

Teen Titans: New Generations

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In Jump City, there is a tower standing on an island where a team of heroes live. These heroes have been found in numerous places and brought together to protect the world.

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0 - Memories Are a Double-Edged Sword

Some say it is better to have loved and lost, than to have ever loved at all. What a load of crap.

I loved so many, yet, I find myself wishing to have never even cared. All my friends, my family, died before my eyes; it was entirely my fault.

So, now, all I have left of my past is four sarcastic, attitude adjustment needing, girls. They, along with myself, are the soul survivors of the Village Hidden in the Leaves.

Let me explain.

It was in my seventeenth year when disaster hit my village. Orochimaru, one of our biggest enemies, had attacked our village when we least expected it. He had recently possessed the body of my close friend, Sasuke, and was using his powers to end Konoha. Our ninjas acted quickly, defeating the snake's army in a matter of minutes. It was then that Tsunade: our leader, Jiraiya: my godfather, Kakashi: my teacher, Sakura: my close friend, and myself had Orochimaru cornered.

*That's when sh*t hit the fan...*

The Akatsuki, an organization of power-mad rouge ninjas, decided it was a perfect opportunity to attack and obtain the Kyuubi, which was inside of me.

I watched as a handful of my friends perished to the Akatsuki's powers. Soon it was just Sakura and I against the remaining 5 S-Class criminals. She and I took on the leader, Pein, and fought with much vigor.

However, I made a tiny slip up and he took advantage of it.

I awaited my death as I watched his sword swing towards me; the pain never came. I saw a flash of pink and then I felt something warm splash on my cheek. My eyes widened in horror as my eyes clashed with gentle green orbs.

Sakura had taken the hit.

Pein pulled his sword out of her abdomen, hitting a vital point, and she fell forward into my arms. I felt tears pricking the back of my eyes as I held her tightly, my eyes never leaving hers.

Her eyes were clouded with pain and acceptance, and her breathing was shallow.

"Why?"

I rasped out, earning a sad smile from her. She placed her gloved hand on my cheek and with a deep breath whispered:

"Live."

My eyes widened as her hand fell from my bloodstained cheek and her eyes fluttered closed.

The rouges had taken a step closer towards me. Something inside of me snapped.

If they wanted the Kyuubi, they'll get him. I thought bitterly.

I entered the back of my mind, where my father had sealed the vicious nine-tailed beast. He stared at me with shock as my hand reached for the paper marked "seal." With a flick of the wrist, it was gone.

The Kyuubi no Kitsune was freed.

I awoke a while later, completely alone. My entire village was in ruin; I was the only survivor. Bodies were sprawled out over the village, a constant reminder of my failure to protect those I loved.

Those precious people I held so dear to me were lost forever.

"It is better to have loved and lost than to have ever loved at all."

Yes, they truly are foolish.

"Naruto!" Blue eyes snapped open at the sound of his named being called. He rolled over from his spot on the roof lazily, and glanced around to see who had called him. A teenage girl with long blonde hair was running towards him; a smile on her face. This girl was Minami Kamikaze, his sister.

He stood up and stretched before heading towards her.

"What's up?" He asked casually.

"Naruto, Yuki proposed to me!" She squealed, slightly hurting his ears.

His eyes widened a fraction of an inch, himself suppressing the urge to beat the boy to a pulp. However, he had to be cool and collected; his sister was scary when she was angry.

"Why are you telling me?" He stated, crossing his arms over his head, giving off the "I don't care" illusion.

She let out a "humph" and crossed her arms, her eyes narrowing at the taller blonde.

"You are my brother, you know." She stated coldly, not wanting him to be his usual jokester self; after all, it was a very special day.

"No, really?"

"Shut up and congratulate me before I knock you into next week."

"Congrats!" He laughed nervously and a smile replaced the scowl on her face as she jumped up and down.

"I'm so excited!"

He smiled at her, truly grateful that she found happiness. But, being her only brother, he couldn't show her that soft side of him now could he?

"So, will you two be able to get it on then? Or will he change into a rat once the four play starts?"

And with that, Naruto Uzumaki was thrown into the ocean.

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She thrashed around in her bed, cold sweat coating her pale forehead. Her eyebrows furrowed together as she continued to roll back and forth.

"The dead will live; the living will die."

She stared up at the four red eyes of her father, fear visibly shaking her entire body. She then looked down and saw a small lifeless form right before Trigon stepped out of the darkness, 100% alive.

"No!"

She shot upright in bed, clutching her sheets in her hands. Her eyes were wide and she was breathing heavily. She looked around her room, and sighed in relief when she saw it was all a dream.

Or a premonition.

Shaking the thought out of her head, she laid back down to try and get some more sleep when rapid knocking came from her door.

"Raven? Raven! Are you okay? I heard screaming..." The panicked voice of her boyfriend yelled through her door, she used her powers to open it and she was soon held against his chest.

"Beastboy, I'm okay. It was only a nightmare." She whispered, slightly annoyed that she was comforting him when she herself was the one who needed comforting.

"You sure?" He asked, pulling away slightly to stare into her violet orbs. She got lost in his beautiful green eyes and it took her a minute to get back on track.

"Yes, it was only a dream." She smiled up at him, hoping that her lie was convincing enough for the boy to believe her. He smiled back and embraced her once again.

In the morning she would tell them the truth; better to be safe than sorry.

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"Kaze no Kizu!"

Inuyasha swung his Tetsusaiga, releasing the Wind Scar, at his opponent. The villain, Control Freak, pointed his remote at the incoming attack and pressed a button. A large purple shield formed around the tub of lard, blocking the attack.

Gritting his teeth, the half-demon cursed.

"InuYasha, you've tried that 12 times now!" His teammate Fade called out to him. "Don't ya think if it didn't work the first 10 times, it wasn't going to work at all! All you're doing is tiring yourself out." She yelled towards her friend, who was obviously panting from exhaustion.

"Shut up and get off my back, wench!"

She shook her head and sighed. He was such an @\$@ at times. Closing her eyes she began to concentrate.

"Wind Style: Wind Typhoon Justu!"

She flung her hands in the direction of the fat evil bastard, just as a spiral of air shot out of her hands. Control Freak dodged the attack, barely.

"It almost liked you wanted to hit me!" He taunted the girl, causing her eye to twitch in anger. She swiftly moved her hands in a circular motion, forming a large Tornado, and then thrust her arms towards the laughing moron.

"Take that!" She screamed as the Tornado hit him full force. Everyone shielded his or her eyes from the dust. As it cleared, Control Freak was gone.

"Where did he-"

"My my Fade, so beautiful for one so deadly."

She froze as his breath tickled her neck. Control Freak was right behind her, his body pressed up against her back.

It took everything she had not to hurl.

"Keira!" Sebastian called out, his eyes turning a glowing red and his teeth clenched.

"Ah, ah, ah, Sebastian. One move," He held a gun to her head "and you'll be cleaning up her brain matter all over the park." Sebastian froze in his spot, contemplating whether or not he would be able to make it over there in time before he pulled the trigger.

"God, this is the worst... I must be losing my touch, letting myself be caught by the likes of you." Fade groaned, pinching the bridge of her nose between her thumb and index finger. Mimic giggled.

"Just think, Fade, soon you'll be cowering before Robin!" Mimic and Fade both chuckled at their leaders expense.

"I do not think this is a laughing matter!" Sebastian spat, obviously worried about his girlfriend.

"Indeed... after all, you will be my sex slave, Fade." Control Freak whispered in her ear.

"Oh my god, no way in hell!" She spat out, sick to her stomach. Mimic covered her mouth, her face turning green.

"I think I'm going to be sick."

She stopped when she heard a menacing growl coming from beside her. Sebastian's eyes were glowing a dark purple, and his pupils were in slits. His teeth were transformed into fangs.

"Get your hands off of her... or I will kill you." He spat out in a cold voice. Control Freak stifled a shiver.

"You won't attack me while I have her hostage!" He laughed and pointed at the semi-helpless demon.

"That's right, he wouldn't put me in danger." Fade responded, a smirk on her lips. With a snap of her fingers, she disappeared in a cloud of smoke.

She appeared next to Mimic, who was smirking along with her.

"But seeing as I am no longer in his way, he may do as he pleases."

With a fanged smirk towards the couch potato, he headed towards him.

His face was so pulverized; they couldn't even identify him at the Police Station.

1 - Derpness

"Ne, Raven?" Raven blinked, coming back to reality, as Fade shook her shoulder lightly. She turned her head slightly to look at Fade's concerned face, her brown eyes boring into hers.

"Raven, you've been spacey all morning... are you okay?" Fade asked, her eyebrows furrowing in concern and her gaze serious. "Beastboy told me about your nightmare; he's worried too."

Raven's face paled as images from her dream came flooding back to her.

"The dead will live; the living will die!"

She shook her head, trying to clear her head of the dark image. Fade knew something was wrong.

"Was it... a premonition?" She whispered and Raven's eyes widened a fraction of an inch. Composing herself, Raven stood up quietly and muttered a "Don't know." Before leaving the worrisome girl behind.

Narrowing her eyes slightly, she pulled out her yellow communicator and held it near her face.

"Hey, Robin? We've got a problem."

"Why the hell are you telling me?"

"Aren't you our leader?"

"...Since when did you care?"

"..."

"..."

"Just get your spandex wearing gay-@\$ down here."

With that, she flipped the communicator closed and sighed.

Something's definitely wrong.

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Ciel was sitting at the kitchen table, skimming headlines in the newspaper. Next to him, Crystal was quietly eating a bowl of Ramen. Flame entered the room and sat next to Ciel silently.

"Good morning, Ayumi." Ciel greeted, without looking away from the paper, and sipped his cup of tea.

"Morning. What kind of tea did Sebastian make today?" She asked with a blank expression, spiking Crystal's curiosity on why Flame was acting so calm.

"Earl Grey."

"Ah."

"..."

Flame looked over at Ciel's newspaper and there was a glint in her eye.

"Hey, Ciel, can I see your newspaper?"

"Sure."

Ciel hands her the paper and takes another sip of tea. Flame skims the paper and her eyes widen a bit.

"Huh... I'm surprised it's not in here."

"Surprised what's not in there?"

"Oh, nothing much... it's just missing a certain message about a certain avian variety. Have you not heard, Ciel?"

"Heard what?"

"I was under the impression that everyone had heard."

Ciel blinks in annoyance and Crystal furrows her eyebrows together, trying to figure this out. Her eyes widened as her mind clicked.

"Heard what?"

"CIEL, NO!" Crystal screamed just as Flame jumped onto the table and began to dance.

"That the bird bird bird is the word. Ba ba ba bird bird bird is the word. Ba ba ba ba bird ba ba ba bird is the word! Oh, Ciel don't you know about the bird?" Flame begins shaking her @\$\$ and pointing around. "Everybody knows that the bird is the word!" She dances her way out the door, passing a confused Sebastian who had just entered the room.

"...Do I even want to know?"

Crystal sighs and glances over at the wide-eyed Ciel, who's mouth was agape.

"No... but your master is probably scarred for life."

2 - Training Gone Amuck

"Crystal, watch out!" Fade's cry was heard from across the battlefield, alerting the blonde kunoichi. Her blue eyes quickly darted to the right, where she had felt a presence, and saw a black blur coming straight at her. Grimacing, she quickly formed three hand seals and then jumped back a couple of feet before inhaling deeply.

"*Water Style: Sticky Swamp Jutsu!*" She yelled as clear goop shot out of her mouth and spread out all over the ground. Her target stepped into it and froze in place. The black butler frowned in confusion and attempted to free his feet from their sticky prison; the attempt was in vain.

"Flame, now!" Crystal ordered to her hyper comrade after all the goop had left her mouth. Flame nodded and made a few hand signs.

"*Fire Style: Burning Ash Jutsu!*" She exclaimed and blew out a large cloud of ash, which surrounded Sebastian in no less than 2 minutes. Once he was completely covered, Flame bit down on the ash trail leading into her mouth, causing the ash to engulf in flames.

Fade watched from the corner of her eye as she dodged attacks from both Inuyasha and Sango, a worried expression on her face as she watched her boyfriend get caught in the immense fire.

"He's immortal, Fade. You're fight's with me." Came a rather arrogant comment from a certain hanyou. Smirking and returning her full attention on her opponents, she quickly sidestepped another one of the half-demon's Wind Scar's, while also jumping into the air to avoid a certain Taiga's Hiraikotsu.

Inuyasha saw his chance to strike down Fade while she was still in the air. He prepared to unleash another Wind Scar.

"You're mine, now!" He exclaimed, feeling completely victorious.

He paused as he felt a hand grasp his ankle.

"*Earth Style: Head Hunter Jutsu!*"

Inuyasha was suddenly pulled into the ground and buried up to his neck, the Tetsusaiga lying untransformed at his side. Mimic popped out of the ground a few inches away from him and dusted her hands off.

"I bet you feel foolish."

Fade smirked as she landed on the ground with a soft thud.

"Thanks, Mimz."

Mimic smiled and gave her teammate the thumbs up.

"No problem. However, we still have another opponent."

Just then, a large boomerang came hurtling towards the two.

"Sh*t."

The boomerang hit both of the girls in the gut, but instead of cutting through them, they vanished in a puff of smoke and leaving two logs behind.

Sango's eyes widened as she felt the cold blade of a kunai at her neck.

"We won." Mimic smirked as she pressed the blade closer to her neck and nodded at Fade who had struck down the Hiraikotsu before it could return to Sango.

"Rasengan!"

Fade and Mimic's eyes widened as Naruto charged at them from the bushes, a large and powerful sphere of chakra in his hand.

"Water Style: Water Dragon Missile!"

Crystal's yell echoed as two large blue dragons emerged from a nearby pond and charged at Naruto, whose eyes widened a fraction before using the Rasengan as a defense against the oncoming attack.

"Shadow Clone Jutsu!"

The girls were then surrounded by dozens of Naruto's.

"Well... this sucks." Flame said absent-mindedly as she pulled out two kunais and prepared to attack.

Crystal smirked and moved her arm to halt Flame from charging.

"Hold on. There's something I want to try..."

Flame exchanged confused glances with Fade and Mimic, who was still holding Sango, as Crystal closed her eyes in concentration.

She quickly formed two hand signs and her eyes snapped open.

"Water Style: Water Vortex Jutsu!"

All the Konoha students' eyes widened. It was the Second Hokage's Jutsu.

A large spiral of water surrounded the four girls, creating a barrier around them before expanding and defeating all the shadow clones in an instant. The real Naruto was thrown back into a tree, knocking him

out.

The water then took the form of needles and was sent flying towards Naruto.

Fade's eyes widened and her hand flew out towards Naruto's direction; the needles bounced off an invisible wall, stopping them from hitting Naruto.

"What was that? We're not actually trying to kill him!" Fade shrieked at her friend, whose eyes had snapped back from a cold stare and into a shocked expression.

"I-I'm sorry... I don't know what came over me."

"I think that's enough for today." Robins voice called out to them. Mimic released Sango while Flame walked over to Inuyasha and released him. Fade ran over to Sebastian, who was 100% okay, except his clothes were in tatters. Flame glanced over at Crystal, whose expression was emotionless. She stared at the blonde with a suspicious gaze.

What was she planning on doing?

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Fade was sitting on her bed going over today's training events. Her eyebrows furrowed together as she thought back to Crystal's strange behavior. There was a look deep within her friend's eyes... that wanted to kill Uzumaki Naruto.

Why? She didn't know.

It troubled her greatly... well; it was a small part of her growing uneasiness.

She immediately remembered Raven's strange behavior and the talk her and Robin had with Raven.

Apparently, she had another premonition about her father. She described a dark and dreary place, and there was someone besides her there... lying dead at her feet.

But it was what her father had said that had the young empath shaking.

"The dead will live; the living will die"

Trigon was going to return at the cost of someone's life; this time it wasn't Ravens.

That, plus Crystal's display, had her wondering if they were connected.

"Are you alright?" Sebastian's voice brought her out of her thoughts. He had showered after training and had just gotten dressed in his usual attire. Fade scoffed and pointed at his outfit.

"How many of those do you have?"

Sebastian smiled coyly and placed his pointer finger over his mouth.

"If I cannot maintain my professional appearance and be prepared for any obstacles, I would not be a Phantomhive Butler."

She rolled her eyes and smiled.

"Yeah, yeah..."

Sebastian studied his young lovers face momentarily before placing a gloved hand under her chin, making her meet his gaze.

"I can tell you are troubled... is it because of Miss Kamikaze losing control today?"

Fade's eyes widened.

He smiled; right on the money.

"You caught me... It's just not like her to get so serious in training... if I hadn't interfered... Naruto would be in serious condition. Those needles were aimed right at his vital points."

A puzzled look came across the older mans face.

"Is... she trying to kill him?"

She sighed and leaned back, using her arms to support her body. Her eyebrows furrow in concern.

"That's what I want to know."

Sebastian sat on the bed next to her and smiled reassuringly. She blinked and looked up at him while raising an eyebrow.

"What?"

"Don't worry. I'm sure it was all an accident." He closed his eyes and placed a chaste kiss on her forehead, causing her to blush madly.

"Yeah."

She leans her head on his shoulder and closes her eyes.

I just hope I'll be strong enough to protect everyone if something does happen...

3 - Loss

4. Loss

"Man! What a day!" Mimic exclaimed while flopping down on her mattress and letting out a relieved sigh. "First, Robin wakes us up at the crack of dawn to train for some simulation or what not, and then said training lasted for 3 hours! I ought to wring his neck." Mimic huffed and rolled over onto her back to stare up at her ceiling. Her angry expression melted into concern as the day's events flooded through her mind. The image of her friend's ice-cold eyes as she was about to kill Naruto lingered in her head.

'I've never seen Crys lose control like that... It's normally either Fade or myself that loses control over our other side. And to attack Naruto... it was so unexpected.'
She sighs and rolls onto her side, using her arm as a pillow.

'The Crystal I know would have never attacked Naruto like that... especially with what happened.'

[Flashback Time!]

Team Alpha leapt through the treetops, smiles and excitement on their faces. Fade and Mimic were in the lead, the other two falling shortly behind.

"Man, it's been forever since we last visited home." Fade said, anxious to see her father. Mimic nodded, wearing the same eager grin that Fade had on her face.

"I wonder how everyone's grown!"

"I bet Naruto's still at a Genin rank."

All girls sweat dropped and sighed while saying in unison:

"Probably."

Flame smiled and pointed up ahead.

"I see the Hokage Monument!"

Fade grinned and looked over at her teammates.

"What are we waiting for then?"

With that, they ran at full speed.

They jumped down from the trees and onto the dirt road that led to the large gates.

"We should make Asuma treat us to BBQ!" Crystal exclaimed with a giggle as Flame glared.

"My father isn't made of money, you know."

"My father's dead."

"Sometimes I wish it were you instead of him."

"dog."

The two 17-year-olds glared at each other, sparks of anger flickering between them.

"Hey, hey... Calm it. Dinner's on Iruka-Sensei." Fade said with a smile as Mimic gasped.

"MY DAD'S NOT MR. RICH EITHER!"

The girls all laughed as they stepped out of the canopy of the forest tress. Flame was the first to stop laughing as she opened her eyes and saw their village.

"Oh...Oh my god." She whispered, shock and grief in her voice. The other girls stopped laughing immediately and turned in the direction Flame was staring. Their eyes widened and their heart seemed to drop into their stomach.

The village was in ruins.

They could see smoke still lingering off buildings; the scent of death was revolting.

Fade took a step forward, tears rimming her eyes as she stared with disbelief at their former home.

"No..."

The other girls followed their leader, disbelief in their eyes as well.

A single tear fell from Flame's eye as she looked upon the deserted battlefield.

"Konoha... has fallen."

All the girls looked at the ground, trying to wrap themselves around this devastating news, when Mimic's head shot up, her eyes wide with fear.

"Dad!"

She suddenly dashed into the village. The other girls gasped, realizing they should try and see if there were any survivors. They split up and searched the village.

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"Natsumi... why are you crying?" Giant tearful eyes stared at the man leaning over her; his soft smile made her cry even more. She jumped into his arms and held him tight. The older man blinked in surprise, but hugged his daughter lovingly. He patted her head and smoothed out her long red hair.

"Natsumi... did something happen at school?" He asked calmly, already knowing the answer, seeing how she was home far too early.

"E-Everyone was p-picking on me c-cause I c-c-can't manipulate chakra that well... T-they said I wasn't good enough to be a shi-shi-shinobi cause I have su-su-super powers!" She bawled and stained his vest with her salty tears. He smiled, letting out a soft chuckle at his daughter.

"Now, how is it a bad thing if you have super powers?"

She pulled away and rubbed her eyes.

"B-because... I'm not a true shinobi... I'm not like daddy." She whimpered, her green orbs boring into his.

"Baka. You can't be like me." He whispered, staring into her eyes intently.

Her eyes widened and new tears began to form.

Her own dad thought she was a failure too?

She gasped when he smiled and ruffled her hair.

"Because you're going to surpass me, and most likely everyone in your class. Your powers aren't a disadvantage, Natsumi. They're your trump card. I know you'll become a strong kunoichi, someone who will defend this village; defend our home."

She blushed and looked up at her grinning father.

"I'm sure of it."

She smiled and giggled as she hugged her father once more.

"I will be strong, daddy! I promise!"

Tears fell from her green eyes, each landing on the pale face of a man who was the Ninja Academy's top instructor. His lower half was covered in boulders, and dried blood stained his once leafy-green vest. There were bruises and scrapes on every inch of skin.

The girl sank to her knees and her pale hand gently caressed his lifeless face.

"I'm sorry for not keeping my promise..."

She whispered as tears began to flow ceaselessly down her pale cheeks.

"I'm so sorry...daddy."

She leaned over his lifeless form as sobs shook her small form.

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Flame leapt from building to building in search of her father and mother. She stopped in midair when she saw a chakra blade lying in the dirt. Doing a nosedive, she reached the blade in a matter of seconds. She gently picked it up and looked back and forth quickly. Her eyes stopped on two figures lying motionless near the old Yamanaka flower shop. Dropping the blade in shock, she sprinted towards the two. She stopped next to the bodies and felt her heart shatter.

Asuma and Kurenai were lying on top of one another, their stomachs slashed and their innards gushing out. Her face paled and she immediately lunged to the left, emptying her stomach contents on the ground.

Once she was able to move again, she glanced at her parent's bodies; tears cascaded down her cheeks.

"What? Momma's having a baby?" Flame practically screamed over the phone, temporarily causing hearing loss for her poor old dad.

"Yeah, she's on her 3rd month. It's been hell."

A feminine voice was heard in the background shouting: "I heard that!"

She giggled as she listened to her father apologize.

"I'm so excited!"

"You should be... because, you and Shikamaru will be responsible for it if anything should happen to us." He said solemnly.

"Ha. Don't worry dad, nothing's going to happen to you, mom, or my new baby sister. I'll make sure of it!"

Flame looks away in shame after closing her parent's eyes.

"I'm sorry... I failed you."

xXxXxXxX

"Dad... do you ever fear death when you're on your missions?" A four-year-old Fade asks her father while licking her ice cream cone. Kakashi blinks and looks down at his daughter.

"You're only four... where do you get such morbid thoughts?"

"Hyuuga-Kun."

'Reminder: Tell Guy-Sensei to keep Neji and his bitter thoughts away from Yume.'

"Well, I do fear death. I think everyone does... because there's something everyone has to live for."

"Like Naruto's dream to be Hokage?"

"Yes...although, sometimes it's better not to live for a fantasy."

"Dad..."

"Sorry, sorry. I know you admire him. Anyway... even though I constantly face my fears of dying, I would still be happy to fall in the line of duty. It's a great honor. Though, I'm not saying I want to die." He smiles, his one visible eye going into an upside down 'U.' "Because I still have something to live for."

Yume looks up at him and licks her lips.

"What's that?"

He smiles and pats her head.

"You, kiddo."

Fade stares down at the burned body of Hatake Kakashi, her eyes hidden beneath her bangs.

"Dad..."

She clutched her chest as a tear fell down her cheek.

"I know you fought hard...and died with honor... so...so I..."

She smiled softly and looked up at the sky.

"I'm proud to be your daughter..."

She fell to her knees and cried into her hands.

Crystal watched Fade cry over her father. Her own eyes were cold and emotionless. She knew this pain, the pain of losing a father. However... her brother was another story.

She held a torn and bloody orange and black jacket with the Uzumaki symbol stitched on it's back to her chest. Her icy blue eyes filled with tears and dripped down her cheeks as she too, cried; her face remaining a blank canvas.

'It sparks a numbness deep inside ones heart when they lose that precious person.'

xXxXxXx

[End of Flashback]

Shaking the bitter memories away, Mimic sat up and crossed her legs. She rubbed her temples as her eyebrows furrowed in confusion. Finally, she let out an exasperated shout and fell backwards onto her bed while yelling "I DON'T UNDERSTAND THIS SH*T ANYMORE!"

4 - A Date With The Great Lord Usami

Usami Akihiko was once again avoiding his editor. His manuscript was supposed to be about a normal, non-homo, date between two teenagers. Him, being extremely gay and having never gone out with a girl, was completely lost on how to write such a story. He would feel much better if he had to do another BL story.

He was pacing back and forth in the hallway outside of his room, his violet eyes intent on the ground as he thought of different ways to fake his death or put off the manuscript until he had the proper knowledge to write it. Grimacing, he thought of Aikawa's expression when she realized he hasn't even started to write it yet.

There would be no need to fake his death then; she would make it a reality.

"Mr. Usami?" He blinked, being brought out of his fearful thoughts. Ciel was staring at him with an inquisitive look, his eyebrow raised in confusion.

"Why are you pacing back and forth?"

Akihiko sighed and ran his hand through his hair.

"I am having trouble writing a novel..."

Ciel's eyes seemed to soften and he smiled with excitement. Sadly, this boy did not know what kind of man the Great Lord Usami truly was when it came to writing, seeing how Ciel had only read his non BL books; the fact that Ciel was a young boy added to the dangerous mixture. But, Usami was Ciel's favorite author, so he leapt at the chance to try and help him.

"Is there any way I could help?"

Akihiko's eyes widened and he looked down at Ciel. Sure, The Great Lord had no knowledge of a normal date, but perhaps this boy did.

"Have you ever been on a normal date?"

Ciel was taken aback by the direct question, and his cheeks burned crimson for he, Ciel Phantomhive, hadn't even gotten his first kiss. A dark shadow loomed over the boy as he stared at the ground, his eyes hidden beneath his bangs. Akihiko sighed and mimicked the boy's stance.

"So, we're in the same boat, huh?" Akihiko asked as both men stood there awkwardly.

"What are you two doing?" Fade asked while Mimic waved her hand in front of Ciel's face.

"Usagi-San... you didn't scar this poor boy, did you?" Mimic questioned at Ciel's unusual behavior, not

knowing his pride was seriously wounded.

"No... he was trying to help me with a problem... but sadly, we both come from the same place of issues." Akihiko sighed and rubbed the bridge of his nose. Fade and Mimic's eyebrows rose in questioning.

"You both are perverted children?"

Ciel's head snapped up, his cheeks burning once more, and his eyes wide as he shouted:

"I AM NO PERVERT!"

While Akihiko nodded calmly.

"Anyway, what problem do you need help with, Usagi-San?" Fade asked while watching Mimic tease Ciel about being a "Homo Fanatic".

"Aikawa wants me to write a novel about a normal couple going on a normal date..."

"So?"

"I've never been on a normal date."

Fade was taken aback from that statement.

"You? Usami Akihiko? You have never been on a date?"

Akihiko glared and sighed.

"Stupid. Of course I have... but only with men. That by itself isn't defined as normal. But what I do and where I go on dates also isn't your typical dating ritual." He said blankly and Fade looked at him with confusion.

"What kind of dates do you go on, Usagi-San?"

Mimic perked up at this and smiled.

"Let me guess, an expensive limo ride to an expensive five-star restaurant, followed by a carriage ride through the park, and then ending with your own personal firework show?" Mimic laughed at her jokes towards Usami and his wealth when Akihiko nodded solemnly.

"Which is why I need a normal person's advice."

Mimic froze and stared at him with wide eyes.

"Seriously?"

Ciel looked at her with confusion.

"Why are you so surprised? That's a typical date back at my home."

"BUT YOU'RE RICH!" Mimic accused while dramatically pointing at the young boy.

"Well... I'd help you, but I've never been on a real date before."

Fade said with a sigh. Since she and Sebastian were technically having an illegal relationship, they had to limit themselves to acting like a couple only in the Tower. Which as you can imagine, isn't a very romantic setting in itself.

Mimic yawned and stretched her arms out in front of her.

"I'm going on a date later today."

"Iggy's in town?"

"Yep, and he's staying."

Fade nodded and then gasped. She smiled over at Mimic who became slightly terrified at the evil smirk.

"W-what?"

Fade patted her friend's shoulder and then placed her hand on Akihiko's.

"Usagi-San can follow you on your date with Iggy and gather research for his novel!"

Mimic froze and Akihiko smiled.

"That's a great idea!"

Akihiko and Fade discussed the arrangements while a mortified Mimic fell to the floor.

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Mimic and Iggy sat awkwardly at a local restaurant, both sweating under the gaze of Usami Akihiko. Iggy, although being blind, felt the intensity of the novelist's stares piercing through him. It was rather creepy.

Akihiko glanced between the two silent teens and sighed.

"Is it normal for common folk to not engage in a conversation?" He asked bluntly and Mimic's eye twitched.

"WHO'RE YOU CALLING 'COMMON FOLK'?"

Before Mimic was able to throttle said author, the waiter approached their table wearing a delectable pair

of dirty jeans and a baseball tee. The waiter was rather frightened when Akihiko gave him the stare down instead of the two, now relieved, teens.

"U-Um... welcome to Fulgers Fries and Burgers... may I take your order?"

Akihiko continued to stare at the young, confused, boy. Finally, the cold stare made the lad snap.

"Okay, what is he staring-"

"That has got to be the most un-classy waiter I've ever seen..."

Akihiko returns his gaze to the now embarrassed teens.

"How could you two even call this a 'decent' date? My first date was on a yacht sailing in the English bay where we were served fresh lobster..."

The waiter's eye twitched in anger, seeing how he was the son of the man who created this family restaurant; its no surprise he was extremely insulted.

Mimic blushed and whacked Akihiko on the head while Iggy murmured apologies to the ticked off waiter and gave him their order.

Once the waiter left Mimic turned her fiery gaze to the confused, and bruised, author.

"Idiot! You're acting like a child! This place is a standard hangout for teenagers, who are not loaded, to hang out!"

Iggy nodded and silently sipped his drink.

"Not to mention you just pissed off the son of the manager... Needless to say, we'll be lucky if our food isn't mixed with rat poison."

Mimic stared at her boyfriend with a disgusted and serious gaze.

"Don't even joke about that."

She turned back to Akihiko, who didn't look fazed by the past events at all.

"And you! You're supposed to be observing us! Not putting your two-cents in every second!"

"Correction. I'm researching."

"Research in silence."

"Where's the fun in that?"

Mimic groaned and slammed her head on the table.

Akihiko took out a pad of paper and began writing with a dull expression on his face.

"Acts of self-inflicted violence..."

"DON'T WRITE THAT DOWN!"

"Like you said, I'm observing."

"HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO OBSERVE MY FIST IN YOUR FACE?"

"I'll pass."

"ARGH! YOU AGGRAVATE ME!"

"...Akihiko, perhaps you shouldn't tease her."

Akihiko nods.

"She does have a rather short fuse."

"THAT'S IT! YOU'RE DEAD RABBIT!"

Later that day...

Akihiko, Iggy, and a worn-out Mimic walked into the main room where they were greeted by an optimistic Fade.

"Welcome back! How was everything?"

Akihiko smiled and made his way to get his coffee.

"It was rather splendid, I believe I've gotten everything I need to write the manuscript."

Fade smiled and patted his shoulder.

"Good work! How about you, Mimz-" She was stopped dead by a pair of blood-shot eyes glaring daggers at her. She sweat dropped and moved to hide behind Akihiko, who was sipping his coffee as if nothing had happened.

Mimic let out a low growl as she glanced at the novelist before storming out of the room, an aura of death and destruction floating around her.

Fade's fearful eyes glanced at Akihiko and then to Iggy and then to Akihiko.

"Do... Do I even want to know?"

Akihiko smiled innocently.

"She and I just had a little bonding time."

'Somehow... I have a feeling said "bonding time" was more like a two-hour torture fest... Mimic's gonna kill me for sure.'

5 - The Jewel Lies Within!

Blood red eyes stare into an image of a certain violet-haired titan, who was currently in a state of meditation. The figure smirks before looking away. The image was inside a mirror that was being held by a young girl, clad in a white kimono. Her black eyes were cold and lifeless.

"Kanna." The man called, his voice sending a chill through the air.

"Send our new friends out to capture our first target."

The girl, Kanna, said nothing but slowly faded into the darkness.

"Soon I shall have the entire Shikon Jewel..."

His evil laughter filled the darkened room.

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It's been about a week since I had that strange nightmare yet, the scene replays in my mind over and over. Robin believes it to be just a dream, but Fade thinks I'm having another premonition. Either way, I can't stop thinking about it.

"Miss Raven!"

Violet eyes snapped open at the call of her name. The voice was foreign, yet familiar to her. She looked all around her but no one else was on the roof but her. Grimacing, she began to rub her temples.

"First disturbing visions and now I'm hearing things? Have I finally lost it?"

"Miss Raven! Down here!"

The voice of a man called out to her again, this time she immediately looked down and gasped. A man wearing an old-fashioned monk's kimono and a woman wearing a pink and green kimono waved up to her from the edge of the island. How they got there... she didn't know.

Until a certain two-tailed cat came into view.

Oh yeah... that cat can fly.

She quickly glided down to the two and smiled kindly at them.

"Miroku, Sango... it's been a while. I was rather disappointed when I didn't see you two come with InuYasha and Kagome."

Miroku beamed at the titan before taking her pale hand in his.

"Did you miss me, Miss Raven? For I have missed you and your dark beauty-"

He was silenced with a blow to the head.

Sango crossed her arms as the monk began fiercely rubbing his aching scalp.

