

# Darkness Hidden in the Leaves

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*When Belle Morte is tossed into a completely new dimension without her human servant. How will she get by? Especially with all of these Ninja running around. And that kid, Sasuke, who pushes her buttons so badly she tosses 2 people into a gate.*

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## **1. Information on the Story**

This is info on the story. At first, Belle is in her normal world, then she'd tossed into another one, literally. She doesn't enter Konaha until chapter 5 or 6. But, don't stop reading! You will enjoy this!

## 1. Entering Soledras

Belle Morte led the way down the road to Soledras, a capital in one of the many nations the two have wandered. They come here for the sole purpose of something to do.

Four men suddenly surrounded them, dressed in military garb. Belle's rapier was immediately at her side and Zachary's hand wandered even closer to his throwing knives. She wasn't worried as most would be as she knew how quick they both were. Maybe they didn't have to fight, Zachary had great persuasive skills. She nodded and with that movement of her head, he began, "Sirs, why do you stop us? All we have done is attempt to enter your fair city. Is there some order of which we are not aware?" He looked around expectantly, his cultured voice had already calmed the men.

"There is a blue light capture list, you and your mistress are on it. Blue light means the king wishes to speak with you. This is a great honor, we have been sent to get you once someone reported seeing you in the area." The man in the center stepped forward, smiling, at ease.

"We will go with you, but we must retain our weapons." Belle spoke, the slight hiss in her voice startled them.

The guard nodded, for that was what Belle had recognized them to be. Royal Guard, a high rank. He smiled and they all turned, signaling the two to follow them. Before they could do anything, all four were down. Butchered, their blood turning the dust to mud.

"Mistress, must you kill everyone we come across? Are we going to see the king?" Zachary held silent laughter in his voice.

"They had it coming, the pompous fools. Yes, we are going to see the king. Let's go." Belle replied shortly, turning and heading toward the city. Zachary shook his head with a smirk and followed.

## 2. Royal Guard

Matthew Smith stood in his private quarters, looking out the window at the darkness.

The door bangs opened and Samuel Jisias rushes in, fear invading his every step. He leaves the door open and tremblingly speaks, "Commander Matthew, The vampiress has arrived and is speaking with the king. Byron, John, James, and Louis did not return with her. What will we do, They are our best men!"

"Samuel, you know I do not appreciate my door being treated that way." Matthew's voice was empty, as always. Like he didn't care either way. "So the vampiress is here? Hmmm, perhaps she killed them."

"There are reports of four unrecognizable bodies just outside of town. They're so butchered you can't tell who they are, but they are wearing the Royal Guard's robes." Samuel took a shuddering breath and continued, "I don't understand how one person could do that to another."

"Therein lies the problem, Samuel, vampires are not persons, nor will they ever be. They are killing machines that feed on blood. Their very existence is evil." Matthew stopped as a voice outside the window made it's own opinion known.

"Silence yourselves before my sweet mistress decides you are unworthy of the very pitiful existence you lead." Zachary swung into the window, looking around at the two. Samuel gulped and Matthew looked unfazed.

"No insult was meant, vampiress's servant. Forgive us." Matthew spoke as if he were bored.

Zachary cocked his head, "My dear mistress calls. I advise that you go see to your king before her temper leads her to do something rash." He swung back out of the window, disappearing from sight.

Samuel stood, both left the room and headed towards the king's private quarters with hurried step.

### 3. King Richard's Request.

Belle stood in front of the mighty king on his throne. Her eyes dodged around, taking in the colorful surroundings that made her roll her eyes and curl her lip in disgust.

Zachary appeared at her side, in a cloud of black. The king, who had been about to say something, cleared his throat nervously and began, "Lady Belle and Sire Zachary, I request your help with a most important matter. Word comes to me that anyone under your care lives through hardship with ease?"

"Tis true, King Richard. Tell me of your request, so that I may decide whether I'd want to help you or not." Belle spoke, a slight sneer in her voice.

"My sweet daughter, the apple of my eye, Aria, has fallen in with a crowd of dimension jumpers. They take turns searching for a friend of hers master, not by choice but master nonetheless. I fear Fiera, her friend controled by a man named Darshe, will lose control and damage my sweet daughter. Can you protect her for me? You will be rewarded." King Richard was almost pleading.

"Darshe? He is here?" Belle's cold eyes flinched slightly.

"You know of him?" Richard spoke with interest.

"Yes, He is the one who has made me so cold. He tortured me, and then threw me to the dogs. I expect no reward, the chance to kill him will be enough." Belle's eyes filled witha new hardness.

"Good. Thank you, Lady Belle. You will now meet the one you are guarding, yes?" King Richard smiled expectantly.

"Bring the dog...opps...I mean girl in." Belle grinned at the accidental on purpose slip of tongue.

King Richard glared, but spoke into an intercom. "Aria? Darling, you presence is required in my quarters."

"Yes, father. The reason for me to be there is important guests, right?" Aria sounded polite.

"Yes, some of the most important." King Richard replied.

"Allow me time to change." Aria spoke and then cut it off.

They waited for a few minutes, then the door beside the throne swung open and a 15 year old girl walked in. She was golden blonde, sky blue eyed, and fair complected. She was very small but walked with authority. Belle analyzed the girl she would have to guard for a few days, weeks or months.

Aria did her own analysis, pale, raven haired and sapphire eyed. She didn't exactly approve of the company until she noticed Zachary. Light brown haired, still pale and emerald eyes. She decided she liked him immediately.

"Yes, father?" She spoke calmly, almost sweetly.

"These are your new body guards. They will follow you everywhere. Even while you search for Darshe." King Richard eased into the dangerous waters like a pro.

Aria stiffened, "Will they protect Kami and Bryan as well?" he decided to test his knowledge.

"We're here to protect all of your little friends, kid." Belle told her. Aria's anger flared.

"And when, dear father of mine, did you find out about my friends?" Aria's knuckles were white as she clenched her hands.

King Richard had the grace to look embarrassed, "I feared for you, so I sent people to watch you. They overheard some of your conversations."

Aria turned n her heel and rushed out the door. Belle knew enough to follow with Zachary close behind.

## 4. The Mighty And Powerful Darshe

Belle and Zachary follow Aria live liquid shadowa as she rushes along the town to the slums. Belle doesn't like this place, a sense of foreboding seems to follow them.

They stop at a hovel like any of the others, Aria rushes in yelling "BRYAN" loud enough to wake up the neighborhood.

At first glance, Belle noticed nothing of interest. Then her eyes adjusted to the dimness and she saw 2 people tangled up together on the couch. One has pink hair, them both look like men.

"Zachary? Are they...urm...well making out?" Belle turn to him, giving her eyes something better to look at.

Zachary avoided then scene on the couch as well, "It would seem so."

Aria yelled again, "BRYAN!!!! GET OFF OF KAMI LONG ENOUGH TO LISTEN!!!!"

The two break apart, slightly embaressed. "Got them to behave did you? They sat down thirty minutes ago." A shape by the door spoke disgustedly.

"The king knows about our hunt for Darshe! he sent these two to watch us." Aria glared at the two by the door. Zachary inclined his head, Belle shrugged.

The girl by the door, Fiera, leapt at Belle, something like claws attempting to dig into Belle's skin. The two struggle for a few seconds, then Belle pushes her back and dodges out the door, hoping to keep the ones in the slum from any damage. Fiera follows, followed in her own turn by the rest of the group. They all divide themselves and position around her at regualr intervals. She stands up straight, a smile decorating her beastal face, Belle and her being the only ones in the circle. Then the smile widened as her eyes went past Belle and the others. A cultured voice speaks from the shadows, " My servant, how are you doing?" Darshe himself steps ot of the shadows behind Belle and Zachary.

