

Akatsuki Tales

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When Nara is older, she is forced to join the Akatsuki. Here is her story.

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0 - ~Prolouge~

A 17-year-old Nara was sitting under her basement stairs, crying, her head resting on her bony knees, which were being held by her skinny arms. Nara's life was over. She had lost the love of her life, her friends, and everything else that gave her life any meaning. "Maybe...", She thought, her tears slowly subsiding, "It would be better if I wasn't alive." She stood up, climbed back up to her room, and laid on her bed, which, unlike normally, was messy and dirty, with the sheets hanging off the side and the blanket resting on the floor.

She turned her head to the right to look at an old picture she had on the nightstand. It was a picture of her 13th birthday party. She picked up the picture and just stared at it for a few minutes. To her right was her love, Kiba, with a huge grin on his face. To her left was her best friend, Hinata, with a shy little smile. Behind the three of them was Naruto, Rock Lee, Sakura, Chouji, Shikamaru, Shino, and Iruka-sensei. Behind them was all of her other friends, all smiling, except for Gaara. A small smile appeared on Nara's face. She clearly remembered that day. It had to be the happiest day of her life. It was stunning how quickly all that changed for her. Now there was no smiling friends to her side. There was no sensei to help her along her path. Just her. Alone. At least that's what she thought.

Out of nowhere, Nara heard a deep voice call her name. She ignored it, at least, until it happened again. Now it was bothering her. She wasn't sure if it was real, or if she was just hallucinating. Then she heard a window slam shut. She looked behind her to see the window that she had left open was now closed. In the hinges a piece of cloth was hanging from the joints. Nara took the cloth, and had a good look at it. It was all black, except for one corner, which had a small strip of white, with some red underneath. She knew she had seen the pattern somewhere, but she couldn't remember it.

Then, out of nowhere, a pair of hands roughly grabbed her and pulled her back. One arm was wrapped around her chest, pinning her arms to the side, and the other was covering her mouth, muffling any screams for help she might have attempted. She kept struggling, but the person holding her was too strong for her to overcome. She tried just biting the hand over her mouth, but all she got was the taste of blood in her mouth.

She was starting to get dizzy, since the hand covering her mouth was also covering her nose, preventing her from breathing correctly. She knew she had to get the hand off of her face now, or she was in trouble. Then she tried stomping on the person's foot. That released the hand for a minute, only to have him slap her in the face and cover her again. Then, as she was starting to lose consciousness, he let go. Nara was about to run, but then she felt a sharp jab hit the back of her neck. As she collapsed, she saw a man with blue skin in a black and red cloak laughing. She remembered trying to speak, and then.....darkness.

(WOOOW! This has to be my best writing ever! I swear I'm gonna keep up with this story!)

1 - Asatsuyu (Morning Dew)

Nara woke up.....well....she had no clue where. She, for some reason, was blindfolded, and cuff was linked from her left ankle to the wall....at least, that's what she thought. She knew she was on some kind of cot or bed, since she could feel a layer of sheets and a mattress under her. She untied the blindfold, and found herself in a small room with blank grey walls. It turned she was, as she guessed, on a bed, although all it consisted of was a mattress on the floor with some white sheets sloppily laid on it. She looked up, and spotted a small air vent, along with a rickety old lamp that looked like it was going to fall any minute.

As if to prove her right, the lamp cable broke, and the lamp fell to the ground. There was a loud 'CRASH', and pieces of glass and metal were spread all around the floor. Nara gasped, and she took the sheet off the mattress and started to try and sweep the debris off the floor before someone walked in. However, it wasn't long before the door opened. The person who walked in was carrying a broom and a dustpan, and seemed almost shocked to see Nara trying to sweep it up herself. Although, it was hard to tell with him. He was wearing an orange mask, with only one hole for his right eye.

"What are you doing, girl?" He cocked his head, and for some reason, Nara felt a bit more at ease. "W-well....the lamp f-fell....and I....was ju-just..." Then the man, out of nowhere, put his finger on Nara's lips, to get her to calm down. "It's alright! Lamp breaks all the time! Tobi always fixes it!" He exclaimed, pointing his thumb towards himself. "So, what's your name?" Tobi asked, as he started sweeping up all the debris that Nara had missed. "Nara. Nara N-namida." She answered shyly. Tobi threw away the rest of the trash and tilted his head. "Nara? That's a pretty name!" Nara blushed. Then, out of nowhere, she yawned. For some odd reason, she was still kind of sleepy. So as she got up to get back on the 'bed', she accidentally stepped on a piece of glass that Tobi had missed.

As she started to silently cry in pain, Tobi rushed out of the room, came back with a first aid kit, then picked Nara up from the floor and cradled her in his arms, while tending to her wounded foot. "You should be more careful, Nara." Tobi said, with concern in his voice. "I-I'm sorry To-tobi..." Nara said, trying to choke back her sobs. "Are you alright?" Tobi asked. "Um...y-yeah. I'm fine, T-tobi. Thank y-you." Nara and Tobi then remained silent for a while. Occasionally, Nara would shift around a bit to get more comfortable, but that was the only noise you ever heard.

Sometime later, Tobi spoke up. "Hey Nara? What do you think of Tobi?" Tobi looked down, only to find Nara asleep in his arms. He sighed, and stroked her hair, as he laid her down softly on the bed. Then, remembering the sheets, Tobi left the room for a bit, and came back with an Akatsuki robe, which he slipped on to the sleeping girl. The robe was pretty big on her, but for now, Tobi thought, it would work. Tobi stroked her one more time before leaving the room to let her sleep. He only wished Nara could stay like this, in her little 'heaven', and not worry about what lied ahead. But as we all know, not even heaven lasts forever.

2 - Koufuku (Happiness)

Nara woke up the next morning (at least we think that was when she woke up) in a very good mood. She yawned, and then looked around the room for Tobi, but soon realized that he must have left after she fell asleep. Nara then sat up, and went to check her foot, but then noticed the robe that she was now wearing over her normal clothes. She blushed and smiled. "Tobi must have put this on me." She thought. "How sweet of him!" Nara then reached into her back pocket, grabbed her sewing kit (why she keeps one, no one knows) and started to sew up a rip she had noticed on the bottom edge.