Raven rolled her eyes, but her smile never left her face.

"Sorry, Miroku. I'm kind of seeing somebody."

This brought a shocked expression on both monk and taiga.

"Miroku? Sango? You're here!" A high-pitched voice came from the doorway of the tower right before Kagome came running out and tackling her old friends.

"Lady Kagome, it's been so long!"

"I've missed you, Kagome."

While the three hugged for what seemed like hours, a certain silver-haired half-demon watched in annoyance from the doorframe.

"Keh. What took you so long to come?"

"Nice to see you too, Inuyasha." Came the joined response from the two.

"Well, well, well... look what we have here."

Sango and Miroku's eyes widened at the familiar voice coming from behind them. They quickly turned and gazed at a smiling masked Naruto perched up on a tree branch.

"Naruto!" They both exclaimed at the blonde ninja. He waved at them and gave a brief:

"Yo."

Raven looked at them in confusion. For Naruto had first joined the Titans long before the Inu group did. Naruto and his friends had left a few weeks before Raven and Fade were sent with a team to fetch Inuyasha and the gang. So, how would they know each other? Especially since in order to get to Naruto's world, you need to be able to create a certain portal, and in order to get to Inuyasha's world, you must travel 500 years into the past.

"How do you all know each other?"

Naruto smiled, his eyes turning into upside down 'U's.

It was rather creepy.

"We go way back... I helped them defeat Naraku after my village was destroyed." He stared at Ravens even more confused face with that same creepy stare. "It's a long story."

"A very long story." Kagome sighed.

Miroku and Sango exchanged glances before breaking the warm-loving reunion.

"Naraku isn't dead."

That got everyone's attention.

"Say what?" Came Inuyasha's obvious question. His ears were perked up, his eyes were bright with rage, and his fists were clutched tight. Kagome let out a small gasp as horror dawned on her pale face. Raven gasped as well, knowing full well that Naraku was half as powerful as her father and twice as evil. Well, maybe not twice.

And Naruto...he faked a shocked expression just so he wouldn't be left out.

"While we were patrolling around Kaede's Village, we came across Kagura. She had ran out to search for us because of her connection with Naraku, she could feel a small part of his energy lurking around the northern border. She had gone to investigate on her own and was attacked by Naraku himself. She barely escaped with her life as she watched Naraku flee towards the western lands."

"So, we came here to warn you... just incase he found a way to get here."

Naruto gave them a questionable glance.

"How exactly did you two get here?"

"Lady Midoriko."

Naruto's eyes widened, he having thought the priestess's soul to be freed once Kagome made her wish upon the Jewel.

"But... the Jewel was destroyed when Kagome made the wish to resurrect Konoha."

"We thought so too but it was all a trick Naraku didn't really die... and as for the Jewel... it was returned back to where it was hidden 50 years ago."

Inuyasha gasped and his eyes widened.

"Kikyo?"

Naruto narrowed his eyes. Inuyasha did not know it, but Naruto had killed Kikyo after having Inuyasha choose between Kagome and Kikyo. Her body crumbled into ash and blew away with the wind. The

jewel could have not gone back to her... so that would leave...

His eyes widened.

"It's inside Lady Kagome."

Five pairs of eyes stared at Kagome, who was frozen in shock, as her hand slowly moved to rest on her right side where a thick scar remained from when the Jewel had been ripped out of her so long ago.

"But that would mean..." Inuyasha whispered, his fearful eyes never leaving Kagome's form.

Naruto gritted his teeth.

"Naraku is coming after Kagome."

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6 - Naruto's Boot Camp

"I'm sure you're all wondering why I have gathered you here." Robin spoke firmly, his tone of voice warning a certain group of kunoichis to not smart mouth him as they usually do.

They aren't very good at taking hints.

"Not really." Flame deadpanned, earning an angry twitch from the spiky haired teen.

"Anyhow... it appears we have a serious enemy on the move."

"Justin Beiber?" Mimic.

"No."

"Michael Jackson?" Crystal.

"No."

"The muffin man?" Fade.

"WOULD YOU SHUT THE frack UP FOR ONCE AND LET ME TALK?"

The room went silent, except for the four girls who were holding back a fit of giggles.

Oh, how they loved picking on that poor boy.

"Naraku is headed here."

A handful of gasps were heard, except from some of the new comers who were utterly lost.

Misaki raised his hand.

"Who's 'Naraku'?"

"He's a d-"

"Drag wearing psychopath."

Misaki gave Robin a confused stare as Robin's eye twitched and he looked over to Mimic.

"Thank you, Mimic."

"Anytime, needle dick."

"... Anyhow, Naraku is a demon from Inuyasha's world. A demon that has taken many lives. And now, he's after Kagome."

Inuyasha's eyes narrowed and his hand unconsciously grasped the Tetsusaiga.

"Now. For those of you, who do not have super powers, help in any way you can. Those of us with super powers, protect Kagome at all costs. If Naraku gets a hold of her, it will be the end of the world as we know it."

They all looked at each other, worry in their eyes, but it was soon replaced with determination.

"I think, those who aren't skilled in any combat or have any super powers should be trained in basic martial arts. As a means of self-defense and perhaps an offense." Naruto spoke up, his eyes staring at the homo-normal-ish-group. Robin nodded in agreement and turned his gaze to the six who were pretty much normal.

"Very well then. Misaki, Akihiko, Hiroki, Nowaki, Miyagi, Shinobu, and Ciel will report to intense training. Naruto, Fade, and Sebastian shall tutor them. Dismissed."

Naruto beamed, his eyes covered by a black evil mist. The air seemed to grow cold as he stared down at the soon to be students.

"Welcome to Naruto's Boot Camp."

His maniacal laughter echoed throughout the tower.

7 - Let The Training Begin!

The morning after the "big announcement", all seven of the "unskilled" were gathered on the training grounds. Half of them were slightly terrified of what this "Boot Camp" would hold. Naruto, Fade, and Sebastian appeared in a swirl of leaves before them, all of them smiling.

The student's fear only increased.

"Alright. Naruto and I will be taking three of you under our wing, and Sebastian will teach only one of you." Fade smirked over at Naruto, who had a mischievous gleam in his eyes.

"Misaki, Ciel, and Hiroki... you'll be my students."

Misaki gaped in horror at his future teacher's masochistic gaze. Even Professor Kamijo, a.k.a. "Demon Kamijo", was a little frightened. With a nod at his fellow "sensei's" Naruto and his group vanished in a puff of smoke.

"Well now. Usagi San, Shinobu, and Nowaki... you're with me." They all nodded, happy to have her instead of Naruto. They too, vanished in a cloud of smoke.

Sebastian smirked at Miyagi, who sweat dropped.

"That leaves you and me."

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"Okay, first off, tell me what you know about combat." Fade asked her students who all exchanged blank stares before Shinobu spoke up.

"You're supposed to kick your opponents @\$\$, right?"

Fade smiled and ruffled his hair.

"If you're lucky, you won't have to go anywhere near their @\$\$."

Akihiko looked interested.

"What if you want to get near their @\$\$?"

Fade sweat dropped.

"I'm pretty sure you won't be fighting Misaki... so, don't worry about it."

"Oh. Please continue."

"Anyway, what I'm going to teach you is simple defense. A good defense is the best offense."

Shinobu cocked his head in confusion.

"Why is that?"

Akihiko deadpanned.

"Because if you constantly get your @\$@ kicked, your opponent will knock you out cold easily."

Shinobu's eyes widened.

"Well... that, and if your opponent is having a hard time landing a hit on you, he'll tire out quickly."

Akihiko nodded.

"Just as I was saying."

Fade sighs and claps her hands twice.

"Alright, lets start off with you, Shinobu. I'm going to come at you, and I want you to block my every move." She smirked sadistically.

Shinobu's eyes widened and he quickly put his hands up in a stopping motion.

"Wait, what-"

She charged.

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Later that day...

Mimic walked into the main room to make some ramen when she felt a dark aura from the corner. She looked to her right and saw Misaki, slumped over, completely exhausted. A few seconds later, Ciel walked in, barely making it two feet past the door before doing a face plant.

He didn't move.

Hiroki then emerged from the doorway. He walks over to the couch and falls over.

"What happened to all of you?" Mimic asked, her eyes wide as she further noticed their condition. Their breaths were shallow and ragged, their clothes were covered in dirt, sweat, and blood, and bruises covered every inch of their skin.

"Naruto's Boot Camp." Misaki whispered.

Mimic raised an eyebrow.

"Which is what, exactly?"

"The realm of pain and suffering."

"The tenth level of hell."

"You don't want to know."

Was their conjoined response. Mimic's eyes widened.

"What exactly did you do?"

Misaki groaned. "He had us train."

Mimic deadpanned. Train? That was all? What a bunch of pussys.

"That... That was not training." Hiroki spat out. "That was a sadistic form of torture that he called 'training.'"

[Flashback time]

"Shadow Clone Jutsu." Naruto spoke as two clones appeared beside him. The three men stared at it with confusion.

"Okay, clone number one, take Misaki over there and clone number two, take Hiroki over there. Ciel, you're all mine."

Ciel's eyes widened with fear.

"Now then, Ciel. While my clones are training the other two... you and I shall work on giving you some skill that is useful in actual combat. First, speed." He smiled and made a hand sign before transporting them to a nearby river near a steep hill. At the top of said hill were two large buckets.

"Alright." He gave Ciel two smaller buckets attached to a long stick. "I want you to use these buckets to carry water up that hill and dump the water into the bigger ones. You need to repeat this process until the larger buckets are full."

Ciel smirked.

He did love a challenge.

"Alright then. Piece of cake." He hoisted the smaller buckets, filled with water, onto his shoulders and made his way up the hill.

Little did he know, Naruto had used a special jutsu that made the buckets absorb the water, making it take three times the time it would originally take to fill the giant tubs. Not to mention the other jutsu cast on the earl, making him run as though he wore large weights.

Cruel?

Definitely.

Necessary?

Of course.

'Sorry, Ciel. But I'm starting at ground zero in Taijutsu skills with you... it's for the best.'

[End of Flashback]

Misaki's dark chuckle was heard throughout the room.

[Flashback']

"Well, Misaki... I've heard you were on the track team during your school year... and I've seen you run (from Akihiko), you're pretty fast. However, your hand-to-hand combat leaves much to the imagination."

"Hey!"

Naruto waved him off.

"Just calling it as I see it. Anyhow, I'm going to teach you how to throw weapons instead of hand-to-hand...because... well, you don't strike me as the 'fighting' type."

"Because I'm not."

"Right. Anyway," He tosses Misaki a package of shuriken and kunais. "There are targets set up all around us. I don't want you to stop throwing until you hit the bull's-eye five times in a row."

Misaki blinked and stared down at the ninja tools.

"O-Okay..."

"Begin!"

[End of Flashback]

Mimic stared at the boy like she would a Twilight fan.

"That doesn't sound torturous at all."

Misaki's dark aura expanded throughout the entire room as his soft chuckle echoed.

"Oh, but here's when things get even better."

[Flashback]

"Very good! You mastered it quicker than I thought... Now, I want you to disarm all the training dummies I have scattered throughout the forest, while dodging numerous kunais and shurikens... and never being hit once. There are booby-traps everywhere, so keep an eye out."

"Wait-"

"Go."

Naruto watched as Misaki ran for his life through the exercise, throwing weapons every which way.

'Hmm... perhaps I should have told him to look beneath the underneath? Oh well, he'll live... I think.'

[End of Flashback]

Mimic stared, eyes wide and jaw dropped, at the boy before her.

"Exactly... what traps were there?"

All she heard was soft mumbles followed by his endless shivers.

She looked over at Hiroki.

"What about you?"

"..."

"...."

"I don't want to talk about it."

'Yeesh, that bad, huh? Thank god I'm not them.'

8 - The Betrayer and the Betrayed

It was a peaceful day so the Titans decided to take some time off from training and go relax at the park. While they basked in the sunlight everyone forgot all of their worries; except for one.

"I can't help but notice you're upset." Sebastian's soothing voice startled the young girl, who had been staring off into space, worry glistening in her large brown eyes.

She looks up at the black butler and a small smile forms on her lips.

"I'm okay."

His ruby eyes darken slightly as he stares down at her.

"Do not lie to me, Keira."

"..."

"...Keira..." He cautioned, letting her know he was not going to tolerate her keeping her emotions bottled up. She sighed.

"Fine. I just feel like we shouldn't be sitting around eating bon bons while Naraku pursues Kagome." She said, pouting, as she crossed her arms over her chest. The older man smiled down at his teenage lover before patting her head gently and let out a soft chuckle.

"Technically, we're eating barbeque." He smirked as her eye twitched with annoyance. His expression became serious once more as his eyes drifted away from Fade and lingered on Kagome, who was currently playing volleyball with the other members of Team Alpha.

"However, it would be in our best interest to keep our guard up."

She nodded and then gasped as she felt his fingers intertwine with hers.

"What are you doing? We're in public!" She whispered harshly, her cheeks burning crimson. He chuckled and gently squeezed her hand. He leaned forward and whispered in her ear seductively.

"It's okay... no one is looking."

"I am." Fade's eyes widened as the masked visage of Uzumaki Naruto appeared before him, his eyes in upside down 'U's and wearing that creepy, pedophilic smile he has.

"Shut up, Naruto." Fade spat out, obviously embarrassed at being caught.

"Ha ha... you two better be careful. Remember where we are..." He mused while waving his finger at

Fade as if he was scolding a young child. She smacked his hand away.

"Why don't you go and get a girl so you can leave me the hell alone?"

Naruto chuckled.

"I'll have you know that I do have a girlfriend."

Fade's eyes widened and her jaw went slack.

"What-"

Suddenly, a large boulder came from above and smashed into the ground they had been standing on. Before the boulder hit, Sebastian had quickly grabbed Fade around her waist and jumped out of the way as Naruto did the same. Sebastian set Fade down and quickly checked her over with his eyes, making sure she was unharmed. Fade scowled and turned to Mimic, pointing at the stunned girl with an accusing look.

"Mimic, that could of seriously hurt us! I know you don't like PDA but he was only holding my hand!" Fade yelled, her cheeks turning pink. Mimic stared at her with an innocent expression and held her hands out in defense.

"It wasn't me."

Fade blinked and slowly turned towards the boulder.

"Then who-"

A loud rumble cut her off as the ground began to split in two. A large platform rose from beneath the cracked surface, revealing a tall figure standing on top of it.

Beastboy's eyes widened as Fade's narrowed.

A girl with long blonde hair stared at them with a smirk on her lips. She wore silver armor that held the insignia belonging to Slade on her chest. Her blue eyes glared at the Titans with deep hatred.

"Terra." Fade spat out.

"It's been a long time, guys." She sneered and then looked over at the new members.

"I see you've gotten some fresh bait." She smirked, causing Misaki to shiver slightly.

"What do you want, Terra?" Robin asked, his voice filled with hatred towards their former Titan, their former friend.

She snickered and cocked her head to the side.

"Other than to have your blood splattered over every inch of the ground I walk on?"

Beastboy's eyes saddened at the tone of her voice, knowing he was one of the main reasons she had become like this.

"I'm here for the priestess, well, actually for the Sacred Jewel." She smirked towards Kagome who stifled a gasp. Inuyasha sneered and quickly pulled Kagome behind him as he unsheathed Tetsusaiga.

"As if I'd let you get anywhere near her." He spat out, his eyes narrowing at the blonde.

Her eyes narrowed in amusement.

"As if you could stop me."

There was a low rumble and then nearly a million clay soldiers formed from the ground. Terra's hands began to glow yellow as the soldiers started to charge at the Titans.

Sneering, Fade leapt over the soldiers and made her way to Terra, determined to kill her. Terra saw a black blur in the corner of her eye and turned quickly just in time to see Fade flying at her, her fist pulled back and ready to punch the shoot out of her. Smirking, Terra quickly formed a rock wall just as Fade was inches from her. Fade's fist, infused with enough chakra to make 2 rasengans, smashed into the wall and shattered it completely. Terra's eyes widened slightly at the sight of how much power the girl before her held.

However, it had been a few years since they last met... and there's no question that she had trained hard. Terra's eyes narrowed and she smirked as her eyes glowed yellow.

But, Terra had been training too.

And she was not going to lose.

"Hyah!" The blonde screamed as the boulder she had been standing on burst into millions of sharp spears and launched themselves at Fade, who was still in the air. The brunette's eyes widened at the sight of the attack heading her way. Right before the attack hit, she disappeared in a cloud of smoke. Terra narrowed her eyes.

'I forgot she could teleport... no matter, I know how to handle that.' She smirked and started looking around for the girl.

Meanwhile, the other Titans were busy fighting the clay warriors.

Mimic leapt into the air, escaping from the circle of warriors that had surrounded her. She smiled and quickly pulled out a kunai with a piece of paper attached. With a flick of the wrist, the kunai was sent flying down to the moving piles of rubbish. It struck one of them in the head and then the paper exploded, taking a handful of them with it.

She landed gracefully on the ground and dusted off her hands.

"Mimic!" She heard Ciel yell and she turned just in time to see a clay warrior about to cut her in half. Dodging it quickly, she landed an uppercut to the monster, snapping its head right off of it. The warrior paused and then crumbled away. She let out a relieved breath and turned back to Ciel.

"Thanks, Ciel." Her eyes widened as three clay warriors came up behind the small boy.

"Ciel, behind you!" She yelled and began running towards him. Ciel looked behind him and narrowed his eyes. In a swift motion, he did a roundhouse kick, hitting all three of the warriors. They broke in half and crumbled away.

Mimic froze in her spot.

'When did he learn to do that...?'

Ciel smiled at her stunned expression.

"Naruto's boot camp." Was his simple reply before running off to assist the others.

Mimic beamed.

"I guess all that torture really does pay off."

"Wind Style: Dance of Blades!" Fade called out while throwing chakra-covered shurikens towards Terra. The shurikens spun around the girl in a circle, slashing and tearing skin and tendons. Terra winced as her anger flared. She shot out her hands to the side, creating a barrier of earth, protecting her.

Her eyes began to glow as she shattered the shield and sent the fragments flying at Fade. Fade smirked.

'That again?' She began to teleport but gasped as she felt something pinning her down to that spot. She looked down and saw her shadow being stretched out and connecting with Terra's shadow. Fade's eyes widened in realization.

"Shadow Possession Jutsu!" Terra exclaimed, enjoying the look of shock on the girl's face. Fade closed her eyes and waited for the pain. Nothing happened.

She slowly opened one eye and gasped.

Sebastian was standing in front of her, bleeding profusely. His outfit was in shreds and rock fragments stuck out from numerous parts on his body. His usual red eyes were now a frightening purple and his pupils narrowed into slits.

"Se..Sebastian...why did you..." Fade whispered, praying he wouldn't collapse.

He looked behind him and smiled.

"I'm immortal... you are not." He stated simply and returned his gaze to the other girl, who was frozen in

shock.

"Who... who are you?" She whispered, her eyes rather terrified. She didn't know this Titan... however, the aura radiating off of him sent fear shivering down her spine. He smiled masochistically.

"I am merely... a butler." He said as his glare intensified. Terra's left arm jerked back suddenly and twisted in a loop, much like a pretzel. She screamed in pain as the jutsu she had cast was released. She clutched her twisted, broken, arm; tears in her eyes as the pain made her continue to cry out in agony. The remaining clay soldiers crumbled away into nothing and the shocked eyes of the other Titans found their way to Terra's disfigured arm and Sebastian's murderous gaze. He made his way towards the girl in order to deliver the final blow, however, he was stopped when a flash of yellow caught his eye.

Crystal had jumped in front of him, protecting Terra, her icy blue orbs glaring at the butler with the intent to kill.

"Water style: Blood Prison Jutsu." She whispered and immediately, Sebastian froze. Her eyes glared at the man and with a flick of her wrist Sebastian broke his own arm. His face winced with pain as he felt his bone shatter. Crystal held out a finger and pointed it at his neck just as Sebastian's hand grabbed his own neck firmly. He stifled a gasp as he realized she was controlling him. He coughed slightly as his grip tightened. Crystal made a squeezing motion with her fist, intensifying the grip around his neck. Fade's eyes watered and stared in horror.

"Stop it, Crystal!" She yelled, her eyes pleading as she ran towards her friend and grasped her arm tightly. Crystal's eyes snapped towards Fade, glaring at her with emotionless eyes. Crystal blinked, releasing the jutsu, and Sebastian fell to his knees in pain. Fade was suddenly thrown back and crashed into Mimic and Flame, who were too shocked to catch her in time. Team Alpha stared at their teammate from their fallen position, each of their eyes shining with disbelief.

"Minami..." Naruto whispered, his blue eyes wide with shock and pain. She glared at him, pure hatred in her eyes, before she and Terra disappeared in a swirl of leaves.

9 - Crushing Emotions

Fade sat on her bed, staring blankly at the wall. So many emotions swirled around inside her, causing her heart to suffer with every beat. She was in denial. She looked down at a picture frame in her hands. She stared at the four smiling faces.

A picture of Team Alpha before they had left Konoha.

Crystal's smile brought more pain to her already aching heart.

Betrayal hurt more than the death of someone you loved... for when a person betrays you, and you care about them, the person you've grown to know has died... but their body still breathes; the body of someone who has deceived you.

How could she not have noticed?

Tears stung her eyes as memories flooded back to her. She wrapped her arms around her knees and cried all throughout the night.

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Mimic and Flame sat emotionlessly in Flame's room, both still in an aftershock over the incidents earlier today. Mimic's eyes narrowed in anger as she clutched her fist.

They had *grown up* with her.

They had *loved* her.

They had *trusted* her.

And she betrayed them all.

She suddenly punched the wall closest to her, causing the tower to shake, and leaving a large hole in the wall. Flame's eyes slowly looked over at her damaged wall, but said nothing. She had learned at a young age that betrayal was common amongst ninjas... her own boyfriend betrayed her and his village. She was use to it.

However, she couldn't say the same for her two other teammates.

Or Naruto, for that matter.

She sighed and looked out her window, pain deep within her eyes.

'He's probably blaming himself... just as he did with Sasuke.'

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Naruto stared down at the ocean beneath him, his eyes clouded with sadness. His fist clenched tightly.

He had failed his sister just as he failed Sasuke. Except this time, he won't chase after her. He knew...

He knew that she wouldn't come back.

The cold look in her eyes was exactly the same as Sasuke's.

A look of sadness; a look of *hatred*.

He couldn't save her.

"Naruto?" He was brought out of his self-pity fest by Kagome's concerned voice. He turned and watched her sit down beside him, pulling her legs to her chest.

It was silent.

"I'm sorry." She whispered, making the pain that already grasped his heart, throb more.

"For what?" He asked simply, not turning to look at her.

Kagome didn't know how to respond... she just wanted the pain she knew he felt to diminish.

So, she embraced him from behind as she had done to Inuyasha so long ago when he had killed the bandits while in his demon state.

Naruto's eyes widened at the unfamiliar contact before reaching his hand up to rest over Kagome's.

"Naruto..." She whispered, her eyes clouding in pain. "It's okay to cry..." She finished; causing his eyes to soften and tears began to form.

'Kagome... you don't know... the feeling of being useless... I'm a failure.'

10 - The Book

((A/N: WARNING. Mature content. If lemons make you squirmy, please skip the large body paragraph in italics. Thank you.))

Days have passed since the incident in the park, and so far, there had been no threats towards Kagome. Everyone seemed to return back to normal, well sort of.

For Team Alpha... any mention of Crystal, or even saying her name, causes them to drop to the floor in a deep depression.

But other than that, they were pretty much okay.

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Mimic yawned and walked into the main room, heading for the fridge. Fade eyed her cautiously while sipping her cup of freshly made tea. Mimic grabbed a carton of milk and took a big gulp from the carton.

"Morning, Mimz." Fade greeted, still watching her teammate cautiously.

Mimic used her sleeve to wipe off the excess milk off of her mouth and gave a slurred response.

"Morning."

As Mimic began to rummage around the kitchen, preparing her breakfast, she couldn't help but notice her teammate's intense stare. Finally, she turned around, her eyebrow twitching.

"Okay, what is it?"

Fade blinked and looked away in embarrassment for being caught.

"...You haven't seen it yet?" Fade asked, her eyebrow lifting up in curiosity. Mimic stared at her with a blank look.

"*Seen* what?"

"...Nothing. Never mind. I said nothing."

Mimic's eyebrow twitches in anger as Fade pretends to be interested in her magazine. Mimic pulls the paper out of Fade's hand and bonks her in the head with it.

"Tell me."

"...."

"..."

Fade blushes and hands her a small book and Mimic takes it, lifting an eyebrow, and giving the book a curious look. The cover was all pink and on the front was a boy holding a girl close to his bare chest.

"What's this?"

Fade laughed nervously.

"Usagi-San's new book..."

Mimic stared at her with curiosity.

"And why are you so embarrassed about it?"

"Open it and read it yourself."

Mimic raised both her eyebrows and opened the book, as she began to read a random page.

((WARNING: MATURE CONTENT))

"Iggy... I can't." Came Natsumi's hushed whisper as Iggy began to leave a trail of warm kisses on her neck. Her childish face was stained pink by her growing blush; turning the young man on even more. His hands, cool and soft, made their way up her shirt. Her eyes widened and a low moan escaped her lips from the skin-to-skin contact. Her breathing was ragged and her heart was beating rapidly as his hands continued to explore her abdomen. It was then that his hands made their way up her back and quickly unclasped her bra; freeing her breasts from their prison.

Her hands, trembling with nerves, slowly began to unbutton his white satin shirt, as the urge to touch his chest began to grow. Finally, the dreaded piece of clothing was off of her target and lay forgotten on the floor beside their feet.

She soon felt her own shirt being removed and a wave of embarrassment hit her, seeing how she had never shown another her body. The shirt was tossed aside followed by the green and black lace garment he had removed earlier. She was suddenly pushed onto their queen-sized bed as he leaned over her, pinning her beneath him.

She blushed as she saw his pale eyes staring down, seeing nothing. Instead, his hands did the seeing for him. He placed his hands gently on each side of her waist and slowly slid his hands up to the edge of her breasts, leaving a trail of goose bumps along her pale skin. She moaned softly as his finger brushed against her breast, causing his hand to stop suddenly.

A few minutes later he gently grabbed the entire mound of flesh into his hand and started to knead it. She moaned loudly as her lover began playing with her breast, both of them experiencing this kind of contact for the first time. She jerked slightly when she felt his other hand massage her neglected breast. He felt every inch of her chest, memorizing every detail. She was in pure bliss.

Her bliss increased as she felt something warm and wet engulf her breast. Iggy had placed his mouth on her right breast, and began kissing and sucking on it gently. She squirmed around, overwhelmed with pleasure, as he continued his ministrations.

She nearly dropped the book.

Fade had to restrain herself from falling onto the floor laughing as she watched her friends face go from pale white to blood red.

"WHAT THE F**K IS THIS?" Mimic yelled as she threw the book at the wall, steam practically coming off of her skull.

"Usagi-San's new-"

"I KNOW WHAT THE F**K IT IS! WHAT GIVES HIM THE RIGHT TO WRITE SUCH A THING?"

"Is there a problem?"

Both girls turn to see no other than the Great Lord himself, standing against the doorframe, his arms crossed over his chest.

"I don't see why you're so angry... I thought it was very good, seeing as it was my first time writing a non BL erotic novel." He said bluntly and Fade had to restrain Mimic from throttling him.

"YOU PIECE OF SH*T! WHY DO YOU INSIST ON PISSING ME OFF!" She shouts at the author, who in turn smirks.

"Why? The answer is simple."

He places his hand on his hip and points at Mimic.

"Because I can."

Mimic's eye twitches.

'He is so dead.'

11 - Goodbyes

A demoness with long fiery red hair sat on a tree branch that overlooked an empty village. Sighing to herself she began humming a soft lullaby to pass the time. She was supposed to guard the village, but lets face it: No one would dare come near knowing that this was the Great Lord Sesshomaru's land.

Pouting she crossed her arms over her chest and huffed.

'That pup takes the fun out of everything.' She thought bitterly and then blinked when a white light flashed in the corner of her eye. Raising her eyebrow in suspicion, she leapt over to another tree branch, a little closer to where the light came from.

Her ruby eyes widened in shock as she saw millions of people lying on the dirt ground of the village which had been deserted. She quickly leapt towards the ground, landing with a silent thud. She made her way to the large doors reading 'An'. Her face paled some as she got a better look at the bodies sprawled out on the village square.

She felt a wide smile adorn her features.

'Wait till Naruto sees this.' She thought happily and made her way to assist the villagers.

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Robin, Fade, Naruto, and Ciel sat at a large circular table in a large dark room. Behind Robin was a large TV screen that showed an image of Terra and Crystal.

"We need to discuss what we are going to do about Terra and Crystal." Robin said while glancing at Fade from the corner of his eye. She was sitting up straight, her form somewhat on edge; More than likely trying not to break down.

"Why not break into teams and send someone out to look for them... before they come after us again?" Ciel suggested, also glancing at Fade with a hint of worry in his one visible eye. Even Naruto stared at his comrade with sympathy.

Robin nodded over at Ciel.

"That's a good idea."

"I think we should send our strongest Titans after them... Terra is a piece of cake, but my sister... she's got the blood of the Fourth Hokage running through her veins." Naruto suggested, still watching for any reaction coming towards Fade.

Fade slammed her fist on the table.

"Would you all stop staring at me? I'm fine, dammit!" She yelled, her eyes flashing white for a brief

second. The boys sweat dropped, embarrassed at being caught staring.

"Anyhow..." She started, her eyes clouding over with sorrow just for a brief moment. "If we're going to fight them... we're going to have to fight to kill." She whispered, alerting the others, especially Naruto.

Ciel and Robin processed the statement while Naruto stared at Fade, his eyes wide.

She looked over at him and gave him a brief look of sympathy before hardening her gaze and giving him the 'we have to' nod. His eyes glistened with pain as he nodded back.

"Alright then. Terra and Crystal must be dealt with... permanently. Fade and Ciel, organize the team that shall pursue them." Robin ordered before dismissing the meeting. Fade stood up with a grim expression before her and Ciel left to go make the arrangements. Robin looked over at Naruto, who seemed to be lost in his own thoughts.

"Naruto."

The blonde blinked and looked over at the spiky haired boy.

"Yes?"

Robin stared at him in silence before softening his gaze.

"I'm sorry about this."

Naruto held back a sadistic chuckle as he slowly rose from his chair and made his way to the door, a grim smirk on his face.

"Aren't we all?" He murmured before walking out the door, leaving a worried Robin behind.

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Fade sternly glanced over the five determined faces standing before her. Raven, whose hood was up, watched her friend's eyes flicker from sorrow to anger as she studied the team she now led. Raven let out a small sigh and then glanced over to the other members of this "special squad".

Flame and Mimic shared a fierce look of anger, as well as some sorrow, as they geared up for the journey. Naruto stood with his arms behind his head, giving off an aura of laziness. His eyes, however, gleamed with determination. As for Inuyasha, he was just excited to fight something.

With a final look over, Fade signaled them to head to the edge of the island to say their goodbyes. Raven grimaced.

She knew just as well as the others that they might not return from this mission.

But, wasn't that what being a Titan was all about?

As they made their way to the edge of their island the rest of the Titans met them. Beastboy and Raven hugged, his arms locked in a secure grip around the empath's back. Flame and Naruto stood awkwardly by as Mimic and Iggy shared a gentle embrace, followed by Mimic blushing as Iggy bent down to kiss her gingerly on the lips.

Kagome and Inuyasha embraced warmly, tears brimming the young girl's eyes as she said her goodbyes.

Sebastian tapped Fade on the shoulder, causing her to jump slightly, and quickly pulled her into a tight embrace.

"Why didn't you assign me to go?" He asked harshly, his eyes glowing purple as he tried to control his urge to make her stay. "I need to protect you." He murmured against her hair, his lips then pressing against the top of her head lovingly. Fade blushed and slowly returning the hug.

"Because... Kagome is still a target for Naraku... And we both know you are more than able to fight him off one-on-one... I need you to stay here and protect her and Ciel." She responded, pulling back slightly to smile at him. "Besides, I can take care of myself." She beamed up at him, her smile shocking him somewhat, and kissed his cheek gently.

He regained his composure and cupped her face in his gloved hands.

"You better come back to me." He ordered and gently kissed her lips, causing the teenager to blush and gasp slightly at their first kiss.

He pulled away and chuckled at her flushed expression.

"R-right... I promise I'll come back." She whispered before stepping away from the demon, and joined her group. She looked over at Raven who nodded and then chanted her famous mantra before they were enveloped in a purple aura and flew off in the form of a raven.

12 - Code EX

It had been about a week since Fade and her team left Titans Tower. Beastboy, Iggy, and Sebastian seemed to be in a slump, worrying about their girlfriends.

"I don't see why I couldn't go! I'm totally powerful!" Beastboy exclaimed while flailing his arms around and falling back onto the sofa next to Iggy.

"Yes. Because *green animals* are so *useful*." Iggy deadpanned, causing Beastboy's eyebrow to twitch.

"At least I have powers! All you've got is wings!"

"You want to go?" Iggy threatened as he and Beastboy jumped up and faced each other, a spark of anger lighting between them. Sebastian sighed and placed his hands on both of their shoulders.

"Honestly. You two are acting like children."

"We *are* children." The two deadpanned.

Just then, Miyagi burst through the door his expression was extremely pissed.

"Why must my life suck? First, the dean from Mitsuhashi University calls, saying his daughter and my ex-wife wants me back, and if I don't marry her I'll probably have troubles with my job back home! But it's not like I can say, 'Sorry sir, I can't be with Risako... I'm screwing your son instead.'" He yelled while flailing his arms up and down.

"Not to mention all the paper work I have to do for this American high school! And are these kids retarded? Some of them don't even know how to spell 'orange'. I thought Americans were supposed to be smart! And then there's Shinobu, who's throwing random fits about everything I do! God... *my life sucks*." He whined and then sighed.

"I bet my life sucks more than yours, Professor Miyagi." Beastboy muttered, while lying on the black couch. Iggy scoffed.