"Very well master, do I kill this one? Would it help you if I did? " She spoke as a puppy would, if he could talk, wanting to please.

" No, but she is a nuisance to some of my plans. Throw her out of this dimension." Belle gaped at him, but turned around to late to stop Fiera from rushing at her, picking her up, and flinging her at the building.

She flew, almost a blur, then just before she hit, she disappeared. Zachary felt her leave the dimension like a chest wound.

## 5. The Darkness Enters Konoha

\*Here's Belle in The Hidden Leaf Village, as I promised! Enjoy.

Belle was unsure of her surroundings when she first opened her eyes. She was aware of a growing discomfort in her back.

She was propped up against a stone in the middle of a clearing about 100ft. in diameter. The rock at her back was in the center.

"Where am I...?" She tried to sit up on her own, then flinched as a wave of pain spread out from her back.

She looked around and noticed a man with silver messy hair, a mask over the lower half of his face and a handband covering one of his eyes. He had three children at his side, two boys and a girl. One of the boys looked sort of like her, black hair and oh so pale skin. His eyes were black and empty of feeling. Her eyes were blue, a deep sapphire blue that was as cold as ice.

The other boy had happy eyes, ready to take on the world and he knew he could do it, too. His eyes were the same color as hers, though not as cold, and his hair was the brightest blonde she had ever seen. He, as was the other boy, was wearing the same type of headband the man was wearing, on his forehead. It didn't really match his orange jumpsuit.

The girl had turquoise eyes and bright pink hair. Her red dress had to be hindering while fighting. She had her headband worn over her hair as girls do.

The man started to walk towards her, the three children following quickly behind. Feeling in her arms returned and she lifted her hand to look at them. They were smaller than she remembered. Belle summoned a puddle of black water to her hands as the man and his shadows got to her. Her face looked different, like it had when she had been 14, not the 19 year old face she had seen last.

"Excuse me, but did you just appear out of nowhere? That's not supposed to happen you know." The silver haired man sounded bored.

Belle shrugged, "Maybe, passing from dimension to dimension is disorienting. I might

have landed in a pond and before I knew it, drowned. Luckily I just flew against this rock" ,her back arched slightly and she gritted her teeth as another pang of pain hit her, "Well, not so lucky I guess, This hurts like hell."

The man nodded, "Do you need a hospital?" The kids stepped a bit closer to this girl obviously from another world.

Belle eyed him suspiciously, " And I should trust you? I don't even know your name."

"Oh, sorry. I seem to have forgotten my manners. I'm Kakashi, this is Sakura, Sasuke and Naruto. You are?" Kakashi waited for a response.

Belle smiled slightly, "I guess that's fair. I'm Belle Morte." Her eyes scrunched up in another wave of pain.

"Nice to meet you Belle. I'm Naruto Uzumaki and I'm mmmrrph..." The pink haired girl covered his mouth.

"Naruto! She's hurt. Let her recover before you talk her to death." Sakura sighed. Naruto was always like this.

Belle grinned, she couldn't help it, the kid was such a funny little thing....

Sasuke looked at her oddly and asked, "Are those fangs?"

## 6. Vampire?

Belle grinned, "Is that a trick question?"

Sasuke shook his head.

Belle looked around and realised they really meant it, "You don't know, do you?"

"No idea."

"Nope."

"Not really."

"Can you please explain?"

Belle sighed, and the wound on her back twinged, "I'm a vampire. You should have known that...."

"A what?" Sakura looked totally confused, so did Naruto and Sasuke. She couldn't tell with Kakashi, as most of his face was covered.

"You don't know what a vampire is?" Belle was astonished, how could they not know?

"No..."

"I think do."

They all turned to Sasuke, who had spoken. I hope this kid has it right...Belle thought nervously, as Sasuke began, "I thought they were legends, you know, fairytales. They're supposed to be restrained to darkness. They need blood to survive and they can trick humans to do their bidding. They control dark chakra, not the same as everyone else's. They're supposed to be completely evil."

They all looked at her with varying levels of worry.

## 7. Set It Straight

Belle frowned at Sasuke and sighed, this kid was getting on her nerves already," The type of vampire you just described was an undead vampire. I, on the other hand, am a living vampire. Our powers vary. I am not restricted to sunlight, or else I could not stand before you now. I don't need blood to live, just to heal major injuries. I am not pure evil, I try to help others. I don't trick humans to do my bidding, I think you're making a sorry attempt at calling my human servant a mindless slave. He chose his position, as do all others. I don't control only black magics, other colored one's come to my beck and call. I just PREFER black. Any other questions?" Belle bowed over as her back gave a pang of pain. If she was in this state, then the rock behind her must be in equal or worse condition. She struggled to turn around enough to see.

Where the rock had once been solid, now a crack in which she could fit her hand into was. "Oh! I'm sorry. I'll fix it, it's obviously important to your people."

"No, that's ok. You don't know what names to put on it. We'll get someone to fix it later." Kakashi had noticed every grimace, every wince. This girl was hurt.

"Who said I needed to know names?" Belle lifted her hand and a black cloud floated around it. She eased her hand along the crack and when the mist went away, the stone was as good as new. Every letter was in place, every name looked undisturbed.

"WOW! Did you see that, Kakashi sensei? How'd she do that???" Naruto was almost leaping about in excitement.

Belle felt her muscles tighten as another wave of pain hit her, she hit her hands and knees. She gritted her teeth to keep from crying out as they all asked her if she was alright.

Most of the pain passed, she spoke as she tried to stand, "You do have a medical center nearby?" She managed to get up, but her knees buckled. Sasuke, who was nearest to her, caught her and leaned her against the rock.

"Oh, yes, of course." Kakashi seemed to think about what to do thoroughly.

## 8. Through the Woods

Kakashi must have come to some conclusion, as he finally said something. Waiting had ticked Belle off, she never had good patience to start with and these Ninja were trying her nerves.

"There's a medical center in the village, we'll take you to it.. Trainings over guys, lets go."

"Awww. Ok, Kakashi-sensei." Naruto seemed a little sad. Kakashi started off into a random part of the forest, or so it seemed to her. Naruto waited on her as the other two followed their sensei.

They had walked a ways before Belle decided to talk. " Where are we anyway?"

"The Village Hidden in the Leaves. This is the village that i'll lead someday as Hokage. BELIEVE IT!" Naruto seemed very excited by the concept, and very determined.

"Hopes are gay? What type of title is that?" Belle was easing up, she wasn't as tight laced as she had been around the others. Some thing about this hyper-active kid put her at ease.

"Not hopes are gay, Ho-ka-ge. He leads the village and he's the highest rank of Ninja. You have to master 1000 jutsu before you can even think of being it." Naruto spoke almost too fast for her to understand.

Belle was confused, "What's a jutsu? Is it a type of injury?"

Naruto was so astonished he almost exploded, "YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT JUTSU IS???"  
The other three looked back

The corners of Sasuke's mouth tipped up, "She doesn't know what jutsu is? Great, Naruto, now you have another loser to mess things up with."

Belle disappeared from Naruto's side and was suddenly in front of Sasuke, inches from his

face, with a blade pressed into his throat almost hard enough to draw blood.

Belle spoke with a voice drenched in venom, and filled with longing to kill the one at the mercy of her blade, "Now, what did you say, Sasuke?"

## 9. Now, Don't Kill Him

Belle waited for a reply, Sasuke finally realised she was there. It's takes alot to get used to vampiric speed.

Kakashi walked over to the two, kinda carefully, Belle looked really pissed off, "Belle, as much as I know you want to, please don't kill Sasuke. Then I'd only have a 2 man squad instead of a 3 man squad."

