question, all the ladies who were present for Alfonzo's celebration party after passing the S-Class Exam could no longer hold back their laughter.

{"Wait, what's that got to do with Lici punching someone in the... privates?"} Sun asked curiously.

With that, the girls who were there, tried to explain the series of events when Elicia punched Gildarts below the belt. They also explained why Elicia was called Gildarts' hard counter by the members of the guild. And just like that, the conversation went on until they all decided to go to bed so they could get up for training the following morning.

Earth Land, Ishgar, Kingdom of Fiore, Unnamed Island.

At the same time, on an unnamed island off the southern shores of Fiore, a school was under construction. And this school seemed to be quite advanced in terms of technology. On top of that, it was enormous, taking up most of the island's surface.

While most of the school was unfinished, there were a few rooms that were completed and fully furnished. For example, the principal's office and its reception room. And there was currently a young woman with long blonde hair tied into twin tails, light blue eyes, and a tall, exaggerated hourglass figure sitting on the couch in that reception room.

"*Sigh* Things have been so peaceful recently." the young woman, Junko Enoshima said in a bored tone. "It's so~~~ boring~~~~~. Why hasn't anything despair inducing happened lately? What's wrong with the world?"

With that, Junko raised her right hand and looked at her fingernails. And as she did, she caught sight of the school she had commissioned to be built through the window of the reception room.

"But when this school is finished, I'll be able to bring despair to all those students who enroll here." Junko said in a much brighter tone. "And with these new iPhones, I'll be able to broadcast it to the whole continent."

As she spoke, Junko looked to her side where an iPhone sat on the couch beside her. Then, she picked up the iPhone, unlocked it, navigated to her photos, and began scrolling through them with a happy smile on her face.

"*Sigh* This iPhone thing really is a wonderful invention." Junko said while smiling happily at the iPhone in her hand. "And that Alfonzo Marcus is a true genius, a man worthy of receiving the greatest form of despair. Perhaps I should let him see his family be tortured in front of him. Or maybe I should kidnap them, make him think he'll be able to save them, just to kill them at the last moment. So many possibilities."

Judging by the expression on Junko's face, one would think the pictures were of happy times. And for Junko and Himiko Toga, they would be right. In fact, in the picture that was currently displayed on

Junko's IPhone, Junko and Himiko were both facing the camera while smiling brightly and making double peace signs at the camera.

Unfortunately, there was much more to the picture than that. In the background behind the two young women was the site where the school was being built. However, this picture was from before construction had even started.

Instead, the entire construction crew was kneeling on the ground with collars around their necks. And to anyone familiar with magic items sold in the black market, they would know that those collars were slave collars. Meaning, that the entire construction team was forced into building the school for Junko.

On top of that, each slave collar had an explosive fitted into it. So, if Junko was not satisfied, their heads would be blown off their shoulders. And Junko made sure they all knew that without a shadow of a doubt by randomly blowing off the heads of a few of her forced labor force.

And to make things worse, not a single one of the people she forced to build her school had a background in construction. As a result, they were all fearing for their lives at nearly every minute of every day. And Junko was absolutely loving the despair in their eyes.

As Junko looked through her picture gallery, she heard the sound of footsteps approaching. On top of that, it sounded as if they were running.

Bang!

A moment later, the door to the reception room was flung open. Now, standing in the doorway was Himiko Toga, a pretty girl with slightly cat like features, yellow eyes, and blonde hair tied into short twin tails, with an envelope in her hand.

"Hey, Junko~." Himiko said energetically as she raised the hand holding the letter and started waving at Junko happily.

"Himiko." Junko replied with a sweet smile in an even sweeter tone. "What's got you so excited?"

"A request just arrived from our middle man." Himiko replied as she walked towards the couch Junko was sitting on. "And I'm really hoping it's to drench a cute guy in his own blood. Mmm~ I really hope so."

"One can only hope, right?" Junko replied, switching her tone to that of the older sister archetype this time.

By that point, Himiko reached the couch. Then, she handed the envelope to Junko, who wasted no time opening it. And as Junko started reading the letter, Himiko saddled up next to her to read it, as well.

After reading the letter, both blonde young women smiled happily. Then, they turned to make eye contact with each other.

"I didn't expect that Orochimaru to contact me again so soon." Junko said happily. A moment later, she began to blush like an embarrassed school girl. "But when he does, he brings me such a despair inducing event. Himiko, do you think he has a crush on me? Is this his way of confessing to me? But he's so much older than me, what should I do?"

"I don't know." Himiko replied with a happy smile of her own. However, like Junko, she also started blushing like an embarrassed school girl shortly afterwards. "But that Kabuto, his right hand man, is kinda cute. Like, in a nerdy way with those round rimmed glasses. Do you think it would be okay if I stabbed him a little? I mean, he would look even better if he were wearing his own blood, right?"

Like that, the two insane women continued to talk past each other while emersed in their delusions. At the same time, Orochimaru and Kabuto, who were in one of the hideouts they created in Bosco tensed while scanning their surroundings after feeling that their lives were in danger.

Eventually, Himiko was the first to snap out of her stupor.

"so, are we gonna accept the request?" Himiko asked excitedly.

"Of course we are." Junko said just as excitedly. Then she put on a dignified expression as she continued. "Killing the leader of a nation's hidden military force would be the perfect way to spread despair among its people. It's only a shame that we won't be able to claim the credit for this one."

Upon reaching that point, Junko's face was once again flushed red. At the same time, she began rubbing her thighs together while fondling her own breasts.

"Mmm~~! Still, I would love to feel the despair his death would bring to his people on my own skin." Junko continued in a sensual tone. "Oh, it will be delicious."

As insane as the one making it may be, that decision would be the one that seals the fate of the leader of the Village Hidden in the Sand, Rasa. It would lead to conflict in the Village Hidden in the Leaves, as well.