As she was working, Tobi walked in. He seemed happy to see her up, but then confused about what she was doing. "Um...what are you doing, Nara?" Nara looked up and smiled. "Oh. I-I was just fi-fixing a rip th-that was on the bottom of the r-robe. I h-hope you don't mind, T-tobi." Tobi shook his head. "No. Not my robe anymore. It's Nara's robe now." Nara blushed. "R-really? Are y-you sure, Tobi?" Tobi nodded, and he was about to say something when a voice, the same voice of the person that kidnapped Nara, started yelling and screaming.

"TOBI!!! GET OVER HERE NOW BEFORE I KILL YOU!!!" Tobi got up immediately, and waved to Nara as he ran out the door. Nara smiled, and began to hem the robe at the bottom and sleeves, so it would at least *somewhat* fit her. From outside her room, she could hear the argument between Tobi and the other man growing. Supposedly, Tobi had left something where it shouldn't have been, and the man, which she figured out was named Kisame, had the bad luck to step on it. Nara laughed when she heard Tobi call himself a 'good boy', only to have Kisame hit him with something....hard.

Out of nowhere, Nara heard the door open, and then slam shut. She looked up and noticed that there was a teenage girl standing beside her door, who looked maybe 2-3 years older than her. She had jet black hair, except for her bangs and the tips, which were red. Her eyes had a blue-green color to them, and she had a pair of small tiger ears, accompanied by a striped tail poking from the back of her robe. Suddenly, the girl sat down, and starting talking, Nara assumed, to her....or maybe just to herself. Who knew?

"Damn, that was funny. That idiot Tobi left a kunai on the floor and Kisame-kun stepped on it! I mean, Kisame-kun just hit Tobi with a book! Too funny!" Nara giggled. She was right. It was really funny. The other girl stopped talking and then walked up to her. "So you're the new girl, right? The names Teneka Mikino. And you are...?" Nara smiled. "N-nara Namida." Teneka smiled, and then looked down at what Nara was holding.

"Tobi gave you that robe, right?" Nara nodded, and smiled. "Y-yep." Teneka laughed a bit. "Do you need any help hemming it? Cuz by the looks of it, you might have made it a bit too short." Nara looked at Teneka. "Y-you think so?" Teneka nodded, and then took the robe from Nara's hands and

put it on her. Teneka was right. The robe was a bit too short. Teneka helped Nara rip out the seam so she could hem it again, but this time, not 5 inches above where it should be.

“Wow. Now that it’s done, it looks pretty good on you.” Nara blushed a bit. “Th-thanks…….Hey Teneka?” Teneka looked up from reading a book she had with her. “Yeah? What is it?” Nara slipped the robe off, and sat down next to her. “How long have you been with the Akatsuki?” Teneka smiled. “Is that it? Well, the truth is, I really don’t know. I can’t remember how long it’s been. But truthfully, I don’t care. I found someone here that’s worth my time.” Nara smiled. “ You mean Kisame?” Teneka looked at her, stunned. “How did you know?”

Grinning, Nara held up one hand, with two fingers up. She pointed to the first one. “One. You call him Kisame-**Kun**. And two,” She continued, now pointing to the other finger, “Whenever you talk about Kisame, your voice changes its tone. It’s subtle, but it’s there.” Teneka continued to look stunned, but grinned. “Wow. That’s pretty good.” Both girls laughed for a bit, and then remained silent for a bit. “Teneka,” Nara finally asked, after about three minutes of silence, ”What’s your family like?”

TO BE CONTINUED…….

3 - Arashi (Storm)

Teneka's smile was gone from her face. Instead, there was a sad, almost mourning look. From her blue-green eyes, Nara noticed tears forming. "Well.....I don't really have one....not anymore.....they're dead....." Nara put her hand on Teneka's shoulder, and looked at her with a sympathetic look in her eyes. "Oh.....I-I'm sorry that I br-brought that u-up. I kn-know what it's like. A-and its sc-scaring me." Teneka wiped the small tears from her eyes, and cocked her head at Nara's comment. "Huh? Why?" Nara looked down, to hide the tears forming in her eyes. "C-cause Itachi is th-the reason I no I-longer have a fa-family, and now because of h-him, m-my friends have a-all gone....." Nara tried to say more, but couldn't. Instead, she burst into tears.

Teneka looked at Nara, feeling the tears starting to fall down her own face. She wiped the tears from her cheeks, and then stood up, kneeled down beside Nara, and started to rub her back, to comfort her. Soon, her sobs began to soften. For a while, the room remained silent. Then, in the middle of nowhere, Tobi walked in, gripping his head. "Nara! Kisame hit Tobi with a book! And it hurt!" Teneka looked up and laughed. "Well of course it hurt, Tobi! What did you expect, for it to tickle?!" Tobi shook his head. "No. But Tobi is a good boy! How could Kisame hit Tobi!?" Teneka laughed even harder. "Well, if TOBI didn't leave a kunai on the floor, I don't think there would be a problem, now would there?!" Tobi grunted, and then looked down at Nara, who looked back up at him.

"Was Nara crying? I think you were." Nara shook her head and looked down, resting her head on her knees. "But your eyes are red! And your cheeks are wet." Out of nowhere, Tobi knelt down, held Nara's head up, and wiped the tears that were left on her face. Nara just blushed, and bit her bottom lip to keep from crying again. Nara then, out of nowhere, just hugged Tobi, and lightly sobbed into his shoulder. Again, for a while, the room was quiet. Once Nara stopped crying, she smiled, and pulled out a small book.

"What is that, Nara?" Nara smiled. "I-it's my picture album. It ha-has some old p-pictures of my f-family in it." Nara handed Tobi the book to look at, and then started humming a tune. Teneka looked at Nara. "Nara? What are you humming?" Nara stopped humming and looked back at Teneka. "Oh. J-just a lullaby my m-mother used to s-sing to me." Tobi looked at her, put the book down, and leaned towards Nara's face. "Sing it for us, Nara!" Nara sighed. She knew they would want her to sing it. She took a deep breath, and held Tobi's hand as she started to sing.

