I will always protect you, Always.

By Sam400

Submitted: January 6, 2007
Updated: January 8, 2007

Sakura has been captured by Orochimaru! Its up to Lee to save her, and to defeat Orochimaru! With the only weapon strong enough.. Compassion, Loyalty, and the sword of the 4th Hokage!! R&R

Provided by Fanart Central.

1 - >>>Chapter 1

Sakura layed in the hospital bed, injured from falling from that waterfall... But a thought still comforted her... She could have died, if Lee hadn't saved her. He practicly was almost killed saving her, his injuries are way worse than hers.

"....Oh, Lee..." Sakura said to herself, she could still picture those terrible wounds... Gashed and bleeding....
Sakura could hear the door open. Someone was here..

"Sakura," It was the nurse. "Someone his here to see you."
Sakura tried to open her eyes. The room was blurry.
"Lee," Said the nurse.. "You can't stay too long, only about 5 minutes." Lee nodded.
"Lee....?" Sakura lifted her head. "That you?"
"How are you feeling?" Lee asked. Sakura breathed deeply. ".... I'm okay... Thank you..." She said. Rock Lee smiled. "How are you?" Sakura asked.
"Well... Because my wounds were so bad, the doctor ran out of bandages for the other patients." The both laughed.
"Lee..." Said Sakura with an unhappy look on her face. "I feel terrible for all of this..."
"Don't be," Replied Lee. "Just because you tripped into the river doesn't make this your fault."
"...."
"Besides, I've told you before.." Lee held her hand. "I will protect you... Untill I die.." Sakura smiled again. She needed that.

The nurse walked in. "Lee," She said. "Your teacher, Gai, is here. He wants to take you home. Besides, Sakura needs her rest."
"Yes," Lee said."I will be there in a minute." The nurse nodded and left.

".... Uhm... I hope you feel better.." Lee blushed. He couldn't look at her face.
Sakura smiled. "Thank you, Lee. For everything." Sakura then passed out.

M.I.D.N.I.G.H.T.

The door opened. Sakura could hear it. She could also hear footsteps... Was it morning? Did Lee come to visit?
No... There was this awful smell as the person walked in... It smelled like when Naruto's hamster died.. Poor Fuzzy... But seriousely, something was wrong...
Sakura then felt cold, rough hands touch her neck... Then, she was flying... No, someone was holding her, and moving outside... She was being kidnapped...

M.O.R.N.I.N.G.

Lee awoke from his bed, stretching his arms out.. He went into the living room, where Tenten was eating

breakfast and Neji was outside training. Usual. Oh, well. It was time to visit Sakura, anyway.
"Hey, Lee" Said Tenten. "Where are you going?"
"To visit Sakura." Lee replied, half way out the door.
"Don't you want some breakfast, first?" Tenten held up a plate of her own home cooking, which gave Lee a terrible feeling in his stomach..
"Uh, no thanks.." Said Lee. He ran out the door. Tenten shrugged. "Hey, Neji! Want some breakfast?" Tenten asked.
"NO"

H.O.S.P.I.T.A.L.

"I'm here to see Sakura Umino." Said Lee.

"Okay, Lee. But remember, 5 minutes-"
The nurse gasped when she opened the door. Lee was shocked as well.
Sakura was gone.

2 - >>>Chapter 2

"Oh, dear! DOCTOR!!!" The nurse exclaimed while running out the door. Rock Lee was devastated. He could smell something awful... But familiar...
Blood.

"No... Sakura.....!" Lee ran out of the hospital.

G.A.I.`S. H.O.U.S.E

"So Gai Sensei, what do you think of my home-made ramen noodles?" Tenten asked, handing Gai another bowl of foul smelled noondles.
"Uhmm... Its.... Delicious!.." Gai put on a fake smile. Tenten grinned. "Neji, want some?" She asked. Neji shook his head.
"... Someone's coming..."
Suddenly, Lee slammed through the door and tumbled over Neji.
"Gai Sensei!!!!!!" Lee exclaimed. "GET OFF OF ME!" Neji shoved Lee off of his back.
"Gai sensei!!! Sakura!Blood!Hospital!HELP...!" Gai put his finger on Lee's lip. "Calm down, Lee. Now, tell me whats going on.." Gai released his finger.
"SAKURA HAS BEEN KIDNAPPED!!!" Gai smacked Lee's head, which caused Neji to grin.
"I told you to stay calm! Now... Tell me whats going on, here. CALMLY."
"I went to visit Sakura at the hospital, but she was gone!" Lee exclaimed.
"Lee, what if she just left the room?" Gai said. "You can't prove-"
"But when I walked into the room... It smelled like blood.."