"I bet mine takes the cake for the worst life lived." Iggy responded, his expression bitter.

"My parents died in a boat crash in the Amazon."

"My mom died giving birth to me."

"I was injected with different animal genes to cure me of a deadly disease."

"I was sold to a mad science cooperation and my DNA was fused with that of birds."

"I look like an elf."

"I have wings."

"My skin is green!"

"I'm *blind*."

"...You win."

Iggly smirked and leaned back onto the couch.

"Damn straight."

Miyagi stared at the two with wide eyes.

"I'm surprised you two haven't killed yourselves yet."

"Yet being the key word." Sebastian murmured and walked into the kitchen to prepare Ciel's lunch.

Beastboy glared at the butler.

"Not funny."

Miyagi smiled at the butler and raised his eyebrows inquisitively.

"What about you, master butler? How horrible is your life?"

Sebastian paused and turned away from the boiling pot of water. His red eyes hardened some before he smiled in a creepy cheerful way.

"I am but a servant, my feelings are controlled only by my master."

Miyagi sweat dropped.

'Riiiiight...'

"Wow... this place hasn't changed a bit."

The four quickly turned to the doorway, alarmed by the unfamiliar voice. A tall teenage boy with dark purple, shaggy, hair stood in the doorway. He wore a black school uniform with yellow trim, the fabric standing out against his pale skin. His eyes were dark violet and a smile graced his lips.

Realization shone in Beastboy's eyes as he stared at the boy with shock.

"Lelouch?" The green teen questioned, quickly getting off the couch, his face pale.

Lelouch smirked.

"What's with that look... it's like you've seen a ghost."

A pale woman with long green hair and amber eyes stepped out from behind Lelouch, a soft smile on her lips. She wore a black dress with the Black Knight insignia on her chest.

"Well Lelouch, you are supposed to be dead."

"C2?" Beastboy exclaimed as he stared at the immortal beauty before him.

Iggy shook Beastboy's arm.

"What's going on?"

"Some old friends are here... they use to be Titans a while back."

"Is that boy blind?" C2 asked with mild curiosity as she stared at the pale blue eyes that stared at everything, but saw nothing.

"Yes, I am."

"Okay, Okay... I'm so confused." Miyagi said while rubbing the bridge of his nose.

"Who are these brats?"

C2 stared at the 35 year old man with a cold look.

"Brat? I can assure you sir, that I have lived far longer than you." C2 stated, sending a slight shiver down Miyagi's spine. Sebastian smirked.

"I'm Lelouch Lamperouge, and this is C2." Lelouch stated and smiled at the witch's intense gaze at the professor.

"We've come back to join the Titans again." Lelouch stated.

C2 deadpanned.

"In reality, he just missed Keira too much."

Lelouch's eyes narrowed at the witch as a light blush formed on his cheeks. Sebastian froze.

Miyagi and Beastboy looked over at Sebastian, who's expression was un-readable.

'Uh-oh.' The two thought in unison.

"Speaking of Fade, where is she?" Lelouch asked in a forced casual tone, not trying to seem so

desperate. Sebastian turned to face the boy, a chilling smile on his face.

"She is currently on a mission."

Lelouch jumped slightly as Sebastian opened his eyes; there was bloodlust deep within his ruby eyes.

"Who are you?" Lelouch questioned, knowing that he had never met this man before.

Sebastian smirked and bowed slightly.

"Forgive me for not introducing myself earlier, Mister Lamperouge. I am Sebastian Michealis, head butler of the Phantomhive household... and Miss Hatake's boyfriend." He glared softly at Lelouch as he said the last bit of his sentence. Lelouch went rigid.

"Is that so?"

The two men stared at each other intently, causing the temperature of the room to go down several degrees.

"Is it just me, or does it seem like there's going to be a cat fight?" Iggy asked with a lazy drawl.

C2 nodded and stared at her partner and then at Sebastian.

"My money's on the butler."

Lelouch sent C2 a glare.

"Just calling it as I see it."

And so... the love triangle began.

13 - The Battle

Naraku smirked as he watched Fade and her team chase after Terra and Crystal. It was time to weaken the Titans; he would start with this little team.

"Kanna." He called to the girl before him.

"Why don't you go and say hello to our little friends?"

The girl said nothing and disappeared into the darkness.

His evil laughter escalated throughout the room.

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Fade leapt from branch to branch, Mimic and Flame close behind her. Naruto and Inuyasha ran on the ground beneath them, and Raven flew above the treetops. Fade's eyes widened as she spotted a clearing ahead, and a figure cloaked in white standing there. Waiting.

"Looks like we might have company." She alerted her comrades before running full speed towards the clearing.

They all reached the clearing at the same time and stared at the small girl waiting for them. They all stared at the mirror in her pale hands, feeling a part of them being sucked towards it. Inuyasha snarled.

"Kanna." He sneered at the girl whose face was even more cold and emotionless than Sesshomaru; and that was saying something.

"You know this girl, Inuyasha?" Fade questioned the hanyou, who had his hand on Tetsusaiga's hilt.

"She's Naraku's incarnation; Kanna of the Void. That mirror she holds can take away a person's soul."

The others' eyes widened as they stared at the young girl, who didn't even look any older than the age of 8.

"Give me your soul." The girl spoke softly, her voice sending chills down the girl's spine.

"What a creepy toddler..." Mimic muttered before preparing to fight.

Kanna lifted the mirror, aiming it so that Raven's image reflected in it.

Immediately, Raven felt herself grow weaker and a soft blue light came out of her body and into the mirror.

"Raven!" Fade yelled and then threw two shurikens at Kanna. Kanna slowly turned the mirror towards the shuriken, stopping the blue light from Raven's body, and whispered "You can have it back." Before the shuriken flew into the mirror as if it was a portal. Fade blinked in surprise.

"What?"

Inuyasha's eyes widened.

"Fade, she's going to send them back at you!"

Fade's eyes widened as the shuriken she had thrown came back out of the mirror and flew straight towards her. She quickly pulled out a kunai and deflected them.

"So... she can send our attacks back at us?" Naruto asked, his eyes wide.

"Yep."

"Well... we're kind of f**ked."

Mimic sighed.

"Aren't we always?"

Kanna gasped slightly as she looked past the Titans.

"You're here?"

The Titans gasped and quickly looked behind them, their eyes widened.

Terra and Crystal stood near the forest, prepared to fight.

Crystal's cold blue eyes stared at Fade before turning to look at Kanna.

"Naraku asked for you to return quickly. It seems something has come up. Terra and I can handle them." Crystal spoke in an emotionless voice, sending waves of pain through the girls and Naruto as well.

"Okay." The demon girl whispered before disappearing in a beam of light.

Terra smirked and took a step forward, her eyes glaring at Fade.

"I still have to repay you for what your boyfriend did to my arm."

Fade snarled and clenched her fists.

"How fitting... two traitors, both of them blonde." Fade smirked. "I blame the lack of brain cells."

"Thanks." Naruto remarked and Fade smirked over at him.

"Let's dispose of them quickly." Crystal said to Terra, her eyes cold as steel.

"With pleasure."

Terra slammed her fists into the ground, causing the Earth to rumble, and the Titans lost their balance briefly. Smoke arose from the earthquake, blocking the Titan's from seeing their enemy. Fade heard Terra's yell right before she was hit by Terra's fist, square in the jaw. The impact of the punch sent her flying back slightly. Her eyes flashed white briefly as she stared at the smirking blonde.

"Fade!" Naruto called out, preparing to assist the fallen girl, but a murderous glare stopped him.

"She's mine."

He stared at the girl, appalled.

He felt a chilling presence behind him.

"Your fight is with me, *little brother*." Crystal stated before kicking him in his chest, sending him flying into Mimic and Flame.

Forming a quick hand sign, she stared at her former comrades with hatred in her eyes.

"Water Style: Water Vortex Jutsu!" A barrier of water surrounded her and began to expand. Mimic cursed and slammed her palm into the Earth. A shield of earth formed around her, Flame and Naruto, while Raven used her powers to shield herself and Inuyasha. Once the attack had died down, Mimic began punching the wall in front of her, sending small boulders flying towards the blonde water bender. Crystal dodged them gracefully, jumping up in the air to launch her own attack when Flame appeared behind her.

"Fire Style: Fireball Jutsu!" A large ball of fire came from Flame's mouth and engulfed Crystal, who took the hit and fell to the ground with a yelp of pain. Flame landed next to the girl's body, burns covering the girl's pale skin. Shock hit her as she realized she had killed one of her best friends.

She knelt down next to the fallen girl, tears in her eyes.

"Crys...I..."

She was silenced by a loud clang as a kunai pierced her gut. The body before her disappeared in a cloud of smoke and the real Crystal held the kunai firmly, twisting it slightly, causing Flame to cry out in pain and spit out a handful of blood.

"Flame!"

Naruto acted quickly, running towards his sister and grasping her wrist firmly before jerking it to the side causing her to wince in pain and loosen her grip on the weapon. He then kicked her in her stomach, sending her flying a few feet away, taking the kunai with her. Flame fell forward into Naruto's arms, her

blood staining his sleeve. His eyes clouded over in sadness as this brought back memories of Sakura dying in his arms.

'No. I won't lose anyone else.'

"Raven! I need you to heal her!" Naruto called, startling the shocked empath. Teleporting over to Naruto, she gently moved Flame onto the ground. She placed her hands over the wound and watched as they began to glow.

Crystal chuckled darkly.

"I hit a vital organ. Your medical skills are useless." She stated, a glint of amusement in her eyes. Naruto's anger flared.

"Raven. Take care of her..." He whispered to the worry Goth before turning towards Mimic. "Mimic, you and I are taking Crystal down... Inuyasha, help Fade, even if she protests." Mimic and Inuyasha nodded and Naruto glared at his older sister, vengeance shining deep within his blue eyes.

14 - Reunion

Fade was sent flying through the air from the impact of a large boulder landing a few feet in front of her. Inuyasha quickly leapt up into the air, catching Fade in his arms, and then landing on the ground with a soft thud. He held the kunoichi, princess style, as she held her throbbing head. He slowly set her on her feet and unsheathed the Tetsusaiga, pointing the large fang at Terra.

The blade was slowly consumed with crystals, much like diamonds, and a demonic aura surrounded the sword.

"Adamant Barrage!" He yelled before swinging his sword, sending the crystals towards the blonde. Terra smirked at the oncoming attack and held out her palm, her hand glowing yellow. The adamants halted in midair, the same yellow glow around them, and then were sent flying back at Inuyasha. Fade cursed and quickly jumped in front of the hanyou, both her palms facing the incoming attack, as a barrier formed around the two. The crystals bounced off the shield and fell to the ground.

Terra snarled and formed a giant rock sphere and sent it towards the ground a little in front of where Fade stood. The impact caused Fade and Inuyasha to lose their balance briefly, and the barrier fell. That was when Terra's shadow connected with Fade's and Inuyasha's. Both Titans gasped, both were frozen in their spots and at Terra's mercy.

Terra smirked and formed a spear of earth.

"Now then, time to die."

Meanwhile, Crystal was fighting off a handful of Naruto's shadow clones while also dodging Mimic's assaults from the air. Crystal, having had enough of this game of Cat and Mouse, formed her single hand seal.

"Water Style: Blood Prison Jutsu!" She exclaimed, shocking both Titans, as their bodies froze in place. Each of them felt something reaching into their souls and grasping them.

"I'm sick of you Titans...*you Leaf Ninjas...* getting in my way." She spat, clenching her fist. Pain engulfed both teens as they fell to their knees as they felt something grasp their hearts tightly.

"I ought to kill you... and take my revenge quickly." She sneered, her eyes blazing with hate. The pain in their hearts intensified and then loosened.

"But no... I will take my revenge in a more satisfying way."

Naruto glared at his sister, pain and betrayal in his eyes.

"What...did...we do to you?"

Her eyes narrowed.

"The fact that you even have to ask makes me hate you even more." She whispered and jerked her arm to the right, causing Naruto to point the kunai that he held in his hand, at Mimic's neck.

Fade and Inuyasha stared at the girl who had trapped them with fear and sorrow.

They knew they would die.

Terra charged, her spear aimed at Fade's heart as well as Inuyasha's.

Fade closed her eyes and awaited her death.

"Lightning Blade!" A male voice called out followed by the sound of raw electricity. Fade's eyes snapped open at the familiar voice and she stared in shock at the sight before her.

Terra was stopped in her tracks; a hand emanating lightning sparks was through her chest. Her eyes were wide with horror and then faded into a dull shade of blue as she slumped forward. The man pulled out his hand from the dead teens chest and watched as the body fell to the ground, staining the dirt with her blood. The shadow possession jutsu had worn off, but Fade was still frozen in place, her blue eyes brimming with tears as she stared at the tall middle-aged man with disbelief. He turned and smiled at the girl.

It was no other than Kakashi Hatake, in the flesh, and very much alive.

"D...Dad?" Fade choked out, the tears finally falling from her eyes. Even Inuyasha was at a loss for words.

"Looks like we got here in the nick of time." The former ANBU leader stated, before ruffling his daughter's hair.

Mimic stared into Naruto's eyes, both of them are reflecting fear. The blade lingered on her pale skin, pricking her slightly. Mimic awaited the pain, but instead she felt the grip on her soul vanish quickly.

Naruto felt his sister's influence leave his body and then he felt the gentle touch of a hand on his shoulder. He slowly looked to the right of him and paled. Gentle green orbs bore into his shocked blue ones as the pink haired kunoichi helped him to his feet. Mimic stared at the supposed dead girl before turning to see what had become of Crystal.

She saw disbelief gleaming in the girl's eyes as she slowly backed away, her body rigid with shock.

A gloved hand appeared next to Mimic, belonging to a boy wearing a black and red outfit and a friendly smile on his pale face. She took his hand and he gently pulled her up.

"Sorry we're late." Sakura apologized as she outstretched her hand towards Naruto.

Tears brimmed his eyes and blurred his vision as he placed his hand in hers.

Tears fell from his eyes as her grip on his tightened slightly, her smile growing a bit larger.

15 - Recovery

Fade and Mimic sat next to a twin size bed, staring at the girl before them who was unconscious and had numerous tubes and wires attached to her body. The only noise in the room was the loud beeps coming from the heart monitor, indicating their friend was still breathing.

They had managed to keep Flame alive for the journey back to Titans Tower, thanks to both Sakura and Raven's medical knowledge, and Fade and Raven's ability to transport from one place to another. They managed to get her into the intensive care unit at the Tower just in time. She had gone into surgery the moment they arrived, Nowaki wanting to act quickly, and it had gone on for about 2 hours. Now, they waited patiently to see if their friend would wake up.

The shock of Flame almost meeting her end, Crystal betraying them, and with the surprise of their supposedly dead friends from Konoha coming to assist them, Fade and Mimic were on the brink of insanity... then again, they were mostly crazy to begin with.

They watched in silence as Flame's chest gently rose and fell as she slept peacefully.

"How's she doing?" A concerned voice asked quietly. The two girls turned towards the doorway and saw a worried Misaki holding a bouquet of roses. Usagi stood a little ways behind him, carrying a small black rose in his hand. Fade smiled, grateful that they stopped by, and looked back to Flame's face.

"She survived surgery... but she lost a lot of blood. Dr. Kusama said she might be in risk of falling into a coma.." Fade reported, her eyes filling with dread.

"I see... Well, it's a good thing she has Kusama Sama taking care of her." Misaki said, sending the girls a reassuring smile, which they returned.

The two men placed their flowers in a vase that sat on a table on the other side of the bed.

"You two haven't left her side since you returned..." Usagi murmured, his gaze lingering on the sleeping teens face. "You two really should leave this room... I've been in here a few minutes and all ready I'm going nuts." He finished, showing traces of his growing uneasiness.

"You were already nuts to begin with, Usami Sensei." Fade and Mimic muttered and Misaki sweat dropped.

Suddenly, a melody of beeps came from Fade's jean pocket. She quickly pulled out her communicator and flipped it open. She glared at the boy wonder's image staring back at her.

"What is it?" She hissed, not wanting to be bothered again by his demands for her to file her mission report. She had more important matters to attend to, after all.

"I need you and Mimic to come down stairs...immediately." He ordered, sparking a fuse of curiosity within

the two girls. Seeing how he was in his serious, non-joking, mood the girls new something important was going on just a few floors below them. Fade sighed and closed her communicator before looking over at Misaki.

"Sorry to ask this of you, but could you stay here and watch her for a bit?" Fade pleaded, her eyes glistening. How could he resist?

"Sure!" He replied happily and took a seat next to the unconscious girl.

"Oh, and Usagi San? There's an empty bed over there, so if we're not back soon and you get bored, feel free to rape Misaki." Fade smirked as Misaki's face flushed and Usagi snickered. Mimic rolled her eyes.

The two girls left the romantica couple behind, ignoring Misaki's protests as Usagi attacked.

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"Hello."

Fade and Mimic's eyes bulged out of their heads at the sight before them. The entire flock was gathered around on the sofa, their wings stretched out slightly, as they smiled up at the girls. While in the kitchen, C2, Suzaku, and Kallen were sitting at the table. However, Fade's attention was elsewhere as she saw Sebastian standing at the bottom of the steps, a smile on his lips, as he stared at her. But, he wasn't the one that held a shocking effect on her... nooo... It was the pale, tall, boy leaning against the wall, his violet eyes gazing up at her, and he himself was alive.

"Le...Lelouch?" She whispered his name, a slight twinge in her chest as she recalled the day she was informed of his death.

Mimic's eyes darted back and forth between the smirking Emperor Zero and the slightly pissed visage of a black clad butler. She smirked slightly and patted her friend's shoulder.

"Looks like you've walked into a love triangle, my friend." She whispered, earning a sharp glare from Fade.

Fade's gaze lingered on Lelouch, memories and emotions welling up inside her. She bit her lip as only one replaced those emotions; anger.

'So... *he was alive the whole time?*' She thought bitterly as she recalled those lonely months of her locking herself up, refusing to talk to anyone while in her depressed state. Glaring at the boy, she made her way towards Sebastian and smiled up at him. His annoyed expression faded and he smiled back at her, while sending a smirk at the other boy.

"I was worried, Keira." He stated, wondering if she got the double meaning behind that statement, as he glared at Lelouch.

"It's okay... Terra wasn't that big of a deal."

She hadn't noticed.

"Keh. Not that big of a deal? We were almost killed! If it wasn't for that man with the lightening, we would be in the ground by now!" Came Inuyasha's gruff response. Fade beamed at the hanyou, who was slightly taken aback by her smile.

"I believe 'the man with lightening' has a name." Inuyasha let out a startled cry and jumped ten feet in the air, alarmed by the sudden voice behind him. Kakashi smiled at the half-demon, his visible eye in an upside down 'U'.

"Now I see where Naruto gets it from..." Kagome murmured as she recalled all the times that blonde had scared them in exactly the same manor.

Kakashi blinked as he noticed his daughter's fingers laced together with a tale, strange man. He silently walked over to the two, noticing his daughters blush before their hands released each other's grasp.

"And who might this be?" He questioned, eyeing Sebastian with curiosity.

The demon smiled.

"My name is Sebastian Michealis, head butler of the Phantomhive estate, as well as Keira's-" Fade's elbow to his gut stopped him in mid sentence. He blinked and looked over to his girlfriend who sent him a soft glare meaning: Not another word.

He smirked.

"Keira's what?" Kakashi asked, eyeing his daughter suspiciously. He had seen her hit the butler, and he also saw the glare directed at the man.

"I'm her bodyguard, sir." Sebastian finished, earning a relieved sigh from Fade.

Kakashi stared at them with a blank expression.

"If you're going to lie to me, do it in a more efficient way." He deadpanned and Sebastian sweat dropped.

"A-Anyway, Dad, where's Naruto?" Fade asked, changing the subject. However, dozens of eyes stared at her and Kakashi with bewilderment and disbelief.

"Dad?" They all yelled at once.

Fade sighed as Kakashi smiled. He put his arm around his daughter, pinching one of her cheeks as if she was a little girl.

"Of course! Couldn't you tell? We look so much alike!" He teased and she groaned.

Sai stared at Kakashi's fair skin, silver hair, and black eye before looking at Fade's tan skin, brown hair, and brown eyes. His eyebrows furrowed in confusion.

"But, they don't look alike at all?" He questioned, obviously not getting the joke. Everyone sweat dropped.

"It was a joke, Sai." Naruto stated as he appeared in the doorway. Sai made an 'o' shape with his mouth.

"What's wrong with him?" Mimic asked Naruto who let out a soft sigh.

"He grew up in the ANBU, and was pretty much a blank canvas. He doesn't know how to react with others very well, or even tell apart different emotions."

"Ah."

16 - Targets

Four narrow red eyes glared down at Slade, who was kneeling before them. Crystal knelt beside Slade, her blue eyes glaring down at the dirt. Slade peered over at the girl and glared with hate.

"It seems you have failed... in more ways than one." A demonic voice bellowed, making both Crystal and Slade narrow their eyes in anger; neither of them pleased with the idea of failure.

"I'm sorry, my lord. It seems I underestimated Terra and Minami." Slade apologized, his voice laced with anger and embarrassment. As Terra's teacher, her loss made him look like the failure.

"No. It seems I've underestimated you, Slade." Trigon snarled and Slade glared down at the floor in silence.

"Seeing how those teenagers are such a challenge for you and your team, I shall send someone else to collect the priestess."

Slade and Crystal's eyes widened as their pride took another blow. For both of them knew the double meaning in that statement:

You aren't good enough.

Crystal's eyes narrowed, the implied message hitting close to home. A constant reminder of why she was doing this:

To prove everyone who thought that of her was dead wrong.

"Master." She spoke out, lifting her head so she could stare into his fearless eyes.

"Let me continue this mission... I know the Titans better than anyone. I've lived and fought with them for years." She stated, determination in her eyes. The demon chuckled.

"Minami... It is not the Titans that you wish to destroy, but your own team." His eyes narrowed slightly, showing hints of amusement. "Team Alpha and Naruto are your main targets, are they not?"

Crystal glared down, avoiding his gaze, as she thought back to the days of her childhood; the reason why she joined the dark lord.

"They are." She whispered.

"And you shall have your revenge." Trigon stated before a portal opened to the right of the kneeling villains.

Two figures stepped out, one of them being a young boy with yellow hair and blue eyes. He wore a long

purple dress coat, a green button up vest, and a pair of black short-shorts, as well as thigh-high black boots. The man standing beside him was taller, and older, than the boy. He was rather pale, and was dressed in a formal butler's attire. His golden eyes were framed with sleek black glasses. He stood emotionless at the boy's side.

Another portal opened up, revealing Titans Tower. The boy smirked and danced over to the portal.

"Let's go, Claude."

The butler placed his hand over his heart and bent down slightly.

"Yes, your highness."

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Mimic watched with a rather disturbed expression as Fade began to cry out to her. The young Hatake was tied up on her bed, her arms handcuffed behind her, and duck tape over her mouth. Not to mention there was a protective electric fence surrounding her bed, with a sign hanging on it that read:

"Property of Sebastian Michealis."

"...Do I even want to know?" The disturbed teen asked while, borrowing Fade's chakra, transported inside the fence and ripped off the duck tape. Fade hissed in pain as she felt the sting of tape ripping off a thin layer of skin.

"Sebastian is being overly paranoid lately!" Fade groaned as Mimic began untying her.

"Well, I can see that." She deadpanned, earning a glare from the blushing girl before her.

"You would think that with my dad hanging around he'd keep his distance!"

"Ha. And let Ledouche swoop in and sweep you off your feet? Fat chance." She joked and removed the handcuffs.

Fade's blush intensified.

"There will be no swooping or sweeping!"

"Sou, Sou..." Mimic droned while cutting the rope with a kunai. Fade rubbed her sore wrists and glared.

"dog."

"You're welcome." Mimic sighed out and disabled the electric fence.

"Where'd he get all of this anyway?" Mimic asked as she glanced around Fade's room only to see boxes of bondage equipment. She sweat dropped.

"I hope those are for your protection only..."

"They are!" Fade snapped and bonked the girl on the head, while her own face was beet red.

Mimic snickered.

"Hey, whatever goes on in the bedroom is nothing to be ashamed of."

Fade blushed and looked down.

"Nothing goes on in the bedroom."

Mimic stared.

"Seriously?"

Fade nods.

"You really haven't?"

Silence.

"...Does he have trouble keeping a hard-on?"

A pillow hits the earth-bender in the face.

"Ow! Sh*t, it's not like I was implying you weren't sexy! I just mean he's an older guy... maybe he's got issues."

"You've got issues." Fade dead panned and Mimic chuckled.

"The doctors said so too."

Fade 'huffed' and crossed her arms.

"You're making fun of me, but have you and Iggy actually done it?"

"Of course."

Fade fell over.

"How could I not? He's extremely sexy..." Mimic swooned and Fade dead panned.

"Please, no details."

"Keira?" Sebastian asked as he walked in, slightly agitated that Mimic had set his girlfriend free.

"A-ah, Sebastian! Nice weather, isn't it?" Fade stammered, slightly afraid he'd jump her and lock her up again.

"It's raining." Sebastian deadpanned and Fade sweat dropped.

"Ah."

"Like she would have known... seeing how you've locked her up for god knows how long, like some kind of animal." Mimic whispered, earning a glare from the demon.

"I have my reasons."

"You mean jealousy?"

Sebastian was about to answer when flashing red lights cut him off. His eyes widened as a familiar scent tickled his senses. His eyes flashed purple briefly before he ran out of the room.

"I think I ticked him off."

Fade glanced at the doorway and shook her head.

"No... for once, it wasn't you."

"That's a shocker."

Fade smiled and pulled back her black hair in a loose bun.

"Let's go."

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Sebastian was the first to reach the rooftop; his eyes were narrowed and his pupils mere slits. His irises changed from blood red to a mystic purple as he clenched his jaw.

"Oh my! If it isn't Sebastian!" The blonde boy exclaimed with joy and clapped his hands. Sebastian's gaze never left the blank visage of the butler standing behind the ecstatic boy.

"Sebastian." The butler, Claude, smirked towards the younger butler.

"Claude Faustus ... Alois Trancy." Sebastian spat, indicating he was not pleased to see them.

"Say, where's Ciel?" Alois asked cheerfully, ignoring the Phantomhive butler's distaste.

"*My young master* is none of your concern." He answered while staring at Claude.

"Fear not, Sebastian. It is not the young Earl we are after today." Claude stated while smirking. Realization hit the butler.

"The priestess?" Sebastian questioned; preparing to fight in order to protect the girl, as his master had ordered him so.

"Well, her and a few others..." Alois giggled and smiled when the rest of the Titans came out. Sebastian relaxed, his usual nonchalant demeanor replacing his furious stance. His eyes returned to their normal red tint as Ciel stood beside him. Ciel's single blue eye glared at the pair across from them.

"Alois." Ciel said, venom coating his voice. Alois ignored the hostility and jumped for joy at the sight of the blue haired boy.

"Ciel! It's been too long!"

Robin lifted an eyebrow and turned to face Ciel and Sebastian.

"You know these two?"

Ciel nodded.

"The boy is Alois Trancy, a noble back in my homeland. The man behind him is Claude; Alois's butler." Ciel stated, his gaze never leaving the overly giddy blonde. Naruto raised an eyebrow in silent questioning.

'It's like yin and yang...' He silently noted while comparing and contrasting the two noblemen.

'Ciel is far more mature than Alois, who appears to be suffering from a never-ending sugar high. While Claude is stiff and emotionless compared to Sebastian who is witty and playful. Interesting.'

"They are after Miss Kagome." Sebastian stated, causing InuYasha to push Kagome behind his back as he unsheathed Tetsusaiga.

"Like my lord previously stated," Claude began and pushed up his glasses with his finger, a dark smirk on his lips. "It is not just the priestess we are after."

In a flash, Claude had appeared behind Fade and Mimic. Sebastian's eyes widened as Claude struck a blow to an area in the girls' necks, causing them to be knocked unconscious. He quickly slung both girls over his shoulders and jumped back towards Alois. He saw a flash of black in the corner of his eye and managed to dodge a kick that was aimed at his chest. He landed on the ground, glaring at the interference. Sebastian glared back and prepared to come at him again.

Claude quickly placed the two unconscious teens on the ground beside Alois's feet before charging at Sebastian. Alois knelt down and cupped Fade's face, studying it with curiosity.

"Why men act like barbarians around such ugly beings is beyond me." He snarled while kicking the girls roughly.

"Alois!" Ciel yelled as he began to run towards them.

"Ciel? You are going to join this battle? Such odd behavior for an Earl, don't you think?" He smiled playfully at the other boy, but was caught off guard as Ciel's tiny fist nailed him in the face. Alois fell back, stunned, and held his bruised cheek. His blue eyes held shock within them as he stared up at Ciel.

"We are not in Britain anymore... *Here*, I am not an Earl. *Here*, I am a *Titan* and a *comrade* to those two you are planning on taking." He glanced over at the two girls, his gaze softening. "Those two, along with everyone else in this Tower, treat me like family." His gaze hardened as he glared down at the trembling boy. "And I will not let someone take my family away from me again!" Ciel stated and prepared to land a bone-crushing kick when Alois yelled out his butler's name. Ciel's eyes widened as strong hands grabbed his torso and threw him off the roof.

"Young Master!" Sebastian called out, his eyes wide.

"Got him!" Starfire yelled as she flew in the direction where Ciel had fallen. She caught the boy in her arms, him being mere inches away from hitting the ground. She clutched the boy in her arms and smiled at him.

Sebastian stared in horror at where his master had once stood. The thought of him losing his master, for whom he had grown to care for, enraged him all the more. Claude sighed and dusted his hands off.

"Pity... his soul was so mouth watering... oh well. There will be more like him." Claude stated while helping his master up. A swift kick to the back knocked him on his bottom.

"Claude!" Alois screamed, disbelief on his childish face.

"I'm sick of hearing this priss talk sh*t about my friends." Hiroki snarled, ignoring the others shocked expressions.

"Hiro-San, stop! He is too strong for you!" Nowaki called, fear clouding his thoughts. Hiroki's eye twitched.

"YOU SHUT THE HELL UP!" He yelled, obviously not thrilled of being told he wasn't good enough.

"I'm not going to stand by and let someone else in this family get hurt!" Hiroki yelled, making Nowaki's eyes widen slightly.

"He's right." Shinobu whispered and took a step away from Miyagi's side.

"We're Titans, are we not? We're supposed to defend the world as well as each other! Yet we've already lost two of our comrades... One to evil and one to a coma. And now we're about to lose even more! I couldn't live with myself if more of our friends died and I didn't help fight to save them! How could I call myself a man then?" He stated and ran up to stand besides Hiroki.

"How touching." Came Claude's chilling voice from behind them. "However, you forget I am not mortal." He smirked and threw both men out of the way; Hiroki flew towards the right side of the roof while Shinobu headed towards the left.

"Hiro-San!" "Shinobu!" Both men called out, fear shining in their eyes as they watched their lover's head towards the ocean. Raven's eyes began to glow.

"Azarath Metrion Zinthos!" She cried as a purple aura surrounding both Hiroki and Shinobu, and gently lowered them to the ground just outside the Tower doors.

"They're safe." She whispered, earning a relieved sigh from the two men.

Claude glared at the witch before barely dodging another one of Sebastian's punches. The two demons exchanged blows, neither one of them hitting the other.

"Miss Raven! Focus on retrieving Keira and Miss Natsumi! None of you are a match against Claude!" He called out, his pupils narrowing into slits as he let some of his demon power surface. Raven nodded and focused her power.

"Azarath Metrion Zinthos." She chanted, her magic forming around the two girls. Alois's eyes narrowed.

"No!" He yelled before pulling out a revolver and firing it at Raven. Raven's eyes flashed white and then red before fluttering closed. She fell back into Beastboy's arms, her abdomen bleeding.

"Raven!"

Alois glared at the Titans.

"You all took the fun out of this... now... if any of you move, I'll shoot." He threatened while pointing the gun.

"Claude. Forget Sebastian and get the priestess!" Alois yelled, eyeing Kagome cautiously.

"You won't lay a hand on her!" Inuyasha snarled, pointing his Tetsusaiga at Alois.

"Priestess. If you come quietly, we'll leave peacefully... and there won't be any more casualties. However, if that man is determined to fight, I *will* shoot him." Alois threatened, a smile on his lips. Kagome let out a soft gasp, her eyes widening. She stared at Inuyasha's back, tears brimming her eyes.

"Don't shoot him... or anyone else. I'll go." She stated, her brown eyes glistening with unshed tears. Inuyasha's eyes widened.

"What? Kagome you're not serious! I won't let you!" He yelled turning to face her. She kissed him on the lips softly before whispering:

"Osuwari." Inuyasha crashed onto the floor, the beads of subjugation glowing pink. Kagome made her way towards the boy, tears falling down her cheeks. Naruto reached out his hand to her as she passed.

"Kagome..."

She turned, her expression shocking him.

'She's willing to sacrifice herself... for all of us.' He thought bitterly and watched as she left them behind, not one of them knowing if she'll ever return to them alive.

As Kagome reached Alois, Claude smirked and removed his hand from around Sebastian's throat. In an instant, he was beside his master, and lifting the other two girls off the ground. A portal appeared behind them and Alois jumped in, pulling Kagome in with him. Claude sent Sebastian a smirk before leaping into the portal. Sebastian charged at the portal only for it to shut within seconds of him reaching it.

"No..." He whispered, his expression of disbelief and pain matching the rest of them.

They had lost.

17 - Claude's Plan

Fade's eyes opened slowly as she saw Kagome chained to a wall directly across from her. Kagome smiled in relief, but her eyes held sadness deep within them.

"I'm glad you're awake."

"You've been out longer than I have." Fade glanced over to Mimic, who was chained just like her and Kagome. Mimic's face was somber, lacking its usual joking demeanor.

"Where... are we?" Fade questioned, glancing around.

"The villains hideout." Kagome stated, sighing softly.

Fade's eyes widened.

"We were captured?" She practically screamed.

"Keep it down." Mimic cautioned, glaring softly at the panicked girl.

"You and Mimic were knocked out by that Claude guy..." Kagome stated, her eyes boring into Fades.