***"Promise me we'll stay for the sunset.
And when the moon shines through the darkness,
We can find the path that leads us home
And on the way you'll...maybe...sing me a song.***

*Promise me you always will be there.
Hold my hand if ever I'm real scared.
Help me stand up tall if I fall down.
Make me laugh away all my bluest days.*

*Oh, could you promise you always will be there?
Why did you have to go away somewhere?
Every morning into every night,
Will you watch over me, like the sun in the sky?
Am I all alone, or standing in your light?
I wish that I could...maybe...sing you a song
.....tonight.....
You promised me we'd stay for the sunset."*

OUTSIDE.....

Itachi and Kisame were standing on either side of Nara's door, listening to her sing. "Well, that girl has sure become popular, hasn't she Kisame?" Kisame only nodded. "Itachi, when are you going to tell me what you are planning with that girl?" Itachi gazed at his partner. "All in due time, Kisame. All in due time."

TO BE CONTINUED!!!

4 - Tassei (Achievement)

Teneka and Tobi were both staring in amazement at Nara. Nara just blinked. “Wh-what did I do?” Tobi leaned up in her face. “You sang well! You sang really well!” Nara blushed. “W-well, thank you, T-tobi.” Teneka nodded. “Really Nara, you have a great voice. You should sing more often. And you don’t stutter when you sing.” Nara at least **appeared** to be in deep thought. “HmMMM...y-you have a point. Ma-maybe I should ju-just sing all the t-time.” Nara cleared her throat. “**Good morning! What’s for breakfast?**” The three of them fell over laughing. Soon after, Nara was going to say something when the sound of growling stomachs echoed in the room.

“Nara! Tobi’s hungry!” Teneka whapped him in the back of the head with a paper fan. “Shaddap. You’re not the only one, dipshoot!” Nara laughed. “C’mom guys!” Teneka said, standing up. “I guess it’s time to cook dinner.....oh boy...” Nara stood up with her. “Um...I co-could help you, if y-you’d like. I c-can cook pretty g-good.” Teneka smiled at her. “Sure! But be warned. The kitchen is a mess, and none of the others bother to help clean it.” Nara ran out of the room after her, with Tobi following. “Aw, c’mom! I-it can’t be th-that bad!”

She was right. It wasn’t that bad. It was worse. Except for a few areas around the stove and sink, the counters were covered with dirty dishes and dish towels. The tiled floor, which seemed to once be white, was now colored with stains and dirt. Nara was stunned by the mess. Even her old apartment was cleaner than this, and she lived alone. Or maybe living alone is the reason that it stayed so clean.

“W-wow. You weren’t ki-kidding.” Teneka sighed. “Yeah. It get’s kinda hard to cook sometimes. It’s not like the boys try to help me with anything!” Nara laughed as she started to clean off the counter. “We-well at least it’s in g-good shape. The co-counter’s still in o-one piece and the ca-cabinets still open r-right. Just need a b-bit of work.” Teneka cracked up. “A bit of work? Ha! Alright then! I’ll help ya! C’mom Tobi! You’re helpin too!”

The trio spent about an hour cleaning up the kitchen. At that time, they stood at the entrance to the kitchen, marveling their work. The floor was white again, and the granite counters had been completely cleaned off. “W-we did good, didn’t w-we?” Teneka smiled. “Yep. I’ve never seen the kitchen so clean.” Tobi nodded in agreement. “C’mom, T-teneka-san! Lets st-start cooking!” Nara and Teneka pulled out some ingredients, and started cooking. It wasn’t long before you could smell the food from all over the house. Tobi was sitting in front of the kitchen, watching them cook in awe.

It wasn’t long before the trio were eating dinner. There was tons of extra saved for the others, but it took a heavy guard to keep Tobi from stealing it all. Dinner was stir fry. With almost every ingredient you could imagine. And yet, it still tasted so good. Later, as she was putting away the dishes, Teneka noticed Nara humming again, only this time, it wasn’t the lullaby. It was something else. “Hey Nara!

What are you humming this time?" Nara looked at her. " Oh. Just a song my mom used to like. Wanna hear it?" Tobi and Teneka nodded. Nara took a deep breath, and started singing.

***"I know there's something in the wake of your smile.
I get a notion from the look in your eyes, yea.
You've built a love but that love falls apart.
Your little piece of heaven turns too dark.***

***Listen to your heart
when he's calling for you.
Listen to your heart
there's nothing else you can do.
I don't know where you're going
and I don't know why,
but listen to your heart
before you tell him goodbye.***

***Sometimes you wonder if this fight is worthwhile.
The precious moments are all lost in the tide, yea.
They're swept away and nothing is what it seems,
the feeling of belonging to your dreams.***

***Listen to your heart
when he's calling for you.
Listen to your heart
there's nothing else you can do.
I don't know where you're going
and I don't know why,
but listen to your heart
before you tell him goodbye.***

***And there are voices
that want to be heard.
So much to mention
but you can't find the words.
The scent of magic,
the beauty that's been
when love was wilder than the wind.***

***Listen to your heart
when he's calling for you.
Listen to your heart
there's nothing else you can do.
I don't know where you're going
and I don't know why,***

***but listen to your heart
before you tell him goodbye.***

***Listen to your heart...Mmmm
I don't know where you're going
and I don't know why,
but listen to your heart
before you tell him goodbye."***

IN ANOTHER ROOM....

Itachi and Kisame were, again, listening to Nara's singing. Itachi gave his partner a chilling look. "Starting tomorrow," He said, "Our plan shall begin. You haven't forgotten your part, have you Kisame?" Kisame nodded. "No, Itachi. I remember what to do. I remember very well." Itachi started drumming his fingers on the table in front of him. "Good. Tomorrow, without hesitation, we begin our plan. The demon inside that girl....will be mine."

TO BE CONTINUED!!!!

5 - Shisou (Thought)

It was already the second day that Nara had been a part of the Akatsuki. For her, the time seemed to pass too quickly, except for at night. The nights seemed to last forever on her part. Normally, at her apartment, the nights will full of sounds. There was the pounding of feet from the neighbors upstairs, who had 3 kids. There was either the barking or snoring of her dog Momo, who she missed dearly. And there was normally music playing as she slept. To others, this sounds like a hectic night, but to Nara, it was normal. The silence of the night in the Akatsuki building was almost unbearable to her. It was stressing her out, which was not a good thing, and she knew it.

