

# Look Into the Sky

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*Sasuke, Naruto, and Kakashi have just returned home from a mission that lasted them two years. In that time Sakura has become a member of the ANBU, and a respected medicin. How will Kakashi react to seeing his student all grown up?*

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# 1 - Welcome Home

The young kunoichi sat along the grassy shore with her bare feet dangling in the cool water below her. The trees provided a nice getaway from the hot summer sun beating down upon Konoha. She looked over to the man next to her on her left, his nose deep inside a copy of the latest volume of Come Come Paradise. He ran his fingers through his silver locks before looking up at the pink haired medic-nin, even with the mask on she could see him smile at her. She then looked to her other side, and smiled at the blond haired ninja. Finally she looked over at the last man. He looked up at her with a faint smile on his lips as he brushed his dark hair out of his eyes. Her boys were finally home after a mission that took them away from her for over two years, and she could not be any happier now that they were here with her. Team seven was together again.

In the time that it took the men in her life to complete their mission Sakura had become one of Konoha's best medic ninjas. After Kakashi, Naruto, and Sasuke departed for their mission, Tsunade had found it in Sakura's best interest to train daily with the Hokage, and to become the head of the medical division of Konoha's elite ninja. A member of the ANBU. It had taken almost two full years, but she was able to pull it off with hard training and the support of those around her.

Kakashi's uncovered eye traveled from the text in his adult novel to the dark tattoo on the porcelain like skin of his former student. It was a symbol triumph, determination and loyalty to their village. He had taught his students well, but now he was no longer their sensei because all three of them were members of the ANBU. They were equals in his eyes, and in the eyes of the villagers.

Naruto looked over to the final member of the Uchiha bloodline. With his brother finally gone Sasuke could work on building a family and a heir to the Uchiha family, as well as the Uchiha curse. The tragic nature of the family had been around for generations, and hopefully it would end with Uchiha Sasuke.

Sasuke closed his eyes and sighed. When he opened them back up Naruto was still staring at him. His blue eyes glistening in the sunlight. He was only nineteen, and had been through so much already. But it was like he refused to burden anyone with his pain. He hid it behind his broad smile, and his immature pranks. But that was the Naruto that they all knew and loved, nothing more was expected of him.

Team seven sat in silence, no one wanting to ruin the peaceful sounds of the rushing water of the chirping of the birds. They watched as twilight came and the sun disappeared under the horizon.

"Its so nice to be home." Naruto sighed as he lay himself down on the shore beside Sakura. She merely nodded in response as she placed her head on his legs and relaxed next to him.

Kakashi looked up from his favorite orange hardcover book, and smiled at his team. "It is great to finally be back."

"Yeah, I really missed you three."

"Don't worry Sakura-chan," Naruto began "We really missed you too."

They sat in silence again as the four of them watched the stars twinkle in the night sky. The full moon was visible behind the tall trees.

An hour or so passed before Sasuke stood up to leave. He turned to Sakura. "It was great seeing you again, but I do have plans with a girl tonight, and I don't want to keep her waiting."

Naruto laughed. He knew exactly who Sasuke was talking about. Since they had left for their mission the Uchiha boy had been keeping close contact with Yamanaka Ino, and he was supposed to meet her for a 'welcome home dinner' tonight.

Naruto sat up for a moment. "Are you going to ask her?"

"Yeah, I think I will." Sasuke winked at the blond boy, and left in a cloud of smoke.

Sakura looked over at Naruto with a questioning glance. "Ask who what?"

"Its nothing, but you can ask Ino about it later." Naruto laughed.

Sakura just nodded in response. She could begin to piece together what was happening with out having to hear the entire story. Sasuke was still looking for someone to raise a family with, and Ino still had her school girl crush on the last remaining soul of the Uchiha clan. It would not take a rocket scientist to figure out that Sasuke was going to ask for Ino's hand in marriage.

Sakura had long forgotten her crush on the Uchiha boy, and had begun to consider him as a part of her family. She was always there to care for him when he was ill, and she was there to comfort him when he needed security. After all, that is what family is for, to be there for you no matter what the situation may be.