"Though, I'm not sure why they want you two."

Fade's eyes widened.

"Kagome! The Jewel... do you still have it?"

Kagome nodded somberly.

"I do... Naraku tried to take it already, however, it seems only one with priestess powers can remove it."

Kagome said, her smile turning bitter.

"He'll probably end up killing me and then find a way to seek out the jewel."

"How wrong you are, Kagome." Naraku's chilling voice sent fear through the young priestess's body. Fade and Mimic glared at the half-demon as he approached Kagome. His pale hand gently grabbed her chin, forcing her to look at him.

"Why would I kill you when I can use you to kill Inuyasha?" He snickered and anger filled the two ninjas. Kagome's eyes saddened and tears began to form.

"Don't hurt him."

He responded to her plea with his dark laughter. The two kunoichis anger flared as they glared at the

man.

"Now then... back to the Jewel." He began, a small smirk on his face. His hand reached out towards her side, and his fingers trailed up her shirt and rested on her scar from where the Jewel had been ripped out of once before. Kagome shivered at his touch as his fingers traced the scar.

"I can feel the jewel..." He murmured and pulled his hand away. Mimic scoffed.

"As if you can retrieve it. One as impure as yourself has no chance of getting the jewel!" Mimic yelled, her distaste for the hanyou showing. Naraku chuckled.

"You are right, human. I, who have no spiritual powers, cannot obtain the Jewel. However, I believe *she* can." He began, smirking towards the dungeon door. A woman with pale skin, and long black hair tied back into a loose ponytail, emerged from the darkened doorway. Her face was emotionless, except for her brown eyes that seemed to hold pain deep within them. She wore a white haori and red hakamas. Kagome gasped, her eyes wide with disbelief.

"Ki...Kikyo..." She whispered, her eyes never leaving her previous incarnation.

The older priestess said nothing as she made her way towards Kagome. Naraku tore the fabric covering Kagome's waist, causing the girl to cry out. Kikyo placed her small pale hand on the scar, her eyes saddening but her face remaining blank.

"Lady Kikyo, no!" Fade cried, struggling against her chains. Mimic cursed, also trying to free herself.

Kikyo's slender fingers dug into Kagome's flesh, the newly formed wound glowing with pink miko energy as Kagome let out a cry of pain. Kikyo's hand pushed in further, drawing more blood and earning more painful cries from the futuristic girl.

Kikyo's eye's widened slightly as she felt the smooth surface of the jewel, and grabbed it. She then quickly pulled her hand out, splashes of blood landing on the floor. Kagome panted, sweating from the pain, as she stared at the dead priestess with half-lidded eyes.

"Ki...Kikyo... Please..." She whispered before slipping into unconsciousness. Kikyo's eyes softened a bit before hardening once more. She handed Naraku the jewel, disgust glistening in her eyes.

"Very good, Kikyo." He praised, closing his hand around the bloody jewel. He smirked and backhanded the priestess with all of his strength. Kikyo smashed into the wall, thrown by the force of the attack.

"You're useless to me now... rot in this jail cell with your reincarnation." He spat, as he left to dungeon. Kikyo gasped in pain, touching her bruised cheek gently. Blood trickled down her mouth.

Fade and Mimic's eyes widened.

The two of them had heard the story of Inuyasha and his team, they knew that 50 years before InuYasha met Kagome Inuyasha had been in love with a lady by the name of Kikyo, and through trickery, Naraku pinned the two against each other. Naraku, disguised as Inuyasha, attacked Kikyo, delivering a deathly

blow to her shoulder. Kikyo, enraged with the thought that InuYasha betrayed her, sealed him to the Sacred Tree and ordered her younger sister to burn the Jewel along with her body shortly before she died. They also knew that not too long after Kagome began to travel with Inuyasha, a demon named Urasue resurrected Kikyo. However, her body was made up of graveyard soil and clay. Her soul was taken from Kagome, and then divided between the two girls. All in all, Kikyo's body was nothing more than dirt... she had no heart, no organs, no blood.

So why did she bleed now?

"Lady Kikyo... you're *bleeding*..." Mimic stated, her eyes wide with shock.

Kikyo wiped the crimson liquid from her chin and stared at it softly.

"I am." She stated, her voice holding no emotion. "It is because of Naraku and of a demon named Trigon." She said while looking at the girls, who were shocked by the mention of said demon.

"I take that you know of him." She stated, and Fade nodded.

"He is... the father of one of our friends."

"I see. He and Naraku resurrected me, and gave me my physical body back... just so I can serve them."

"Why did you? From what Inuyasha has told me, you were a good person! Why would you help scum like Naraku, who, may I remind you, is the reason why you died in the first place?" Fade yelled, her anger getting the best of her.

"Because... he would have killed both Inuyasha and Kagome, if I did not comply with his wishes." She said somberly, her gaze drifted towards Kagome.

"Isn't Kagome practically dead, anyway? You made that large hole in her stomach!" Mimic shouted, pointing towards the bleeding wound. Kikyo grimaced.

"It had to be done..." She whispered before rising to her feet and slowly making her way over to Kagome.

"You stay away from her!" Fade shouted, trying to break free.

"Do not worry... I am not going to kill her." Kikyo stated as her pale hand began to glow pink. She placed it a few inches above the wound and closed her eyes. Fade and Mimic's eyes widened as the wound began to heal, leaving behind a larger scar than before.

"This girl... will not die." She stated, a small smile upon her lips.

"Lady...Kikyo..." Fade whispered, her opinion on the priestess changing rapidly.

The touching moment was cut short when a kunai struck Kikyo in her back, causing the priestess to cry out in pain.

"Lady Kikyo!" Mimic and Fade cried out together, their eyes wide with horror.

Crystal stood beside the fallen priestess and glared at her.

"You're useless." She hissed before pulling out a long bladed sword and slicing her head off.

Mimic and Fade turn away in disgust as Crystal stares at the body before her bleed out.

"You.. You're a monster!" Fade screamed, causing Crystal to turn slowly to face her. Her blue eyes glistened with hatred.

"...Like I haven't heard that before." She whispered, hate coating her words.

"Miss Minami." Claude's voice called out to her, stopping her from performing whatever action she was thinking of.

But, she didn't glare at the man for interrupting her. No.

She smiled.

She then turned to face Fade once again, amusement sparkling in her eyes.

"She's the one." She snickered, pointing at Fade. Fade's eyes widened half in shock and the other half in horror.

Claude smirked and walked towards the chained up girl. He grasped her chin firmly, and moved his head down so his lips were inches away from hers.

"So... You're the one Sebastian has devoted himself too?" He questioned, his breath tingling her lips. She tried to turn her head away but he held her in place firmly.

"You're just a mortal... there's nothing special about you." He sneered and pulled away. Mimic glared at the butler.

"You touch her again, and I'll shove that hand all the way up your @\$\$!" She threatened, trying to break free from her restraints.

The butler smirked.

"Charming."

Fade gasped as she felt some of her chakra spark within her. Her eyes widened as she watched Claude pull back his arm, preparing to backhand Mimic.

He swung his arm with enough power to knock over a wall. However, his hand hit an invisible wall, protecting Mimic from the blow. His eyes widened a fraction and he quickly turned to Fade, whose eyes returned to normal from their white glow. She was panting slightly, having used the last of her chakra.

Amusement sparked in his golden eyes as he stared at the girl.

"Interesting." He murmured before striking her with enough force to bring down a couple walls. She lost consciousness immediately.

"Fade!" Mimic cried out, struggling against the chains.

Claude released Fade from her restraints, and held her unconscious form in his arms.

"I have what I need." He stated and began to leave the room.

"Stop! Where are you taking her?" Mimic yelled, still trying to get free.

"Give my regards to Sebastian, as well as this message: A mate for a soul." He smiled and nodded over at Crystal, who glared at Mimic before pressing a button on a remote control. Mimic disappeared in a flash of light.

"You know Trigon will be mad that you let her escape... We do need her, you know."

Claude smiled and pressed another button.

Kagome disappeared in a flash of light as well.

Crystal glared.

"You're just trying to make my life harder, aren't you?"

"Not yours... only Sebastians." He smirked and peered down at Fade's sleeping face.

"And with this girl, I can accomplish that."

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"What do you mean stay here!" InuYasha yelled, throwing his hands in the air, as he glared down at Robin. Robin's face was slightly annoyed.

"We have to stay and think of a plan."

"A *plan*? They could be killed by then!"

Naruto slammed his fist into the wall, his glare directed at Robin.

"Exactly! We have to search for them!"

Inuyasha nodded and threw his hands up in the air again.

"It's not like they're gonna fall from the sky!" And as if by fate, Kagome fell from the sky and landed in Inuyasha's arms.

"Kagome?" Inuyasha yelled in shock.

A loud scream was heard and Naruto looked up to see a falling Mimic. Before he could jump to catch her, Iggy, who was now holding her to his chest tightly, had caught her.

Naruto, while questioning how a blind kid could have caught her, let out a sigh of relief. Iggy gently flew down to the ground, where Mimic practically jumped out of his arms.

"Well, I feel loved." The blind teen said sarcastically.

"No time for jokes, where's Sebastian!?"

"I'm right here... where's Keira?" The demon asked, a slight fear rising up in him.

Had she been killed?

No. He would have known somehow.

Mimic practically tackled him. Her fists clutched his shirt as she shook him back and forth harshly.

"Claude kidnapped Fade and released me telling me to tell you 'a mate for a soul' or something like that!" Mimic yelled, conveying all of that in one breath. She quickly began taking intakes of air as Sebastian stared at her with a confused look.

"I'm sorry... I didn't catch any of that."

Mimic growled and stared into his eyes.

"Claude took Fade before sending me and Kagome back here... He told me to give you this message: A mate for a soul." She said a bit slower this time. Sebastian's eyes widened and then narrowed, flashing purple briefly.

"Sebastian... what does he mean?" Ciel asked.

"He means... if he can't have your soul, he'll claim Keira as his mate." Sebastian whispered, his bangs covering his eyes. In an instant, the butler vanished.

"Oi! Sebastian! Wait for me!" Mimic yelled before disappearing in a swirl of leaves.

18 - Rescue!

Inuyasha sat in a chair next to Kagome's hospital bed. Luckily, nothing was seriously wrong with her. She was just unconscious. However, they've confirmed the jewel had been taken, seeing how her uniform was torn in the area where the jewel resided in. The only problem was that they didn't know when she would awaken. However, that was not what had the hanyou worried.

Flashback:

InuYasha watched as Mimic ran after Sebastian, Naruto, and his team, following closely behind. He then glanced down at Kagome's sleeping face. Worry struck through him.

"Kagome?" He shook her lightly, getting no response.

"Kagome!" He held her with one arm and placed his fingers against her neck. He felt her pulse beat slowly.

'She's alive...' He thought with a relieved sigh. He let out a slight gasp as her eyes slowly opened.

"Inu...ya...sha..." She whispered, her eyebrows furrowing in pain.

"Kagome." He whispered, his eyes softening.

"Ki...Kikyo...took...the jewel...from my body.... she's...alive." Kagome whispered before falling back into her sleeping state. Inuyasha's eyes widened and he stared down at Kagome, yet it was Kikyo's face that he saw.

'Ki...Kikyo?'

(End of Flashback)

He stared at Kagome's sleeping face, worry deep within his eyes.

'Kikyo helped Naraku retrieve the Sacred Jewel? Kikyo is alive?' He thought to himself, trying the best he could to deal with this sudden news. He was brought out of his thoughts when he felt a hand on his shoulder. He glanced up and saw Nowaki smiling down at him, yet his eyes were sad.

"You've been here all night, too?" He asked, and then glanced over to the other bed, where Beastboy sat fast asleep. Raven was hooked up to many machines, one of them being a blood bag. His smile faltered as he stared at the girl, fighting for her life.

Inuyasha followed his gaze and glanced at the fellow half demon awaiting death.

"How bad is it, doc?" Inuyasha asked in a hushed tone. Nowaki sighed.

"The bullet pierced her liver, and lodged itself within her. She made it through surgery, and I tried my best to patch things up but I can't work miracles. I heard she was a healer... perhaps her powers will assist her the rest of the way." He said sadly, and Inuyasha nodded.

He glanced back at Kagome and then to a third hospital bed where Flame lay unconscious.

"I pray that Miss Hatake won't end up in here as well... or worse, in a casket." Nowaki said bitterly.

"Don't worry... she's a strong girl." Inuyasha stated, reassuring himself more than Nowaki.

He bit his lip. It was no secret that he and Fade were close, and it was no secret he was worried about her. But... in times like these, all he could do is hope. Fade had taught him that, as well as Naruto.

'She is able to defend herself... she'll come back to us.'

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Fade was thrown against a wall and landed on a large bed. She slowly opened her eyes and tried to ignore the stinging pain in the back of her head. She glanced around the candle-lit room, her eyes landing on a black clad figure.

"Se...Sebastian?" She whimpered, rubbing her head. She heard a soft chuckle, however, it wasn't the warm and loving one she had grown to love. No, this one was sick and demented.

Claude stepped into the light, his hand pulling off his tie.

Her eyes widened.

"C-Claude?"

His gloved hand cupped her chin as he bent down to gently kiss her lips. Her face flushed and she pushed him away roughly and scrambled away.

"G-Get off me!" She screamed and he smirked.

In an instant, she was pinned beneath him.

His eyes shone with amusement as he stared into her fearful eyes.

"I know that look. You think someone's going to save you, right?" He teased and kissed her cheek.

"You're wrong... no one's coming." He smirked.

"No, you're wrong! Sebastian will come! Mimic too!" She shouted, trying to wriggle free from his grasp.

"Mimic? That loud-mouthed brat? You think she is a match for me? I am far more powerful than even

Sebastian." He snickered.

"As for Sebastian... now, why would he come and save you?" He asked, a smile on his lips.

"He has Ciel, does he not?"

Something inside Fade seemed to snap as her eyes widened.

"Ahh... I struck a nerve, did I?" He questioned, that same smirk on his lips as he began playing with her hair.

"Ciel is Sebastian's master... they are bound together through a contract. A contract that cannot be broken until Ciel's wish is obtained and Sebastian takes his soul. However, you know as well as I that Sebastian had developed feelings for the boy, thus, not ending the contract." He stated, twirling a strand of her hair around his fingertip. Her eyes remained wide as she processed all of this.

"It's no surprise that you would feel bitter towards Ciel."

Fade's eyes began to cloud over in sorrow. Claude smiled; his spell was working.

'I'm bitter towards Ciel?' Her thoughts seemed to float away slowly, as did her state of mind. It felt as though she was being drifted away, leaving her physical body behind.

"You love him, do you not? Yet, he didn't even save you. Instead, he protected his 'young master'." Claude smirked as his words stabbed the girl's heart.

'He didn't save me... he won't save me...' She thought bitterly. Tears formed in her now lifeless eyes. Claude smiled wider as his spell was near completion. Soon, her soul will have lost all will to fight against him. Then, and only then, will he mark her as his mate. She will be bound to him forever, her body serving as his weapon.

'One more verbal blow ought to crush her soul.' He thought to himself, proud that everything was going so smoothly.

"There's no room in his heart for you."

Fade's eyes widened briefly, all life fading from them as her heart broke and her soul crumbled. Her last conscious thought was 'He'll never choose me...' before her mind drifted elsewhere, leaving her body behind as an empty shell.

"Perfect." The demon whispered opening his mouth to mark her with his fangs.

The door to their room flew open, literally. The door landed at the opposite end of the room. Claude turned away from the girl and smirked at the sight of a pissed off Sebastian. Sebastian's eyes were glowing bright pink, his pupils in slits, and his teeth transformed into large fangs. He glared at Claude, before his eyes went wide at the sight of the girl beneath him. He narrowed his eyes before charging at the spider demon.

Fade laid on the mattress like a lifeless doll, her eyes staring up at the ceiling but seeing nothing. Mimic ran in and witnessed the fight between two demons. She was about to jump in to help when Fade's limp body caught her eye. Without a word she ran to the bed and lifted Fade's upper body up, cradling her with her arm.

"Fade?" Mimic whispered, fear shining in her green eyes.

Had she lost yet another friend?

No, she was still breathing.

Mimic stared into the girl's eyes, a lifeless brown stared back.

"Fade... are you okay? Can you hear me?" She whispered, shaking her gently. Naruto and Sakura appeared beside her, Sakura's hand glowing a light green.

"Let me heal her." Sakura ordered as Mimic gently laid her back down. Sakura searched for any wounds, but to her shock, she found nothing that would be causing the kunoichi to behave this way.

"She's under a spell." Naruto whispered, his blue eyes clouding with rage. Just then, they heard a loud slam come from behind them. They turned to see Sebastian clutching Claude by the throat and pinning him against the wall.

"What did you do to her?" Sebastian snarled, his grip tightening. Claude smirked.

"Stage one of the mating ritual was completed, you barged in right before I was able to start stage two." Sebastian's eyes widened and he pulled Claude's head away from the wall slightly before thrusting it back against the brick, causing the wall to crack from the force.

"Did you mark her?" Sebastian snarled, his fangs glistening.

Claude snickered.

"No... but good luck getting her back... her soul was so easy to break. Humans are so weak. That girl will be nothing more than an empty shell; an illusion of whom she once was." Sebastian clenched his jaw before snapping the spider demon's neck. Sakura's eyes widened.

"Did... did you kill him?"

"No." Sebastian said, regaining his composure. "He'll come to soon, which is why we need to grab Keira and leave quickly."

Mimic nodded and placed her hand on Fade's shoulder, summoning some of the girl's chakra.

"Okay, hang on to me." They did as they were told and all of them teleported out of there.

19 - To Be Free

Mimic stared at her friend sadly. It had been a week, yet Fade still remained the same as when they rescued her. She took her leader's pale hand in hers and squeezed it gently.

"Keira... I know you're in there. You have to come back to us." She pleaded, praying her words would reach the broken soul. "Sebastian is a mess... he needs you just as much as I-" She gasped as she saw tears slide down her cheeks. Her eyes were still dull and lifeless, but she was crying.

'I knew it... she can hear me.' Mimic smiled slightly but then frowned.

Why was she crying?

She noted that the tears came after she had mentioned Sebastian.

Confusion filled her all the more.

Then, she remembered what Claude had said.

"Her soul was easy to break."

'Did he use Sebastian to break her down?'

"Any changes?" Kagome asked as she walked over towards them. Fade had been set up in her own room, seeing as though it might bring her out of the spell. Mimic shook her head.

"You can go get some rest, I'll watch her."

Mimic looked over at Fade hesitantly, before leaving. Kagome took her spot and held Fade's hand.

"Fade." She began, her voice flooding with sympathy.

"I know the kind of spell you were cursed with... I went through it too." Kagome whispered, clutching the girl's hand at the memories.

Flashback:

Kagome was kneeling, in a darkened room, and an infant was reaching with outstretched arms like a son reaching for his mother. The miko tried with all her might to escape the baby, but all was in vain.

Soon it had its arms wrapped around her very soul. "Inuyasha!" Her mouth screamed his name.

The infant only laughed, taunting her. Telling her that Inuyasha was gone, after Kikyo, and wasn't coming for her. Each blow struck her heart, bruising the already tender parts there. There was still faith in him, beaten down but still untainted by the child's cruel words. "Inuyasha will come for me!" she

retorted, angrily. Desperately.

'He has to...' came her thoughts once more.

The hellish incarnation took advantage of her momentary weakness and wrapped his small fingers around her heart, and Kagome fell unconscious deep within her own mind. Next, flying through the air, clutching the infant to her chest, Kagura in front and the whole world spread out below, but no fear came, only deep depression...

Landing. A small girl stepped out to meet them, holding a tainted shard. Kanna. Inside, fighting, always fighting the baby's grasp... then remembering Kikyo... and falling dormant once more.

As the infant became aware of her resistance, he tortured her with more painful sentences, each word an arrow to her self-confidence, her faith in Inuyasha, her already battered heart. "Inuyasha has made his choice, and he has chosen Kikyo, not you." He smirked. He knew her weakness, knew the one thing that really brought her to her knees. And there was nothing she could do to stop him.

The child flung more barbed words at the miko, telling her that she was bitter towards Inuyasha. That she hated Kikyo. Kagome's confusion grew with every sentence.

'I feel bitter towards Inuyasha? I hate Kikyo? I guess I have every reason to, but...'

Then he noticed that Kagome had broken free of the infant's grasp! She was giving him a fierce tirade. "I can not feel bitterness towards these two," she was saying, "and I know these feelings mean..." She paused, as if gathering her courage.

"They mean I'm in love with Inuyasha!"

End of Flashback.

Kagome smiled at the end, and she stared into Fade's blank visage.

"Fade, I fought back. I know you can too. I know Claude said something about Sebastian, but whatever it is, it wasn't true! Sebastian ran to come save you, he fought Claude, and he rescued you." Fade's eyes widened an inch.

"He loves you, Fade."

A flowing warmth surged through Fade's body as tears poured down her cheeks.

Her eyes regained traces of life as she blinked, adjusting to her surroundings. She touched the tears on her cheeks with a puzzled expression.

"What... What happened?" She asked Kagome, utterly confused. Kagome smiled warmly.

"You freed your soul."

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Sebastian walked down the empty hall, worry replacing his usual calm demeanor. It was late and everyone had already gone to sleep; a ritual he as a demon had no use for. His kind would use sleep as a way to pass time; it was simply a luxury. Normally, this demon would spend his nights watching *her* sleep.

He stopped in his tracks.

Yes, he would always enjoy it when she slept. Her face would always make the strangest expressions as she dreamed; expressions he may never see again. His eyes flashed briefly as this thought crossed his mind.

It had been weeks since he had rescued Fade from Claude's hideout, and ever since then, her body was as lifeless as a dolls.

Her soul was shattered.

His shadow grew larger and gained a dark green tint as his demon aura spiked from his anger. Claude had used her to get back at him... that spider's filthy hands had *touched* her.

It was revolting; *he would pay*.

"Se...Sebastian?" He blinked, the voice bringing him out of his thoughts. He turned slightly to see a barely healed Flame leaning against the wall for support. She had awoken from her coma a few days ago. He noticed her slumped form and ragged breaths; she was no doubt unfit to be walking around while in that condition.

"Miss Sarutobi, why are you out of bed? The doctor informed you to take it easy, did he not? You suffered terrible wounds." He said with care, quickly appearing at her side to give her a helping hand.

"You can barely stand on your own..." He murmured.

"Don't baby me, these are nothing but scratches." She stated before swatting his hands away. However, the movement caused her to hiss in pain and grit her teeth. Sebastian smiled slightly.

'She is so stubborn... just like Keira.'

"Yes, Yes... I can clearly see you are *perfectly* well." He teased while making sure her wounds hadn't reopened.

"Shut it. I'm fine. Now, where's Fade?" She asked, her blue eyes boring into his.

He paused briefly.

"Her room." He muttered, his eyes hardening. She eyed him with curiosity.

"Why aren't you with her?"

Another pause.

"She... is technically *not* there." His eyes saddened slightly. "Well, her body is there... but that is it."

Flame scoffed.

"So, the rumors *are* true. You have been ignoring her. Sheesh, just cause she's not all there doesn't mean she wouldn't want you with her."

"You're wrong."

Flashback:

He watched as her chest slowly rose and fall, indicating that she was alive. However, her eyes gave away no sign of life. She stared at everything but saw nothing. It was almost like she was dead. Anger flared up inside him as he swore to make that demon pay. His gloved hand cupped her cheek softly.

"Keira..." His voice was low, but loud enough for human ears to hear. His eyes widened as he felt her body tense as if a large force had struck her. The scent of tears alerted him even more as he watched the salty liquid drip from her eyes that now held so much pain. He quickly pulled back from touching her and immediately her body relaxed and her eyes returned to their lifeless state. He stared at the traces of tears she had shed, and his anger intensified.

Claude had filled her head with lies about him to crush her.

End of Flashback.

Flame stared at him with confused eyes. He seemed to be lost in thought, but his eyes held so much pain.

"What do you mean I'm wrong?"

"She does not want to see me."

The two were enveloped in silence; Flame didn't know what to say. Sebastian noticed her confused expression and offered her a bitter smile.

"Claude more than likely told her lies about me in order to crush her soul."

Flame stared at him with disbelief. She was about to say something when she felt a strong grip on her arm.

"What the hell do ya think you're doing?" Came a very pissed off Inuyasha. "You know better than to be off exploring! You almost died, idiot! You need rest!" He yelled before trying to drag her back to the medical wing. Sebastian felt compelled to inform the hanyou that, while his heart was in the right place, his strength and force were causing the girls wounds to re-open.

He watched as the girl was being dragged down the hall before he could say anything.

"Well, he'll discover it soon enough."

"Aw, hell! You're bleeding again!"

The butler sighed; why must such fools surround him?

20 - Reunited

She slowly made her way down the hall, her body still numbed from not moving in so long. She trudged on, using the walls for support. Oh, how she hated being weak. Her body was in a frail state and it pissed her off.

It was sometime after midnight and the tower was pitch black. Still, she needed to reach her destination. It had been a few hours ago that she had awoken and she had remembered everything. Her heart still hurt slightly by Claude's words, but she believed in Sebastian.

She tripped over her own feet and tumbled onto the floor. Wincing in pain, she cursed the heavens for her weak body and low chakra. If she had her full amount of chakra, she could easily teleport to where she wanted to go. She slowly pulled herself up and started walking again. She was almost there.

Finally, she reached her destination. She leaned against the metal door, her breaths shallow and uneven. It had taken so much of her strength to simply walk 10 feet. Her hand slowly moved towards the control panel and her fingers tapped in the all too familiar code. She forgot, however, that she was leaning against the door. She softly yelled "Sh*t!" before falling into the darkened room. She winced and slowly got up on her knees. She looked around, her eyes already adjusted to the dark.

No one was there.

Loneliness filled her heart as she realized her effort was in vain. She had come all this way for nothing. She slowly crawled over to the professionally made bed that was rarely used, and climbed onto the mattress. Her body ached all over, the bruises she had obtained from Claude hurt far more than any other wound she had received before. However, the scent from the blankets calmed her, and the pain began to fade. She felt her eyelids grow heavy and soon enough she had fallen asleep.

"Keira....?" A deep voice called out to her, causing her to awaken. Her eyes slowly opened and a shocked Sebastian was peering down at her. Her mind had not yet registered what was happening.

"Seb..as..tian?" She questioned, not sure if she was still dreaming. Her hand slowly reached out to touch his cheek, and immediately his hand was on top of hers. She felt the warmth of his hand through the fabric of his gloves and she smiled.

"Sebastian... thank you... for coming for me." She whispered, her eyes staring up at him lovingly. His eyes, those beautiful red eyes, seemed to be holding traces of pain within them, but his lips formed into a small smile.

"I'll always come for you." He whispered before enveloping her in his arms. She smiled as her eyes closed in bliss. She hugged him back as all her doubts faded away.

'Claude is a liar.'

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A few days had passed and the Titans were overjoyed. Raven had awoken, and was fully healed thanks to her demon powers. Kagome had also regained consciousness and Inuyasha hasn't left her side.

However, some events weren't so joyous...

"I see." He murmured, his pale eyes glazing over with sorrow. She refused to look at him, knowing full well what he must be feeling. But, she was unhappy, and she wanted to move on. He apparently didn't feel the same.

"I'm sorry. It's for the best... besides, you belong with Max and the others." She whispered, remembering a discussion she and Max had while Fade was still in her zombie-like state. Max told her she needed to let Iggy go; he didn't belong here, he belonged with his family. She agreed, and although she had loved the boy, she knew it was better to let him go.

He smiled.

"Understood." His wings unfurled, stretching a good 15 feet across. It always amazed her. He kissed her forehead gently before launching himself into the sky, slowly fading from sight. She felt a single tear fall from her eye as she watched him fade into nothing. It was for the best.

'Now both of us can be happy.'

Mimic sat in a daze at the kitchen table. Not much had been going on and she was bored as hell. She would normally go and watch the dispute between Lelouch and Sebastian, but, the butler always won... so it lost its amusement. She yawned and rested her head on the smooth surface.

"Hey, Mimz." She opened one eye and glared up at the girl towering above her.

"Why must you be so much taller than me?" She groaned. Flame snickered and patted her head.

"Cause you're just a kid."

"...You're only two years older than me."

Flame was about to respond when Fade burst through the doors.

"YOU GUYS AREN'T GOING TO BELIEVE THIS!" She screamed at the two.

"Lelouch won against Sebastian?" The two deadpanned.

"...let's be realistic here." She responded. "There's a 17 foot dog outside."

Flame and Mimic exchanged blank stares.

"I thought we were being realistic?" Mimic questioned before yawning once more. "Now seriously, what's up-" Something silver caught her eye from outside the window. She glanced over and nearly fell out of

her chair. A large canine face with blood red eyes was staring at them.

"HOLY SH*T! THERE'S A HUGE-@\$ DOG OUTSIDE!" Mimic exclaimed while dramatically pointing her finger at it.

Fade stuck out her tongue.

"Told ya."

Without another word they all ran downstairs and outside, where the dog seemed even bigger. Fade approached it slowly, her eyes wide.

"Here, doggy doggy..." She cooed, earning a distressed look from her teammates.

"Idiot! That thing could kill you!" Mimic yelled while flailing her arms.

"Here, puppy puppy." Fade cooed while smiling up at the dog. The dog's eyes seemed to be studying her as she moved towards it. Suddenly, it sniffed the air and its eyes widened. The beast was immediately consumed in flames and was replaced by a naked man with silver hair. The man leapt at Fade, tackling her to the ground and licking her face.

All of them were frozen in shock. Flame even got a nosebleed.

"...Thank god Sebastian's not here."

"What the hell?" Ciel yelled, having suddenly appeared in the doorway with his butler right behind him. Mimic slapped her forehead, already feeling the tension in the air. Fade's face flushed as she tried to remove the man from her.

"Pluto." Sebastian's voice held disgust and anger within it, but also kept its usual firm tone. The man stopped licking her face and perked its head up and looked in Sebastian's direction. A large grin appeared on the man's face as he jumped up and ran towards Sebastian, leaping at him and latching himself onto the butler's chest while licking his face.

Fade, Flame, and Mimic was at a loss for words.

"Um... Sebastian? Who is that guy, and what happened to the dog that was just here?" Fade managed to ask while getting up off the ground. Sebastian sighed, his facial features showing he was not happy to see Pluto.

"This is Pluto, a demon hound. His true form is that of a dog, but when he becomes excited... he transforms into a human." As if confirming his statement, Pluto gave a short "ruff!" and snuggled against Sebastian's chest.

"Why'd he attack Fade?" Flame asked, trying to ignore the yaoi display. Sebastian sighed as he pried the demon hound off of him.

"He smelled my scent on her."

Silence.

"...Is he like, your gay lover, Sebastian?" Mimic asked, hiding a snicker. Fade smacked her.

"No. He has an odd obsession with me... though I detest him." He stated, hatred full in his eyes as he glared down at Pluto, who was currently sitting on the ground. Fade walked towards him and ruffled his hair, earning a happy grin from the dog demon and a lick on the cheek.

"Aw, I think he's cute. Do you not like dogs?" Fade asked as she scratched behind Pluto's ear.

The butler smirked.

"I hate them."

"Woof." Ciel, Flame, and Mimic all said at once. Fade frowned slightly before smiling at Pluto.

"Well then, I'll be his owner. I love dogs." Pluto seemed to be happy with this and licked her face numerous times, while Sebastian's eye twitched slightly.

Ciel snickered slightly as he watched his butler's form go rigid. Nothing amused him more than to see Sebastian annoyed; it was rather entertaining.

"Pluto, there you are!" A childlike voice called out, causing all of them to turn in alarm. They saw a young boy running towards them, a huge grin on his feminine-like face. He wore clothes that resembled the attire of commoners back in the old days, as well as a large straw hat that was hanging from the back of his neck. They also noticed two other people running behind him, one being a red-headed woman in a maids attire and the other a grown man in a classic chef's outfit. When the young boy got closer, he let out a gasp of shock as his eyes landed on Ciel and Sebastian. He blinked and then gave a huge smile at the two.

"Mister Sebastian! Master Ciel!" He called out, obviously overjoyed to see the two. The remaining members of Team Alpha just blinked, all sharing the expression of utter confusion.

Just exactly what was going on?

The other two had caught up to them and were just as overjoyed to see Sebastian and Ciel. The woman's gaze at the butler lasted a little too long for Fade's liking.

"There you all are. Y'know, instead of just leaving a note saying: We have moved to Jump City, New York, in America. You could have given us an address! We would've even come with ya when you guys set out!" The eldest man said while glaring at Sebastian, a cigarette hanging loosely from his mouth. Sebastian smiled.

"I thought it best for the master to be in an environment where the servants aren't complete dolts." His cold words came out coated with sweetness and drove the three servants in question to a depressed

state.

"So cruel..." The young boy said before quickly recovering and bouncing up in front of the confused girls.

"Wow! You're all very pretty! Who are you, anyway?" He asked with a very energetic tone, causing the girls in question to take a step back. Fade gave him a nervous smile.

"Um... We're Team Alpha. I'm Fade, and these are my friends Flame and Mimic." The boy smiled up at them, his green eyes seeming to sparkle.

"I'm Finnian! You all have some pretty weird names! Tee Hee!" He then skipped over to the other two who accompanied him. Flame's eyebrow twitched slightly.

'Finnian? And we have the weird names?'

Finnian pointed to the maid, who was smiling yet looking extremely shy.

"This is Mey Lin!" He shouted as the girl bowed slightly. Finnian then pointed to the man. "And this is Bardroy, but we call him Bard!"

Bard smiled and winked at the girls. Fade and Mimic avoided his gaze instantaneously, while Flame stared at him in approval.

"He's kind of hot." She whispered before Mimic elbowed her.

"And that of course is Plu-Plu!" Finnian exclaimed while dramatically pointing at Pluto with a huge grin. Sebastian sighed.

"Now that all the introductions are out of the way, exactly what are you all doing here?" Sebastian questioned, obviously not pleased with their arrival.

"We wish to join this team and help protect the young master like we did back in London, yes we do!"