So instead of lying in bed all morning, at the first sign of sunrise, she got out of her room, and went to the kitchen to start cooking. As she started cooking breakfast, which she planned would take a good bit of time, she started to sing. However, she didn't know someone was watching her.

**"I am a question to the world
Not an answer to the earth
Or the moment that's held in your arms.
And what do you think you'd ever say.
I won't listen anyway.
You don't know me
And I'll never be what you want me to be.**

**And what do you think you'd understand?
I'm a boy, no I'm a man.
You can't take me and throw me away.
And how can you learn what's never shown?
Yeah, you stand here on your own.
They don't know me
'Cause I'm not here.**

**And I want a moment to be real!
Wanna touch things I don't feel!
Want to hold on and feel I belong!
And how can the world want me to change?
They're the ones that stay the same!
They don't know me
'Cause I'm still here"**

Nara was still singing when Kisame walked in. She didn't notice him. She was too busy cooking, and she had her eyes closed while singing. So when Kisame came up to her and tapped her forehead, it was a bit of a shock. Ok, it was a HUGE shock. Enough of a shock that once she opened her eyes, Nara

tried to step backwards and fell, hitting her head on the tile. Kisame walked up and leaned over her. If he was concerned, he sure wasn't showing it. If anything, he looked like he was about to start laughing.

"Nice fall, girl." Nara sat up, and started brushing off her robe. "My na-name is Nara. Na-ra." Kisame laughed a bit, and then fell silent. He was looking, almost staring, at Nara's face, and it was creeping her out. "Wh-what are you st-staring at?!" Kisame just smirked. "So you're demon shows itself in your eyes. Smooth. It's harder to notice that way." Nara's eyes widened. She was shocked that Kisame knew about the demon sealed inside her body. She had tried to keep it secret from everybody, even Tobi. How did he know?!

"So the seal is on your stomach, right?!" Nara gasped, and tried to back away. Kisame was really scaring her. He suddenly did a few quick hand signs, and his finger tips started to glow. "Sorry girl. You're gonna have to take a little nap." Kisame suddenly struck her in the stomach. As Nara started to black out, the end of the song she had been singing rang in her head.

**And you see the things they never see.
All you wanted, I could be.
Now you know me, and I'm not afraid.
And I wanna tell you who I am.
Can you help me be a man?
They can't break me
As long as I know who I am.**

**And I want a moment to be real!
Wanna touch things I don't feel!
Wanna hold on and feel I belong!
And how can the world want me to change!
They're the ones that stay the same!
They can't see me,
But I'm still here!**

**They can't tell me who to be,
'Cause I'm not what they see!
And the world is still sleepin',
While I keep on dreamin' for me!
And their words are just whispers
And lies that I'll never believe!**

**And I want a moment to be real!
Wanna touch things I don't feel!
Wanna hold on and feel I belong!
And how can they say I never change!
They're the ones that stay the same!
I'm the one now,**

'Cause I'm still here!

6 - Uta (Song)

It had been about two years since Nara had joined the Akatsuki. Personally, she didn't think it was so bad anymore. She just got a mission, carried it out, came home, ate, hung with Teneka and Tobi, and slept. It was a simple life....at least, unless she ran into Kisame or Itachi. One look at them would result in her being in pain some way or another. They had just been determined to ruin her life. It left her emotions on the brink, which was very dangerous for her, especially with her demon seal being all but broken from Kisame's strike. But, as she was to find out, it was all going to get much worse.

Nara was packing her things in her room. Not everything, just enough for a week or two of travel. She wasn't going on a mission. Well, Teneka and Tobi thought she was. Truthfully, she was going back to Konoha, to see her friends. It was early morning by the time she left. She hadn't even stopped to cook. She just left a note to Teneka, telling her the recipe for the meals. As she was walking, she started humming. She was so busy humming her tune, that she didn't notice the hard bamboo pole gate that she was about to run into.

After rubbing her forehead, Nara walked through the gate, only to immediately be greeted by two happy voices. "Hey Nara! You're back!" It was Genma and Hiroto, two of the Jounin elite that worked at the main gates. She had always been close to them, almost in a brother-sister kind of way. So when she walked in, she couldn't help but smile. They ran over to her and started to ruffle her hair. "It's nice to see you kid! It's been a while!You've grown a lot, too. You're almost as tall as me now, darn it! And you cut your hair. It's a lot shorter now." Hiroto leaned over and gave Nara a noogie. "So how've ya been, squirt?!" Nara smiled, and smoothed out her hair. "Good. Pr-pretty good." Both Hiroto and Genma leaned on her shoulders. "So why the sudden visit?" Nara shrugged...or at least tried to. "I ju-just wanted t-to see th-this place again." Hiroto and Genma leaned in towards her. "Suurree....so you're not here just to see your boyfriend, the dog boy?" Nara blushed, half in embarrassment, half in shock. "N-no! I just wa-wanted to come ba-back for a b-bit!" Nara squirmed a bit, and got away from the two Jounin.

"So do y-you two know wh-where any of the oth-others are?" Hiroto nodded, with a wide smirk on his face. "Well, Naruto just got back from training, and Sakura should be here in a few minutes. But other than that, we have no idea." As if on cue, Sakura walked up at that very moment. Her face suddenly brightened up, and a huge smile came across her face. "Nara! You're back!" Sakura just ran up and hugged her, dropping everything that she was carrying. Nara hugged her back. After maybe a minute, Sakura let go and bent down to pick up the papers that were now scattered on the ground.

"How long have you been back?" Nara smiled. "Five mi-minutes. Ten at th-the most." Sakura nodded, as she picked up the last paper. "So have you seen anyone else yet?" Nara shook her head. "N-nope." Sakura gave the papers to Genma, and then took Nara's hand, and started to walk off. "Then come on! The others will be happy to see you again!"

Nara sighed. She knew very well that Sakura was right. At least, mostly. One person would not be so happy to see her...not after what happened.

Flashback....

It was late at night when Nara's demon took over. The reason was unknown, and probably always will be. As Nara rampaged through the town, an army of shinobi was already gathering to stop her. Among them were some of her best friends. Then, when things seemed at their worst, Kiba just walked up to her. He went right up to her, and hugged her, trying to snap her out of the spell. But it didn't work how Kiba had planned. Instead, Nara's claws and teeth ripped through his shoulder and arm, and sent Akamaru flying. By the time Nara went back to normal, Kiba was unconscious, and on the verge of death from blood loss. It was that moment that changed everything.