Belle was staring to respect Kakashi, against her own will. She sighed, "Very well, but let me make something very very clear. I may not know what jutsu is, perhaps one of you could teach me, but don't you ever, don't you ever insult me. And Sakura, put your funny looking dagger away, I could kill you before you could even think about throwing it." Belle slide her dagger back in it's sheath, stood up straight and shoved Sasuke backward. Great, she'd been here less then a day and someone was already on her list.

Sasuke stumbled a little, caught himself and stood up straight, eyeing her warily. She shot him a pleased smirk, followed by a wince of pain. She leaned against a tree, "Ok, I swear to behave and not kill Sasuke til we're at the hospital, happy? Now can we go?"

They started off again, she heard Naruto mocking Sasuke, "Ha! You just got beat by a girl!"

When they reached the road, Kakashi turned around to face them, "Ok, I need to talk to the Hokage on this, Sakura, go to his residents(msp?) and tell him I need to speak with him, urgently, by the Memorial Stone. Naruto and Sasuke, take Belle to the hospital. I'll go and wait for the Hokage."

Sasuke sighed, Sakura just nodded and took off, Naruto said, "OK Kakashi-sensei." Belle was struggling to understand any of it.

They all took off along their seperate ways. Belle ended up walking with Naruto with Sasuke walking ahead. He's learning, Belle thought.

## 10. Shikamaru, Ino and Chouji

They had walked a while in a silence when they came upon a gate. Three kids stood outside it, seemingly bored.

"Hey Naruto, who's the new girl?" The boy leaning on one of the gates straightened and came toward him. He was dressed in brown pants, a fishnet shirt, which was kinda wierd, underneath a short sleeve tan jacket, with dark blue patches on the sleeves.

"Hey, Shikamaru, This is Belle. Belle this is Shikamaru, Chouji and Ino." Naruto made introductions while Sasuke stood over to the side. Emo kid, Belle thought, looking over at him.

"Naruto, she looks so pale, are you sure she's alright?" The girl Belle could only assume was Ino spoke awfully boldly, that could get her killed if she spoke to the wrong person. Her hair was a very pale blonde and she had blue eyes. She wore a purple sleeveless top with white unconnected sleeves lower on her arms. She had a purple skirt, kinda short, and this odd bandage type stuff.

"I'm naturally this pale, well a little less but this is normal for me. And no, I'm not alright. We were just heading to the hospital." After forcing herself to speak, Belle nearly crumbled again, but she managed to stay upright.

Sasuke mumbled something from over in his little area. Belle knew it was some type of insult, so she was immediately in front of him, the blade back at his neck, except this time a drop of blood was visible.

"What? Say that again? What did you say?" Belle was stronger when she was pissed, maybe she should stay pissed off.

"I didn't say anything. Back off." Sasuke replied, seemingly unfazed. That pissed her off more.

"No, tell me what you said. I really want to know."

"Um, Belle? Let's back off of Sasuke and get going to the hospital, alright?" Shikamaru was beside her, a hand on her arm.

"After he tells me what he said. When he tells me, maybe." Belle smiled, but it wasn't a happy smile.

"Well, then I'm sorry about this. You seem to be a nice girl, and Uchiha, here, probably deserves it." Shikamaru sighed, then made a hand sign. "Shadow Possession Jutsu!"

Belle couldn't move, then, of their own accord, her arms moved down to her sides. She looked at Shikamaru, her pupils swirling down to pinpoints.

## 11. Person Meets Gate (Ouch)

Belle's pupils were barely visible, she was vamping out on them. Her skin grew paler, if that were at all possible, and her fangs became longer and sharper.

A black cloud of chakra was forming around her. It spiraled down, taking the form of Shikamaru's shadow. It invaded the shadow and took control. Before Belle had been fighting to control her own body, now Shikamaru was having the same problem.

Belle smirked and pushed the black chakra through the shadow, into Shikamaru and it sent him flying, barely a blur, into one of the gate doors. He stopped against the gate and slid down, showing the dent he had left, "I am sorry as well, Shikamaru. If you ever forgive me for sending you flying into a gate, perhaps we can become friends. You seem to be a decent person."

Belle looked over in time to see Ino make a hand sign, "Mind Transfer Jutsu!" Belle's personality filtered out, leaving Ino's in her body. Ino's personality filled Belle's eyes, but only for a moment, only long enough for Chouji to catch her body. Then her head came up, Ino was back home in her own body, and Belle was in hers and she was wicked pissed.

Belle's cloud of black chakra, having returned after her attack on Shikamaru, shot over to Ino and encased her in it. No one could see her, until she went flying into the same gate Shikamaru had.. She, too, left a dent. Two dents were now in the gate.

Belle's fangs shortened, her skin became more alive looking, and her eyes returned to normal. The kids still stand were looking at her oddly.

"Opps, my temper makes me vamp out. It's not a good thing for that to happen." She noticed the dents in the gate. "Oh shoot, did I do that? With what?"

"Uh, Shikamaru and Ino?" Chouji was keeping his distance.

She saw the two laying on the ground at the foot of the gate. She rushed over just as Shikamaru sat up. "My god, I'm sorry. I didn't mean to go that far." She offered him a hand, wondering if he'd even take it. He eyed her warily, but took the offered hand and let her pull him up.

"It's fine, I shouldn't have interfered in the fight between you and Uchiha. Ino's fine, you didn't even touch Chouji. Everything's fine." Chouji, the boy indicated, was eating chips like there was no tomorrow. He was wearing brown shorts, a tan shirt with a red symbol on the front, and a green elbow-sleeve jacket. A white scarf was around his neck and hung down past his waist. He wore the open-toed sandals everyone else did, and some of the bandage stuff. He also wore a headband, just like the rest.

Belle stepped over to Ino and offered her a hand, "Forgive me, Ino, I overreacted and I should know by now not to use vampiric rage on others."

Ino gave her a puzzled look, "Vampiric rage? What does vampiric mean?"

Sasuke hurried to speak before Belle, "It's just an adjective, it means she was really really pissed off."

Ino nodded, never doubting what Sasuke said for a moment, "Um, sure, I forgive, now let's get you to the hospital."

## 12. Shino and That Damn Dog

Belle nodded and started to follow Ino through the gates. Naruto, nearly speechless before, was talking excitedly to Shikamaru, something about whether being bounced off of the gate hurt or not. Sasuke lagged behind, even farther back than Chouji.

They had just made it past the gate when a voice burst through the woods, "GET OFF OF AKAMARU'S CASE, SHINO! YOU CAN OBSESS OVER THE BUGS LATER, WHEN AKAMARU AND ME AREN'T WORKING ON THIS ONE TECHNIQUE!!!"

Belle smiled, she loved arguments, "Who was that?"

"Sounded like Kiba, Akamaru must have scared off some bug Shino was trying to collect." Shikamaru replied, glancing back.

"Wanna meet Kiba, Shino and Hinata?" Naruto asked, still excited.

Belle looked into his earnest face, and no matter how hard she tried, she couldn't refuse. Damn it all to hell. "Sure, what's the harm?" Belle made herself smile even as Ino looked at her suspiciously.

"AKAMARU??? WHERE ARE YOU GOING?" The voice known as Kiba yelled.

A little tiny white dog rushed out of the underbrush, with the sound of crashing following it. It skidded to a stop and faced the surprised group. It issued a high pitched bark and Belle was almost sure it was aimed at her.

A boy ran out of the woods, "Akamaru! There you are!" The voice told Belle that this was Kiba. Another boy and girl followed him out of the forest.

He looked at the group and frowned slightly.

### 13. Kiba, Shino and Hinata

Akamaru barked again and Kiba looked at him, "Really?" His eyes glanced over to Shikamaru.