Meylene exclaimed, smiling up at Sebastian with bloodstained cheeks. Fade coughed, feeling uncomfortable by the maid's attraction to Sebastian. Sebastian glanced over in her direction, watching with amusement as Fade glared at Meylene.

"Oi, Oi... You act as though it's up to Earl Twerp and Black prick. If you want to join the Titans, you need to speak to our leader, Robin. Also, we'd need to see what you have to offer this Team." Mimic declared, stopping herself from snickering at the fact she referred to Robin as their leader. Fade glared at Mimic for her choice of nicknames before nodding in agreement.

"She's right... we can't afford any other useless members..." She murmured, an image of Misaki and Usagi in her head.

"Leader?" The three servants asked in unison, all of them a bit shocked that their young master and their top butler were not in charge.

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In the main room...

Robin stared at the three new arrivals, then to the naked silver-haired man, then to Team Alpha, and then to Ciel and Sebastian. He continued this pattern, a look of confusion on his face... except when he glanced at Pluto; he was just mortified.

"Before I make any decisions... please put some clothes on him." Robin muttered, a small blush creeping on his cheeks as he turned to look away from Pluto's manhood. Flame snorted.

"You're just jealous cause he's waaaaay bigger than you." She commented, a smirk forming on her lips. The other two girls, as well as Bard, laughed. Robin glared at all of them before turning away and walking towards the exit.

"We shall test them in 15 minutes. I will make the preparations." He stated before leaving the room. It was quiet momentarily.

"What a bother..." Ciel mumbled, although he was somewhat happy to see his servants. They were his family for the past two years since he returned from that awful place. Despite their numerous flaws, he cared about them. Which is why even though they screwed up everything, he could never fire them. *'The demon hound, however...'*

He glanced over at Pluto who was currently lying in Fade's lap, still nude, as she petted his hair. He was obviously becoming attached to her and Sebastian was obviously not thrilled. The young earl smirked.

'Oh well, he is no longer my problem.'

21 - Exorcist

"So, this is America, huh?" He muttered to his partner, his eyes narrowing as he detected the smells of pollution coming from the city. The taller male next to him glanced towards a tall building in the shape of a 'T'. His eyes narrowed slightly.

"The demonic energy is coming from that building." He murmured, as his brother smirked, eager to fight.

"Heh, well, let's go say hello." He said while placing his hand on the hilt of his sword, which was fastened on his side.

"Why, hello." Mimic's voice came from behind the two, causing the shorter of the duo to jump slightly. Mimic studied them briefly before leaping down from her spot on the branch and landed a few feet away from them. The taller male gave her a look of curiosity as well as caution. She glanced at the smaller boy, her eyes widening slightly from the amount of demonic aura radiating off of him. She also couldn't help but note the boy was quite attractive.

"This is the first time I've fought a girl demon... a pretty one at that!" He shouted and unsheathed his sword, his features instantly changing. His canines enlarged and his face gained some demon-like qualities to them. Not to mention there were two horn-shaped masses of blue fire on top of his messy navy blue hair. She also took notice of his elf-like ears. She smirked and positioned herself for battle.

"I am no demon." She stated, observing his every move, waiting for one of them to make their move.

"Niisan, she is not the demon we are hunting." The taller one said in a low voice, his eyes never leaving Mimic. Mimic's eyes narrowed slightly.

'More people after my friends?' She thought angrily. She wouldn't lose anyone else.

"You're after a demon, huh? Too bad I won't let you pass." She taunted while pulling out two kunais. Her eyes widened, as a gloved hand appeared in front of her, signaling her to pull back. She looked up to see Sebastian smirking down at the boy with blue hair.

"Ah, if it isn't the young lord." Sebastian teased, his eyes glowing slightly. "Okumura Rin, right?" He asked as Mimic relaxed her stance. Rin's eyes widened, even he could sense the sheer power coming from this man.

"Yukio, is he the one?" Rin asked, his eyes never leaving the butler's figure. (That makes him sound like a homo, doesn't it...? -_-)

Yukio nodded, his body tensing. (He agrees)

"Honestly... to think I'd be hunted by my own kind. What has this world come too? Then again, you defied your father, did you not?"

"That dick is not my father! My father was a priest!" Rin snarled, the flames on his head intensifying. Sebastian's smirked deepened.

"If you detest him, then why go after me? Who, like yourself, defied my nature and decided to fight amongst the humans." Sebastian purred, earning a gasp from Rin. Yukio's eyes narrowed, yet he looked confused.

"We were told you were holding two children under your spell. We were sent to destroy you and save their lives." Yukio stated, his gaze hardening.

"Ah, and who sent you on said mission?"

"That's classified."

Sebastian sighed and placed a hand on his forehead.

"Honestly, such a troublesome situation. Let me clear this mishap up for you two exorcists. The two 'children' that person was referring to are not under any kind of spell. In fact, you could say that I am the one spellbound." He smirked and glanced at Mimic.

"She can vouch for me, seeing as one of the two is her close friend."

All eyes were on her.

Her cheeks flushed slightly from the attention as she stared Yukio in the eyes.

"He's not lying. He protects both Ciel and Fade because he loves them both."

Yukio exchanged glances between Mimic and Sebastian.

"But our client said-"

"Was this client by any chance a boy with blonde hair and feminine-like clothes?" Ciel asked, appearing from behind the bushes.

"Young master?" Sebastian questioned, wondering what his 'bocchan' was doing out here. Yukio stared at the boy, as did Rin. Both of their eyes were wide.

"As a matter of fact, yes. It was." Yukio stated, his suspicion turning towards their 'client'. Ciel nodded and stood next to Sebastian.

"That was Alois Trancy, an enemy of mine. Well, all of us, actually. He wants my body and his butler wants my soul. Sebastian swore to protect me; therefore, they want him out of the picture. Which is why they sent you two." Ciel stated, showing no emotion. Sebastian smiled and bowed slightly, his left hand over his chest.

"It is as my master says. You seem to have been tricked."

Yukio and Rin exchanged glances before Yukio nodded at Rin, signaling to him that there would be no fighting. With a scoff, Rin sheathed his sword and his facial features returned to normal, minus the elf ears.

"We apologize." Yukio said while bowing slightly. Rin just grumbled to himself and watched the birds fly by. Mimic smirked at his actions.

"Hey, no harm no foul. Say, would you two like to stay at our home? I'm sure you're both tired!" She offered while appearing between the two boys and putting her arms around their shoulders.

"Sebastian's a fantastic cook, and we have tons of rooms!" She exclaimed, not noticing her close contact was causing the boys to blush.

"If it wouldn't be too much of a burden, we would be honored to stay in your home." Yukio said with a shy smile; the badass image he gave off earlier washing away. Rin's face was beet red, not use to having a girl so close to him, a pretty one at that.

All he could manage was a nod.

22 - The Sacrifice and Her Protector

It's impossible. I must have been seeing things.

Flashback:

"Lightning Blade!" A male voice called out followed by the sound of raw electricity. Fade's eyes snapped open at the familiar voice and she stared in shock at the sight before her.

Terra was stopped in her tracks; a hand emanating lightning sparks was through her chest. Her eyes were wide with horror and then faded into a dull shade of blue as she slumped forward. The man pulled out his hand from the dead teens chest and watched as the body fell to the ground, staining the dirt with her blood. The shadow possession jutsu had worn off, but Fade was still frozen in place, her blue eyes brimming with tears as she stared at the tall middle-aged man with disbelief. He turned and smiled at the girl.

It was no other than Kakashi Hatake, in the flesh, and very much alive.

"D...Dad?" Fade choked out, the tears finally falling from her eyes. Even Inuyasha was at a loss for words.

"Looks like we got here in the nick of time." The former ANBU leader stated, before ruffling his daughter's hair.

Mimic stared into Naruto's eyes, both of them are reflecting fear. The blade lingered on her pale skin, pricking her slightly. Mimic awaited the pain, but instead she felt the grip on her soul vanish quickly.

Naruto felt his sister's influence leave his body and then he felt the gentle touch of a hand on his shoulder. He slowly looked to the right of him and paled. Gentle green orbs bore into his shocked blue ones as the pink haired kunoichi helped him to his feet. Mimic stared at the supposed dead girl before turning to see what had become of Crystal.

She saw disbelief gleaming in the girl's eyes as she slowly backed away, her body rigid with shock.

A gloved hand appeared next to Mimic, belonging to a boy wearing a black and red outfit and a friendly smile on his pale face. She took his hand and he gently pulled her up.

End of Flashback

Those people... they're supposed to be dead. I saw their bodies. This has got to be a trick.

"Minami... I heard you failed your mission. Quite disappointing." Naraku's sadistic voice brought her out of her thoughts. She glared, her eyes glowing slightly.

"Watch your mouth, half breed, or this will be your last breath." She threatened, her voice thick with

malice. Naraku's eyes darkened at her choice of words, but he kept quiet. That blood power was not something to mess with.

"Naraku." Slade called out, catching the spider demon's attention. "You have an errand to run." Naraku glared, hating being referred to as an 'errand boy'. If he still possessed the Sacred Jewel, he would overthrow Trigon and defeat Inuyasha and the others all at once. But, Trigon holds the jewel; increasing his, already dangerous, power ten-fold. Even he, Naraku, wouldn't stand a chance. So, he just needs to play along.

"Oh? And what might that be?" He asked nonchalantly.

"The kidnapping of Ichiko Ryoko." Slade seemed to be smirking beneath his mask.

"Ichiko Ryoko?" What is her purpose?" Naraku asked with mild curiosity.

"With her blood... Trigon shall rise again."

Naraku's eyes widened. They found the sacrifice already?

"I see. Where would I find her?"

Slade smirked again.

"Cross Academy."

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"ZERO-KUN~!"

Ryoko squealed as she tackled Zero from behind. The young vampire hunter nearly toppled over from shock at the sudden human contact. He sighed and glanced down at the overly excited girl who currently had her arms wrapped tightly around his waist.

"Ryoko, what are you doing?" He asked before prying her off of him. This action seemed to annoy her slightly, but she simply brushed it off.

"Happy Birthday!" She exclaimed, a huge smile on her face. His eyes widened in shock before softening. A warm smile appeared on his face as he ruffled her hair.

"Thanks." He said after a few minutes, his eyes never leaving hers. She smiled up at him, her blue eyes sparkling.

"Otousan and I made a cake! So you better be grateful and eat it all!" She squealed, earning a soft chuckle from the boy. However, a twinge of pain erupted in his heart. He gazed down at her smiling face, his eyes filling with sorrow as her blonde hair changed into a soft brown and her blue orbs darkened to a chocolate brown. His mind seemed to whisper that name that had been forgotten; foreign to his lips.

Yuki...

"Zero?" Ryoko whispered; her tone worried. Abruptly, the image of the former prefect vanished, and he was back with the girl who had melted away the ice the previous one had left around his heart.

"Zero, do you miss her?" Ryoko whispered softly, her eyes hidden beneath her bangs. When there was no response she looked up at him, her sorrowful blue orbs now visible. "Cross-San, I mean." She watched as a collection of emotions danced across his face.

Sorrow, Anger, Loss, Guilt... *Love.*

Without thinking, she placed her hands on each side of his face, cradling his head in her small hands. He looked at her sadly, seeing his reflection, as well as her concern, within her eyes.

"Well now, isn't this a touching moment?" Naraku sneered, his sudden presence alerting the two prefects. In a flash, Zero pushed Ryoko behind him and pulled out his Bloody Rose; aiming it at Naraku's chest.

"Such a strange toy..." Naraku murmured, unfamiliar with the weapon.

"Zero, the Bloody Rose won't work on him... he's not a vampire." Ryoko whispered, her hand placed on her thigh where a stash of kunais and shurikens were kept.

"He's not human either." Zero spat, obviously disgusted with the creature before him. Naraku smirked and chuckled.

"Regardless of what I am... Step away from the girl. I will be taking her." Naraku snarled before tentacles shot out from his body and heading towards Ryoko.

BAM!

Naraku's eyes widened at the wound in his right shoulder. What really surprised him was that it wasn't healing like it should be. The tentacles froze and then crumbled into dust.

The Bloody Rose worked? Ryoko thought with disbelief. What is this guy?

Ryoko took a step forward from behind Zero, her eyes staring at Naraku's shocked form.

"Why do you want me?" She asked, her hand grasping onto a kunai – just in case he tried anything. Naraku, having being brought back to reality, smirked and unleashed a cloud of miasma which engulfed the girl and brought her to her knees; she lost consciousness soon after.

"Ryoko!" Zero yelled, about to run towards her but was stopped as the cloud of poison neared him. Cursing silently, he covered his nose and stayed back. Naraku chuckled and began to approach her, the miasma having no effect on him. He froze in his tracks as a black figure leapt down from a nearby tree, landed by the unconscious girl, picked her up, and then jumped a good 10 feet away. The cloud of

miasma kept the person hidden from view, the only thing was visible was their silhouette.

"It's been a long time, Naraku. And here I thought that idiot of a half demon had killed you." A feminine voice called out.

"Who dares to speak to me that way?" He snarled, narrowing his eyes. She simply laughed before a swirl of leaves surrounded her and Ryoko, and then surrounded Zero as well. Then, the miasma cleared; the three of them had vanished.

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Three loud knocks echoed throughout the tower, alerting those who heard it. I mean seriously, who knocked anymore?

Beastboy, who was the closest to the door, opened it and peered out warily. He then looked down and let out a startled yelp while jumping 5 feet in the air. "*Our hero*", right?

The unconscious bodies of Ryoko and Zero were at their doorstep, along with a cute little pink card on top of their bodies.

Hearing Beastboy's cry, Fade, Usagi, and Cyborg came down to investigate. Fade glanced down at their "present" with wide eyes. Usagi blinks blankly before kneeling down and picking up the card. He opens it and skims through it briefly. Without a word, he hands it to Fade. Fade gives him a questionably look before taking the card. It read:

My dearest Fade,

I leave this girl to you and your band of dorks. 3 The guy is just a bonus, enjoy! He's a sexy little thing. I entrust that you'll protect her.

Love and kisses!

<3

Fade's eyebrows knitted together with confusion as she tried to think of the person responsible for this. Sighing, she placed the card in her back pocket and turned towards Usagi and Cyborg.

"Can you two take them up to the infirmary?" She asked before leaving them behind. With a sigh, Usagi lifted up Ryoko and carried her in his arms while Cyborg slung Zero over his shoulder.

Meanwhile, a girl with long glossy black hair and piercing green eyes sat up in a tall tree, silently watching Usagi and Cyborg carry the two inside. With a smirk, she leaned against the tree's base and watched as the doors closed.

"I think I'll stick around, just for a bit." She whispered, remembering the look on Fade's face as she read her note. The girl smiled before disappearing in a swirl of leaves.

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Ryoko awoke in a strange and very white room. She panicked, having remembered her previous encounter with Naraku.

Was I captured?

She slowly turned her head, observing her surroundings. The room was fairly large, way bigger than the dorm she had back at the academy. The walls were bare and plain, and the carpet was a dull shade of gray. She looked down and realized she had been sleeping on a large, and rather comfortable, circular bed. Again, much bigger than the one back home. She slowly moved to the edge of the bed where she swung her legs over the side and placed her bare feet on the carpet. Hesitantly, she made her way to the rectangular metal door. As she approached, the door swooshed open, slightly startling her. She peered out into the hallway, slowly she looked down the hall in each direction; it was empty.

Summing up her courage, she stepped out of the room, jumping once again as the door swooshed closed. She began to make her way down the empty hallway, not sure where exactly she was headed.

"Oh, you're up." A male voice called out behind her, causing her to leap five feet into the air, which in turn startled the boy as well. She turned around to see a boy with brown hair and emerald green eyes trying to slow his pounding heart. He looked a little bit older than her, and he didn't appear to be a threat. He looked rather weak, actually.

"Jeez, don't scare me like that!" He yelled, his heartbeat slowing finally. Ryoko blinked before silently apologizing.

"I'm sorry, sir. Um, could you tell me where I am and why I am here?" She asked politely. Misaki blinked and looked at her with a slightly confused look.

"You're in Titans Tower... You're a new recruit, aren't you?" He asked with curiosity. Ryoko stared at him as though he grew another head.

"I'm where and what?" She asked, completely lost. Misaki was about to repeat himself when a large hand rustling his hair stopped him. Ryoko gasped slightly at the man who had just appeared. He was taller than the boy, and older by the looks of it. He was rather pale, including his hair, which was a lovely shade of silver. His eyes were violet, and held a sort of mysterious vibe. He wore a casual, yet professional, white button up shirt and brown slacks. She couldn't help herself.

She had a fan girl moment.

So cute! She mentally screamed, gazing at the man with wide eyes and a small blush across her cheeks.

"If you would come with me, Ms. Ichiko, I can answer your questions for you. My name is Usami Akihiko, and this is Takahashi Misaki." Usagi stated, a small smile on his lips. (The ones he usually saves for award ceremonies and such) Ryoko blinked several times, trying to snap out of her thoughts. She nodded and walked over to the two men. Usagi led her to a room about 13 doors away from the room she had left. Ryoko read the words "**FADE**" on the metal door. However, unlike the door she

encountered, this one didn't automatically open when Usagi stepped in front of it. Usagi knocked softly on the metal door and waited patiently.

Seconds later, a girl with shoulder-length brown hair and brown eyes emerged. She was wearing a black low-cut tank top and dark blue jeans. She looked at Usagi and then to Ryoko.

"Oh, so you're awake. Come in, Come in." Fade greeted, smiling kindly at Ryoko, who was slightly taken aback by her beauty. Ryoko walked inside the room, not noticing that Usagi and Misaki had followed her.

"You can take a seat on that couch over there." Fade called out to her, pointing to a black loveseat across from a queen-size bed, which was hovering off the ground. (Chains were holding it up.) Ryoko sat on the right side of the loveseat just as Misaki sat on the left side. Usagi was leaning against the wall not too far from Misaki. Fade sat on the edge of her bed, still smiling.

"Hello, Ryoko. My name is Keira Hatake, but please call me Fade. I'm sure you're wondering why you're here, frankly, so are we." Fade laughed softly at Ryoko's confused, childish face.

"Let me explain... our friend, Beastboy, found you and Zero at our doorstep unconscious. All there was, other than you two, was a note. The note said that you needed protection... therefore, I made the order to bring you and Zero into our home." Ryoko's eyes widened at the mention of her friend.

"Where's Zero?" She practically screamed, fear visible in her eyes. Fade held up one hand and smiled gently at the worried girl.

"It's alright. He is in the main room along with some of our other friends. He woke up a day ago... you've been asleep for two days. That's how we know your name. Zero told us about the demon you fought, whose name is Naraku by the way." Fade's eyes narrowed slightly, that name leaving a bad taste in her mouth.

"Naraku?" Ryoko asked, still trying to digest this information.

"He's a despicable demon who has claimed many lives. He is also one of our biggest enemies." Fade explained. "I just want to know why he was after you." She finished, raising an eyebrow.

Ryoko was silent for a moment, her eyes staring down at the black carpet. After five minutes she whispered:

"I wish I knew."

Before anyone else could say anything, the "Danger Alert" was going off. The siren blared and red lights flashed throughout the whole tower. That's when a girl with red hair and green eyes ran into the room, a murderous glare on her face. Ryoko couldn't help but notice that this girl was also just as beautiful as Fade.

"Fade, It's Crystal!" Mimic called out, venom coating her voice. Fade's eyes narrowed and she quickly rose to her feet. In a flash, she tied her hair back and attached her small weapons bag to her thigh. She

glanced over at Misaki and Usagi, a fierce look in her eyes.

"Usagi-San, Misaki-Kun... please, protect Ryoko!" She exclaimed before her and Mimic disappeared into thin air. Ryoko stared at where Fade use to stand, her eyes wide with disbelief.

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All the Titans, minus Usagi, Ciel, and Misaki, gathered around outside the Tower entrance. To their distaste, Crystal stood a couple feet away, her eyes as cold as ever. Robin was the first to speak.

"What do you want, Crystal?" He spat, not having much patience for traitors. Crystal ignored him and scanned over the many faces in front of her.

"Where's the girl?" She asked dully. Fade took a step forward, her fists clenched.

"Like I'd let you get to her. Why do you want her anyway?" Fade snarled, her blood beginning to boil. Everyone else readied themselves for battle, knowing that they couldn't just let that innocent girl be taken by the girl before them.

Crystal smirked.

"That girl is the portal needed to bring Trigon to Earth. You, of all people, should have known that, Raven. You are able to have 'visions' of anything regarding your father's resurrection. So is the fate of any of the prophecies born in his name."

Everyone froze; they were shocked into silence. Not even Inuyasha had anything to say.

"Now there's no way I'm letting you get to her!" Fade yelled before charging towards Crystal, Sebastian and Mimic shadowing her movements. Crystal glared and easily dodged them. She was preparing to throw a paper bomb at the three while in midair, but was struck from behind and was brought crashing down into the dirt. Then out of nowhere, a dozen of kunai's with paper bombs attached at the ends stuck into the ground, outlining Crystal's body. Crystal's eyes widened and before she could get away she was thrown a good 12 feet away in from the explosion.

"Honestly, I never thought you to be the one to betray your comrades. I guess people change. What a disgrace you are to the Village Hidden in the Leaves, *Namikaze Minami*." A feminine voice called out, the owner hidden behind the smoke from the explosion. Soon, a black silhouette was spotted, the person seeming to be walking towards Crystal.

Two shurikens flew out from the silhouette and hit Crystal on her cheek and on her right arm, leaving deep gashes.

The mysterious woman chuckled, stopping in her tracks.

"Honestly," the smoke cleared and a handful of people gasped. "You bring a downer to my reunion party."

There, standing in front of Crystal, was not other than Hyuuga Patzie, a smirk upon her lips.

23 - New Teams!

After Patzie appeared, Trigon had summoned Crystal back to their lair. After a few minutes of bone-crushing hugs, Team Alpha finally got over their shock of Patzie's return. A day later, Lelouch and C2 returned from Japan, having finished their mission of escorting Sango and Miroku back home. However, they had brought back three individuals: Shippo, Kohaku, and Kirara. Kohaku explained that he was going to be Sango's replacement sense Sango couldn't be a Titan anymore because she had three kids to raise. He also said that it was his way of making up for his sins and bringing honor to the Demon Slayer Village. Shippo said that he would replace Miroku, and said that it was boring sitting around and helping Kaede. As for Kirara, Sango had given her to Kohaku (in order for Kohaku to have some form of protection) so Kirara followed her new master everywhere.

Seeing how the team has expanded, Robin decided to create smaller teams, or groups. This way, all 26 of them wouldn't have to go into battle. Not to mention if they needed to bring a certain bad guy down, he could send out the team with the appropriate skills to do so. There was also the ability for each titan to train with their team and enhance their abilities. Because let's be honest with ourselves. There are still a few whose abilities are lacking in power. So, he created teams and posted the list on a wall in the main room, where it was discovered the next morning...

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NEW GROUPS

GROUP ONE:

STARFIRE ZAUHL

C2

KAGOME HIGURASHI

SHIPPO

PLUTO

NATSUMI AMINO (MIMIC)

RIN OKUMURA

GROUP TWO:

SEBASTIAN MICHAELIS

YUKIO OKUMURA

LELOUCH LAMPEROUGE

YUME HATAKE (FADE)

AYUMI SARUTOBI (FLAME)

FINNIAN

MEI RIN

GROUP THREE:

ROBIN GRAYSON
CYBORG STONE
INUYASHA
ZERO KIRYUU
RAVEN ROTH
CIEL PHANTOMHIVE
BARDROY

GROUP FOUR:

KOHAKU
AKIHIKO USAMI
BEASTBOY LOGAN
MISAKI TAKAHASHI
RYOKO ICHIKO
PATZIE HYUUGA
NARUTO UZUMAKI

The names in bold are the squad leaders whom you will meet later today.
-Robin G.

"Four groups of seven, huh?" Ciel murmured, his eye scanning down the list of names that belonged to his new "teammates". He sighed, realizing that sense Sebastian was not on his team he would have to defend himself.

"Good morning, Ciel." Kagome greeted sweetly, walking up behind him and bending slightly to read the list. Her eyebrows furrowed and her lips pursed in confusion as she stared at two of the names on her team.

"Pluto? Rin?" She asked aloud. She did not know them. Ciel blinked and glanced at the list.

Ah, Pluto and that kid are on her team... He thought with no emotion.

"Pluto is a servant of mine. He's a dog demon. Rin just arrived. From what Sebastian had said, he's the son of Satan." Ciel explained. Kagome blinked.

"Two demons, huh?" She whispered; a small smile was on her lips as she continued to skim the list. Ciel stared at her face, trying to read her.

"Aren't you scared?" He asked.

"Of course not." She replied with no hesitation. "Demons are people too." She replied cheerfully, shocking the young earl. He never thought of it like that.

Just then, Inuyasha had approached and began reading the list.

He snickered as he read who was all in group two.

"Fade's sure gonna hate this." He joked and pointed at the two names listed before hers.

Ciel sighed.

"Sebastian's not going to like this either."

"What won't I like, young master?" Sebastian's voice came from behind them; causing all three to jump with fright. No one needed to answer the butler, for he quickly scanned the paper in front of him. His demonic aura intensified as he walked away in silence.

Ciel, Inuyasha, and Kagome all exchanged glances.

It was going to be an interesting day indeed.

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Yukio sat in his room, his faithful weapon in his hands. He wasn't sure about joining this team, but, it would probably be good for his brother to train with another demon. He cringed.

Flashback:

Sebastian smiled coyly at Yukio, who was tense and prepared to engage in a fight if the high-class demon before him tried anything. Seeing as Sebastian had asked him to meet him late at night and away from other people, he was sure the demon was going to try and kill him.

"You can relax, *young master*." Sebastian said smoothly, his eyes sparkling with amusement as Yukio tensed at being called such.

"What did you call me?" He asked while glaring at the older man. Sebastian chuckled.

"*Young Master*'. You are, after all, the son of my *so-called master*, are you not?" Sebastian mused, his blood red eyes glowing slightly.

"I am *human*."

"You are *lying*."

Yukio's eyes widened and a sort of cold sweat began to break out on his forehead. Sebastian sighed and put on a fake look of sorrow.

"How.. do you know?" Yukio whispered. He had tried his hardest to hide it, hasn't he? He clenched his fist.

"How did you know! My own brother doesn't even know!" Yukio shouted, anger and disbelief clouding his teal eyes.

"Well, your brother is a bit on the unintelligent side. It's clear as day that your demon powers, which have always been there, are starting to awaken; starting to become stronger. He chuckled.

"I wonder if your 'blue flames' will also manifest? If so, I would love to see that." Yukio scowled. "Oh yes. As to why I asked you here, I would like to ask if I may tutor your brother." Sebastian asked, his expression that of amusement. Yukio was taken aback slightly.

"Train him? Why?" Yukio questioned. He couldn't see what this demon would gain from helping his brother.

"Honestly, I just think he gives demons like me a pathetic name. Especially seeing as he is the spawn of Satan. Also..." His gaze seemed to intensify as he stared at Yukio. "Isn't it his dream to defeat Satan? In the state he is in now, I do believe he will perish. With my help, he would have more of a chance." Sebastian explained.

"Why would it matter to you?" Yukio snarled, seeing as his demon side was coming out, it was hard for him to control his anger nowadays...

"Why? Good question..." Sebastian drawled out, his eyes glistening with amusement. "It is actually my young master who wishes me to tutor him. He hasn't even seen your brother fight, but he can already tell how weak he is. Ha ha... my master is truly a smart boy." Sebastian teased at Rin's expense, but nonetheless, he was right.

Yukio paused. He was thinking it over.

My brother is lacking in strategy and physical combat... and this demon has been alive for quite some time. It's obvious that he knows more than my brother or me. If my brother was able to learn how to use his powers to its full content and not be overwhelmed by them, perhaps... perhaps...

He can defeat Satan.

"I know what happens when a human makes a deal with a demon, but I would like to make a deal with you." Yukio stated, his expression returning to its serious one he held before. Sebastian grinned.

"Young master, while it is true that a contract between a human and a demon requires the wager of a soul... you have nothing to worry about it. Your soul is no longer present; you are no longer human. This is a deal between demons. The price for it is the same as it would be if we were both human. What is it that you want?"

Yukio scuffed at being called a demon, but remained calm.

"I want you to train my brother to be more than enough to take on Satan. If Satan cannot be defeated, I win, and you are to crawl back into hell where you belong. Filth like you doesn't deserve to be in our world." Yukio spat, expecting to enrage the demon. However, Sebastian merely smirked.

"I see... and if I win and Satan is defeated?" Sebastian studied the boy's face with amusement. Yukio raised his eyebrow.

"What is it you want? Souls?" Yukio began to feel uneasy, not sure if he could allow this demon to kill innocent people all because of a silly bet. Sebastian chuckled.

"I have not eaten a soul since the 'Black Plague' that occurred so many years ago. I have no interest in meaningless souls. No, it is not souls I crave..." His gaze intensified. "I simply want you and your fellow exorcists to exorcize a certain demon..."

"A demon?" Yukio raised an eyebrow.

Sebastian smirked, his eyes glowing slightly.

"Yes... the demon who hired you, to be exact."

End of Flashback

Yukio sighed. He knew better than to make a pact with a demon...

24 - Poor Fade!

"Robin... is so dead." Fade whispered while glaring at the floor. Seeing as she was one of the leaders, she wasn't informed on who would be on her squad. She knew it was Robin's way of picking on her... He would pay for this. She stood awkwardly next to Lelouch, who hasn't stopped staring at her since he walked into her room. He didn't say anything, but he never looked away.

"Kei-Chan..." Lelouch whispered, making her breath hitch in her throat. All the memories she made with him came flooding back to her along with the pain of remembering. It was no secret that she had loved him... she loved him very much. However, he broke her heart. He lied to her. He was always a good liar, but she never thought he would actually lie to her.

The memories of all those lonely nights, locked away in her room crying her eyes out, filled her head. The phone call she received that day will forever stay in her memory.

Flashback:

Fade was giggling with Crystal about something Ryuzaki had done as they sat in Crystal's room. They heard knocking at the door.

"Who is it?" Crystal asked, not really paying attention.

"Inuyasha."

"Get lost." Crystal joked, causing both girls to break out in a fit of laughter at the hanyou's expense.

"Haha. There's a phone call for Fade." He answered, and immediately the girls could tell something was wrong. His voice was different from his usual prideful, gruff tone. It was lower, sadder; full of pity.

Fade and Crystal exchanged glances before Fade rose to her feet and headed towards the door. She opened it and was slightly taken aback by the expression on his face. His amber eyes were filled with pain, the honey orbs like warm liquid. His lips were pulled down into a frown and his ears even seemed to flatten against his head. Fade placed her hand on his cheek.

"Hey... we were only kidding... you okay?" She whispered, worry in her voice. All joking aside, he was one of her closest friends. For him to be acting like this was unlike him; it worried her.

He said nothing but shook his head. His clawed hand covered her own.

"..Just go take the call." He whispered and withdrew. Crystal, who was standing in her doorway, raised an eyebrow at the hanyou's behavior and approached him after Fade had walked down the hall and towards the Tower's phone.

"What's going on?" She whispered to him. Inuyasha shook his head.

"You will find out soon enough..."

Fade picked up the receiver and held it to her ear.

"Hello?" She asked, curious of who had called her and why Inuyasha was acting so strange.

"...Is this Hatake Keira?" It was a male's voice, one that sounded familiar, yet she couldn't identify the person.

"Yes. May I ask who is calling?"

"Kururugi Suzaku." Her mouth opened in an 'o' shape as recognition filled her. She was her boyfriend's childhood friend and his "frenemie". She never really talked with Suzaku... so why was he calling her now?

"Ahh. Suzaku. What's up?" She asked casually, yet formally, for he was the knight of Princess Nunnally.

"It's about Lelouch." His voice seemed strained, tired; full of pain and regret.

Her heart skipped a beat and her breath hitched in her throat.

"L-Lelouch?" She whispered her lover's name, fear welling up inside her.

"He... he died, yesterday." He explained, his voice cracking at the word "died".

Time seemed to stop for the young girl as she processed this new information. It was silent on the other end and then he seemed to exhale heavily.

"I killed him." Suzaku confessed. A tear fell from her large, shocked brown eyes.

Lelouch... was dead?

Suzaku killed him?

He's dead...

He's gone...

Forever?

Fade's grip on the phone loosened, and the receiver fell to the ground, bouncing slightly as it hit the navy blue carpet.

"Miss Hatake?" Suzaku's voice was barely audible from the receiver. Fade fell to her knees, her expression still that of shock and disbelief.

I'll never... see Lelouch again?

It was then that her whole body began to shake with sobs. She didn't know how long she sat there, on the floor of the hallway, but she never moved. Someone had found her and carried her to her room, but she couldn't see who it was. She was too lost in herself to pay any attention. She vaguely remembered their soft voice calling out to her in an attempt to comfort her.

End of Flashback.

Fade shook her head. She would not let that happen again.

"Hey, f*cktards." Flame announced as she swung the door open and made herself at home. Slightly annoyed, yet relieved at the same time, Fade greeted her comrade with her middle finger. Flame exchanged glances between the two in front of her before raising her eyebrow in suspicion.

"You two weren't doing the 'hinkidy-dinkidy', were you?" Flame deadpanned, causing Fade and Lelouch to blush madly.

"No. We weren't. There's no way we would." Fade objected, refusing to look either of them in the eye. Flame chuckled.

"That's good... Especially since it could've been the butler who walked in on you; not me. Haha. I wonder where he is? I'm sure he'd love this." Flame teased the younger girl, who glared back at her in response.

"Sebastian is probably with Ciel, greeting their new team leader."

"Then why isn't he here?"

Fade's eyes widened.

No... Robin isn't that cruel, right? He wouldn't seriously make her lead team made up of a love triangle... right?

xXxXxXx

Meanwhile, Robin laughed hysterically at his own evil plot.

xXxXxXxXx

Ohhh yes, that little twerp was going to get it good.

Fade sighed and rubbed her temples.

"Sebastian is on this team as well...?"