After that, Kiba hated Nara. He always yelled at her, and there were times where he even hit her for no apparent reason. It was then that Nara had hit an all time low. Her emotions became unbalanced, and she always seemed to be angry. It was that very reason that most of the others started keeping their distance. It wasn't long after that before Nara became a member of the Akatsuki.

End of Flashback.....

"Sa-sakura?" Nara asked. "How has Ki-kiba-kun been? Is he al-alright?" Sakura looked at her. "Oh. He's doing fine. Akamaru's gotten pretty big, too." Nara smiled a bit. Sakura smiled back. She knew how painful this topic was for her. So she decided to focus on something else. "So Nara, did you hear? Hinata-chan became a chunnin." Nara's eyes widened at this comment. "R-really?! She did i-it?" Sakura laughed. "Yep. She was amazing at the exams. Not as good as your little show, though. I still can't forget that one!" Nara laughed along with her. "God, w-who can forget that? I won in, wh-what, five m-minutes? Ten t-tops."

The conversation lasted for a few minutes, as the pair began to search the town for Naruto. "Now, Sakura started. " If I was Naruto, where would I be?" Her question was soon answered, because out of nowhere, Naruto jumped and, unfortunately, landed on Nara's back, pushing her to the ground. Sakura looked like she was ready to burst. "Naruto! Hasn't anyone told you to look before you leap! Move before you snap Nara's spine in half!" Naruto looked down, and jumped to the side, only to start to apologize immediately.

"I'm sorry, Nara-chan! I'm sooo sorry! Are you alright!? Are you hurt?! Do you need any help?!" Nara laughed lightly, and rubbed the back of her head. "I'm f-fine, Naruto-nii. N-no need t-to worry."

Naruto grinned, and gave Nara a huge bear hug. "I missed you, Nara-chan." Nara smiled, and hugged him back. "I mi-missed you too, N-naruto-nii." Naruto grinned again, and released Nara from the hug, which left her gasping for breath. "So have you seen the others yet, Nara-chan?" Nara shook her head. "N-no. Not yet. D-do you know w-where they a-are?"

Naruto nodded. "I sure do! Shikamaru and Temari are at Tsunade's. Lee's at the stadium training with Neji. Tenten is out with Hinata. Chouji's at a buffet. Gaara's around here...somewhere. Ino's out helping with the Academy.....Oh! And Sasuke's out with Sofy and the kids!" Nara cocked her head. "Who's S-sofy?" Naruto smiled. "Sasuke's wife! Duh!" Nara's eyes widened. "Wife?! And d-didn't Sasuke l-leave for O-orochimaru?" Naruto nodded. "He did. But Sofy got him to come back. Now he even has kids! Twin boys! There a lot of fun to play with!" Nara smiled. She was happy about being back in Konoha. But she had no idea about what her happiness was going to cost her....and the others.....

7 - Keseki (Miracle)

Naruto had decided to be the one to take Nara to see the others. Naruto knew exactly where she wanted to go first. They were going to go to the marketplace to find Hinata. Then they were going to find Lee in the stadium. After that, it was 'Say hi to whoever you happen to bump in to.' Nara and Naruto went to the marketplace, to look for Hinata and Tenten. After about fifteen minutes of searching, Naruto was complaining about how hungry he was, so they stopped at the Ramen bar. As Nara sat down, she noticed someone somewhat familiar sitting next to her. She couldn't tell who it was, until they turned their head.

"Nara-chan? Is that you?" Nara cocked her head. "T-tenten-san?" Tenten grinned. "No way! You're back! Look at you! You've gotten taller! And you cut your hair. It looks nice." Nara blushed a bit. "Th-thank you, Tenten-s-san." Tenten wrapped her arm around Nara's shoulder, and started yelling towards a shop across the street. "Hinata-chan! Come over here! You won't believe who I just found!

Almost immediately, Hinata came walking out of the other shop. Nara stood up, and ran to meet her, and they both hugged each other. Of anyone, Nara had missed Hinata most of all. Hinata was like a sister, and was her best friend. They stood in the street, hugging each other for a few minutes, until they both started getting embarrassed and let go. Both Nara and Hinata were smiling, and Nara had a light in her eyes that hadn't been there for two years.

"It's s-so good to s-see you again, Hinata-ch-chan." Hinata ruffled Nara's hair. "It's nice to see you too, Nara-chan." Seeing the two of them next to each other, it was easy to see how much they changed. Nara had cut her hair, and Hinata had grown hers out. Both of them had changed their outfit, and both of them seemed taller and more mature. But they still kept many similarities. They both had the same kind look on their faces, and the same shy little smile. And they both still had the same voice. The soft, shy voice that they had shared since childhood.

Nara took a minute to wipe away the tears that were starting to form in her eyes. "H-how have you b-been, Hinata-chan? I he-heard you're a ch-chunnin now." Hinata nodded, also taking a second to wipe her eyes. "You heard right. I am. And so is the rest of my team. So how have you been? I haven't seen you in so long." Nara grinned. "I've b-been good. I've been o-out training and su-such. I re-really am glad to be b-back, though." These words stung like a knife through her chest. She knew that this wouldn't last forever. She would have to go back to the Akatsuki one day, no matter how much she tried. But she tried to avoid it. She tried to think of the good things that were to come.

"So where are you going after this, Nara-chan?" Nara smiled. "I'm go-going to find N-nii-san." Hinata smiled. Nii-san was the nickname Nara had given to Lee a few years ago.

Flashback.....

A group of older genin had Nara surrounded. For years, ever since she joined the academy, Nara had been a target for bullying. Nara's shy nature did nothing to help her. That particular day, the group decided that physical bullying was better than emotional. They beat on her for a while, but as one was about to land a nasty hit to her chest, someone came running, and grabbed his wrist in midair. Then, they punched him in the stomach and sent him flying. The other genin ran away.