She would always be there for the three men in her life. No matter what. Sasuke. Naruto. Kakashi. Her team. Her boys. Her family.

## 2 - The Mission

It was getting late, close to midnight, but neither of them wanted to leave the warmth of one another. He was sitting with his back against a tree, and she had her head in his lap. They both were laying there with their eyes closed, his hands entwined in her pink hair. The sounds of the rushing water and the crickets were all that the two could hear in the night.

Naruto had left the clearing almost an hour ago, giving the pink haired girl and the jounin some time alone. He said something about needing to see 'the nice man who ran the ramen house' about a bowl of ramen he was promised when he returned home.

Sakura let out a quiet sigh, but Kakashi was still able to hear the small sound.

"What's wrong Sakura-Chan?" He asked as he slowly ran his fingers through her pink locks.

"Oh, nothing Kakashi-Sensei. I'm just happy." She smiled.

Kakashi laid his head back against the tree that was supporting him up. "Please don't call me sensei, Sakura, you know that it makes me feel old."

"Hai, I'm sorry sensei." Sakura froze for a moment. "I mean...Kakashi-Kun." She smiled. Kakashi-Kun. It was cute, and in a way it fit him well.

Kakashi looked down at her face and a smile came across his covered lips. It was like she had chosen a nick name for the silver haired jounin. It was her name for him, and he liked it. "Thank you Sakura-Chan."

And in Sakura's mind that is how it all began.

For weeks Sakura and Kakashi would spend their evenings together, under the stars, looking up at the sky. They would talk to one another about whatever crossed their minds. They talked of her dreams and ambitions, his past, and their team, everything except the feelings that were brewing inside her.

By this time the pink haired girl had grown accustomed to calling her former sensei Kakashi-kun, even when they were in the village. At first the villagers were shocked with Sakura's new name for the silver haired jounin, but eventually the villagers came to accept her nickname for Kakashi.

Sakura was close to all three of her boys. She was there when Sasuke proposed to Ino, she watched as Naruto prepared for his first date with Hinata, and she was the one who dragged a drunken Kakashi home from the village pub. They were her life, and she would do anything for her team. They were her family.

They stuck together, through thick and thin, rain and shine, and it gave Sakura a strong sense of security.

It was close to fall when team seven was given their first S rank mission. It was no where near the difficulty of an A rank mission, but it was still a handful for the team to complete. They were to accompany a business associate from Wind county back home after a meeting with the Hokage. Suzuki Masaru was very wealthy, and wanted to show up at home with Konoha's elite ninjas as his escorts. It was supposed to be an easy mission.

They were to accompany Masaru in their full ANBU outfits, masks and all. Sakura had also opted for a hood to hide her pink hair. There was really no need for her to stick out.

Several times during the trip to Wind Country with the big shot associate Sakura came close to unleashing her anger on Masaru. He had a big mouth, there was no doubt to that, but Sakura would of survived if Masaru had kept his mouth shut about there being a girl to escort him home.

The trip had started out fine. It was a beautiful day, the sun was shining, and the clouds held no threat to the weather. Naruto and Sasuke walked ahead of Masaru, while Sakura and Kakashi held up the rear. The conversations were light, just enough chatter to keep their minds on the task at hand.

Sakura spoke no more than a few words during the first half of the mission. Just an occasional 'yes' or 'no' in response to Naruto, who could not keep his mouth shut and his voice down. It wasn't until Kakashi had finished reading his adult novel, Come Come Paradise that Sakura began to liven up and talk.

The two walked close to each other, their conversation held in whispers.

"How many missions did Tsunade-Sama send you on while we were gone?" Kakashi asked, his full attention on the pink haired kunoichi.

"Other than delivering papers and healing people?" He nodded. "None."

He looked up to the clouds in the sky, and then back at her. "Well at least you were safe."

"Why would that matter to you?" She crossed her arms across her chest.

"At least you were not injured while I was away. I would of died if something had happened to you."

"What do you mean Kakashi-kun?" She cocked her head to the, the way a confused puppy would, and he gave a silent laugh. She was so clueless. So innocent.

"I don't want to see you hurting." Kakashi stopped for a moment. "You are special to me Sakura-chan."