"Shikamaru, who's she?" Kiba looked a bit like a dog himself. he had black eyes and super messy brown hair. Two stirps of red paint was painted down his face. He wore brown pants (anyone sensing a color theme here?) and a gray jacket, zipped up, and the hood was lined with brown fur.

Shino, on the other hand, wasn't as bold as Kiba was, you could tell he liked shadows better then the spotlight. Shino had messy brown hair, but it was a shade darker then Kiba's, and you couldn't tell what color his eyes were, as he was wearing dark round black glasses. He wore brown pants (definatly a theme here...) and a gray jacket with out a hood. But it had a collar that went up around the lower half of his face.

Hinata, the last one, had purple hair and, Belle was surprised to see, pupilless eyes that were solid white. Her pants were a navy blue and her jacket was tan. It had red and yellow patches on the sleeves.

"This is Belle, Kiba. belle, this is Kiba, Shino, Hinata and", Shikamaru remembered in time to say, "Akamaru."

Akamaru barked several times in rapid succession. Kiba nodded and looked at Belle curiously.

"What?" It came out angry and slightly hostile, Kiba shouldn't be looking at Belle like that in the first place.

Kiba shook his head, " Akamaru is almost scared of you. That must mean you possess an awful lot of chakra."

" Say what? What the hell is chakra?" Belle felt the pain in her back start to spread. This wasn't going to be good.

Kiba's eyes narrowed, "She doesn't know what chakra is? Where's she from?"

Naruto rubbed the back of his neck and looked at Sasuke, who shook his head, No. That told him to make something up, "Uh, no idea. We found her passed out in the woods. She looked hurt and we decided to take her to the hospital. When she woke up, she didn't remember anything."

"Kiba! Hinata! Shino! Come here!" A woman shouted from the area where the three had come from.

"Sensei's calling, let's go." Hinata's voice was so quiet, almost inaudible.

Shino nodded and proceeded into the forest, Hinata, Akamaru and Kiba followed, Kiba casting one last curious glance her way.

## 14. Konohamaru

The group turned and started along the road(yet again). Naruto and Belle walked side-by-side as he was the only one who would. They were all kinda nervous around her. Naruto had to modify his pace slightly because Belle was limping slightly. Every step she took seemed to hurt her back injury and it was starting to piss her off.

"Hey, Belle, you're ok right?" Naruto said. Man he sure was observant, Belle thought.

"I should be. Getting slammed against a rock hurts more than I'd like to admit." Damn it, why was she telling him the truth? Because, even though she wouldn't even admit it to herself, she was starting to like the irritating hyper-active kid. Maybe they could be friends.

"Thrown against a rock?" Chouji asked from behind them, pausing his constant eating to do so.

"Who was thrown against a rock, Chouji?" Ino asked, while Shikamaru asked the same question just not in the same way.

"Belle was, I guess, she just said something to Naruto about it."

"Naruto! You're not telling us the whole story, are you? Spill it!" Ino glared at him, and Shikamaru just looked slightly edgy.

"I can't..." Naruto whined.

"Why not?" Ino asked, still glaring.

Just then, a little dark haired kid wearing a white hat leapt toward Naruto out of the bushes which they were walking past. Naruto got out of the way, but Belle had no such luck. The kid collided with her and took both of them down. Belle's injury protested in being bounced off of the ground.

"Konohamaru! Get off of her!" Naruto dragged the little kid off of Belle, looking a little mad.

"Sorry, Boss! I was aiming for you!" Konohamaru watched as Naruto offered Belle a hand up.

"Didn't anyone ever explain to you that it's not polite to knock girls down?" Shikamaru knew of the grandson of the third Hokage but this was his first encounter with him.

"It's fine, he's just a kid, I'm sure he didn't mean it in a bad way." Belle was standing again, but she felt worse. Why wasn't she healing as she normally did? "Naruto, I'm sure it'd be fun to sit here and talk with your little friend, but I'm not feeling my best at all. Can we go?"

Naruto nodded and said good-bye to Konohamaru. The kid sent Belle a nervous look, he'd seen her fangs. She'd made the mistake of grimacing as she got up.

They were now back on track towards the hospital. They had been walking for a while before her injury gave her any real trouble. But when it did, she hit her hands and knees again. The pain had managed to spread from her back to her chest and stomach. It wasn't supposed to do that, was it?

"Belle? Let's get up and get going...." Naruto sure didn't waste time asking questions...

They tried to help her up, but Belle wouldn't let them. She sure as hell was going to get to the hospital on her own two legs.

After a while, and a few more falls, Belle finally asked where the hospital was, "How far do we have to go?"

"The other side of the village," said Sasuke, with a smirk.

## 15. Kakashi Tells the Hokage

Kakashi stood in front of the Memorial Stone, running his hand down where the crack had been. It was as if it had never been there and he was confused. You can't mend stone with chakra...

"Kakashi? This young lady says you need to speak with me." He turned around to see the Lord Hokage and Sakura.

"Good work, Sakura. Now try and catch up with the others. They should be at the hospital by now, though with the way Sasuke and Belle locked horns I wouldn't be surprised if they had battled it out already. Not sure who would win though...." Kakashi watched Sakura take off, jumping into the first tree she came across.

He turned to face the Hokage, "Lord Hokage. Hmm...how do I say this?" He sighed, "A girl appeared out of nowhere, in midair. She looked as if she was thrown at an incredible speed, with incredible strength, and she landed against the Memorial stone, leaving a wide crack right down the middle."

"There is no crack in the face of the stone, Kakashi." His eyes searched the stone for any type of damage.

" I know, she fixed it, with pure chakra. It was black and completely visible. Chakra isn't usually visible."

" No, it isn't. You said she appeared out of nowhere?"

" Yes, and I've barely told you half of it. She had fangs and claimed to be a word I had never heard before. Do you know what a vampire is? Sasuke gave us information on what she was supposed to be, but she replied that he described an undead vampire, and that she was a living vampire. I have no idea what a vampire is in the first place, except what she tells us. How can we tell if she is friend or foe?"

" I guess we can't. A simple test will do for us to find out. Once she is out of the hospital, I will give her a simple task to fulfill. If she is able to do the task, we may be able to allow her to become a citizen of this village."

" Are you sure we can trust her so easily?"

"Only time will tell, go catch up with your students. We can't leave those two to kill each other." The Hokage sighed, Naruto had finally quit his pranks and now this girl from another world shows up. The Hokage before him can't have had this much trouble with mere youngsters.

## 16. Ouch, and Belle's out

It wasn't long before even Belle realised she needed help, so now she was leaned against Sasuke, cursing in her head for the thousandth time the fact she wasn't healing as she normally would. Sasuke, against his own wishes, still supported her. He was the only one who had an inkling of what she was, thus it fell to him to help her.

They met Sakura as she was walking out of the hospital, looking for them, "There you are! How is she?"

Belle tried to make herself speak, as she had fought to keep walking, even after Sasuke had to help her, she tried to make herself support part of her own weight. She tried to speak, but failed.

"I don't think she is. She started off ok, but she started to lean on me more and more as the trek progressed." Sasuke didn't like her in the least bit, but he wasn't going to let her die either, "I've been supporting most of her weight for a while now."

Belle nodded, almost ashamed. Then her back protested in a most painful way.

"Shikamaru? Chouji? Ino? What are you doing here?" Sakura was surprised to see the trio behind Sasuke and Naruto.

"We ran into Naruto, Sasuke, and Belle at the gate. Our sensei said he wouldn't be back for a while, so we decided to come." Shikamaru replied.

Belle murmured something inaudible to the rest of the group, but Sasuke heard it and smiled slightly.

"What did she say?" Sakura said, jealous. Nothing she said made Sasuke smile.