Nara looked up. Standing in front of her was a boy, maybe a year older than her. He was wearing a green jumpsuit, and his black hair was styled in a bowl-cut. His eyebrows were humungous, and his eyes wereodd. But Nara was grateful. As he helped her up, he began to introduce himself. "I am the handsome devil of the Leaf village, Rock Lee! And who are you?" Nara looked down, and started blushing. "M-my name i-is Nara. Nara Na-namida. Um....thank y-you for s-saving me." Lee looked down at her. "Well I couldn't let them hurt you, now could I?" Nara blushed even harder. "Well, th-thank you. Thank y-you so m-much." Lee smiled. He seemed pleased at how happy he had made Nara. "Um....L-lee?" Rock Lee looked over at her. "Yes? What is it?" Nara stared at her feet. "Would y-you mind i-if I ca-called you Nii-san?" Lee grinned from ear to ear. "I don't mind at all, Nara-chan."

End of Flashback.....

The nickname had stuck with him ever since. Soon, Nara and Naruto parted with Hinata and Tenten and left for the stadium to go see Lee. As they were walking, Nara noticed someone else familiar. He was walking with someone she didn't know, and was holding a small baby in his arms. Nara went up and tapped his shoulder, and he turned his head. Nara smiled. She knew exactly who it was. It was Sasuke.

"Nara-chan? Is that really you?" Nara nodded. "Yes, S-sasuke-san. Its m-me." Sasuke put his hand on Nara's shoulder. "It's nice to see you again." Nara smiled. "It's ni-nice to see y-you too." The other person looked over at Sasuke. "Sasuke-koi? Why did you stop? Who is that?" Sasuke turned so that Nara could see the woman on the other side of Sasuke. She had black hair, and white wolf ears. She was also holding a small baby in her arms. "Sofy-koi, this is Nara-chan. I've known her since the academy. Nara-chan, this is Sofy-koi, my wife, and the mother to the twins here." Nara smiled. "I-it's nice to me-meet you, Sofy-san." Sofy nodded. "It's nice to meet you too, Nara-chan." Nara stayed there for a while, talking with Sasuke and Sofy about...things...until Naruto dragged her off, reminding her about seeing Lee.

When they finally made it to the stadium, they were greeted by the sounds of cracking cement and boards being snapped. They walked in to see a dust covered Lee, Neji, with splinters in his hand, and a huge pile of rubble. Lee and Neji were both laughing at their 'handiwork', when they happened to look at the entrance. Lee's eyes widened immediately, and he ran over and gave Nara a bear hug, but it felt more like a death grip.

"Nara-chan! I'm so glad to see you! You've been gone for so long! I missed you so much!" Nara grinned. "I m-missed you too, N-nii-san. Um...c-can you let me g-go?" Lee looked at Nara, and let her go. "Sorry! I was just so excited and I guess I got carried away.....Heh heh heh.....So how have you been? You look a lot different now. You cut your hair. And you're a lot leaner now. You have been eating enough, haven't you?" Nara nodded. "I've b-been fine, Nii-san. Th-thanks for worrying a-about me." Lee grinned and rested his hand on her head. "It's not a problem. You know how important you are to me." Nara blushed. For some reason, that comment always embarrassed her. She knew that it meant that he cared, but it embarrassed her anyway.

Neji walked up to Nara and the others. He took a good look at Nara, and put his hand on her shoulder. "Welcome back, Nara-chan." Nara grinned. "G-glad to be back, N-neji-san." With these words, Nara winced. It was subtle, but someone noticed it. "Nara-chan? Why did you just wince? Are you in pain?" Nara looked at Lee, his eyes filled with worry. "I'm f-fine, Nii-san. No-nothing's wrong." Lee put his hands on her shoulders. "Are you positive?" Nara nodded. "Yes, N-nii-san. I'm po-positive." The group was talking for a few minutes when they heard some chattering coming from behind them. They turned to look, and they were surprised to see a group of people standing there, led by none other than Sakura, Hinata, Tenten, Sasuke and Sofy. Nara was shocked. Pretty much everyone she knew was there. Even Gaara and Kankuro were there, even though it was likely that the only reason they were there was that Temari brought them there with her.

"Wh-what's this? Why are y-you all here?" Sakura smiled. "Well, I thought we might go and tell the others you're back, and they all wanted to see you. So we brought them all here." Nara smiled. She really realized what great friends she had. They protected her, they cared for her, they loved her, and they'd do anything for her. Nara's couldn't really hold it in. She fell to the ground, her eyes tearing violently. Lee and Hinata ran up to her. "Nara-chan! Are you alright?! Why are you crying!?" Nara stood up, and hugged Hinata, crying on to her shoulder.

"I'm j-just so h-happy. I n-now realized wh-what great f-friends I h-have." Iruka came up to her, and started to rub her back. "Nara..." Nara looked at Iruka, then turned around, hugging him instead of Hinata. They just stood there for a while, trying to comfort the crying Nara. Slowly, the rest of the group started to come around, surrounding Nara to check if she was alright. Even Gaara seemed a bit concerned. It took a few minutes for anyone to notice that she had actually fallen asleep standing up.

Iruka was the one who noticed. He simply smiled, and picked her up, holding her in his arms. He walked to his house, and laid Nara down on the couch to sleep. He smiled. In her sleep, Nara looked as

innocent and gentle as she had 7 years ago, when he first found her in the woods. She was curled up in a ball, her arms folded up against her chest. Iruka was happy to see her so peaceful. He pulled the blanket over her sleeping body, and turned the light off, leaving Nara to rest in peace.

Then he remembered Momo. When Nara had left 2 years ago, he took Momo with him. He was afraid that Momo was going to wake Nara. But when he went to check, he saw a wonderful sight. Momo was with Nara. He was sleeping, lying along the curve of her back. His furry head was resting on her neck, his nose pressed against her cheek. Iruka was surprised that she hadn't woken up. But then again, she'd had the dog for years; she was probably used to the feeling.

Iruka sat the chair opposite of the couch, watching the sleeping pair. He was soon asleep, lulled by the soft breathing that could be heard in the room. With the calmness of the room, no one would suspect that they were being watched. But they were. A black figure was watching them from the window, glaring in hatred and disgust. The figure vanished after another few minutes. Before he left, however, there were a few words that he said:

“These acts will not go unpunished.”

