

Konoha Rising

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Begins as a mission for Squad 8 (Hinata, Kiba, Shino). This story introduces my first two OC's. I hope you enjoy. [Comment Please](#)

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Chapter 1 - Snared In Water	2
Chapter 2 - The Tide Turns: New Reinforcements	4
Chapter 3 - The Summons: Tsunade's Plan	6

1 - Snared In Water

In the woods outside Konohagakure.

"Shino are you sure we're headed the right way?" asked Kiba as he jumped from one tree to the next. "Neither Akumaru or I can smell any intruders in this or any direction. Are you even sure Lady Hokage gave us this mission?" He stopped and waited in a small clearing. Akumaru stopped with him, as did Shino and Hinata.

"I told you, Kiba, the Hokage was told that Akatsuki agents could be here in the forest, spying on the village. She doesn't want word of our activities to be passed along so she assigned us to track the agents down and dispatch them if there are any." Shino was getting annoyed, two hours of fruitless searching had caused Kiba to all but disbelieve him. To be honest, he was also beginning to worry that this was a wild goose chase.

"But that's my point," Kiba growled, "she's not even certain if there are any agents out here."

"Let's wait for Kurenai-sensei to get here, then," Hinata suggested, "if she has'nt found anything, then we can head back to the village." When both Shino and Kiba nodded at the idea, they all went over to a dry spot on the ground near a tree and sat down to wait. They didn't have to wait long.

"Any luck?" their teacher asked when she arrived a few minutes later. The three chunin stood when they noticed their teacher.

"None," responded Shino, stepping forward and kicking a puddle as he did so. "It's all the rain we've had recently. The water is slowing my bugs and hampering Kiba and Akumaru's sense of smell, even Hinata is having trouble seeing with all the water on the ground and in the trees."

"Yes," Kurenai said, nodding, "it seems our best bet will be to wait until some of this rain has--, what the?" As she had been speaking, the water near their feet had suddenly begun expanding, and as it reached each shinobi's feet had begun to freeze. Already even Kiba could not move his feet as they were frozen to the ground.

"What is this?" cried Kiba as he tried harder to move his feet. The ice just kept building as water from all over the clearing and the surrounding woods began adding to it. It was now up to everyone's knees. "Hold on," shouted Kiba, "I'll use a jutsu to break us out." He then made a few hand signs and tried to move again. He still could not move. "What the?"

"That won't work," called an icy voice from across the clearing. Squad 8 all turned to see a shadowy, robed figure standing there. The robe pictured red clouds but the man's hands were clearly visible and he wore no ring. "The ice is draining your chakra, you won't be able to escape it."

"Who are you?" called Kurenai, now imprisoned up to her waist like the others, "why are you doing this?"

"My name is not important," the figure replied as he drew a single kunai from a pouch on his belt, "just know that I am an agent of the Akatsuki, assigned to kill as many leaf shinobi as I can." He waved his empty hand and the ice stopped growing. "Now I must bid you farewell."

With that he jumped backwards into the shadow of the trees and simultaneously threw his one kunai at the imprisoned team. That icy, echoing voice cried out from the darkness, naming a single jutsu that would be the end of Squad 8.

"Shuriken Shadow Clone Jutsu."

Hope you liked this first chapter, and don't worry, the next one is coming soon.

2 - The Tide Turns: New Reinforcements

In the woods outside Konohagakure, near sunset. Squad 8 is imprisoned in chakra draining ice with more than 1,000 kunai flying towards them.

thought Kurenai, as she tried to perform a jutsu to stop the projectiles. It was no good, she could hardly move her arms for how cold she was, and the ice had already drained too much of her chakra. She could only guess how Hinata and the others were handling this. And the kunai were still coming.

"shoot, this is it," cried Kiba as the 1,000 sharp objects came closer. Then he smelled something, no two somethings.

A figure appeared as if from nowhere between them and the kunai, hands moving so fast they could hardly be seen. The figure's hands stopped while making the sign of the dragon.