"I believe I am." Sebastian's voice scared the hell out of Fade, who had jumped (literally) ten feet in the air and landed on her butt. She blushed and pointed dramatically at him.

"Where'd you come from!"

"Hell."

Flame was the only one who laughed. Fade was too busy drowning in her own sorrow at the predicament she now found herself in.

"This..." Fade began while glancing from Sebastian (who was currently glaring at Lelouch) over to Lelouch (who was currently glaring at Sebastian). The tension was thick. "...Is *balls*."

Fade dropped her head into her hands as Flame chuckled.

"Yep. Big, hairy, sweaty balls." Flame said while smiling cheerfully as she patted her friend on the back.

25 - Ice Breakers!

"Whaaaaat?" Mimic said while raising both her eyebrows. "Robin seriously had the balls to do such a thing?" The red-haired ninja then burst out into a fit of giggles at her dear friend's expense. Kagome laughed nervously, feeling a little guilty about telling her this new information. After watching Mimic roll around laughing for a good five minutes, Kagome sighed and looked around the pink room of their new "team leader". The color was to be expected; however... she didn't think Starfire's room of all people would be so... empty.

The door opened suddenly as two more members of the team walked in. Kagome didn't exactly recognize either of them. They were both boys and they both had oddly colored hair. The shorter one, for example, had midnight blue hair which matched his eyes. He wore a button-up, white shirt and blue jeans. There was a sword slung on his back, too. Her eyes wandered to his slightly pointed ears.

'..an elf?' She questioned while raising an eyebrow. Then again, she's seen weirder things. She looked over at the other one, who looked more like a twenty-something year old man rather than a teenager. He had wild, shaggy-like hair that was a strange silver color. His hair, unlike Inuyasha, actually looked silver... as opposed to Inuyasha's white-tinted hair. His eyes were dark and emotionless, it creeped her out a bit. He wore a stylish black suit and a black, spiked dog collar around his neck. Something in her mind clicked.

'Ciel said something about a demon hound... I wonder if that is him?' She wondered as she stood up from her spot on the floor. She walked over to the newcomers with a warm smile on her face.

"Welcome. My name is Kagome Higurashi. Starting today, we will all be team members. I hope we can become great friends." She said in a cheerful voice. The blue-haired one seemed to blush before smiling somewhat nervously.

"It's nice to meet you, I'm Rin Okumura." He said while flashing her a fanged grin, catching her by surprise a little. She smiled once more and nodded before looking over at the other male.

"And who might you be?" She asked casually. The one in question said nothing but leaned in towards her and sniffed her hair. His eyes widened some and he let out a bark of approval. Kagome jumped slightly and her eye began to twitch. Rin seemed a little freaked as well.

"Did he just bark?" Rin shouted, both his eyes twitching.

"He doesn't talk. He is a dog, after all." Mimic said, suddenly appearing next to Rin. Rin let out a yelp before jumping ten feet into the air.

"When did you get there?" Rin shouted while pointing dramatically towards Mimic.

"Weren't you rolling on the floor just a few seconds ago...?" Kagome deadpanned. Instead of answering either of them, Mimic turned towards the demon hound and patted his head.

"This guy's name is Pluto. He's officially Fade's new pup." Mimic explained while giggling at the kisses Pluto was giving her. Rin and Kagome watched awkwardly as a grown man licked away at the face of a teenage girl.

"That's... not right... on so many levels." Rin muttered. Mimic ignored them and began petting Pluto's head while cooing random words to him. It was a rather odd sight indeed, however Rin couldn't help but notice how cute she looked when she laughed.

"Do I even want to know what is going on in here...?" A monotone voice called out, alerting the others. While they were distracted, C2 had entered the room. She now stood near the door and was leaning against the wall. She stared at the others with emotionless topaz eyes and there was a hint of a smile on her face.

"Aw, Pluto's just showing his affection towards me." Mimic said as she moved away from the demon and sat on Starfire's bed.

"Oh? It looked more like a public indecency was occurring. I was about to ask if you two desired the room to yourself." C2 commented in her usual, nonchalant voice, earning a blush from both Mimic and Rin. Pluto, however, didn't understand a word of what was said.

Just then, Starfire entered her room wearing a large grin on her face. This wasn't unusual for her, seeing as though she was rarely ever sad. She motioned for everyone to sit down and she took her place in front of them.

"Greetings, everyone! I hope you would already know this, but I am Starfire. I have been blessed enough to be your team captain! I do hope we can all become the best friends." She said, her smile never once leaving her joyous face. "Today, we shall embark on the getting to know each other activity! So please, when it is your turn, tell us your name, age, and something unique about yourself!" She exclaimed while flailing her arms around her to further prove her excitement.

"Why don't you go first, Starfire?" Kagome suggested kindly as she smiled warmly at the alien leader. Starfire clapped her hands and let out a joyful sound.

"I am Starfire and I am of the age of 17. I am an alien princess from the beautiful planet, Tameran." She finished with more giggling and the clapping of her hands. Rin was the only one shocked by her last statement.

'A-Alien? They really exist! Well... that does explain her strange way of talking...' He thought as he watched the overly happy girl point to Kagome.

"Kagome, it is your turn!" Kagome blushed slightly at being called out, but smiled nonetheless. She cleared her throat and rose to her feet.

"Hello. My name is Kagome Higurashi and I am 17 as well. I am the reincarnation of a famous priestess and I am also a priestess. I hope we can all be great friends." She finished with a bow and returned to her spot on the floor. Starfire looked over at Pluto, who was currently scratching the side of his head...

with his foot. Her small eyebrows furrowed together in confusion. Mimic glanced over at Pluto and then looked at Starfire's expression before laughing.

"Ahhh... he doesn't talk, Star. I can pretty much tell what I know about him. His name is Pluto and as for his age, I don't know how old he is. Something that is unique about him, however, is that he is a demon hound from hell." Starfire blinked her eyes twice before smiling again.

"That certainly is unique! C2, it is your turn to do the sharing!" Starfire exclaimed while pointing at the seemingly bored witch. C2 blinked once before sighing. Her expression of utter boredom never changed.

"Hello. My name is C2 and my age is irrelevant, seeing as I've been this age for decades. I guess that last part sums up my uniqueness, so there you have it." She moved her gaze from the others and began to stare at the wall. Mimic sighed.

'*Good to know that she's still a dog...*' Mimic thought bitterly, remembering how in the past she wasn't on good terms with the green haired witch. Mimic was about to introduce herself when the door flew open. Seconds later, a small orange, puff-ball bounced in. The ball of fluff landed next to Kagome.

"I'm sorry I'm late!" The creature said. Now that it wasn't in motion, the others could see who it was clearly. It was a young boy with orange hair and green eyes. He wore an old-fashioned, Japanese attire which resembled Inuyasha's outfit, except it was blue with acorns on it and a brown, furry vest. In his mouth were two small fangs. Rin couldn't help but stare at the big, bushy tail on the boy's rump.

"..Who's that?" Rin asked while eyeing the large, blue bow in the boy's hair. Rin sat there debating on whether this person was male or female.

"Go ahead and introduce yourself." Kagome told him while smiling.

"I'm Shippo!" Shippo announced while pointing to his chest, wearing a huge smile on his childish face. "I'm 9 years old and I am a fox demon!" He exclaimed happily. Rin raised his hand, a blank expression on his face.

"Yes?"

"Are you a boy or a girl?" Rin deadpanned, earning a giggle from Mimic and an embarrassed glare from Shippo.

"I'm a boy!" Shippo shouted before sitting down and pouting. Kagome laughed and smiled over at Rin who seemed a little embarrassed for assuming Shippo was a girl.

"Why don't you go next?" Kagome suggested and Rin nodded.

"I'm Rin Okumura. I'm 16 and something unique about me is... Well..." Rin trailed off and averted his eyes nervously.

"You're rude?" Shippo asked while crossing his arms over his chest. Rin sighed.

"No. I'm sorry for asking you that though..." Rin laughed nervously as he tried to make amends with Shippo, who obviously hated his guts now. Kagome looked at Rin with a puzzled expression.

'Why isn't he telling us who he is? Is he afraid of our reaction when he tells us that he is the spawn of Satan? Surely he doesn't think we would isolate him... I mean, I'm in love with a half-demon for Christ's sake.' She glanced over at his nervous expression once more. *'Hmm...'*

"Well, now that it's established that Rin is a rude jerk, I believe it is my turn." Mimic announced before clearing her throat. "I'm Mimic. I'm 16 and I am made of awesome. Thank you, thank you." She said while bowing. Rin's left eye began to twitch and Kagome sighed.

"Mimic, don't you think you should be taking this seriously?" Kagome asked while looking at the red-head with stern eyes.

"No. Do you?"

"..." Kagome sighed and placed a hand on her forehead. *'This will be an interesting group indeed.'*
xXxXxXx

Naruto was walking down the hall lazily. He had decided to drop his old ANBU attire, and instead wore his Sage clothes. What could he say? He looked pretty badass in them.

"Uzumaki, aren't you supposed to be our leader or whatever?" Naruto stopped in his tracks and looked over to his left, where Patzie was standing in the doorway of her room. Naruto chuckled.

"That is what that piece of paper said... however, I don't feel like doing it." He laughed while crossing his arms behind his head. Patzie said nothing as she stared at him; analyzed him. He could feel her gaze and after 4 minutes, it started to bother him.

"What?" He asked, obviously irritated. She smiled then and let out a small laugh. His eyes widened at the sound of her laughter. Memories flooded in his mind about her and him.

"Nothing... I was just thinking that you've changed a lot since I last saw you." She said with a small smile. "I even heard you saved Konoha from Pein. You could imagine my shock when I heard this." She laughed and walked past him, her hand ruffling his hair. "I'm proud of you." She whispered before walking away. His eyes remained wide and full of shock as a small blush crept onto his face. He touched the spot on his head where her hand was and turned to watch her walk away. He smiled softly before walking in the opposite direction.

"Well now... I guess I should go and meet my team." He whispered to himself as he headed towards the commons, where he had originally told the others to meet him. His mind began to drift back to his younger days; back to the days before Sasuke left and when things were peaceful.

Flashback: (All these flashbacks are making this series seem like a Naruto episode, aren't they?)

13-year-old Uzumaki Naruto panted heavily, his hands on his bruised knees and sweat coating his brow. He glared at the scattered kunai knives sprawled out across the training field. He then glared at the

small, circular target attached to the middle of the three tree stumps in front of him. The target was in perfect condition; the blades never hit.

"Damn." He muttered, still trying to catch his breath. Despair took him over as he stood there in failure. "I can't catch up to Sasuke..." He whispered; his determination was slipping.

"Oj, look at the mess you made." Naruto turned to see a 15-year-old Patzie smirking at him. Fade and Mimic were behind her, along with another girl he had never seen before. Brushing himself off, he stands up and looks over at them with a blank look.

"What do you want?" He asked dully. You could easily tell something was wrong with him... this was not the "Uzumaki Naruto" everyone knew.

"Well, we were coming here to train, but it appears that you've destroyed the field. What were you trying to do anyway, Uzumaki?" Patzie asked rudely, her green eyes sparkling with mirth. Fade looked up at her "older sister" figure with worry.

"Patzie, don't be so mean to Naruto..." She whispered, obviously not happy seeing one of the people she admires being "kicked when they're down." Patzie brushed her off and continues to stare down at Naruto; intimidating him. Naruto scoffed and started to pick up the scattered kunais. He gasped when a small hand touched his as they both reached for the same kunai. He looked up slowly, his wide blue eyes meeting kind brown ones. Fade smiled at him and handed him three kunais she had already picked up.

"It will go faster if there are two of us." She laughed softly before turning and gathering more kunais. Naruto stared at her in disbelief before smiling softly. This peaceful moment was soon ruined as Naruto was suddenly smacked on the back of his head, causing him to fall forward. Patzie towered over him.

"Honestly... making my dear Keira do your dirty work. Sheesh, Uzumaki." She teased, a small smile upon her face. The other girl watched in shock as Naruto grabbed his head in pain and slowly got up. He didn't yell. He didn't get angry. Instead, he looked down at the crown and muttered an apology. "I'm sorry." He whispered, causing Patzie's eyes to widen. For the next five minutes, everyone was silent. Fade and Naruto managed to gather all the kunais and Naruto has put them away in his pouch. Fade looked over at Naruto with worry.

"Naruto-" She was cut off by Patzie, who slapped a hand over Fade's mouth and laughed.

"Keira, don't you have to report to Kakashi?" Fade blinked and nodded; understanding what Patzie was implying. Patzie watched as Fade and the other girl left. Naruto looked over at Patzie, his expression blank.

"Who was that girl anyway?" He asked with mild curiosity. Patzie sighed before smiling at him.

"None of your business. Now," She places her hand on his head and rustles his hair. His eyes widen and he looks up at her. "What's got you so down in the dumps?" Her green eyes were filled with concern as she stared into his wide, child-like eyes. He looked at her for a minute, his shocked expression slowly turning into a depressed scowl.

"I... I can't be as good as Sasuke." He whispered.

"Sasuke?" Patzie blinked. "That emo dyke?" She asked, causing Naruto to jerk away from her and glare.

"Don't talk about him like that!" He screamed, anger shining vibrantly in his eyes. Patzie's eyes widened for a brief second, and then she busted out laughing.

"Ahaha... I've never seen you so mad before!" She giggled. Naruto continued to glare at her. "Fine, fine. I take it back." She smiled and he relaxed a bit. "But hey," She whispered, catching his attention. He looked up at her, an annoyed expression visible on his face. She smiled gently and placed a kiss on his cheek. "You're going to be a great ninja; far better than Sasuke." She whispered into his ear before pulling away slightly. His flushed cheeks made her giggle. "Naruto is Naruto and Sasuke is Sasuke... both of you are equally skilled. Naruto, you don't have to kill yourself during training simply because Sasuke can do a few flashy moves. You are destined for great things. I believe in you." She smiled once more and ruffled his hair.

End of Flashback

Naruto smiled to himself at the memory of his first love. He never told anyone what happened that day, but he knew that if it wasn't for Patzie's words... he would have given up a long time ago. She truly was the first person he loved.

"Too bad she's a perverted, sarcastic dog now." He murmured and chuckled. He approached the door to the main room, where his team was more than likely waiting. The doors swooshed open and he stepped inside. Instantly, twelve pairs of eyes were on him. He laughed nervously and scratched his neck in an awkward manner.

"Ahhh. Sorry I'm late." He waved and walked towards them. "I'm pretty sure I know most of you.." He trailed off as his eyes glanced over at Ryoko. "For those of you who don't know me, I'm-"

"A giant, yellow prick." His smile became forced as his eyebrow twitched rapidly. He turned in the direction of the voice that spoke. Patzie smiled innocently and gave him a small wave.

Yes... this, of all people, was his first love. She gave him the finger before winking at him. He sighed. This is going to be a long, long day...

26 - The Lost Member

"You know, this feels pretty nostalgic." She inhaled deeply, the familiar smells making her smile at the memories that flooded through her mind. "I wonder if anything has changed." She pondered aloud as she leapt down from the tree branch she had previously been sitting on. Her small body landed with a light "thump" as she landed gracefully on her feet. A gentle breeze blew her waist-long hair slightly as she began to walk towards the large T-shaped tower in the distance.

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Ciel Phantomhive sighed as he watched his new "team members" argue and scream at each other. Well, mostly it was just Inuyasha and Robin butting heads... although Bard pitched in every now and then. All in all, it was most aggravating. Honestly, he is the youngest out of all of them, yet he is more mature than these people.

"Honestly... can we please stop acting like children?" Ciel finally suggested; his hand on his forehead as to maintain his growing headache. The others turned towards him after hearing the annoyance and ridicule in his voice.

"You have no right to talk! You're a snot-nosed brat!" Inuyasha yelled, his fist clenched and shaking towards Ciel. Ciel kept his expression composed as he stared Inuyasha in the eye. Golden honey clashes with a single sapphire and tension began to build up.

"Regardless of my age, I am more mature than you." Ciel remarked, a small smirk appearing on his lips. Ciel's eyes widened as a clawed hand grabbed him by the collar and his face was suddenly inches away from Inuyasha's snarling face.

"That's it! I'm going to teach you a thing or two about mouthin' off!" Inuyasha yelled, his other hand forming a fist as he reared it back. Ciel's lips parted, a name forming on his tongue as his eyes widened in shock.

"Sebas-" Ciel was cut off as a hand grabbed Inuyasha's fist, stopping the attack. Inuyasha turned to see who was brave enough to stop him, an annoyed expression on his face. Half expecting to see Sebastian, he was quite surprised to see Bard holding him back. The usually lazy chef glared down at the half demon, anger visible in his blue eyes. Inuyasha was slightly shocked at how strong this man was, he had thought the chef was nothing more than a failed cook.

"Unhand my master." Bard said simply, all signs of joking erased from his face. Inuyasha and Bard exchanged glares, neither of them talking. Inuyasha still held Ciel's collar firmly in his hand. It was when a small hand touched his shoulder that he finally let the Earl go.

Inuyasha turned towards the direction the hand came from and he met the emotionless stare of Raven. Bard had released his other hand and moved over towards Ciel. Raven pulled her hand away and removed her hood, revealing her pale face.

"We are all teammates now. Let us not start off our first day like immature brats." She scolded, her tone monotone, yet slightly annoyed. Inuyasha stared at the gothic princess before scoffing.

"Keh. Whatever." He muttered before walking away and leaning against the wall on the opposite side of Robin's room. Raven sighed and walked over to Ciel and Bard, kneeling slightly so that she was at eye level with Ciel.

"Also, you are still a kid. You shouldn't be acting so much like an adult just yet. I don't know the circumstances you were under back at your home, but here," She gave him a small smile and placed her hand on the top of his head and ruffled his hair slightly. "You can just sit back and be a kid."

Ciel's eyes widened and he was speechless as she turned away to return to her previous spot she had been sitting in. Bard gave his master a slight look of worry, wondering if he would be scolded by Sebastian for not stepping in sooner. Bard sighed and crossed his arms behind his head in a lazy manner. He was about to walk away when Ciel's quiet voice stopped him.

"Bard." Ciel whispered, alerting the servant who thought he was about to be scolded. "Thanks." Ciel smiled a bit and turned to go stand near Raven. Bard watched his master walk away and a smile broke out on his face. Ruby eyes watched from the shadows and a small smirk appeared.

"It appears my services were not needed after all." His smirk vanished as he sensed something in the air. In an instant, he disappeared just as quickly as he came.

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Fade was fast asleep in her bed, her hair tousled around on the pillow and her breathing was slow and peaceful. A loud, buzzing noise came from the small dresser to the left of her bed. Groaning, she slowly woke up, her eyes slowly blinking open. She turned her head to the left, her brown eyes staring at the vibrating cell phone on her nightstand. Her hand slowly reached out to it and she grasped it gently in her hand. She looked over at the caller ID, and she immediately sat up and flipped open her phone and pressed it to her ear.

"You usually don't call this late." She whispered, glancing over at the digital clock that was across the room. It was 2:15am. She let out a soft laugh and ran her fingers through her hair.

"I shouldn't be calling you anyway. But, I will do as the mission requires." The voice on the other line replied in a sarcastic manner.

"Yes, yes. I do appreciate the updates. However... don't you think you've been taking your mission a little too seriously... Crys?" She whispered, a smirk upon her lips. Crystal laughed on the other line.

"Well, yes, but I do have to make it convincing. I haven't killed anyone, though." She joked. Fade lifted an eyebrow as the memory of Flame's near death experience flashed in her mind.

"You came awfully close to it, though." Fade whispered. Her eyes clouded in pain as she remembered her short time of being prisoner to the other demon butler. "You've been quite convincing. I was starting

to think you actually wanted us dead." She whispered. Crystal sighed.

"I am sorry about the Claude incident. I'm sorry about killing Kikyo, too. Well damn... I'm just sorry about everything." She laughs bitterly. "I bet everyone hates me, huh? Boy, do I feel like Itachi. Oh!" She gasped. "That's right! Mind telling me why in the hell Kakashi Sensei and Sakura popped out of nowhere?" Crystal nearly shouted. Fade blinked at her sudden outburst then sighed.

"I wish I knew the answer. It was rather shocking to me as well. From what dad was saying, everyone who had died on that day has been brought back to life."

"Ah... Well, a part of me is happy... but now this could be a problem. By Konoha's standards... I'm a rogue ninja and I will be targeted by the special opps." Crystal sighed. "We both know that the ANBU and ROOT are troublesome."

"That's right... well, they might not find out?" Fade said with slight hope.

"Wouldn't Kakashi report in to Tsunade? That is assuming they returned to Konoha." Crystal asked, igniting Fade's worry.

"Sh*t. I forgot about that..." Fade groaned and mentally slapped herself. "I guess we do have a problem... This really is like Itachi's situation..." Fade muttered bitterly. Meanwhile, a young girl was standing outside the tower, her large blue eyes staring up at one of the top windows. Her eyes were glowing with determination.

"I wonder who they would send..." Crystal pondered while going over the names of the ANBU members that she had worked with in the past. The girl outside smiled and slowly walked up to the main door.

"Well, we will handle such a problem if it truly arises." Fade whispered before hanging up. She sighed and set her phone down and stretched out her arms. A pair of red eyes watched her every move from the shadows.

"This is most surprising... you keeping such a huge secret." A voice called out, causing her to jump slightly. Her eyes widened and she instantly pulled a kunai from under her pillow and held it in her hand; prepared to fight.

"Who's there?" She asked, a threatening tone to her voice. A gloved hand gently grabbed her hand, stopping her from using the kunai.

"You and I both know that such a toy cannot harm me." He whispered, his breath tickling her neck. She let out a relieved sigh and smiled slightly.

"Ah, it's you, Sebastian." She whispered as he released her hand. She put the kunai back in its hiding place and then turned to face the butler. There was a small smirk on his lips as he stared at his young lover.

"Now... would you care to explain why you have been lying to everyone?" He asked, his eyes glowing a light purple as he stared down at her with amusement. She gulped slightly and a light blush formed on

her cheeks.

"It's a ninja thing... you wouldn't understand." She whispered and turned her head away from the demon, who was now chuckling softly.

"I would not understand? From what I have overheard, it sounds like you had sent Miss Minami out on a top secret mission. A mission that requires her to act as our enemy and obtain information on the actual enemy, but no one other than you and her are to know about this. Am I correct?" He finished while smirking at her shocked expression.

"Y-yes..." She muttered. "I did send Crystal out on this mission... she never really betrayed us... but no one is supposed to know that. She is gathering info on Trigon's reconstruction so we can stop him. This plan is called the 'Uchiha Plan'." She explained and then looked at Sebastian, who seemed curious as to why it was called such a thing. She sighed and began to explain more thoroughly. "In our village, there was a large family called the 'Uchiha Clan'. It was believed that the Uchiha's were planning on starting a war against the village. Itachi Uchiha, the head clansman's son, was ordered to kill his entire clan in order to protect the village." Her eyes lowered in sadness. "No one knew that this was a mission. Everyone thought that Itachi had become a rogue ninja and mindlessly killed his friends and family. His younger brother, who he could not bring himself to kill, even thought his brother was a villain and set out to kill him and avenge his clan. Up until Itachi's death, everyone thought he was a traitorous villain, but he was simply following the mission assigned to him by the village he loved." She whispered. Sebastian nodded and looked to his left where a picture of Team Alpha stood on her dresser.

"So... in order to protect her friends, Miss Minami agreed to such a mission? Even though she knew she would be hurting those closest to her and ending up being hated by them?" He asked, his eyes showing a bit of sympathy for the blonde girl. Fade nodded.

"She was willing to do it. She said that in the long run, everyone she loves will be safe." She whispered while trying to push away her growing feelings of sorrow. Sebastian chuckled and placed his hand on the top of her head.

"You humans... I use to believe every human was the same, however," Sebastian looked over to the picture frame on her nightstand and his eyes seemed to smile along with him. "There are always a good few who never cease to surprise me." Fade smiled.

"Yeah, same here." She whispered. Sebastian frowned and turned his head in the direction of her door. Fade looked up at him, a confused expression on her face. "Sebastian?" He looked at her, all his amusement from earlier had vanished.

"It appears we have a visitor."

xXxXxXx

Misaki awoke abruptly and sprang up from his bed. His startled eyes quickly scanned the darkened room. He swore he had heard something. Having been left alone quite frequently growing up, he learned to be a light sleeper and quite observant while asleep. He sighed and ran a hand through his hair and let out a nervous chuckle. Ever since the Claude and Alois incident, he's been on alert for any signs of

someone breaking in. It didn't help that his room happened to be the one closest to the main door. A shiver ran down his back at the thought.

'Yes... if someone were to break in... I would be the first room they'd go to.' He shuddered once more before lying back down and pulling the covers up to his chin. He stared up at the ceiling and found himself wishing for his lover's company. Not that he would admit it to anyone. He still felt as though something was watching him. He closed his eyes and focused on his hearing; it was a skill he had learned back at Usagi's house when he would often hide in fear of being molested. When he concentrates, his hearing is quite amazing. Sure enough, he heard someone else breathing. His breath caught in his throat and his heart skipped a beat as he prayed that it was only Usagi teasing him. But why would the author hide? Normally he would come at him head-on (Literally). He slowly moved his hand under his mattress and his shaking fingers grabbed a cold, metallic object.

Flashback::

"You all saw what happened to Fade, Kagome, and Mimic right?" Naruto asked his team, a lazy tone about his voice. His teammates nodded, all somewhat bitter about the whole event. Even the indifferent, perverted author was slightly put off by such events. Naruto tossed everyone a small package and everyone except Misaki caught it easily. Naruto sighed as he watched Misaki hold his nose in pain after missing the package thrown at him.

"What are these?" Usagi asked quietly, opening the package and pulling out a kunai knife. He examined them closely before throwing one in Patzie's direction. The girl dodged it easily, catching it between her two fingers. She turned to the author who was currently unfazed and clearly not apologetic for his actions.

"What the hell? If I was anyone else, you could have seriously hurt me!" she exclaimed, her fist shaking in his direction. Usagi nodded and held out his hand and waited for her to hand him the kunai.

"Exactly. If it were anyone else I would have not thrown it... that hard." He muttered the last part, and instantly everyone tensed and feared what their new "teammate" would risk doing to them.

"Anyway... Naruto, what are these exactly? I've seen a bunch of you use them..." Beastboy muttered, studying the object in his hands. Naruto lifted an eyebrow.

"Clearly it's a weapon." He said dully. Beastboy glared.

"I knew that!"

"Then why did you ask?" Naruto teased and a small smirk formed on his lips. He then cleared his throat. "These are called Kunai Knives. They can be used in close combat or at a distance. As you saw Akihiko do earlier, you can throw these at your opponent and with the correct amount of speed and accuracy, the damage could be lethal. You can also use them as you would a normal sword. I am giving you these as a protection precaution... some of you, I won't say who, will clearly need it." Naruto finished, his icy blue eyes staring at Misaki who cringed at such an intense stare. He then noticed everyone else was staring at him. Had they no faith in him?

End of Flashback...

Misaki let out a shaky breath as he closed his eyes once more and strained his ears. *There!* He quickly threw the kunai and heard a small gasp from the direction he had thrown it. Suddenly, two kunais flew back at him. His eyes widened and he shielded his face and let out a frightened yell. The sound of metal clashing was heard and after he had realized that he felt no pain, he opened his eyes. The sight caught him completely off guard. Blue. All he could see at first was blue; a strong, vibrant blue. His eyes adjusted to the light and he realized that there was a figure consumed in blue. His eyes widened. They were blue flames. The figure was that of a boy who held a long sword... Wait. He knew him from somewhere.

"Hey, you okay?" The flame-covered boy asked while turning his head slightly to look at Misaki. It was then that Misaki noticed the boy's pointed ears and the blue flames that took the shape of horns on the top of his head. He let out a small noise of shock as he fully recognized the boy. It was one of the new comers, Okumura... Okumura Rin. Misaki nodded slowly, still in disbelief of what was happening.

"Good." Rin smiled, revealing his fangs. He then turned back to the direction the previous attack had come from. A girl stepped out from the shadows and stared emotionlessly at the two boys. Misaki stared in awe. *Such a cute girl!* He thought with a blush.

Her hair was long, all the way down to her bottom, and it was a light brown. She wore all black, except for the small amount of silver armor that was on her arms and chest. Attached to her hip was a white mask that somewhat resembled a cat. Both Rin and the girl prepared to fight, Rin clutching his sword and the girl lifting her arm to throw a kunai. Misaki's eyes caught something on her arm. He looked closer and saw a red, swirly symbol. His eyebrows furrowed together as he wondered why the symbol looked so familiar.

Team Alpha came to his head immediately. He remembered when everyone had gone to the beach; he caught glimpses of the same exact marking on their arms as well. Even the new girl, Patzie, seemed to have one. If this girl had the same signal... then that would mean...

"Wait!" Misaki yelled out and ran to put himself in-between the two. Both parties were shocked by such a dangerous act. Misaki turned to look at the girl, a smile on his face. "You're a part of Team Alpha, right?" He asked, earning a surprised look from the girl. She slowly put away her kunai and lifted an eyebrow at him.

"How did you know?" She asked, her childish voice shocking them both. Misaki let out a small laugh of relief.

"The other members have that same swirly thingy on your arm." He pointed to her tattoo and she nodded and let out a small smile. Rin, no longer sensing any trouble, placed his sword in its sheath and his blue flames extinguished. The girl watched as the flames disappeared and her large, blue eyes became filled with curiosity.

"Misaki!" Everyone turned to look at the girl who had just flung herself into the room, her eyes wide and frantic and her breathing short and choppy. Fade stood there in the doorway trying to catch her breath. Her gaze had immediately gone to Misaki and after seeing that he was unharmed, she looked over at

Rin and the girl. As her eyes fell upon the girl, her breathing stopped.

"...Aiko?" She whispered in disbelief. The girl, Aiko, smiled and waved.

"It's been a long time, Keira."

27 - Snake

Inuyasha's eyes slowly blinked open as he began to awaken. He sat up in his bed and he looked over at the sleeping girl beside him. He watched her peaceful face and smiled softly at her innocence. She rolled over onto her side, the blanket falling off her and revealing her bare torso. His eyes caught a glimpse of the 2-inch-long, tan scar that stood out against her porcelain skin. His finger traced the outline of the healed wound as his mind drifted.

/Flashback/

"Kikyo?" Fade questioned, looking up from her sitting position on her bed. She had been restricted to bed rest after having recovered from Claude's spell. Inuyasha nodded, his expression pained. Neither Kagome nor Mimic would tell him about Kikyo's revival which Kagome had mentioned when she returned. His last resort was the girl before him. He knew it was selfish to ask her to tell him about a situation that had caused her so much pain, but he couldn't ignore the thought of Kikyo being alive.

"No one else will tell me a thing. I need to know. Please." Fade's eyes widened as that word passed through his lips. Please? *Inuyasha was begging* her? She now noticed the pain in his eyes and the sorrowful aura that had surrounded him. He continued to look at her with those sad, pleading eyes. She couldn't help but notice that he looked like a sad little puppy that you would see on those animal rescue commercials. She sighed.

"You're lucky that I have a soft spot for dogs." She whispered and then let out another sigh as she turned her head to look out the window. "During that time when we were being held hostage, Naraku had visited us. He was admiring the jewel inside of Kagome... he had his hands all over her." She paused as she heard Inuyasha emit a low growl. The corners of her mouth moved slightly upwards at his jealousy. "And then... Kikyo entered." She watched for his reaction and was slightly shocked at how... passive he appeared. She figured he was doing everything within his power to remain calm. "There was no doubt that it was the priestess... however, it was not the Kikyo all of us were expecting. She was not the fallen priestess made of clay and graveyard soil. She was made of flesh and blood. She was literally alive." Fade whispered and she heard Inuyasha's sharp intake of breath. Fade's lips pressed together in a hard line as she hesitated to reveal more.

"Wait. You said she was literally alive." Inuyasha started, his eyes widening some. "Was as in past tense..." He whispered and stared at her with disbelief. She continued to stare outside; refusing to meet his gaze. This was all the information he needed to draw a conclusion.

"No.." He whispered. The pain in his voice caused her to turn her head and look at him for the first time since starting her story. She fought the urge to tell him the truth, to ease his pain. Instead, she nodded.

"After Kikyo entered and helped Naraku extract the jewel from Kagome, Naraku left her there with us. She then healed Kagome with her spiritual powers... and then Crystal came and killed her. She decapitated her." Fade whispered and watched both pain and anger consume his face. She wished she could tell him the truth. Tell him that her being beheaded was a mere illusion called genjutsu, which

Crystal had mastered far past any other. She wanted to tell him that Kikyo was alive... but she couldn't. It would jeopardize everything. She slowly shifted her legs so they dangled off her mattress and for the first time since having first awoken, she began to walk towards the hanyou. She moved slowly and stumbled a few times before reaching him, but her determination kept her going even though she felt a searing pain with every step she took.

Inuyasha felt his vision blurring as his rage consumed him. Images of the priestess flashed in his mind. He could feel his transformation beginning and he allowed it. He wanted his demon senses to enhance so he could find the one responsible for Kikyo's death and make them face pain far worse than dying. He would make them pay. He was brought back to reality when he felt two fists grasping the front of his haori. He could feel the tiny, weak fists shake slightly. His blood-red eyes dissolved back into his usual amber orbs and his claws reverted back to their normal size, along with his fangs. He looked down to see Fade struggling to hold herself up. He could feel most of her body weight was leaning on him for support.

"Hey! What are you, crazy? You shouldn't be walking around." He yelled, grabbing her shoulders and helping her stand upright.

"Don't... don't go charging towards something you will eventually regret. " She whispered, her eyes squinting from the pain she was in. His eyes widened slightly at her words before softening. He had known this girl for a long time... and never once had he seen her like this. He already put her through a rough patch by having her tell him about that incident... and now she was pushing her body in order to comfort him. "Inuyasha," She whispered. "Kikyo... Kikyo is gone now... but Kagome is still here. Don't ignore the living..." She smiled softly and her eyes began to close as her strength leaves her legs and she starts to fall to the ground.