8 - Irezumi (Tattoo)

The next day, Nara spent almost all day in bed. She had no want, and no need, to get off her lazy butt and do something active. Hinata came over for a while, and she got up and watched some movies with her, but once she left, she passed out, Momo still curled up next to her. Iruka was able to stay home that day, and watched over her all day, doing all of the cooking and stuff like that. Rock Lee came over for a bit as well, to check on her and make sure she hadn't gotten sick. He brought her a bouquet of Morning Glories, her favorite flower. Naruto also came by, mainly just to see Iruka, but he said "Hi" along the way.

The day after that, Nara decided to get up. Iruka had already left by the time she was out of bed. As she opened the door to leave, she was greeted by a familiar face: Kakashi-sensei. "Hi Nara. It's been a while, hasn't it?" Nara nodded. "Y-yes, it has." Kakashi then looked at her, and put his hand on her shoulder. "We need to talk, Nara. And no, we can't wait. This is important." Nara nodded, and followed Kakashi to the memorial stone, where no one could listen in to the conversation. Kakashi double-checked that no one else was around, and then he began to speak.

"Nara, you wouldn't believe what I found. I was skimming through the Bingo Book, and there were some new names on there." Nara blushed, and laughed nervously. "You wouldn't say..." Kakashi stepped a bit closer to her. "And as I read the names, I saw your name on there, as an S ranked criminal..." Kakashi sighed. Nara, on the other hand, looked as if she was about to burst into tears. "Ka-kakashi-sensei...please don't m-make me go b-back! Please!" Kakashi sighed, and knelt down in front of her. "Nara, I don't want to send you back, and I don't want to report you. But if you stay any longer, someone is going to find out on their own, and I won't be able to save you. Nara, you're a class S criminal. You've committed murder, and turned against your own village."

Nara, who was now sitting down, hugged her knees, and rested her head on them, as she continued to cry. "I-I know...I didn't want t-to. I was ki-kidnapped. I was forced in-into this." Kakashi lifted Nara's head, looking right into her eyes, now bloodshot and tear-stained. "Nara, I'm sorry. I will try to clear this up with the Hokage, but I'm not sure she's going to allow it. The best plan for now would be to lay low. Only trust those that are closest to you. Stay with Iruka. He can protect you....don't worry, he already knows what happened." Nara looked at Kakashi, and nodded. She could feel more tears coming. Apparently, she had been holding in a lot of her feelings, a lot of her sadness and pain. Kakashi just stayed next to her as she cried. It was about ten minutes until her eyes were finally dry. Kakashi then led her back to Iruka's house, and made sure that everything was in check before finally leaving.

When Nara had checked the clock, she realized that about four hours had passed since she had left. There was still some time in the day left, but Nara took Kakashi's advice. For the rest of the day, she stayed in the house, just watching TV and reading. When Iruka got home, Nara was worried.

Kakashi did say that he knew, but didn't know how he would react. She went to go explain it to him, but as she was about to talk, he kneeled down and hugged her. He rubbed her back, and held her tightly, as if he was going to lose her if he let go. "Nara....it's alright....I know what happened....you don't need to worry....I don't hate you for it....not at the slightest...." Nara bit down on her lower lip, to keep herself from bursting into tears for the third time today.

Iruka had decided that it was better not to leave Nara at home anymore. Instead, he brought her to the academy. She would help with the lessons, and play around with the kids. Most of the time, however, she just stayed in the planning room, alone. She'd pass the time by reading, or maybe watching some video. Sometimes she would babysit for Sasuke and Sofy, which she loved to do. But mostly, she just sat there, bored out of her mind. But today would be different.

She was sitting in the planning room, reading a book, when she heard the door open. She looked up, and the color drained from her face. It was Kiba, with Akamaru behind her. He looked ready to murder, and Nara felt that she was going to be the victim. Kiba walked right up to her, and slapped her across the face, leaving three scratch marks going across her cheek. She covered her cheek, it now stinging and starting to bleed. "What are you doing back here?! I thought you left! Why did you come back!! Just leave!! Get out of my life, you filthy demon!! I know your new secret, and I'll tell it to everyone if you don't leave!" Nara winced, and then ran out of the room, tears streaming from her eyes. She was absolutely devastated.

She felt that her life couldn't get any worse. Kiba pretty much wanted her dead. Then again, so did a lot of people. Maybe even her friends hated her, and just didn't show it. Maybe they also hated the demon inside her, and hated her as well. Maybe they would all just be happier if Nara Namida ceased to exist. She finally stopped running at the training park, where she climbed the nearest tree and continued to cry. Nothing at that moment could make her feel better. Soon, it started to rain, and she stayed there, all alone. Nara started to sing, in an effort to settle herself, and her emotions.

***"She sits in her corner
Singing herself to sleep
Wrapped in all of the promises
That no one seems to keep
She no longer cries to herself
No tears left to wash away
Just diaries of empty pages
Feelings gone astray
And she will sing***

***Till everything burns
And everyone screams
Burning their lies
Burning my dreams
All of this hate
And all of this pain***

***Burn it all down
As my anger reigns
Till everything burns***

***Walking through life unnoticed
Knowing that no one cares
To consumed in their masquerade
No one sees her there
But she will sing***

***Till everything burns
And everyone screams
Burning their lies
Burning my dreams
All of this hate
And all of this pain
Burn it all down
As my anger reigns
Till everything burns***

***Everything burns
Everything burns
Everything burns
Watching it all fade away
Till everyone screams
Everyone screams
Everyone screams
Watching it all fade away***

***Till everything burns
And everyone screams
Burning their lies
Burning my dreams
All of this hate
And all of this pain
Burn it all down
As my anger reigns
Till everything burns”***

Instead of lifting her spirits, the song made her feel worse. She jumped out of the tree, and started to walk back to Iruka's, letting the rain drench her to the skin. When she finally got back, Iruka immediately came up to her. At first he was angry, but then he noticed the scratch marks. He lightly stroked where the blood was seeping through. "Nara...what happened to you?" Nara had to take a few deep breaths to keep from crying, although with how wet she was, no one would really notice. "K-kiba came to the A-academy....he slapped me....ca-called me a filthy d-demon....he told me that he kn-knew my secret....and t-to leave....or he'd tell e-everyone." Iruka hugged her. He was there to see what happened between her and Kiba, and knew how sensitive a topic this was to her. "It's alright. He won't

tell anyone. Let's check out your wound. It looks kind of bad."