"She said, 'Even after I bounced two of them off of a gate.' " Sasuke said, he'd felt Belle take a painful breath to reply, so he did it for her.

"She did what? Why?" Sakura forgot that Belle was hurt, she just wanted to know how she bounced two people off of a gate.

"We attempted to pull her off of Uchiha here. I used Shadow Possession, she turned it against me and proceeded to use black chakra to slam me into the gate. She packs quite a punch, actually, my back still hurts a bit. Though, I admit, Not as much as hers does." Shikamaru explained, then turned to Ino to continue.

She did, "After she threw Shikamaru into the gate, I got nervous and used Mind Transfer. She pushed me out, then used black chakra to pick me up and throw me into the gate."

Sasuke stumbled, having to catch Belle's full weight, "She's out. I guess she finally gave in, or lost. She's fought it for the longest. I'm surprised she's made it this far."

## 17. Three Days of Hell

Belle woke the next day, Hinata sat in a chair beside the unrecognizable bed she was in.

"Belle, you're awake. Good, how are you feeling?" Damn, the girl's voice was still a whisper.

"I'm ok. What's with the 'waiting by my bedside thing? I barely know you." Belle tried to sit up and found she could, but barely.

"We all took turns , for about 2 hours apiece, waiting for you to wake up. The Lord Hokage wanted to know the moment you woke up. That reminds me...." She stood up and went to the door, she spoke to someone outside for a second. Then she came back and sat down.

"Who was that? " Belle asked, eyeing the door.

"Ino. She just left to tell the Hokage that you're up." Hinata didn't seem to ever calm down, she stayed nervous constantly.

Belle heard someone crying through the wall behind her, "Who's crying?"

Hinata looked sad for a moment, "One of the Ninja squads lost a teammate. She pushed herself way too hard, her chakra level was almost 50% below zero. The Medical Ninja tried to save her, but failed. Poor Squad 13."

Belle nodded, she understood even though she hadn't felt the human emotion of grief for a long time.

There was a knock at the door, Hinata jumped, then stood to open it. An ancient man stood there, dressed in red and white robes, with a hat to match. He carried a pipe, and had a serious look on his face.

Hinata stood there and wrung her hands, she was always so damn nervous!

"Hinata, go and tell Sasuke Uchiha that I will send someone after him for his shift with the vampire." His voice sounded like someone's wise grandfather. Belle decided she liked him immediately.

"Yes, Lord Hokage." Hinata turned and left, leaving Belle and the Hokage alone.

The Hokage sighed, wondering where to start, "Your name is Belle Morte, yes?"

"Yeah...."

"May I ask you a few questions?"

"Sure and I'll do my best to answer truthfully or answer at all."

"Very well. How did you get here?"

" A servant named Fiera, whose servitude is owed to an evil magician that goes by the name of Darshe, was ordered by her master to throw me into another dimension. Apparently, she succeeded. Now, I'm caught in another dimension without my human servant, though if either one of us died, we're seperated by enough space that it won't kill the other. Wait, why'd I tell you all that?" Belle waited for the next question with a dumbstruck look on her face.

"Where did you live before?"

"No where, really. We wandered, but we were in Soledras when I was thrown out of my world."

"I have no idea where that is."

Belle shrugged," Sorry. Why am I answering questions so spontaneously? (msp?)

"You were injected with a truth serum while you were out."

Belle winced," That's a low blow."

"Do you mean us, anyone here, any harm?"

Belle sighed, "I should have seen this coming. No, I don't but if that dog Uchiha makes one more even slightly insulting comment and I'll flat-out kill him."

The Hokage nodded," That's all. The medical Ninja said the serum will wear off by tommorrow but you won't be out of the hospital for 3 days, even with your speed in healing."

"Great, I've never been 3 days without training. This is going to be like living in hell for me, but I guess it can't be helped."

The Hokage left. About 10 minutes later, a Medical Ninja followed by Sasuke entered.

"Wait, hold it. What's the pain in the @\$@ doing here?" Belle said, earning a glare from Sasuke. She smirked.

"The Hokage decreed you were to be watched at all times. So, we're using the genin, it's kind of like a mission. You will be supervised by genin until further notice." The Medical Ninja got right to the point. "When you were thrown against that rock, you snapped your spine, scrambled a few organs and left a nasty bruise all over your back. How you managed to walk in that condition is still a mystery to us. Your healing abilities are amazing. Your spine is barely hairline fractured now, all of your organs are in perfectly good order, and your bruise is fading, still there, but fading. But you still need to stay in the hospital for three days."

Belle crossed her arms and sighed, she was getting tired, "Fine, but I'm going to sleep now. I trust emo kid here enough not to slit my throat while I'm asleep." She laid down, with her back to Sasuke, closed her eyes and went to sleep.

## 18. Dreams of Home

Belle slept, and dreamed she was back in King Richard's throneroom once more. Well, what used to be his throne room. Everything was in shambles and it looked as if it had been millenia since she had last stood in this room.

The rubble of a ceiling cave-in near the steps to the throne shifted, a groan came from the pile. Belle walked to it with a hurried stride. She cleared away most of the rubble, only to uncover a familiar, but barely so, face, "Zachary! What happened? Where is everyone?"

Relief and sorrow was plain on his face, "Mistress Belle, you're back, finally. But too late, it's been several hundred years since you've been gone. In the time since you left us, Darshe has drained this planet of life, worth and power. He's moved on to somewhere else, and he's taken Fiera with him. I'm the only one left here, and the world is about to implode on itself. I'm glad you came in time for me to warn you to never try to return here."

The ground under her feet shook, the walls began to crumble around her. She looked fearful.

"Mistress, you're only here in a dream. None of this can hurt you. But, I'm about to die. You're here, for a moment, now you know your old world is gone. Where ever you are now, you are there to stay."

The world gave a mighty twist, and they were both falling inyo a deep dark crevice that opened up in the ground. She knew the moment Zachary died, because they were connected and it felt as if some small part of her died too. But she had no tears to spare for him. Her heart had been so cold for so long, she almost didn't care. Some small part of her did, though, and it wept, as all of her was covered in a comforing darkness.

## 19. Explaining to Sasuke

Belle jerked awake, someone was shaking her so hard her teeth rattled.

She opened her eyes and found herself staring at Sasuke. His eyes calmed when the saw her awake, they had been nervous.

Belle struggled not to show relief at being dragged out of the god-awful dream, "What's with you?"

Sasuke sat back down, "You quit breathing...What was I supposed to do?"

She argued with herself, then finally decided to spit it out, "Thank you, Sasuke Uchiha."

Even he looked surprised, "For what?"

Belle looked down, afraid the truth was written in her eyes. The truth serum hadn't worn off, so she was going to have to tell him, " I was visiting my old home. My spirit was, anyway. My world doesn't exist anymore, Darshe and Fiera destroyed it." Her pupils were pinpoints in the blue sea of her eyes, she was nearly vamping out, but she managed to barely hold it in check.

"You're sure it wasn't just a nightmare?" Sasuke looked puzzled.

"My old human servant, now deceased, had managed to call me into their world for a few short moments. He told me Darshe had sapped the world of life and power, and that it was about to fall to pieces. It seemed as if i had been away from home for hundreds of years. That means, either time passes way faster here or I spent a long time between dimensions, or a combination of the two."

"So, what? You're hundreds of years old? "

"Try thousands. I was two thousand before I was thrown here. It seems as though time itself was set back for me, I looked 19 before I woke up here, now I look 14."

Sasuke's eyes widened, "You're thousands of years old?"

"Only in mentality now, like i said, it's as though time was set back for me."

## 20. Shikamaru's Help

Belle sat in the room all day, staring at the wall opposite her. That night, though her babysitters did, she couldn't sleep.