Inuyasha gathers her in his arms before she hit the ground and sighed after realizing she was asleep. He lifted her up and carried her back to her bed. Once her body hit the mattress, she rolled onto her side and curled up into a ball while burying her face into her pillow. He laughed slightly before covering her up. He stared at her face and remembered her words: Don't ignore the living.

He knew in the past he had done that. He would chase after Kikyo whenever he could and left Kagome alone. He had almost lost Kagome by doing so. However, he could not just forget Kikyo. He loved Kagome more than anything, but Kikyo was the first person who showed him that he could love. He didn't love Kikyo the same way he use to, but he does consider her to be very precious.

And yet again, she had been taken from his life.

/End of Flashback/

Don't ignore the living.

He watched as Kagome breathed in and out slowly, obviously in a deep sleep. He placed his hand on her cheek and moved his face towards her. He gently pressed his lips to hers and made a silent vow: He will never let Kagome go through the same thing as Kikyo. Never.

xXxXxXx

Rin stood on top of the roof, hunched over and panting. Sweat covered his brow and his demonic features were visible. Sebastian stood a few feet in front of him, his expression blank. Unlike the boy before him, he didn't have a scratch on him. The older demon sighed and placed a hand on his forehead.

"Honestly, I had expected more from one of the sons of Satan." Sebastian muttered, his eyes watching the boy, who was trying to catch his breath, with amusement. Rin clenched his jaw and clenched the hilt of his sword. Sebastian was not an easy tutor and he had years of experience as opposed to him.

However, he has noticed that his fighting style is a bit slower than usual. It was probably because Sebastian's girlfriend was bedridden, but still. Even in a weaker state, Sebastian still kicked his @\$@ and smeared it all over the Tower. Rin sighed. This was the only way to get strong enough to fight Satan.

Yukio watched from behind the rooftop's door, a worried expression on his face. He watched Sebastian take no mercy on his brother, and it was obvious that Rin was at his limit.

"Maybe it was a bad idea having that demon tutor him..." Yukio muttered, thinking about whether to break the deal or not. He felt someone tap him on his shoulder and he quickly turned around with alarm. He saw one of the newer members, Finny, smiling up at him.

"Mister Sebastian is teaching your brother, right?" The boy asked and Yukio nodded.

"Yes, although I don't think he is well-suited enough to teach him..." Yukio whispered.

"What? But Mister Sebastian is the best tutor ever!" Finny exclaimed, a shocked expression on his innocent face. "Why, back when I first came to work for the young master, I didn't know a thing at all! I couldn't read, write, or even speak proper English. But, Mister Sebastian sat down with me and taught me how to read and write! It took him a long time though, but he never gave up on me!" Finny exclaimed and clasped his hands together. "He taught Mei Rin and Bard too! He also helps the young master with school whenever his actual tutor could not make it." Finny giggled and peered around the door to see Sebastian instructing Rin. "If Mister Sebastian is the teacher, you can count on your brother becoming stronger!" Finny exclaimed before running down the stairs. "Bye~!"

Yukio was at a loss for words as he watched the flamboyant boy run off. He had never seen a person speak so fondly of a demon... He wondered if that young boy knew Sebastian's true form or not. However, Sebastian seemed to have somewhat of a soft side to him. Perhaps this training will help his brother.

xXxXxXx

"What in God's name is that?" Beastboy exclaimed as he opened the front door. He had been casually walking around the lower grounds of the Tower when he heard someone knocking at the front door. He had assumed it was the mailman delivering their daily dose of fan mail, but when he opened the door, he was shocked to see a man with pale green skin and scales all over his body. Not to mention there was a dark green snake around his neck. He then noticed two others standing behind the snake-like man. The two looked Asian, but he couldn't really tell what country they were from. He'd say either Japan or China... but knowing his luck, they were probably from some unknown country and would be extremely insulted if he greeted them with the little Japanese he knew. Them aside, he couldn't stop staring at the

scaly man dressed in a black footman's suit.

"My oh my... is this how one greets another in this country?" The Asian man said with amusement. His eyes were not visible and it appeared that they were closed. His arms were placed inside his large sleeves. Beastboy assumed this was his country's basic attire. The Asian girl however... well... she looked like a prostitute.

"Well, no... but... I was kind of surprised to see that at my door." Beastboy answered a bit sheepishly and stared at the snake man. The Asian man turned his head towards the other male and noticed his discomfort.

"Is he really that shocking? Perhaps I have just gotten use to him." He mused while smiling.

"...how?" Beastboy blurted without thinking as he stared at the scales on the boy's face.

"The same way we have gotten use to your green skin, elf boy." Patzie said, coming up from behind Beastboy and resting her arm on his head; leaning against the shorter boy. Her green eyes scanned the three quickly. "Well well... who do we have here?" Patzie asked while staring at the girl who seemed to be observing her every move.

"Ah, before we give our names, could you please tell us whether the young Earl Phantomhive is residing here or not?" The Asian man asked, that same amused smile on his face. The other male's eyes lit up at the name.

"Yes, is Smile here?" He exclaimed, freaking out Beastboy yet again who didn't know the snake man could talk.

"Smile? Earl Phantomhive?" Patzie asked while raising her eyebrow. "Who're they?"

"Phantomhive... Wait! Isn't that Ciel's last name?" Beastboy asked while looking up at Patzie.

"So the Earl is here..." The Asian man mused before walking in to the Tower. The girl shadowed his every step, as did the other male.

"Hey! You can't just waltz in here! We don't even know your names!" Beastboy exclaimed before running after them. The Asian man stopped dead in his tracks and Beastboy had to quickly stop to avoid crashing into him.

"I didn't? Oh my. My name is Lau." Lau motions over to the woman who was now clinging to his arm. "This is Ran Mao. And that," He points to the other male. "Is Snake."

"Oh." Beastboy muttered. *'Lau...? Ran Mao? So they're Japanese then!'* "Ahh.. Kohnichiwah." Beastboy said and bowed. Both Ran Mao and Lau stared at him with blank expressions. Patzie then smacked Beastboy over the head, the force making him fall on his face. She then turned towards the two and sighed.

"W? h?n bàoqiàn w? de péngy?u shénme xi?ngd?ng yúch?n de q?ng yuánliàng t?." She said in an

apologetic tone and bowed.

"T? shì h?o de. T? chángcháng f?sh?ng." He replied and waved her off.

28 - The Life Sentence

Patzie watched the young girl before her drink her tea. After causing a scene late at a night the other day, she had spent many hours trying to figure out why the *"Angel of Death"* had returned to the tower.

The two ANBU members were the only ones in the main room, seeing as everyone else was undergoing their daily training sessions. Patzie stared deep into Aiko's eyes and found no emotion within them.

However, she noticed that there was a small smirk on the younger girl's lips.

"If there is something on your mind, please come out and say it rather than just glaring at me." Aiko said as she placed her cup down onto the table. Patzie raised her eyebrow at the comment before sighing and leaning slightly to the side and resting her face on her palm.

"You never use to be this snarky." Patzie murmured, earning a small chuckle from Aiko who was now stirring her tea with a spoon slowly.

"People change, senpai." She mused, a smirk appearing on her lips. Patzie narrowed her eyes slightly.

"Crystal is a good example for such a statement." Patzie watched the girl closely to see her reaction to Crystal, however, her expression remained as blank as before, yet the stirring had stopped.

"That girl has always been that way. The only thing that has changed is your opinion of her." Aiko stated coldly while placing her spoon down on the table. Patzie smirked and began fingering a strand of her hair that was hanging in front of her eye. She turned to look out the window and her mind began to drift back to the past.

"You always hated her, didn't you?" Patzie whispered as she remembered their childhood and the constant fighting the two had gone through. Aiko closed her eyes and took another sip of tea.

"Emotions are pointless, as we were taught in the ANBU. They're a distraction. But yes, I never trusted her." Patzie turned to look at her with dull eyes.

"So, what is the real reason you are here?" Aiko smirked and set down her cup as she slowly stood. She opened her eyes and stared at her with cold eyes.

"Isn't it obvious? I'm here to destroy a lying rat." She stated calmly and Patzie's eyes widened a fraction of an inch.

"Konoha... sent you to kill Crystal, didn't they?" Aiko chuckled at the question and walked over to the kitchen, where she began to rinse out her cup.

"Of course. She, like Sasuke, has become a rouge ninja from the Hidden Leaf. Not only that, but because of who she is, she needs to be dealt with immediately."

Patzie's eyes narrowed. There were only a selected few who knew the truth about Crystal. She is a Hokage prodigy; a powerful person in both potential and status. While it was known by everyone that she is Naruto's sister and the Fourth Hokage's daughter, it was not well-known that she was also the Fifth Hokage's daughter as well. Crystal was an experiment developed in a lab. She carries the DNA of both Tsunade and Minato.

"So, because she is Tsunade-Sama's daughter... she's being dealt with as soon as possible?" Patzie asked and Aiko chuckled as she set the cup on the counter to air dry.

"It's not just that! Because she is the 'ninja of prodigy', she knows secrets of our village and our way of life that need to remain secret. After the reports Kakashi has given Tsunade, she made the decision to kill her." Aiko smiled and turned around to face Patzie who noticed a small gleam in her blue eyes.

"Speaking of death... have you heard about Itachi Uchiha?" Patzie's eyes narrowed slightly.

"What about him?" She hissed and Aiko laughed.

"Well, aren't we hostel? I didn't know you hated him that much. If that's the case, you will be more than happy to hear the news.... Itachi Uchiha is dead." Aiko smiled as she watched Patzie's anger melt away into shock and then to sorrow.

"...dead? Itachi?" Patzie whispered as memories the two of them had shared filled her head.

"Yes. He died." Aiko stated coldly and watched the older girl with amusement. "Come to think of it, weren't you two together once?" Aiko raised her eyebrow as her smirk only grew wider. Patzie didn't say a word and instead brought her hands in front of her face and stared at them.

"Itachi..." She whispered and clenched her fists.

"Sasuke killed him actually. There was a lot of rejoicing after we all heard the news. But, there was apparently a dark secret behind Itachi, one that only a few of us know." Patzie lifted her head at this and stared at Aiko with wide eyes. "I'm sure you of all people would-"

"That's enough!" Both girls looked over to the doorway where Naruto now stood. His usual smile was gone and his expression was that of someone trying to control their anger. Aiko scowled at the boy but then gave him a false smile.

"Ah... Uzumaki Naruto. It's been a while." Aiko mused. "Why did you stop me?" She asked innocently. "Shouldn't that traitor's former lover know his dirty little secret? I mean, you of all people even know-" She was cut off by the sound of Naruto's fist slamming into the wall. Both Patzie and Aiko were shocked by his actions, but Aiko quickly regained her composure.

"Don't. Don't you ever speak that way about Itachi Uchiha again." He threatened, earning a smirk from Aiko. She chuckled and walked towards him to leave. As she got near him, she stopped.

"You have a soft spot for traitors, don't you Uzumaki? Tell me... how is it that you thought you could stop your sister when you couldn't even stop Sasuke?" She whispered in his ear with a smile. "Oh, and Patzie... Itachi wasn't a traitor. He died protecting the village." She called out and left.

"Aiko!" Naruto yelled and turned to go after her when a voice stopped him.

"U-Uzumaki..." He froze in his tracks and slowly turned to look at the girl. Patzie's hair was covering her eyes from his view and she continued to stare down at the floor. "Is... is that true...? Itachi... didn't betray Konoha?" She whispered and Naruto's eyes softened. He clenched his fist and looked away from her.

"Yes. Itachi loved his village. He murdered his entire family in order to protect Konoha... apparently, the Uchihas were going to rise up and overthrow the Hokage... so as an ANBU member and an Uchiha, Itachi was chosen to carry out the mission to end the Uchiha Clan... which he did. No one was allowed to know about the mission and Itachi was banished from the village so he would be seen as a villain and balance would be restored." Naruto couldn't bring himself to look at her. He knew that Itachi was very important to her just as Sasuke was important to Sakura.

His eyes widened as he felt her hands grasp the front of his shirt. He hadn't even noticed her walk over to him. He turned to look at her and his eyes widened even more. Her eyes were filled with tears and pain. In all his years of knowing this girl... he had never once seen her cry. Not once. Not even when her biological parents were murdered. Yet here she was, breaking into pieces in front of him. He felt her hands grasp the fabric of his shirt tighter and she bit her lip.

"Why..." She whispered as more tears fell from her eyes. "Why did no one tell me?" Naruto closed his eyes and quickly wrapped his arms around her.

"Because we didn't want to see you like this... I can't even look at you... it kills me inside." He whispered and hugged her tighter. The older ninja said nothing but she held Naruto tightly against her body and cried.

Aiko stood outside the door, leaning against the wall with her arms crossed. She could faintly hear the muffled cries coming from the once emotionless ninja who was now crying into Naruto's chest behind the door.

"Why did you tell her that?" A voice suddenly asked. Aiko opened her eyes and glanced over to her left to see Sakura standing there, her eyes wide with shock. As she met her gaze, Sakura's eyes shifted to stare at the floor.

"You heard all of that?" Aiko asked casually. Sakura shook her head and grasped her forearm.

"Not all of it... I was chasing after Naruto and I heard him yelling. I put two and two together. Why did you tell her?" She asked sadly. Aiko raised an eyebrow.

"She had a right to know. Wouldn't you have wanted to know if it was Sasuke who had been killed?" Aiko questioned, a smirk forming on her lips. Sakura's eyes widened and she looked up at Aiko who was now smiling. "Are you jealous that Naruto is comforting her?" She teased. Sakura's heart seemed to stop and her blood ran cold.

"N-No... I just thought it was cruel of you to-"

"And it wasn't cruel to lie about it or for her to remain thinking that the person she loves is still alive? The meaning of kindness must have changed while I've been in the ANBU." Aiko calmly stated. Sakura's eyes narrowed and she clenched her fists.

"It didn't change. You are the one who doesn't know the meaning!" Sakura exclaimed and Aiko chuckled.

"Oh? Would you please remind me who it was that played with Naruto's emotions for years while they chased after someone who obviously didn't want them?" Aiko sneered, her eyes hardening into a death glare. Sakura's eyes widened.

"What are you-"

"You knew Naruto loved you. You knew he would do anything for you. You also knew Sasuke had no interest in you... yet you continued to chase after Sasuke while hurting Naruto in the process. Tell me, Sakura, why is Naruto so determined to bring Sasuke back... even though he knows Sasuke will probably kill him?"

Sakura's heart stopped as she remembered the battle between Naruto and Sasuke when Sasuke first had left. Naruto had almost lost his life... he was badly injured, but still...

"Naruto... this is a promise of a lifetime... please bring Sasuke back..."

Tears formed in her eyes and she quickly covered her mouth with her hand. She had bound Naruto to her and Sasuke by a promise she forced Naruto to make. Naruto had endured so much pain because of Sasuke... and because of her.

"Aren't you his teammate? His friend? Or is he just someone you want to use-"

"Why are you causing so much trouble today?" Fade asked while placing her hand on Aiko's shoulder. Aiko smiled and greeted her with a smile.

"I'm not causing trouble, I'm merely stating facts. I'm tired of everyone playing it easy on each other. The truth needs to be heard." She chided and smiled at Sakura. "Sorry if it hurt you, but you did need to hear it! I've got things to do, so I will see all of you later!" She called out and waved to them as she left. Fade sighed and looked over at Sakura who seemed to be in a state of depression.

"Don't let what she said get to you." Fade smiled and patted the pink-haired ninja's shoulder. Sakura smiled sadly and nodded at her words. However, she knew that the Anbu member had spoken the truth.

xXxXxXx

Where am I?

Her eyes opened slowly to reveal a pitch black room. Her body felt light, like a feather.

Am I dead?

She could feel nothing. Not pain, not sorrow, nor happiness. She felt a soft thud in her chest and her eyes widened. Her pale hand grabbed the fabric covering her chest as another soft "thud" was heard.

My heart? Oh... that's right. He gave me back my heart... but then...

Her eyes closed in sadness and her hand fell back to her side.

I died. This is death... I am dead...

She wasn't sure whether to feel happy or sad about being dead. While she would never see the man she loved again, she was at least free from her creator's grasp. She smiled peacefully and started to become at ease with this news. However, a sudden light caught her gaze. The small light then grew into a sea of flames that surrounded her body. Her eyes widened and her mouth opened to scream but no sound came out.

"You have died, but your services are still needed. With my power, I shall return your pathetic life and you will serve me." A demonic voice boomed, echoing in the empty room. Her eyes widened in fear as she felt some strength returning to her and then she felt the pain in her chest from the wound that had killed her. She clutched her chest in agony and let out a silent scream. "The pain you feel is the proof that you live." The voice continued and the flames intensified, as did her pain. Then suddenly, the pain and the flames vanished. She sat there, eyes wide, and her hand clutching her chest and breathed heavily.

"Now... you will serve me and you will live until my wish is fulfilled..." The voice stated and she gasped as she felt something from inside her being removed. The pain was gone, but so was the thumping sound that had brought her so much peace. Tears filled her eyes as she realized her precious possession had been taken away yet again.

"Do you understand, Kagura?"

Her eyes flashed open in shock as she sprung up from her position on the floor. Her red eyes, filled with panic, searched the area she was in. Unlike the empty abyss she was in before, this place was an actual room. The floor was made of dirt and the walls made of stone. She seemed to have been lying on some sort of fabric.

Sweat coated her forehead and if she had a heart, it would more than likely be racing. Her eyes were wide with fear and disbelief. I'm alive... She thought sadly. She had finally found peace; she had become the wind. Now she was here, alive, and enslaved.

"Kagura." She jumped a few inches and quickly turned in the direction of the voice. She was shocked to see Kikyo standing in front of the door to the room. Kagura's eyes narrowed as she spotted the cold priestess.

"Kikyo... what are you doing here?" Kagura asked, obviously not trusting the woman before her. However, she was shocked to see the priestess smile sadly at her. Never before had Kagura seen Kikyo smile in such a way... the few times she saw her smile it was an evil smile. This, however, was a smile of

pity and sadness.

"I am here for the same reason you are." She started and lifted her hands to stare at her palms. "My abilities are needed." She whispered sadly. Kagura's eyes narrowed in confusion.

"What do you mean 'needed'? How am I even alive? Naraku killed me." She yelled and Kikyo smiled that same sad smile. Instead of answering, she handed the demoness a folded kimono. It was then brought to Kagura's attention that she was naked. She wasn't a modest person and she had been naked in front of people before, so it didn't matter all that much. She snatched away the folded cloth and began to dress herself. It was then that the priestess began to speak.

"You did die. That day, Naraku gave you back your heart and then he killed you. However, you are alive now. Your flesh and blood have been restored... as have mine." Kikyo whispered. Kagura's eyes widened.

"What do you mean by that?" Kagura asked. Kikyo sighed and sat down on the floor.

"I am just as alive as you." She whispered and took out a small blade from the sleeve of her kimono. She pressed the metal against her skin and applied a slight pressure as she ran the blade down her arm. Kagura gasped as a thick, red liquid oozed out of the newly made wound. Then the wound was consumed with fire, but the priestess seemed unfazed by it. The fire disappeared just as soon as it came and when it dispersed, the wound was gone. It didn't even leave a scar.

"What just happened?" Kagura exclaimed, jumping to her feet and her eyes never leaving the priestess's wrist. Kikyo placed the blade back in her sleeve and stared at her wrist as well.

"The person who resurrected us has used their power to make sure we stay alive. I was already 'killed' once again since I awoken in this place." Kikyo stated while placing her fingers against her throat and tracing the skin there lightly with her fingertips. "I was at peace thinking that I could return to the dead. But..."

Flashback:

Crystal watched as Claude left with Fade, her eyes narrowing in annoyance. She knew what his intentions were, but, a mission was a mission. She was suddenly distracted by a bright light coming from where the priestess's body had fallen. She watched with an intrigued expression as flames engulfed the priestess's neck.

"So, this is the regenerative power Slade had mentioned." Crystal mumbled to herself as the flames dispersed, revealing Kikyo whose head was reattached. A smaller flame was forming in the middle of her back, healing the wound inflicted on her by the kunai. Kikyo's eyes slowly opened and she looked up at Crystal with bleary, confused eyes.

"I thought I had died...?" She whispered. Crystal sighed.

"No. You are bound to Trigon until he doesn't need you anymore..." Crystal stated and looked away from the priestess. "We are all bound." Kikyo's eyebrows furrowed in confusion.

"What do you mean?" She asked the former Team Alpha member, who was about to respond when she was cut off by someone entering the room.

"She means that as long as Trigon needs us, we won't die." Kikyo's eyes widened as she saw who was speaking. Terra smirked and pulled down the neckline of the black T-shirt she was wearing, exposing a pale scar that ran across her chest, just below her collarbone.

"This is proof of that." Terra snarled and pulled her shirt back up. Kikyo touched her neck and stared in horror at Terra and Crystal. Just what had she been dragged into?

End of Flashback.

"We have been casted into an eternal hell.... A hell that will end with the living being dragged into hell."
Kikyo whispered sadly.

29 - The Power of the Geass

Fade, Naruto, Robin, and Starfire sat around a circular table in an isolated room where they could discuss certain things in peace. After having some new arrivals, they needed to discuss which groups would be getting some new members and then discuss the lack of teamwork within these groups.

"Well, what do you expect? We've hardly had any time to train together as teams, nor have any of us been assigned to any legit missions." Fade explained while pretending to be upset over the matter. However, that was far from the truth. She was happy that she didn't have to spend time with her team. AKA, the 'love triangle.' Starfire nodded her head in agreement to Fade's statement and then turned to look at Robin.

"She is right. We have only met with our teams once. I wish to spend more time to have the getting to know time with everyone." Starfire cheered.

"Also, with Trigon growing stronger, we need to better acquaintance ourselves with everyone's powers if we want to have some sort of teamwork." Naruto chimed in. Fade watched Robin's face fall into an expression of determination. She knew what that look meant. Instantly, she shot her other two fellow leaders a glare.

"You are all right." Robin stated, slowly rising from his chair and turning his back to them in order to look out the window. His gaze was fixed below on the island grounds, where most of the Tower's inhabitants were out playing around. "When this battle with Trigon emerges, I don't want us to be so unprepared that we will end up paying an awful price and losing someone we love." He muttered and then turned back to face his fellow leaders. "As leaders of these teams, we cannot allow our comrades to charge into battle with their own comrade's powers foreign to them. As commander of the Teen Titans, I declare we spend the next 3 to 4 weeks training, fighting, and hanging out with our teams... and only our teams. To make this as effective as I can, each team will be sent to a different area in the world where they will live together, away from the other teams. Understood?" Robin stated, his determination practically radiating off of him.

"...That's all fine and dandy... but, where do you suppose we go?" Fade asked.

"That will be decided later. As for the new members... how many are there?" Robin asked.

"Four." Naruto muttered while sighing and resting his cheek on his palm as he stared out the window.

"Four? There are four teams... so one for each." Robin said while punching his fist into his palm, an accomplished smile on his face.

"Congratulations, Robin, you know math!" Fade teased and the boy wonder shot her a glare.

"Anyway, I guess we could just pick who we want." Naruto shrugged.

"Wouldn't that be a bit... wrong?" Starfire asked. "The teams weren't originally chosen like that."

Fade nodded. "It is a bit unfair... what do you think, Robin-" Fade stopped when she noticed Robin typing away at the large computer in the room. She raised an eyebrow, curious about what he was doing.

"Done." He said, a smug smile on his lips. Fade walked over to look at the screen.

"?" She questioned. "Is that how you created the teams, too?" She asked and he nodded.

"So, who goes with whom?" Naruto drawled out and let out a big yawn. Fade scanned over the new teams listed.

"Aiko is now with Team One, Snake is with Team Two, Ran Mao is in Team Three, and Lau is in Team Four." She read aloud. Starfire nearly leapt with joy.

"Friend Aiko is a part of my team! It has been so very long since we have done the 'hanging out' and I have missed her quite a lot!" Starfire exclaimed while clapping her hands and spinning in circles.

Fade stared at the list of names again, her lips pressing into a hard line. Robin noticed her distress and touched her shoulder.

"Something wrong?" He whispered. She stared at him for a moment before sighing.

"I have a proposition." She began, which caught everyone's attention. "I want to remove some people from the teams." She finally said after a few minutes of silence. Naruto's eyes widened, as did Starfire's. Robin remained calm, yet curious.

"What do you mean? Like... remove them from the Titans?" Naruto asked with disbelief in his eyes.

"No." Fade said quickly. "I mean from the training; the fighting.... Some of them aren't fully equipped enough for a battle like the one we are preparing for." She said sadly. "I don't want them to get injured....or killed." She whispered. Starfire's eyes saddened as she realized Fade was right.

"I'm assuming you're referring to Akihiko and Misaki?" Robin asked. Fade shook her head.

"Not just them. Ciel, too." She said.

"Ciel? But with Sebastian he's-" Robin started but Naruto cut him off.

"Sebastian isn't even on the same team as him, remember?" Naruto stated and Robin clenched his jaw, the situation finally registering in his head.

"Exactly. While Ciel has been trained well by Naruto, he's still only 13... and he's human." She stated and everyone nodded. "He is at risk." She finished.

"You trained Akihiko, right, Fade? Why is he unable to battle? He seems strong to me." Naruto questioned. Fade sighed.

"Usagi- er, Akihiko does have some knowledge in basic martial arts... but his motivation is to protect Misaki. Also, he is still human." She stated.

"Robin is human, too. So are you and the other ninjas." Starfire pointed out and a confused expression overcame her as Fade shook her head.

"Robin is indeed human, but he never lived a 'normal' life. He was trained to fight and to be a hero since he was young. The same thing applies to us ninjas. We're designed for combat. Ciel was born into a high-class family where due to horrible circumstances he had to take over the family business at the age of 10. He has only been able to accomplish all that he has because of his demonic butler fighting for him. Ciel doesn't even know how to dress himself properly, much less fend for himself." Fade explained. "Misaki grew up living a normal life and knows how to support himself... but let's face it, he's not a fighter. Misaki is more like a maid or a house wife rather than a warrior.... And Usagi san?" She sighs and smiles. "Usagi san is Usagi san. He's a giant child who only lives for Misaki. He's had almost everything handed to him and really his only skill is writing. Those three are the definition of human; they're fragile." She finished and looked over at her comrades.

"So... what exactly is your plan with this?" Naruto asked.

"Yes... if we leave them behind at home and if the enemy was to invade... how could they protect themselves?" Starfire asked, a horrified expression on her face as the thought of her new friends being in danger crossed her mind. Fade nodded.

"I thought about that too. I also wanted to remove Pluto from my team as well."

"Pluto? The demon dog?" Robin asked, while raising his imaginary eyebrow.

"Yes. Sebastian told me that Pluto acted as a 'guard dog' at the Phantomhive Manor. Surely he can become our guard dog here. They will have some protection."

"Some... but not all." Naruto whispered; still not convinced that this is the best option. "The enemy could surely overpower Pluto if they had the right numbers. Then what?" Naruto asked. This left Fade speechless; she didn't know how to answer. The sound of Robin's fist slamming into his palm broke the silence.

"I've got it." He announced. "While we are training, one group will remain at the Tower... and in the event that we go away somewhere to fight this war against Trigon, I will call in some old friends to come and protect them at the Tower. We aren't the only Titans, you know." He said while smiling. Fade smiled too.

"I never thought of that! That's a great idea!" She said and Robin smirked.

"Of course it is. I thought it up. This is why I am the leader of the Titans." He bragged and Fade slugged him.

"And this is why I never compliment you, you egotistical dunce." She muttered. "Now that there are more spots open, I'd like to suggest something else... I think Ran Mao and Lau should be on the same team. I

heard Ran Mao is Lau's servant; she won't follow anyone else." Fade stated.

"Well, Misaki and Akihiko are both being removed from Naruto's team, so they can take their places. Aiko and Snake will remain with the teams I assigned them too." Robin said.

"Sounds good... so, shall we go gather the troops and reveal the new plans?" Naruto asked and everyone nodded. "Well now, I can't wait to see how Ciel's pride handles it." He whispered.

Fade sighed as she stood in front of everyone, silently cursing Robin for giving her the dreaded task of informing them of the recently decided plan. She looked over at Ciel and cursed the boy wonder once more. She knew Ciel would hate her for this. She took a deep breath.

"Alright... we team leaders had a meeting the other day; a meeting about this upcoming war... and we have come to a decision." She started. She looked over to Naruto, who nodded at her in support. She released the breath she had been holding. "Ciel, Misaki, Pluto, and Akihiko will no longer be a part of these teams." As predicted, Ciel shot up from his spot on the sofa, his childish face twisted in anger and disbelief. Misaki had dropped the plate he was washing and his mouth was open in shock. Akihiko and Pluto shared the same expression of boredom.

"What?" Ciel and Misaki shouted in unison. Fade sighed and gave them an apologetic look.

"It's for your own protection..." She started.

"Let's face it; you aren't able to participate in this level of fighting yet. You could be killed." Naruto stated while crossing his arms.

"What Naruto is trying to say is... in order for us to protect you, we are taking you out of the fight." Fade explained.

"No, you're treating us like children!" Ciel shouted, his cheeks burning red from his frustration.

"Well, you're acting like children now!" Naruto shouted back, shocking the Earl and causing him to calm down a bit.

"Let's hear Keira out..." Misaki said after a few minutes while placing a hand on Ciel's shoulder in an attempt to calm him down. Fade smiled at Misaki in thanks before continuing her explanation.

"Trigon is not like any other villain we have faced. He's dangerous; merciless... and he will not hesitate to kill. He's assembled a team of villains that all of us have had trouble defeating in the past. Ciel, despite what you say... you're still a kid." She flinched at the glare he sent her. "... and your fighting technique is still premature... Sebastian isn't on your team anymore... he can't protect you all the time."

"The hell he can't!" Ciel yelled; his face flushed in anger. Sebastian took this opportunity to intervene and he gently touched his master's shoulder and bent down to whisper in his ear.

"Young Master, you are acting quite childish indeed. Miss Hatake does indeed have a point." He whispered and stared at his young charge with concern in his eyes. Ciel smacked his hand away.

"You're only defending her because you're in love with her! You are my butler, Sebastian! You are to never disobey me or go against my wishes!" He shouted, causing a sea of gasps. Fade looked away in embarrassment. Sebastian, however, seemed unfazed.

"My lord," He began and waited for his master's attention before continuing. "I am merely your pawn in a game of chess; you're tool to victory. I will never lie to you, nor will I go against your wishes. I belong to you, body and soul." Sebastian stated while getting down one knee and placing his hand over his heart.
"I am yours until the very end."

Everyone was speechless, including Ciel. Lelouch glanced over at Fade, who was staring at Sebastian with wide eyes. He could see the pain in her eyes. Ciel looked over at the girl as well, not sure what to say and slightly ashamed that he had acted out in such a way.

"Well, I believe that's enough for today." Fade said, ending the silence. She laughed forcefully and scratched the back of her head. "I'm sorry for this sudden news, you guys, but it really is for the best. Now, if you'll excuse me, I have some preparations to tend to." She waved to everyone before using her powers to teleport out of the room. Everyone muttered amongst themselves and would throw a quick glance over to Sebastian. Sebastian was emotionless as he rose to his feet and placed both hands on his master's shoulders.

"Come, young master. It has gotten quite late and it is way past your bedtime." He said with a blank smile. Ciel blinked at his butler with shock before nodding.

"P-perhaps you're right..." He muttered before looking back to where Fade had been standing. Why did he say such things? He really was a child...

The two left the room and everyone else soon dispersed. Only Lelouch and C2 lingered in the room. The immortal girl looked over at her partner with emotionless eyes as she tried to read his thoughts. She saw the look in his eyes and sighed.

"Go after her." She said finally as she began walking towards the door. Lelouch said nothing as he watched her leave. He didn't really hear her anyway; his decision had already been made. And with that, he headed off to retrieve his heart.

Sebastian closed the door to his master's room and walked over to the boy who was sitting on his bed. In silence, the butler began to undress the Earl and then dressed him in his nightshirt. Ciel watched the demon curiously. Sebastian was behaving differently. All life seemed to be gone from his eyes. His movements were slower; sadder. It was both pathetic... and heartbreaking to watch. Ciel could even tell his demon was upset... something he had never seen before in all the years he has been with Sebastian... and it was all his fault.

"Seba-"Ciel started but was cut off by Sebastian tucking him into bed.

"The young master needs his sleep; we have quite a busy day tomorrow." He said with a fake smile before leaving the room. Sebastian paused as he closed the door, his hand covering his face as he became lost in thought for a mere second. Brushing off his thoughts, he made his way towards his room. However, he was stopped by Rin blocking his path; Naruto was with him. Sebastian blinked once before smiling towards the two.

"Good evening. What brings you two so close to my quarters at this time of night? Especially you, Rin. We have training early in the morning. Shouldn't you be-" Sebastian quickly dodged, causing the kunai to wiz by his head and pinning to the wall behind him. All amusement vanished from the butler's face as he stared at the culprit; Naruto.

"You're a real piece of shoot, you know that?" Naruto growled.

"I don't know what you mean." Sebastian stated; his face blank.

"What you did to Fade. That was low." Naruto hissed, his eyes narrowing. "And then you don't even go to apologize. What the hell is wrong with you?" He yelled and clenched his fist.

"Yeah! I mean, she's your girlfriend, right? Why would you practically reject her in front of everyone?" Rin chimed in while sending his mentor a glare. Sebastian gave them a smile.

"There must have been some kind of misunderstanding. There was no 'rejection', as you put it. Miss Hatake and I were never involved in an intimate relationship. I have always belonged to my master and only my master." Sebastian stated coldly.

"That's a load of crap." Naruto spit out. "I've seen the way you look at her and how she looks at you. Don't you dare stand here and say there was nothing intimate about it!" Naruto yelled as he slammed his fist into the wall. "Oh wait, I forgot. Demons are cruel. Demons use humans. Demons can't love." Naruto yelled, flashes of his own childhood filling his head. Rin looked down sadly as his comrade's words had also affected him. "Fade really is a fool for loving you! She should have stayed with Lelouch! At least he actually loved her-" Naruto was silenced by Sebastian slamming him into the wall. His eyes were a dark purple, his pupils slits, and his fangs were enlarged.