"Double Air Pulse Jutsu." The figure punched forward with both fists at once, and when they stopped, two massive blasts of air burst forward, scattering the kunai like flies in the wind. Even Kurenai had never seen a jutsu like that before. "Show yourself, coward," the figure shouted into the trees. Kurenai guessed from the unfamiliar voice that he was about seventeen years old.

"So, another shinobi I'll have to kill," called the icy voice of the Akatsuki agent, still hiding in the shadows. "Interesting, but not unmanageable since you can't find me. Ultra Water Dragon Jutsu!!"

From out of the darkness came a massive dragon, made of water, that was hurtling along the ground toward the frozen ninja and their strange protector.

"Earth Style, Rock Wall Jutsu." Another figure appeared next to the first, slamming an open palm into the ground. In a matter of moments, a twenty foot high rock wall sprang out of the ground in front of the dragon, impeding its motion.

"Saleh-sensei," called the first figure to the second, "I'm thinking of playing Follow-the-Dragon." His voice was rather mocking, a fact that did not escape Kurenai's notice, even over the roar of water hitting rock.

"Go for it, little bro," the figure called Saleh responded, "just be quick about it. I can't hold this thing here for long." he added, referring to the dragon.

With his sensei's approval, the first figure leapt clear over the wall and landed on the dragon's back using a water-walking jutsu. Then, in a matter of moments, he ran down the creature's back towards the tail, where he found the Akatsuki agent controlling the dragon. Before the agent could even react, the figure landed a single, chakra-enhanced blow to his stomach. The agent was thrown back almost twenty feet and into a tree trunk, which cracked from the impact. The agent fell to the ground, unconscious, and the water dragon immediately evaporated.

Back in the clearing, after the dragon disappeared, Saleh turned his attention to the members of Squad 8, who were all still frozen up to the waist. After a moment to examine the ice, he bent one knee and knelt on the ground, then began a series of hand signs: Tiger, Ox, Dragon, Horse, Ox. He then quickly placed his right hand on the ground saying "Earth Style, Penetration Jutsu." Almost immediately, rock began creeping rootlike up into the ice, cracking it as it went.

Kurenai watched as the jutsu did its work and knew that it would free her team from the ice. Looking up, she saw the first figure return carrying the unconscious Akatsuki agent. Then she noticed that both Saleh and his student wore leaf village headbands. She tried to ask Saleh, who was nearer to her, about them but before she could she blacked out from exhaustion.

There, that's one introduced and both seen. Come back for the next chapter.

3 - The Summons: Tsunade's Plan

Nearly sunrise, a clearing in the woods around Konohagakure.

He was cold, more cold than he had ever been. His eyes were blinded by the shadows all around him, but he could sense that he was not alone. There were others, others experiencing the same cold and darkness he was. Then, in the quickest of moments, he became aware of many dangers all around them. Sharp, flying things, en masse, were speeding towards him and the others, and he was powerless to stop them. As they came closer, he began to scream.

Kiba bolted upwards from where he lay, startling Akumaru who had been laying next to him. As he looked around he saw none of the freezing darkness of his nightmare. In fact it was actually quite bright, and he found himself lying on the edge of a clearing in the woods. The dew on the ground told him that it was early morning, the light that it was sunrise.

"Glad to see you're finally awake, Kiba," came a familiar voice from nearby. Looking around as Akumaru walked off, Kiba spotted his sensei, Kurenai, seated next to a small cookfire. Another figure, who Kiba didn't recognize was stirring the contents of a large pot over that fire. Then Kiba noticed the stranger's stance, how he knelt on one knee with his back slightly arched, and remembered the battle of the previous night. This was the figure that had stopped that water dragon and had freed his team from that ice.

My team! thought Kiba, who then quickly scanned the area again. *There,* he spotted both Shino and a second stranger kneeling over Hinata, who Kiba noticed was shivering. The stranger's right hand was glowing and resting on Hinata's forehead, and she quickly stopped shivering.