Gai dropped his chopsticks.
"Blood?" He said, staring into Lee's eyes. Lee nodded.
"....." Gai grinned. "Lee... You get some rest tonight..."
"W-what..?" Lee stammered in confusion. "But Gai Sensei-"
"Don't worry, Lee. Tomorrow I assure you, I'll take care of it." Gai grinned.
Lee wasn't so sure about what Gai had said... But he trusted him. So he nodded and went to bed.
".... Oh Lee.."

N.E.X.T. M.O.R.N.I.N.G

Lee awoke in sorrow, remembering what had happened to Sakura... But maybe she wasn't kidnapped, like Gai said... He can't prove it..
Either way, he had to trust what Gai had said.. Hopefully he would be able to take care of it..

Lee walked into the living room, still half asleep. It was very... Quiet. Then he noticed that Gai sensei wasn't here, just Tenten cooking and Neji preparing himself for Tenten's bad cooking..
"Neji," Lee began. "Where's Gai?"
"He's at a meeting with the Hokage and the others... I think it's about forming a search party for that girl

who's missing... Sakura Umino, I think." Lee was shocked.

"What?!" Lee grabbed Neji's shoulder. "How long ago did he leave?!"

"Get your hands off of me!" Neji exclaimed, ripping Lee's hand off his shoulder. "He eft about half an our ago."

"WHAT!!!" Lee ran out the door.

"... Hey, where's Lee going?" Tenten asked.

"...To make a fool of himself, I'm sure.."

3 - >>>Chapter 3

>>><<<

M.E.E.T.I.N.G.

"We are here today because one of our teacher's students are missing." Lord Hokage stated. "Miss Sakura Umino, of team seven. And I'm sure we all know who is responsible for the kidnapping.... Orochimaru."

One of the gaurds handed Lord Hokage a red scroll.
"The jounin selected for the search for the child will be..

Kakashi
Gai
Baki
Asuma
Kurenai
Anko

And they will be acompanied by several other well trained ninja."
"Are any students allowed?" Asked Kakashi.
"Absalutely not." Replied Lord Hokage. "It's too dangerous for students to be facing Orochimaru. He's a very dengerous sanin...There's no way a mere student could go up against him... And survive."
Kakashi just nodded.
"It's settled. The six chosen for this mission will leave in the morning. Meeting-"

"WAIT!!!!"
Gai barely jumped out of his skin. "What the-"

Suddenly, Lee ran through the door. He pretty much knocked over all of the gaurds, and all anyone could do was stare.
"Wait Lord Hokage!" Lee exclaimed. He bowed in Lord Hokage's presence.
"What is it, child?" Lord Hokage asked. "We are in the middle of a meeting.."
"Please let me join them to find Sakura!" He begged.
"Sir," Whispered a gaurd. "Should we throw him out?"

Lord Hokage smiled.
"No, no... Let the boy explain himself." He said. "Go on, you can stop bowing to me."
Lee stood.
"Sir Hokage," He said. "I would like to go with the search party to find Sakura."
The Hokage laughed. "What makes you think I will let a student go with six jounin on a deadly mission, that may cause the death of all six jounin, and the well trained ninja together?"

".....Because...." Lee lowered his head. "....I made a promise."

Lord Hokage had a confused look. Kakashi understood, he remembered what Sakura had told him about Lee's promise. Gai on the other hand, didn't get it.

"I promised Sakura, that would protect her, always...Untill I.. Die." Lee lifted his head. "I beg of you, Lord Hokage, let me join them on this mission, I must keep my promise."

Lord Hokage began to understand, but he frowned with doubt. "How can I be sure of this? How do I know you actually made this promise to Sakura Umino, and are not trying to kill her instead?"

Lee used the only proof he had. He took off his shirt and ripped off the bandages wrapped around his body.. It showed deadly gashes and scars.

"I recieved these wounds from falling off a waterfall, saving Sakura. She had fallen into the river, and I saved her by impacting my body into the ground while covering her with my arms." Said Lee. "Please believe me, Lord Hokage. I'll do anything to save Sakura." Lord Hokage had a serious look on his face. He stood in front of Rock Lee.

".. Are you willing to put your life on the line, to take dangerous steps, to fight terrible demons and monsters that may rip your heart out of your chest in a second? (Meaning Orochimaru..)"

"... If it will allow me to keep my promise... Yes." Lee answered.

Everyone stared anxiousely for Lord Hokage's response... So anxious, that Gai was chewing off his nails.

....

Lord Hokage laughed again. Everyone was confused.

"I can see you have the right idea for this mission, boy!" Said Hokage with a friendly grin. "What's your name?"

"Rock Lee." Lee answered.

"Well Rock Lee, you have convinced me!" Said Hokage.

"W-what? Sir Hokage?? What do you mean?" Said a gaurd.

"It's obvious this student has both the requirments for this mission. Compassion, and loyalty." Lord Hokage grinned at Lee. "Of course he can join the search!"

"But Lord Hokage-"

"Enough talk!" He said. "Take Rock Lee to get fresh bandages. We leave tomorrow morning."