"Don't you dare say I do not love her." He spat as a low growl emitted from his throat. Naruto glared at the enraged demon, completely unfazed by the death-grip around his neck.

"If you loved her, you wouldn't be standing there, fighting with that ninja while my partner makes his move." The three men turned their heads to see C2 standing at the end of the hall, her arms crossed over her chest as she glared at them softly. Sebastian's eyes widened slightly and his grip on Naruto's neck slackened.

"Lelouch is going after Fade. You should know that he has an ability... an ability to make her his again." C2 whispered as she shifted her gaze to the floor. Naruto's eyes widened a bit.

"His geass... he's going to use it on her, C2?" Naruto asked.

"If I am correct, that is his intention." C2 answered sadly. "He only wants her..." She whispered. Naruto let out a startled gasp as Sebastian released him and he fell to the ground. Before another word was said, Sebastian had vanished.

Fade sat on the rocky ledge of a nearby waterfall. Not many people knew about this place, she only did because it was one of Raven's favorite training places. After Raven showed her this place, it had become Fade's thinking area. She sat near the water at the top of the waterfall, her arms hugging her knees to her chest as she stared out at the T-shaped Tower in the distance. She shivered slightly as the chilly night air brushed against her bare arms.

"Here." A voice whispered as something was draped across her shoulders. Blinking in shock, she grabbed the cloth and looked up to see who had disturbed her quiet environment. Lelouch smiled at her and sat down before adjusting his cape that he had placed on her. "That should keep you warm. It's pretty cold out here." He stated and then leaned back, using his arms for support. Fade said nothing as she returned her gaze to the tower.

"Why are you here?" She asked, breaking the silence.

"To see if you're okay. That was one pretty harsh break up." He smiled softly. He watched as her hands grasped her arms tightly. "I can see you're in pain." He said softly and brushed his fingers against her hair.

"It's not the first time." She replied curtly and brushed him off. He sighed and pulled his hand away.

"I know... and I am sorry. I really am..." He whispered and then lifted his head to look up at the stars.

"No amount of apologies can make up for what you put me through." She whispered coldly.

"I know. I'm scum." He chuckled slightly. She turned to face him, her eyes sparkling with anger.

"I don't think this is a joking matter." She hissed. Lelouch smiled and placed his hand on her cheek.

"It's not... but you're finally looking at me." He whispered and her eyes softened as she stared into his violet eyes. He leaned closer and placed a soft kiss on her forehead. She froze.

"Lelouch..." She whispered.

"Do you remember how we first met?" He asked suddenly as he huddled her into his arms, much to her surprise. He rested his chin on the top of her head as she sat in his lap. "You were on a mission to recruit new members. You even went to the past and the future. You entered a battlefield when you came to my era. There were civilians trapped there, Britannian and Japanese, but their nationalities didn't matter to you." He whispered as his eyes softened at the memories.

"You and those innocent people were about to be shot down by the Britannian army. You stood there, in front of the guns aimed at you, and told them to give it their best shot and that you wouldn't let those people die. I was watching you from my hiding area in the battlefield and to be quite honest, I thought you were a fool. But as I witnessed you tearing down the enemies machines, I was stunned. Then those Britannians you fought to protect called you a freak and harassed you for being Japanese. They never thanked you. Yet, you smiled at them. You told them that no matter what they said or did to you, you wouldn't regret saving them... because to you," He paused and smiled as his thumb stroked her hand gently. "Everyone is equal." He pulled her away slightly so their eyes met. "And that's when I started falling for you." Fade blushed and looked away before moving out of his lap and back into her previous position.

"I'm surprised you remember that." She whispered.

"Of course I do." He chuckled. "It's the first memory I have with you." She turned to look at him, her eyes slightly wide.

"If you really did love me, why did you leave me to believe you had died?" She asked softly.

"My death brought peace. I needed that peace to last. The moment C2 recovered my body; we headed off on a journey to come back here. Sadly, trying to get back to the portal Raven had given us was much harder than expected. I'm sorry it took so long." He whispered and placed his hand over hers.

"I wonder why I attract guys who only inflict pain on me...?" She pondered aloud.

"What if I said I could take the pain away?" Lelouch whispered, catching her attention.

"What?" She stuttered, her eyes wide. He took both of her hands in his and stared at her with determination.

"All of the pain; I can take it all away. I can make you as happy as you were before I died." He stated and she let out a small gasp.

"How...?" She whispered.

"My geass." Her heart seemed to stop as she remembered the past events when Lelouch had used his geass. He watched her quietly and waited for her answer. She removed her hands from his and turned back towards the tower.

"I would forget everything... wouldn't I?" She whispered as she thought back on her life after she had lost Lelouch. He gently cupped her cheek and turned her back towards him.

"You would only forget the pain you felt because of me... and because of Sebastian." Fade bit her lip as she processed his words. He smiled as he watched her consider it.

"If I said I wanted to forget... would I be selfish?" She whispered. His eyes widened some and then he smiled warmly. She always surprised him. He had never met anyone who asked him if it would be alright

to forget. Normally, they just demanded he do it right then and now.

"Sometimes, it's okay to be a little selfish." He whispered and leaned in closer to her face, his lips inches from hers. 'After all, I'm only doing this for my own selfish reasons.' He thought with a smirk. Fade's mind went blank as she stared into his eyes. She didn't realize that he was moving closer, or that their lips were mere centimeters away from each other's. However, a flicker of pink caught her attention as the geass symbol appeared in his eye.

She pulled away and shut her eyes quickly. Lelouch blinked in surprise at her actions and he quickly dispersed his geass. He touched her arm gently.

"What's wrong? Don't you want to forget?" He asked, almost frantically. She shook her head and shut her eyes tighter, this time in an attempt to hold back the tears that were threatening to fall.

"I can't forget!" She yelled, catching the boy off guard. Her eyes opened and tears leaked out. "I can't." She whispered. Memories of her life after losing Lelouch came rushing through her mind. "I can't forget this pain... the pain I've obtained from you made me who I am today." She smiled bitterly. "I don't want to change that. I am strong because of what I've gone through..." She whispered and wiped away her tears as she stood.

"But what about Sebastian? He hurt you too." He argued and rose to his feet as well.

"Sebastian..." She whispered his name and thought back on their moments together. She smiled warmly and hugged herself slightly as her eyes closed. "I am happy that I met him. I'm happy I fell in love with him. Because of him, I know that I can love someone other than you; I can move on." She turned towards Lelouch and smiled widely. "I don't want to lose any of the memories I've made with anyone; you or Sebastian." She said cheerfully, her expression full of pride.

Lelouch said nothing as he stared at the ground, his eyes hidden beneath his bangs. Fade looked at him worriedly for a second before walking towards him and placing a hand on his shoulder.

"Lelouch?" She whispered and she felt his body tense up.

"I'm sorry, Keira." He whispered before snatching her wrist and snapping his head up, his eye glowing pink with the geass's power. Before Fade could shut her eyes, his made contact with hers; activating the power. "I, Lelouch vi Britannia command you to.... Forget all the love you have for Sebastian and to forget the time I had died." He shouted.

Fade's eyes widened as the order was being carried out. Large chunks of her memory vanished from her mind and from the impact of it, she lost consciousness and fell backwards, only to be caught by Lelouch, who held her closely to his chest. He stared at her sleeping face lovingly and brushed a strand of hair off of her face.

"You were the one person I swore to never control... but you left me no choice." He whispered.

"You." He gasped as he heard an enraged snarl come from behind him. He turned to see Sebastian standing a few feet away, panting slightly. "What did you do to her?" He hissed. Lelouch smirked and

gently set the sleeping girl on the ground and then stood up to face the demon.

"We just talked. She got a bit tired and fell asleep." He smiled innocently before narrowing his eyes slightly at the demon. "But what would it matter to you, last I checked, Keira isn't your 'young master.'"

Lelouch spat. Sebastian's eyes flashed violet and his jaw clenched. "It's funny, really. She was so convinced that you loved her, yet you practically dumped her in front of all of her friends... and for a guy, even." Lelouch shook his head and laughed.

"You left her in a state of depression and from what I've heard; she even made an attempt on her life once because of you." Sebastian hissed as his body tensed from trying to keep control.

"I loved her and I never stopped trying to get back to her... and when I finally did, she was with you. She was in love with someone who was lying to her and using her. Tell me, if you are into little boys, then why did you even touch someone like her?" Lelouch asked as he snarled at Sebastian with disgust. In a mere second, Lelouch was hoisted up in the air by Sebastian, who had a strong grip on his collar.

"You don't know anything about me, Mr. Lamperouge." Sebastian snarled. "But I assure you, I will show you everything you need to know momentarily if you did anything to her." Sebastian threatened and his grip tightened.

"Hey, stop it you two!" A voice called out, startling them both. The two men looked over to see Fade sitting on the grass, her eyes wide and fearful. Sebastian dropped Lelouch immediately, who fell hard on his rump. In a matter of seconds, Sebastian was at Fade's side.

"Are you injured?" He asked quickly and started examining her body. His hand was swatted away by an embarrassed and aggravated Fade. Sebastian stared at her in shock.

"I'm fine, Sebastian. I would appreciate it if you wouldn't invade my personal space like that." She glared at the bewildered demon before realizing Lelouch was grumbling in pain. She quickly scrambled over to his side and asked him if he was okay in hushed whispers. She then turned back towards Sebastian and glared.

"I don't know what you two were fighting about, but as team leader, I will not allow such behavior!" She yelled and was about to shout more when Lelouch's hand cupped her cheek. Her eyes softened and she turned to look at the former prince.

"It's alright, I'm okay. It was all a big misunderstanding. Let's just return to the tower, okay, Keira?" He smiled and her cheeks burned red. She averted his gaze and instead, answered him with a nod. Sebastian reached his hand out to her, his eyes still wide and full of disbelief.

"Keira-"He called out to her, only to be stopped in mid sentence by the death glare she shot him.

"Sebastian, I know we come from different countries, but, I consider it to be disrespectful and rude for someone to call me by my first name when we are nothing more than comrades." She snarled before using her powers to teleport her and Lelouch back to the tower. Sebastian stood there in complete awe. Then, he slammed his fist into the ground, leaving a large ditch where the waterfall once stood.

30 - When a Heart Breaks

*“Love is never lost. If not reciprocated, it will flow back and soften and purify the heart.”
- Washington Irving*

Ciel couldn't sleep. He would toss and turn, count to a hundred and even count backwards from a thousand, but he just couldn't fall asleep. It wasn't as if his recent insomnia was a mystery to him; he knew quite well what was keeping him awake.

Guilt.

The pain in Fade's eyes... the suffering in Sebastian's; those images played in his head continuously. Had he not have acted like such a child, he wouldn't be in this state of mind right now. He sighed and threw his covers off of his body and started to make his way towards the door. He quietly walked through the halls, trying hard to keep his movements silent so he wouldn't draw attention to himself or wake anyone up. He reached his destination after a few minutes and he stood in front of the door. He swallowed his pride and knocked.

Instantly, the door opened and Ciel blushed as a pair of curious eyes fell upon him. He could tell that she was in the middle of getting ready for bed, seeing as though she was dressed in a long, white nightgown and there was a toothbrush hanging from her mouth.

“Ciel? What are you doing here at this hour?” Fade asked in surprise as she stared at the young earl. Ciel shifted his eyes and stared at the doorframe.

“...I wanted to talk to you.” He stated in a low, and slightly embarrassed, voice. Fade was caught by surprise again by the young boy's actions; showing such an embarrassed, fragile side was not something the boy would normally do. She stepped to the side and opened the door wider.

“Come in.” She said with a smile. She figured that something was bothering the boy and for whatever reason, he felt like he needed to confide in her. She wouldn't turn him away if he needed her. He gave her a nod and walked into her room. He looked over at a desk where many pictures were placed. He could see pictures of some sort of village, some of her and her friends, some of her family, and one with a man that he couldn't make out.

Before he could inquire about the man, she called over to him from her bed. He turned his gaze to her right as she patted the spot on her mattress right next to her. He understood the meaning and with a slight blush, he sat next to her.

“What was it you wanted to talk about, Ciel?” She asked kindly, which only made him feel even worse. His hands clasped together and he watched as his fingers rubbed together nervously.

“I... wanted to apologize for earlier.” He began, letting out a breath he didn't know he was holding. “I know you and the others are only looking out for me and everyone else... and I'm sorry for not realizing that sooner and that I acted like such a brat.” He closed his eyes and his fingers stopped their ministrations. His eyes shot open as he felt himself being pulled towards the girl. His head rested on her shoulder as her arm wrapped around him, holding him close to her as she rested her head atop of his.

She smiled warmly and squeezed the boy lovingly.

“You are no brat. You were upset... but thank you for the apology, Ciel.” She whispered, causing him to blush at both her words and their closeness. She released him from her hug and he stared at the floor in an awkward silence.

“...are you and Sebastian okay now?” He asked quietly. Fade’s eyebrow rose in confusion and she turned her body towards the boy.

“What do you mean by ‘okay’? I am a little annoyed with him for his act of rudeness in attacking my *boyfriend*.” She said with a pout and crossed her arms over her chest. “Honestly, I thought he was a little more sophisticated than that!” She snorted. Ciel’s eyes widened and he turned to look up at the girl.

“Your boyfriend?” Ciel asked in confusion. Surely she means Sebastian, right? Fade looked over at him and her expression softened as she noticed the shocked expression on the boy’s face.

“Ciel, are you feeling okay?” She asked softly and placed her hand onto his forehead. He blinked as her skin touched his and he quickly stood up. He started to back away towards the door and Fade watched him worriedly. Something caught his eye and he turned towards the object. It was the picture from before; the one he couldn’t see very well. However, he could see it perfectly now.

The man standing with his arms wrapped around Fade...was Lelouch.

“W..why is Lelouch in that picture with you?” He asked and pointed at the picture. Fade’s eyes narrowed in confusion.

“Because he’s my boyfriend.” She stated. Before anything else could be said, Ciel ran out of her room. Fade quickly ran towards the door and called out to him, but he kept on running. She sighed and placed a hand to her forehead. For some reason, everyone was acting weird today. First there was Sebastian and now Ciel, too. Her mind wandered back towards the look on Sebastian’s face as she and Lelouch left. He looked like he was in so much pain; like he had nothing left in the world. She gasped in pain and clutched her head and his face vanished from her mind as did the pain in her head.

“That... was weird.” She murmured and then shrugged it off.

xXxXxXxXx

“That’s it, Ryoko. Just relax your mind and let your energy flow.” Raven instructed as she watched the tiny girl enter a spiritual state. This girl and Raven shared the powers of empathy, except this girl had not learned to bring the power forth at her command. Also, Raven wanted to try and seal away the power needed to restore Trigon, if that was at all possible.

Ryoko’s breathing evened out and she began to levitate off of the ground. Her eyes remained closed and she quietly chanted a mantra that helped her focus on her powers. However, Raven’s focus was lost as her mind spaced out and a startled gasp escaped her lips.

Images of a city flashed through her head, along with bits and pieces of faces. All the images stopped and a single man appeared. He was tall and bald; the only hair on him was a thin beard along his jaw. He wore orange, Autumn-colored clothing that appeared to be from an earlier time period than the one she currently lived in. Her eyes widened as she caught the sight of a blue arrow on his head.

“...Aang?” She whispered. The man smiled.

“It has been quite some time, Raven.” He said kindly. Raven was speechless. The last time she had ever seen Aang was before she had sent him and his friends back to their own time, but he was just a kid then. That was 4 years ago. This Aang, however, looked about 40.

“I’m sure you are quite confused, but even you must know that our worlds are very different. What has been 4 years for you has been close to 80 for me. I have grown up... and I have died.” He explained calmly. Raven’s eyes widened at this information.

“Why... are you in my mind?” She whispered.

“Because...” He began, his eyes showing no sign of childish innocence as they use to. “I need you all to assist my reincarnation and help her restore balance.” He stated. It was silent for a few moments as Raven processed this.

“So, you want me to visit your world and do what?” She asked.

“Bring Korra and her team back here with you and have them train. They aren’t strong enough yet to fight alone.” He smiled kindly at the empath. “You all are my friends and I trust that you will help Korra.” Raven narrowed her eyes in confusion. How could she help someone with their training when no one on their team has the same abilities?

“How are we even supposed to train them?” She asked. Aang raised his eyebrow in confusion.

“Don’t you have a group of elemental benders...?” Aang asked as he suddenly started to fade away. “You have a group of talented benders around you. I’m sure they will help out the Avatar... as a favor for me.” He smiled right before he vanished from her sight. The last thing Raven heard before returning to reality was Aang’s voice saying, “I believe in you.”

“Ms. Raven?” Ryoko whispered. Raven gasped as she came out of her trance. The first thing she saw was Ryoko’s blue eyes staring at her with worry.

“I’m okay, Ryoko. However, I need to cut our training short today; there’s somewhere I need to go.”

She stated as her black aura surrounded her and she took flight as her aura formed the shape of a raven. Ryoko watched as her mentor flew away and the young girl placed a hand on her hip with a sigh.

“Now how am I supposed to channel my powers?” She whined and sat on a rock.

“You could try doing it yourself.” A voice commented sarcastically. Ryoko rolled her eyes and turned towards the direction of the voice. She stuck her tongue out at Zero, who was leaning against a tree trunk, watching her.

“You say it as if it is easy. I’d like to see you try to it.” She snapped and crossed her arms. Zero gave her a small smile before walking towards her.

“I don’t have the capability to unleash such powers. However, I can probably help you with your training.” He said as he ruffled her hair. She glared at him and quickly smoothed her hair back in place.

“It’s worth a try.” She whispered. In truth, she was more than willing to do anything as long as her powers were awoken and stabilized.

“Alright. Find your center and release all your connections to this world. Let your mind relax.” Zero whispered. Ryoko began to even out her breathing once more and she let her mind go blank. The only sound she could hear was the sound of her breathing. Suddenly, a warm feeling washed over her and then a feeling of fear. She gasped and opened her eyes at the sensation. The feeling was overwhelming; it scared her. She looked over at Zero for an explanation and her eyes widened. She could see a strange color surround her friend; the color was a pale yellow. She also could feel the fear coming off of him.

“Ryoko?” Zero asked in confusion as the girl continued to stare at him with disbelief.

“What... is this?” She whispered as the color surrounding Zero darkened.

31 - Just So We're Clear... (Not an actual chapter.)

So... for those who are new to this story, (THANK YOU FOR READING, YOU MAKE MY DAY.) I am posting a list of characters who are in this story and where they are from.

xXxXxXxXx

Robin - *Teen Titans*



Starfire - *Teen Titans*



Raven - *Teen Titans*



Beast Boy - *Teen Titans*



Cyborg - *Teen Titans*



Slade - *Teen Titans*



Terra - *Teen Titans*



Trigon - *Teen Titans*



Inuyasha - *InuYasha*

Kagome - *InuYasha*

Shippo - *InuYasha*

[url=<http://i569.photobucket.com/albums/ss135/InuLvr333/shippo.jpg>]http://i569.photobucket.com/albums/ss135/InuLvr333/shippo.jpg[url]

Kohaku - *InuYasha*

[url=http://i2.photobucket.com/albums/y6/Kayana_Wheeler/Inuyasha/kohaku.jpg]http://i2.photobucket.com/albums/y6/Kayana_Wheeler/Inuyasha/kohaku.jpg[url]

Naraku - *InuYasha*

[url=<http://i340.photobucket.com/albums/o331/yinvsyang/inuyasha/naraku.jpg>]http://i340.photobucket.com/albums/o331/yinvsyang/inuyasha/naraku.jpg[url]

Kagura - *InuYasha*

[url=<http://i817.photobucket.com/albums/zz97/Kaze-Tsukai/Kagura/Kaguraprettysmirk.jpg>]http://i817.photobucket.com/albums/zz97/Kaze-Tsukai/Kagura/Kaguraprettysmirk.jpg[url]

Kanna - *InuYasha*

[url=http://i572.photobucket.com/albums/ss162/WinterXInnocence/Inuyasha/Kanna-Looking.jpg]http://i572.photobucket.com/albums/ss162/WinterXInnocence/Inuyasha/Kanna-Looking.jpg[/url]

Sebastian - *Black Butler*

[url=http://i786.photobucket.com/albums/yy143/The-Beatles-fan/Black%20Butler-Sebastian/Sebastiantea.jpg]http://i786.photobucket.com/albums/yy143/The-Beatles-fan/Black%20Butler-Sebastian/Sebastiantea.jpg[/url]

Ciel - *Black Butler*

[url=http://i927.photobucket.com/albums/ad119/LovelessVampireAngel/a6645072.jpg]http://i927.photobucket.com/albums/ad119/LovelessVampireAngel/a6645072.jpg[/url]

Finnian - *Black Butler*

[url=http://i269.photobucket.com/albums/jj45/akatsuki_gurlie_13/Kuroshootsuji/Finnian.jpg]http://i269.photobucket.com/albums/jj45/akatsuki_gurlie_13/Kuroshootsuji/Finnian.jpg[/url]

Mey Rin - *Black Butler*

[url=http://i1085.photobucket.com/albums/j424/TerraLawliet/Black%20Butler/Mey-Rin.png]http://i1085.photobucket.com/albums/j424/TerraLawliet/Black%20Butler/Mey-Rin.png[/url]

Bardroy - *Black Butler*

[url=http://i1213.photobucket.com/albums/cc477/animeotaku1721/Black%20Butler%20Screen%20Shots/bbss72.png]http://i1213.photobucket.com/albums/cc477/animeotaku1721/Black%20Butler%20Screen%20Shots/bbss72.png[/url]

Pluto - *Black Butler*

[url=http://i1097.photobucket.com/albums/g355/aquajaguar95/Anime/Black%20Butler/Pluto.jpg]http://i1097.photobucket.com/albums/g355/aquajaguar95/Anime/Black%20Butler/Pluto.jpg[/url]

Snake - *Black Butler*

[url=http://i1128.photobucket.com/albums/m493/YoZora7/AnimeManga/240px-Snake.png]http://i1128.photobucket.com/albums/m493/YoZora7/AnimeManga/240px-Snake.png[/url]

Alois - *Black Butler*

[url=http://i1172.photobucket.com/albums/r569/nunufears/alois1-1.jpg]http://i1172.photobucket.com/albums/r569/nunufears/alois1-1.jpg[/url]

Claude - *Black Butler*

[url=http://i1235.photobucket.com/albums/ff424/Seiren2600/Black%20Butler/1132_f4de3c72ef25761d0f029c878a85d35d.jpg]http://i1235.photobucket.com/albums/ff424/Seiren2600/Black%20Butler/1132_f4de3c72ef25761d0f029c878a85d35d.jpg[/url]

Lau - *Black Butler*

[url=http://i204.photobucket.com/albums/bb307/Elf_Loreley/my%20avatars/Kuroshootsuji/Lau.jpg]http://i204.photobucket.com/albums/bb307/Elf_Loreley/my%20avatars/Kuroshootsuji/Lau.jpg[/url]

Ran Mao - *Black Butler*

[url=http://i1003.photobucket.com/albums/af156/caseylee1998/Black%20Butler/96.jpg]http://i1003.photobucket.com/albums/af156/caseylee1998/Black%20Butler/96.jpg[/url]

Naruto - *Naruto/Naruto Shippuuden*

[url=http://i1250.photobucket.com/albums/hh537/X-ION13/naruto%20uzumaki/tumblr_InsapmaaTX1qkom7no1_500.png]http://i1250.photobucket.com/albums/hh537/X-ION13/naruto%20uzumaki/tumblr_InsapmaaTX1qkom7no1_500.png[/url]

Sakura - *NARUTO/Naruto Shippuuden*

[url=http://i1250.photobucket.com/albums/hh537/X-ION13/sakura%20Haruno/680451.jpg]http://i1250.photobucket.com/albums/hh537/X-ION13/sakura%20Haruno/680451.jpg[/url]

Sai - *Naruto Shippuuden*

[url=http://i1239.photobucket.com/albums/ff507/Cynder44/Sai/sai-naruto.jpg]http://i1239.photobucket.com/albums/ff507/Cynder44/Sai/sai-naruto.jpg[/url]

Rin - *Blue Exorcist*

[url=http://i1256.photobucket.com/albums/ii488/MGK17/tumblr_m6loarnlaJ1qc8e94o6_250.png]http://i1256.photobucket.com/albums/ii488/MGK17/tumblr_m6loarnlaJ1qc8e94o6_250.png[/url]

Yukio - *Blue Exorcist*

[url=http://i699.photobucket.com/albums/vv352/wintermewgirl/AAAAA%20Aoi%20No%20Exorcist/Yukio.jpg]http://i699.photobucket.com/albums/vv352/wintermewgirl/AAAAA%20Aoi%20No%20Exorcist/Yukio.jpg[/url]

Lelouch - *Code Geass*

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C.C - *Code Geass*

[url=http://i237.photobucket.com/albums/ff152/evozcom/03CC.jpg]http://i237.photobucket.com/albums/ff152/evozcom/03CC.jpg[/url]

Akihiko - *Junjo Romantica*

[url=http://i823.photobucket.com/albums/zz156/vampireyuuki15/junjo%20romantica/junjou_romantica_v02_043.jpg]http://i823.photobucket.com/albums/zz156/vampireyuuki15/junjo%20romantica/junjou_romantica_v02_043.jpg[/url]

Misaki - *Junjo Romantica*

[url=http://i191.photobucket.com/albums/z61/Sara_1987_photos/Junjo%20Romantica/junjou12000708.jpg]http://i191.photobucket.com/albums/z61/Sara_1987_photos/Junjo%20Romantica/junjou12000708.jpg[/url]

Zero - *Vampire Knight*

[url=http://i282.photobucket.com/albums/kk267/littlechicke/zero.jpg]http://i282.photobucket.com/albums/k

k267/littlechicke/zero.jpg[/url]

Fade - *Team Alpha (KeiraChan1994)*

[url=http://i1233.photobucket.com/albums/ff395/KeiraChan1994/260401.jpg]http://i1233.photobucket.com/albums/ff395/KeiraChan1994/260401.jpg[/url]

Mimic - *Team Alpha (stillbored1234)*

[url=http://i1233.photobucket.com/albums/ff395/KeiraChan1994/imagesCA2RMBYY.jpg]http://i1233.photobucket.com/albums/ff395/KeiraChan1994/imagesCA2RMBYY.jpg[/url]

Patzie - *Team Alpha (XxAnarKissedxX)*

[url=http://i1233.photobucket.com/albums/ff395/KeiraChan1994/gym-uniform-lying-down-anime-girl-black-hair-wallpaper.jpg]http://i1233.photobucket.com/albums/ff395/KeiraChan1994/gym-uniform-lying-down-anime-girl-black-hair-wallpaper.jpg[/url]

Aiko - *Team Alpha (Achilles-Heal)*

[url=http://i1233.photobucket.com/albums/ff395/KeiraChan1994/f097317a228ab43692ba1c3001c200d11248348858_full.jpg]http://i1233.photobucket.com/albums/ff395/KeiraChan1994/f097317a228ab43692ba1c3001c200d11248348858_full.jpg[/url]

Ryoko - *Team Alpha*

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Crystal - *Team Alpha*

[url=http://i1233.photobucket.com/albums/ff395/KeiraChan1994/316232_10150382518591400_291256403_n.jpg]http://i1233.photobucket.com/albums/ff395/KeiraChan1994/316232_10150382518591400_291256403_n.jpg[/url]

32 - Beware the Wrath of Patzie Hyuuga

Naruto sat at the kitchen table happily as a bowl of ramen was set in front of him. He grabbed his chopsticks, his face full of excitement as he broke them apart.

“Chow time!” He declared before slurping the noodles greedily. Misaki sighed and placed his hands on his hips.

“For a Japanese man, you sure are lacking manners.” He scolded and walked over to the sink to do the dishes. Akihiko placed his cup of coffee down on the table.

“Isn’t it considered polite to slurp one’s noodles?” Akihiko asked sarcastically before dodging a spoon that Misaki had thrown at him. Naruto continued to slurp his noodles nosily while having a stupid grin on his face. His eyes opened and he watched Misaki wash the dishes and then he stared at the pink apron the boy wore.

“Nice apron.” Naruto joked and laughed as Misaki’s cheeks flamed.

“Shut up or you will be making your own food.” Misaki murmured while trying to hide his embarrassment. He thought it might be time for a new apron. Akihiko smiled and stared at Misaki.

“It is fitting that you would become the Tower’s chef, Misaki.” Akihiko teased and Misaki rolled his eyes.

“It’s only because I am the only one who can actually do anything. I also have to keep things clean...” Misaki said and finished drying off his hands.

“Yes.” Akihiko said before encircling his arms around Misaki’s waist. “You’re my little maid.”

“Get a room.” Naruto said with a smile as he watched Misaki struggle against the writer’s grip.

The doors to the main room opened and Fade walked in with Lelouch right behind her. There was a smile on both of their faces and they held each other’s hand as they walked in. The sound of chopsticks falling was heard before Naruto jumped out of his chair in shock.

“HOLY CRAP WE’VE STUMBLED INTO AN ALTERNATIVE UNIVERSE!” He shouted and pointed his finger at the couple. Akihiko’s eyebrows furrowed in confusion as he stared at the couple and Misaki just stood there with his mouth hanging open.

“‘Alternative universe’? Since when did you use big words like that?” Fade joked while releasing Lelouch’s hand and walking towards the table where her friends sat. She glanced over at Misaki, who still hadn’t closed his mouth.

“What is with you guys? It’s like you’ve never seen a couple holding hands before.” She teased and sat down next to Naruto. Three pairs of eyes stared at her with confusion.

“You two are a couple?” Naruto whispered slowly, making sure he had heard right. Lelouch’s eyes darkened as he watched the three talk quietly amongst themselves. He began to take a step closer, but a piercing glare from Akihiko stopped him in his tracks. He glared back at the man and began to wonder why this human intimidated him so much.

“Perhaps it is because you know he can easily beat you into non-existence.” A voice whispered behind him and he turned around in panic. His racing heart calmed when he saw that it was only C.2. She

smiled softly at the former prince. "You never were good with physical combat." She teased and he sent her a glare.

"I never needed it. I have the geass." He said proudly and her smile faltered.

"Yes... and you will always use that power to your advantage." She whispered while shifting her gaze to Fade, who was currently giving Naruto a confused expression as he had a mini freak out.

"Of course." He whispered back and stared at his captured love. He smiled as victory filled his mind.

C.2. sighed and looked back over to Lelouch.

"You do know that you have gotten yourself into a horrible situation, right?" She asked in a hush tone.

His attention was now on her as his eyes filled with panic.

"What do you mean?" He asked, almost frantically.

"You have just stolen a demon's lover. I am sure that he will not take this very lightly. Not to mention what would happen if Keira were to regain her memories..." She trailed off and smirked at the panicking prince. Lelouch swallowed the lump in his throat as he regained his composure.

"My geass is far stronger than it was when Shirley broke free." He stated; more to convince himself rather than her. C.2. smiled.

"Hmm. I wonder about that." She murmured before starting to walk away. He quickly grabbed her wrist.

"Whose side are you on?" He whispered harshly. She remained silent and then pulled away from his grasp.

"Yours... I am always on your side." She whispered in a tone too low for him to hear. He watched her walk away, his anger flaring at the witch he thought would betray him. C.2. made it into the hall right as a single tear fell.

"Yes... I am forever by your side... this is why I must betray you this once, Lelouch." She whispered as she wiped away the tear with her sleeve.

Patzie was fast asleep on her mattress. She had been shocked that Robin had left her old room un-touched and intact. Hell, she didn't even think he liked her! However, she was slightly grateful as she lay on the all-too-familiar bed. She began to snore as she rolled over onto her back. It had been quite some time since she had been able to sleep peacefully or even in a decent bed for that matter. She had spent 4 years watching Ryoko and had spent countless nights slaying Level E vampires that sought out the mysterious powers Ryoko held.

But, that was all in the past. She was home; her real home. Not Konoha, but here with her friends. It was nice; it was peaceful.

BANG BANG BANG

Or maybe not.

The banging continued, rousing her from her sleep. Her mind was a bit fuzzy and she groggily reached around for her glasses that she had left on her nightstand. After finding them and putting them on, she made her way to her door. She opened it quickly, her eyes glowing with hatred for whoever had woken her from her much desired sleep.

Uzumaki Naruto. She thought bitterly. However, her anger vanished as she noticed the panic in his

eyes.

“Uzumaki?” She questioned and he pushed his way into her room, which resulted in him pinning her to the ground. “Oi! If you don’t get your perverted @\$@ off of me, I will make you spend the rest of your life believing you were Paris Hilton!” She yelled and shoved him off of her. He muttered and apology before scrambling to his feet.

“FADE AND LELOUCH ARE DATING.” He yelled, catching her off guard. She tilted her head to the side and lifted her eyebrows.

“Come again?” She asked and dug her finger into her ear as if to clean out any earwax that would prevent her from hearing properly.

“Fade and Lelouch... they’re dating... again.” He said a bit slower this time. A bunch of emotions flickered across her face then.

Shock.

Disbelief.

Confusion.

Anger.

More confusion.

“But... aren’t Keira and that creepy butler dude going at it?” She asked as she scratched her head while trying to put together the puzzle.

“Yes! That’s why I’m freaking out! I know Fade, she wouldn’t willingly go back to that piece of trash! Surely you remember what happened after she found out he died!” He exclaimed, his eyes becoming wild.

“Yes, I remember. I was eating waffles.” She said calmly and placed a finger to her chin as she tried to sort this out. Naruto stared at her with an incredulous look.

“...That’s all you remember? Just some freaking *waffles*?!” He shouted and flailed his arms about.

“Hey, they were some pretty damn good waffles.” She said in her defense. Naruto sighed and smacked his forehead. Why did he go to her in the first place? After a few minutes of thinking, her eyes widened.

“No. He wouldn’t...” She whispered before darting out of the room. Naruto quickly ran after her while yelling “WHAT?! HE WOULDN’T WHAT?!”

33 - New Chapter!

I lied.

HAHAHA.

This is my entertainment for the evening.

How many of you are pissed now? >:3