The next day went about the same way, she couldn't eat, couldn't sleep, didn't talk.

Shikamaru was there for his shift, Belle barely raised her eyes in greeting, as by now she had taken to staring at her hands in her lap.

"What happened to you? You were more lively the day before yesterday, even with your snapped spine. I've heard from the others that you've only been this way since Uchiha was in here with you. Did he do something to you?"

She didn't even bother to look up, she just shook her head.

" Then what happened? You're acting stupid."

His chair tipped back of it's own accord. It fell back before he could get out of it.

Shikamaru climbed out of the chair, stood and set it upright. He sat back down and looked at Belle, who was glaring at him fiercely.

"I don't take well to insults." Her voice wasn't angry, though, it was dead, empty.

He looked pleased with himself, " I got you to react to something. See? Whatever happened isn't the end of the world."

"It was the end of my world. My old home is gone, forever."

"Yeah, the Hokage told everyone who was watching you that you weren't from this world. So, now you're stuck here, huh?"

"Yes, I guess I am. I guess I have to make friends here, settle down and make a life for myself, all in this new world." Belle cocked her head at him, "Can we be friends?"

"Uh....sure...." Shikamaru was surprised. Most people weren't so straightforward.

Belle laid down and smiled as she drifted off to sleep. Maybe this place isn't so bad.

## 21. Slipping Out

Belle woke on the third day in a surprisingly better mood. Shikamaru had helped more than he'd known.

After her first guard of the day left, Ino, the next one was Naruto.

The good mood came with more energy, more energy meant boredom, " Hey, Naruto, What do you all do for fun around here?"

He got a very mischievous(msp?) grin on his face, "How about slipping out of the hospital for some ramen? I'm starving."

"No idea what that is, but slipping out of the hospital I agree with. Let's go!" Belle hopped out of bed, wearing that damn hospital gown that's always this awful white color with blue speckles that made fat old ladies look like giant robin's eggs. She made darkness swirl around her, replacing the god-awful gown with a long-sleeve top, and long pants. Boots completed it and she looked sort of like an assassin.

"That must make things easier." Naruto said, staring.

Belle shrugged and nodded. Naruto stood up and went to the window, pushing the glass outward, "I hope you can jump!"

"I'm game if you are!" Belle hadn't felt this happy since before she was turned. Naruto's constant glee must be catching.

"That's the spirit! Let's go!" Naruto jumped onto the window sill and hopped out the window.

Belle followed, climbing onto the windowsill and leaping down the three stories to the ground. She landed in a crouch beside Naruto, then stood up straight, "So, where we going, Naruto?" Belle was glad to be out of that horrible hospital.

"The ramen shop! I'm hungry. I'll pay, so don't worry."

"How does a kid earn money around here?"

"Well, most don't have to worry about it, since they have parents. But those who don't go on missions to earn money." Naruto explained.

Belle got quiet, looking around at everyone else. They were all dressed alike. After a while, she noticed something else alike as well. They all looked at Naruto with hatred or chilling indifference. Why? She thought, he's such a sweet kid.

She looked over at Naruto, who was pointedly ignoring the glances, which were starting to expand and include her too.

"Naruto?"

"Hm?"

"Why is everyone looking at us like that?"

He looked annoyed, "Can I tell you later?"

"Um.....sure....."

They came across a shop with an open front covered by a curtain. Naruto ducked under the curtain, Belle followed. They sat down in the tall chairs in front of the bar.

"Two bowls of ramen please!" Naruto said, immediately perking up.

"Hey Naruto, who's your pretty lady friend?" The man behind the counter looked middle-aged but kind, like someone's dad.

"This is Belle Morte." Naruto replied, blushing slightly.

"I'm not familiar with the last name, is she from somewhere else?"

"You could say that." said Belle, a little sadly.

The man slid two bowls of some type of noodle in front of them , then handed them two sticks stuck together to use as utensils. Belle stared at them, confused, what was she supposed to do with these?

"What's wrong, Belle?" Naruto asked, waiting for her to try the food.

"I don't know how to use these...." Belle answered, a bit embarrassed.

Naruto nodded patiently, "Watch me." He snapped the two sticks apart, Belle mirrored him. He showed her how to use them and soon she was able to handle them with relative ease.

## 22. Where Will She Live?

Kakashi and The Lord Hokage sat in a room, far away from the two having a good time, drinking tea.

"We need to figure out what to do with the vampire." The Hokage said, staring into his tea.

"Sasuke took me she said her world was gone, obliterated. So she stays here, I guess. We can't let her live alone, I mean, she just got here, she has no idea how to get around and I'm sure some of the kids are going to be harsh on her. After a while, she can live alone, but she needs to live with one of our Shinobi first. Who has a house to themselves?"

The Hokage sighed, "Sasuke Uchiha and Naruto Uzumaki. Sasuke lives in a house, Naruto, a one room apartment."

"If he agrees, I believe Belle can stay with him. They might kill each other, but other than that, nothing bad will happen." Kakashi wondered how Sasuke would react upon being asked.

The Hokage sent someone after Sasuke. He would be a while, since they'd have to find him.

'This mission you're sending her on, what is it?' Kakashi asked, merely curious.

"She's to deliver a gift to the Sand Kazekage in honor of his birthday. But the map I've marked for her takes her directly through a territory known to be the home of a gang of rogue ninja. This will also help me test her skill, and help me decide if I should let her join our new genin."

"Whose squad will she join?" Kakashi asked.

"Ryshi Oroshi's. His team just lost one. But it will be a while before she can join them, they need to get over their lost member. Do you mind training her until Ryshi can take her?" The Hokage looked up.

"Sure, but I want her out of my squad before the Chuunin exams."

"Of course."

There was a knock at the door, at the Hokage's 'Enter' Sasuke Uchiha walked in. "You wanted to see me, Lord Hokage?"

"Yes, Sasuke, I have something to ask of you. The girl that appeared from nowhere, Belle? She needs a mentor and a home. She doesn't know how to do things around here. May she live with you? I am aware that you live alone."

Sasuke's face closed down, "Is there no other place she can stay?"

"She could stay with Naruto, but he has a one-room apartment. She's a girl,

she needs space. Sometimes." Kakashi explained.

"I understand, she may stay with me, but she'd better stay out of my way."  
Sasuke sighed, "Can I go now?"

"Yes, Thank you, Sasuke." The Hokage watched him leave, slamming the door.

"He doesn't like her, does he?"

"I'm afraid not."

"They'll get over it soon enough."

## 23. Irritating Damn Nerd

Naruto and Belle managed to get back in the room before the next guard got there, with the help of Belle's swirling darkness.

A knock at the door, which Naruto answered with curiosity, showed that Shino was her next guard.

"Belle, he doesn't talk much, but don't annoy him or he'll sic his bugs on you." Naruto whispered, Belle cracked up.

"What have I to fear from bugs?" Belle whispered , still giggling.

Naruto shrugged and walked out, giving her a last wave.

"Shino, huh? That's your name?" Belle asked about 45 minutes later, fighting not to break up in giggles again.

He didn't react in the least, she couldn't even tell if he glanced her way.

"Too stupid to talk? Very well."

"Shut up."

Belle was surprised, "So you do talk? I'm happy you said something, but I'm terribly vexed at the fact you told me to shut up. I will not, and be warned that being rude to those more powerful than you are is not a wise decision."

"I will not endure this, shut up."

Belle got annoyed, not enough to piss her off, but annoyed nonetheless, "You are a very annoying person to be around, I see how one can consider you weird."

"Be quiet."

Belle rolled her eyes, "And if I don't?"

"I'll let my friends eat your chakra."

"Not you, too! What the hell is chakra?"