A gaurd slightly shoved Lee. "Thank Lord Hokage, idiot." he whispered.

"Oh, thank you Lord Hokage.. This means alot to me." And they left.

"Okay... Now, meeting... aw heck you can just go." said Lord Hokage.

"... Naruto isn't going to be too happy about this... I know how much he wants to go ona mission like this.." Thought Kakashi.

4 - >>>Chapter 4

"WHAT?!" Naruto exclaimed in fury.

"I knew you'd be angry.." Said Kakashi, turning to leave.

"Hey!" Exclaimed Naruto. "Where do you think your going?! Get back here Kakashi Sensei!" he ran to him,

"Naruto, it's just one mission..."

"No it's not!" Naruto stopped. "It's my chance to show people I'm stronger than I look!"

"Naruto, you've already shown that at the paliminary rounds, and the chunin exam." said Kakashi.

Naruto pouted. "Then why does bushy-brow get to go?!"

"It's alittle personal, Naruto. Please try to understand."

"But Kakashi Sensei...!"

Kakashi was already gone.

G.A.I.'S. H.O.U.S.E

"Another bowl of ramen, Neji?" Tenten asked, holding a bowl of ramen with a terrible stench.

"..Tenten.." Neji said with a serious but ill tone. "There's something I need to tell you.. Your cooking su-"

"NEJI!" Naruto suddenly burst through the door.

"Naruto Uzumaki you idiot you-"

"BUSHY BROW IS GOING ON A SUPER DANGEROUS BUT COOL MISSION WITH KAKASHI SENSEI AND SOME OTHER GUYS! HE GES TO GO BECAUSE OLD MAN HOKAGE SAID HE COULD GO FOR SOME PERSONAL REASON OR SOMETHING!!! I MEAN WHAT THE HECK IS UP WITH THAT?!"

"Wh-what?" Neji said in a suprised tone. "How could he.. To chose him... Because why..?"

"Can you believe it?!" Naruto exclaimed.

"How could Lord Hokage choose Lee to go... How could he choose anyone at all?! Especially Lee... I am much stronger than him! He wouldn't last a second.."

"You know Neji you talk to yourself alot." Naruto walked out.

"....So Neji, what about my cooking?"

"..."

M.O.R.N.I.N.G.

Almost every person for the village was gathered by the gates of the Hidden Leaf Village. Everyone was eager to see the heroes prepare to leave the village and find Orochimaru...... Whether they'd come back alive or not.

Lord Hokage walked through the pathway in the crowd. four gaurds followed him. When he had made it to the gates, he raised his hands high to stop the crowds chattering.

"We stand here today to honor the seven brave heroes, who will risk their lives to find the missing student, Sakura Umino, who has been captured by one of the sanin, Orochimaru."

"What?"
"Orochimaru?"
"Hey, aren't there suppose to be six jounin selected for the mission?"
"Who's Sakura Umino?"
"Kidnapping?"

The crowd began chitter chattering about thw whole thing.
"Silence!" Commanded Lord Hokage. The people became quiet.
"Now, please present yourselves with honor, Kakashi, Baki, Gai, Anko, Asuma, Kurenai, And Rock Lee!"
All of them walked through the gate, presenting themselves proudly.

"What the?"
"What is a child doing here?"
"Shouldn't someone get him out of here?"
"Oh dear..."

"Now, now." Lord Hokage lifted his hands once more. "I know what you are all thinking." Lord Hokage stood next to Lee.
"This student should not be allowed on such a dangerous mission. But do you know what I believe?"
The crowd was silent.
"That this student, this mere child, is stronger than any of these six jounin."
"WHAT?!" It was obvious Naruto was watching from the crowd.

"....Uhh... Anyway... Rock Lee," Lord Hokage smiled. "I would like to give you something for your trip. Something that will help you greatly on your trip."
One of the gaurd ninja handed Lord Hokage a long wooden box.
"Bow in respect of what I am about to give you, Rock Lee." Said Lord Hokage. Lee bowed nervously.
"This very weapon has been used by a very famous and important man. He was a worthy ninja.... And a powerful Hokage."
Lord Hokage opened the box. There lied a sword of gold. Lee could feel its power escape from the box.
"Behold.... The sword of the fourth Hokage!"
Lee stood up straight and gazed at the golden sword. It's silver handle shined on Lee's face. Dazzling.
"Take it on your journey, Rock Lee. Even if you do not come back alive, everyone will know how you battled in bravery. Take it." Lee picked up the sword and tied it around his waist. The power rushed through his blood.
"Well, now that you are all set, I wish you good luck on your mission.... Now you may all cheer." Lord Hokage grinned.

Cheering

"Thank you, Lord Hokage.." Said Lee.
"Go on, Rock Lee. Your girl awaits." They both grinned.

Naruto watched from the crowd as the seven ninja left. He burned with anger.
"I'm going on that mission... One way or another!"