"You don't have to worry about your teammate," the first stranger said as Kiba turned back to see him spooning a steaming liquid from the pot into six wooden bowls, "Thalion and I have come here from the Land of Snow. Believe me when I say that we have quite a lot of experience when it comes to cold-related injuries. Kiba is it?" he asked, as he handed Kiba a bowl. "Don't worry," he added, seeing Kiba's questioning look as he eyed the bowl's contents, "it's just some herb soup." He then handed another bowl to Kurenai and grabbed a bowl for himself before sitting down. "How is my second cousin?" he then asked someone behind Kiba.

"She'll be alright," responded the other stranger, who the first had referred to as Thalion, "Shino is keeping an eye on her. Apparently she was beginning to go into shock more than we thought," he added, as he sat down and grabbed his own bowl of soup. "It is a good thing we decided to get you all warmed up rather than bring you straight to the village or she might not have made it."

"I'd say it's also a good thing that you know your medical techniques," added Kurenai, as she finished a bite of soup, "your skill with them is remarkable for one your age."

"Why thank you, sensei," Thalion responded, "it is not often that I get compliments from anyone other

than Saleh-sensei."

"Okay," interrupted Kiba, setting down his bowl, "I don't mean to sound rude or anything, but I don't usually eat breakfast or have polite conversation with people I know nothing about." He then stared accusingly at Thalion and Saleh.

"Oh is that what's been troubling you," Saleh said with a chuckle before setting down his bowl. "Well I guess introductions would be a good place to start. I am Hyuga Saleh, a jonin from your Konohagakure. And this," he added, motioning toward Thalion, "is Shenji Thalion, my student and I guess you could say adopted brother, who is from the land of snow."

"A Hyuga, huh?" said Kiba, looking at Saleh pupilless eyes to confirm this tale, "is that why you called Hinata your second cousin?"

"Yes, indeed," responded Saleh calmly, "I am a cousin of her father, Lord Hyuga. You might not know of me, as I left the village to travel more than eleven years ago."

"I see," said Kiba, beginning to relax now, "but why did you decide to come back now of all times?"

"To be honest," added Kurenai, "I was wondering about that myself." She turned to face Saleh, but it was Thalion who answered.

"About two weeks ago, Saleh-sensei recieved a message from Konoha. It was sent by Lady Tsunade, soon after she was named Fifth Hokage, but it apparently had some difficulty reaching us, hence we only recieved it two weeks ago, more than two years after it was sent."

"What kind of message?" asked Kiba.

"It was a call," responded Saleh, "a call for aid. She claimed that the village had suffered many losses and that its number of activities was being forced to increase. She also mentioned the involvement of Orochimaru and of the Akatsuki, who we have our own reasons for dealing with." Saleh threw a quick glance toward Thalion, whose face had taken on a very serious look. "For these reasons, she was requesting the return of all the traveling leaf shinobi, to aid in the completion of missions and the hunt for Orochimaru. We may be very late in answering that request, but we have answered it none the less."

"Hey, Thalion," called Shino as Akumaru began barking, "she's awake."

"Okay, Shino, I am coming," Thalion called back as he jumped to his feet. "Coming?" he asked Kiba as he grabbed the two remaining bowls of soup and turned to go join Shino. Kiba quickly jumped up to follow while Saleh and Kurenai remained by the fire.

"You seem surprised by all this," Saleh commented to Kurenai, "I take that means in spite of how late we are, we are still the first to return?"

"The only wandering shinobi to have returned in recent years is Master Jiraiya," she told him, "but that was before that letter had to have been sent." I haven't heard a word about this summons at all."

"That's not good," Saleh said, a worried look crossing his face. "If we are all that's answered this summons, I doubt we can be of much help."

Kurenai, who had turned to see her team laughing at a joke Thalion had apparently told them, just smiled. Her team was more at ease with Thalion there than they had been in a long time.

"You may be of more help than you realize."

That is it for this fanfic, but do not worry, you have not seen the last of Thalion and Saleh.