Shino's eyes widened just a touch, but you couldn't see it, "So, it's true. You know nothing."

That pissed her off. The darkness surrounded her, then flew at him. It grabbed him around his midsection and thrust him up to the ceiling, "I may not know what you mean, Shino, but I know some things. Things that would break your fragile mind. It seems to me that you'll end up being another Sasuke."

"Put me down." he sounded so calm, that pissed her off worse. So, she started to let the darkness crush him, slowly, "It would do you very well to apologize before you are crushed to a very unrecognizable mass.."

Then there was a knock at the door. Sakura entered and her eyes scanned the room, "Belle? Where's Shino?" Belle did a little eyeflick to the ceiling, which Sakura followed, "Belle, what is Shino doing pinned to the ceiling?"

Belle shrugged, "He pissed me off."

"Let him down....."

"Fine."

Shino dropped right onto the chair, the back going into his stomach.

"Oops." Belle smirked, "I forgot to remove the chair...."

Sakura sighed as Shino stood up, "She's your problem now. " He mumbled as he went past.

Sakura sat down as Belle yelled, "THAT'S RIGHT! RUN BUG BOY!!!!"

Sakura looked at her, "So you don't know what jutsu or chakra is, right?"

"No idea."

"Let me explain."

Sakura spent the next 5 hours explaining it all, and demonstrating most of the jutsu she'd learned.

## 24. Wait, I'm Going Where?

The next day, Belle woke and got out of bed. Chouji sat by the bed, dozing off. Belle giggled, "Hehe." And walked over to him. She leaned in by his ear and screamed bloody murder.

Chouji jerked awake, as Belle walked to the window, still laughing. "Did you have to do that?" He picked up a bag of chips beside the bed and opened them.

"No, but I felt like it." Belle opened the window and looked down, "So are you my last guard?"

"Yeah, we can leave in ten minutes."

"Good."

5 minutes later, Kakashi walked in. He stood by the bed, where Belle now sat, waiting patiently.

"Belle? You are being sent on a mission for the Lord Hokage. The Sand Kazekage is having a birthday and you get to deliver a gift to him."

"Oh, great, this sound like fun." Belle spoke, obviously bored.

"Once you are released from the hospital, go right to the Hokge's home and get the gift. Chouji, here, will lead you there. You will also be given a map to show you where to go. You know how to follow one, don't you?"

"Yes, Kakashi-sensei, I do know how."

"Only my students need to call me that, You are not my student."

"It is a term of respect, yes?"

"Mmm-hmm."

"I respect you."

"Oh, ok, I guess it's alright then."

"Good." Belle started to put her hair into a high ponytail, "So, sensei, Where am I going?"

"The Village Hidden in the Sand."

"Hidden Sand Village, huh? Are there Ninja there?"

"Yes, there are."

"Awesome."

"Why?"

I know."

"Well, I feel like kicking someone's @\$\$, I'd rather it not be someone

"Oh, ok."

you too soon."

A Medical Ninja walked in, "Belle? You're free to go. I hope I don't see

"Sure, Yashi, see ya."

He left, Kakashi faced her and asked, "Yashi?"

Belle nodded, "That's his name."

"Do I want to know?"

"Probably not."

just nodded. "Well, you'd better head over to the Hokage's home. He's waiting." Belle

## 25. First Day Away: Traveling

Belle went to the Hokage's home, led by Chouji who, thanks to her prank earlier that morning, jumped at every noise. Well, it kept Belle amused.

The Hokage gave her a barrel, which she strapped to her back. She was given the map and she set off, out of the town, through the trees, carefully following the map.

About midday, she decided to stop, the decision aided by an apple tree she noticed along the path. Green apples hung from its branches, thus she decided to stop.

She set the barrel on the ground by the roots of the tree. Climbing the tree was easy, then she just sat on one of the stronger branches with her legs hanging down and her back pressed to the trunk. She picked two apples and began to eat, watching the barrel carefully.

About halfway through the second apple, a man crept out of the woods. He looked at the barrel, then around it, but not up. He looked desperate, thin and gaunt. Like he was low on money and going through a rough spot in life. He walked up to the barrel, opened it and looked in. With a look on his face as if Christmas had come early, he picked up the barrel and began to walk off. Darkness seemed to flow out of the barrel, wrapping around him, squeezing the life out of him. Seconds later, he began screaming. A few more seconds later, he abruptly stopped and a bit of flesh and blood whizzed by Belle's face, narrowly missing her skin.

Belle finished her apple and jumped down out of the tree. She picked up the barrel from where the man had dropped it, strapped it to her back and walked off, avoiding the mounds of flesh and puddles of cooling blood.

Farther down the road, sometime around evening, she decided to take a nap. She found a clearing and sat beside a tree. She put the barrel down and shrouded it with an illusion, so no one could see it. She laid down with her head propped up on a tree root. She was already

getting to her destination after dark, she just got to decide how long after dark.

She closed her eyes and fell into a state that wasn't sleep or being awake, but a limbo between the two.

She laid there in that state for hours, as the sun sank below the horizon, as the moon, in all its pale luster after the glamour of the sun, climbed the sky.

She was awakened totally by a rough kick in her side. She sat up to find herself in the midst of a band of thieves. She sighed, she was so not in the mood to deal with shoot like this.

"Hey dog, nice night for a stroll, isn't it? Get up." The man that had kicked her looked like an intelligent professional hitman. Her only thought was, damn it all to hell and back.

"Where, may I ask, are you from? I mean, originally, as you are obviously rogue ninja." Belle said, standing up. Her voice held distaste as she scanned his band of stupid muscle. She so fucking hated thugs, they pissed her off.

"Caught us right away, huh, dog? Well, as you're about to be dead or wishing yourself dead in mere minutes, I guess I'll tell you. I'm from the Village Hidden in the Stone. The rest come from different ones. Now, your turn dog, where are you from?"

Belle smirked, "Originally? Soledras. Now, though, I live in the Village Hidden in the Leaves."

Belle looked around for the barrel, finding it unharmed, she glanced back to her temporary captors.

"Hidden Leaf ninja, eh? They supposedly give out the best ninja. What rank are you?"

"I never said I was ninja, dumbass. I'm not. Could you please frack off so I can continue on with the more interesting life i had led before it was rudely interrupted by you clowns?"

"Don't be cheeky. That could get you hurt." He drew a blade and slit her side in a blur of motion. She felt her blood soak her clothing.

"What are you here for, you worthless piece of scrap meat?" Belle said, trying to keep herself from vampng out too badly. The scent of blood always made her vamp out. She only partially lost control, thus she kept her mouth closed and her eyes down.

"Bitchy brat, aren't you? Well, that'll soon be beaten out of you. I think we'll keep you around for a little while. As a slave, for fun and games." He backhanded her, as if to prove his point. Her fangs cut her lip. She tasted her own blood and felt herself slowly fade away in the wave of vampiric rage and blood lust.

## 26. Konohashie

Belle snapped, her eyes came up and she smiled, baring fangs to the moonlight, "It seems to me, sir, that it shall be being beaten."

The darkness began to seep around the men, darker than the night itself. Some the darkness grasped and crushed beyond recognition, the rest bore the brunt of her blade as she danced circles in between them.

When her rage wore down, and the men were dead or so close to death there was no way in hell of saving them, she stopped and looked around, pleased, at the massacre. Her eyes were keener than usual, so she easily noticed as someone shifted in the shrubs on her far right, "Come on out," she spoke calmly, insanity barely a thread inside the serenity, "you know I will find you soon enough."

A little girl, around five, came out, looking around at the bloodshed with an unrecognisable expression, "Miss, did you do this?"

Belle's pupils went from pinpoints to normal size so fast it made her dizzy. What the hell was a little girl doing with a band of rogue ninja?

"Yes....." She was already feeling guilty.

The girl's eyes lit up, "Thank you! They kidnapped me, killed my family, my whole village, clan by clan."

Belle was feeling a pain in her side start to ache. She, curious as to why any weapon would leave pain at all, walked over to the blade he had cut her with. He had dropped it when she'd killed him. She crouched down and picked up the kunai. It gleamed silver in the moon's rays. Who the hell carried fucking silver kunai? Damn, that was going to come back to bite her in the @\$ later.

"Miss?"

"Hmmm?" Belle said, standing up and walking over to her.

"Can I stay with you now?" the little girl ad the saddest eyes Belle had ever seen.

Belle thought, well, she has nowhere to go now.....and I can't just leave her here. A little voice argued, we should just kill her. No, she told the little voice, even I'm not that cold.

"I guess you'll have to. Let's go...um...what's your name, exactly?"

"Konohashie." The little girl was dressed in the rags of servitude. It pissed Belle off, no one deserved that.

"Konohashie?"

"Yes, Lady?"

"What's your favorite color?"

Konohashie looked surprised, "I'm not sure, I never really thought about it. Though, I have always loved the sky in the daytime. What color is that?"

"Sky blue?"

"I guess so...."

Good choice, Belle thought, it matched her eyes. Her hair was white, surprisingly, and her skin was nearly as pale as her hair. It all would fit together.

"Come here," Belle said, crouching down.

"Yes, Lady." The girl walked over to her, almost skipping, with complete trust in her eyes. It worried Belle that she could trust her so easily.

Belle put her hands out, inches from Konohashie's shoulders. Black chakra out of her hands and encased the girl. When it cleared away, Konohashie was dressed in a sky blue dress down to her knees and a little blue bow tying her hair into a ponytail at her back. White sandals completed the outfit.

"Much better. Do you like it?"

"Yes, Lady! Thank you!"

Belle went to retrieve the barrel and strapped it to her back once more. She set off, Konohashie close behind. Belle glanced back at her once more, looking at sheaths at her wrists, knees, ankles and the pack at her waist. Kunai in the sheaths and more kunai and several shuriken in the pack. For protection, Belle told herself as she turned back around, for protection.

Several hours later, they made it to the Hidden Sand Village. The moon was high and full, which made Belle calmer than she could ever be during the day.

Just outside the wall, Belle set up a small camp for Konohashie. A black mist encased the campsite, ready to kill anyone beside Belle or Konohashie that tried to pass the perimeter.

## 27. The Cold Demon Of Suna

Belle told Konohashie to stay at the camp. She went off, happy she could move easier without the barrel restricting her, which she had left behind.

She got over the wall with little real effort, and began to wander the town.

At first she didn't see anything worth mentioning, houses, inns, taverns, the usual shoot. Then she saw someone sitting on the roof of what she assumed was his home. It was a boy slightly younger than the age she appeared, with a gourd on his back.

Hmmm, what's a boy, sand ninja I think, sitting on a roof in the middle of the night? She wondered quietly. Only one way to find out...

She went over to the side of the building, and flipped onto the roof. "Hey, kid!!! It's the fucking middle of the night, what the hell are you doing up and sitting on the roof?"

He didn't reply, he didn't even look at her. So, she sat down beside him, a safe distance away. She had lived through too many ambushes and surprise attacks to trust anyone on sight.

"Hello?" Belle spoke slightly softer.

The boy looked at her, barely a glance, but it was better than him ignoring her.

Belle, not really the patient type, decided to hell with it, if he wouldn't speak to her she'd find out who he was by invading his mind. She entered his empty thoughts, and he never knew she was there. At the moment, his thoughts were almost perfectly empty. So, she searched through the other items inside his head. A dying ghost of what should be feelings, and his childhood memories. Hell with the dead feelings, she thought, his memories should tell her whether or not he was worth her time.

Living through his painful childhood memories left her slightly sorrowful, which, in turn, pissed her off. It was the aftermath of invading his mind, well part of it. She'd have nightmares, mixing his childhood with hers, and anyone else's whose mind she happened to look through.

She felt a little bit bad for him, so she tried to help the only way she knew how, "You know, it wasn't your fault...."

He looked at her again, "What?"

"The fact that your uncle hated you. It wasn't your fault, you did nothing wrong. You were only a child."

Belle stared at him, he looked strange. Blood red hair in a messy style and pretty sea foam colored eyes. Black lines surrounded his eyes, a sure sign of an insomniac. On the side of his forehead, the sign for love was written in red. A tattoo apparently. Love. Belle almost wished

she remembered what it felt like.

"How did you know that?" His voice was so icy, empty. Very dead.

Belle looked away, deciding to actually tell the truth, "I invaded your mind." Then she surprised herself, "If you want to find out something in return, I'll show you my memories." She broke back into his mind, this time allowing her life to play like a movie in his head. When she withdrew, shortly before she became 18 and slaughtered a village for fun, she regretted it. It wasn't a good idea to give someone the means to break past your barriers.

She glanced at him, his face was still as blank as the moon itself. His eyes held the barest memory of some feeling. Well, it was something.

She felt in the back of her mind, like someone shutting a door. She jumped up, wondering why her darkness would alert her. The boy's eyes followed her, now psychotic and confused. Not good.

She started jumping from housetop to housetop, surprised and slightly worried when the boy followed her. Aww, shoot, what does he want....

She leapt up onto the wall, looking for the camp where she'd left Konohashie. She'd hid it to well, she couldn't see it herself.

She jumped down off the wall, landed in a crouch and stood up. She spun around, hearing the boy landing behind her, "What the frack is your problem? Why the hell are you following me?"

He looked slightly pissed, then puzzled. Damn, this kid must have horrible mood swings. "I'm not sure."

Belle sighed, "Well, I hope you can keep up....."

He stared at her and finally nodded.

## 28. Emotionless Help

Belle stopped off at the camp for a second, to make sure Konohashie was no longer there.

She released all of her vampire senses, allowing her to see body heat and scent the air. She was a vampire, a predator. She came with what you need to be a predator.

She followed Konohashie's scent, just as a wolf would. Yet, she had reverted so far into the state, the boy had to repeat something twice before she even registered he had said something.

"What were you saying?" She said, slightly disoriented.

He looked annoyed, "Is the one we're following special to you?"

"No, but I feel responsible for her."

He nodded, silent once more.

Belle started off, and came to the outside of a clearing. It was a camp of more rogue ninja, apparently from the same posse.

Men milled about, a nervous twinge in the air.

"Shouldn't he be back by now?"

"He's not coming back! Lady killed him, all of them!" Konohashie was tied to a post near the middle of the clearing, "Lady will get you, too!!!"

"We don't know what this 'Lady' person did, but she couldn't do what we could for you!" a man, one of the most thuggish looking, spoke loudly.

Belle's hand made a fist of its own accord, "This is so pissing me off...." She pulled two kunai from the sheaths at her wrists, and two more from the sheaths on the outside of her knees.

"Want to help?" she said, looking at him. He had a strange look in his eyes.

He looked at her for a second, then went back to the clearing.

"I wonder if I can kill four...." Belle had two in each hand, she flung them out into the clearing. Two men went down, two cried out in pain.

"Dead on. Now, time for pointless slaughter." Belle stepped out into the clearing

One man stepped out to meet her, he had a needle between each finger, two between the finger and thumb of each hand.

"Needles? You really think needles can hurt me?" Belle pulled out her last kunai and flung it toward the post where Konohashie was bound. The ropes were cut, she was free, but the shot had left Belle' open for attack. She felt the strange needles pierce her chest, one sunk into her heart.

Her last thought was: shoot, the fuckers were poisoned.

As she went down, something began killing the men.