Iruka sat her on a chair and had a good look at the scratches. They were cutting deep into her skin, and cleansing it only made more blood seep out. By the time he finally stopped the bleeding, her cheek had started bruising, and was beginning to swell. He just put a simple gauze pad on it, and had her hold an ice pack against the pad. The pain soon began to fade, and she soon drifted off to sleep. Iruka covered her with a blanket, and took the ice pack from her hand. Momo, instead of curling up against her back, lightly licked her cheek, and slept in front of the couch, as if on guard duty.

Nara woke up the next day with a cold. She assumed it was from staying in the rain so long last night. Rock Lee had come over as soon as he heard that she was sick. He brought another bunch of flowers, and stayed with her for a while, especially after he heard what happened with Kiba. Lee didn't leave until late afternoon, when Nara finally passed out from the fever. Lee, who had an extra key to the place (Given to him by Iruka, so he could watch over Nara), quietly shut the door and locked it, making sure that nothing was out of place.

Nara was soon awoken by a knock on the door. She opened it, only to find Kakashi standing there. He seemed a bit happy, or maybe that was just her fever. "Nara, there's some news about your case. Hokage-sama seems to be okay with it, but some of her advisors are against it. They think you're going to turn against us." Nara shook her head. "B-but I'd never do th-that..." Kakashi nodded. "I know, Nara. That's what I told them. They said that they're going to put some thought into it..." Nara cocked her head. "Is that all?" Kakashi nodded yet again. "Yep. That's all. Just wanted to give you an update." Nara smiled. "Well, th-thank you. Goodbye, K-kakashi-sensei." Kakashi waved as she closed the door. Then, for no reason, she sat on the couch and started laughing. "*Wow, these last few days have been interesting, haven't they?*"

By the next day, most of her friends had heard about what happened with Kiba. They still didn't know about her being in the Akatsuki. Kakashi said that it was safer to keep it a secret. Hinata offered to talk to Kiba about the affair, but Nara stopped her. She didn't need a reason for Kiba to be angry at her. After all, Kiba hated her as it was. One little thing to set him off could tempt him to do more than just scratch her.

Most of her days were instead spent with her friends. Iruka saw no need to watch her anymore, so she spent the days training with Lee or hanging with Hinata or Naruto. She became less depressed, and became confident enough to move back into her old house. The landlords were very happy to see her again. They had a small 'Welcome Back' party for her. The only thing was....she baked her own cake.

The days turned into weeks. By her count, she had been there for about three and a half weeks. Her time had been well spent. She caught up in all of her training, got to know her friends a bit better, and even got back to her job at the hotel. Things were starting to get back to normal, as if she had never left in the first place. The only problem was keeping her distance from Kiba. He seemed to be almost

everywhere. No matter how hard she tried, there was nowhere in the village that she could go without him finding her.

As she was walking through the village, Hinata and Rock Lee at her side, there was a problem. They didn't notice until they looked behind them, but Kiba had been following them the whole time, listening in to their conversation. Rock Lee charged at him, but Hinata held him back. Kiba was still there, evilly staring at Nara, who was doing her best to hide behind her two friends. Then she heard Hinata mumble something.

"This is just like what happened when she left."

Flashback....

It was the day after Nara had disappeared. Everyone was worried about her. At least, everyone except for Kiba. He was giddy, and happy as could be. Rock Lee finally couldn't take it anymore, and charged at him. Hinata ran and did her best to hold him back. Rock Lee almost looked like he was on the verge of tears. "It's your fault she's gone! It's your fault, Kiba! She left because of you!" Kiba snorted. "Like I care? I'm glad she's gone. I can finally have some peace." Rock Lee was enraged. "She loved you and that's what you say?! She would give her life for you, you ungrateful mutt! Do you have any idea how she feels?! Did you ever think that it wasn't HER fault that you were attacked! Well!? Did you?!" Kiba looked at his feet. "You have no idea what happened. What happened was she attacked me of her own free will."

Hinata finally couldn't take it any longer. "How do you know that's true? How do you know that's what happened? What proof do you have?" Kiba snorted and walked away. "It's none of your business." Hinata let Lee go, and he fell to the ground, his eyes tearing, and yet still so full of rage and hatred. Hinata was feeling the same way, even though she had known Kiba for so long. They just stood there, chests heaving and eyes tearing, for at least ten minutes, until a bout of bad weather had forced them inside.

End of flashback....

Kiba and Rock Lee were still yelling at each other, Hinata occasionally joining in. None of them had noticed that Nara had left. She was sick of the yelling, and sick of seeing what was happening. She just left to go back home, her heart weighed down with sadness and pain. "*No one,*" She thought, "*Is going to care if I don't come back...*" She went home and packed her things. She didn't know where she was going to go. She wasn't going back to the Akatsuki. Maybe Sunagakure would be better. Or maybe

back in her birth town, Yukigakure. All she knew was that staying here was tearing her apart. But she didn't know that someone was pulling the strings. She didn't know that someone was watching her. She didn't know that soon, life as she had once known would cease to exist.....

9 - ~Picture page 1~

Momo now...he has gotten big, hasn't he?



Akatsuki hideout...yes, that is the window to her room



Nara's favorite pic of Tobi



Nara without her robe, age 17



THIS IMAGE OR VIDEO
HAS BEEN
MOVED OR DELETED

10 - Tsuki (Moon)

*“From underneath the trees, we watch the sky
Confusing stars for satellites
I never dreamed that you’d be mine
But here we are, we’re here tonight*

*Singing Amen, I’m alive
Singing Amen, I’m alive*

*If everyone cared and nobody cried
If everyone loved and nobody lied
If everyone shared and swallowed their pride
We’d see the day when nobody died
And I’m singing*

*Amen I, I’m alive
Amen I, I’m alive”*

Nara was walking along the side of the road, singing and dragging her bags along. A few people had stopped to listen to her sing, but they became disappointed when every time she noticed someone she would stop singing until they left her alone. She hadn’t run into any of her friends, teachers, or Kiba. Not yet, anyway. As she sped up her pace, she continued to sing, hoping that it would lift her spirits, although it felt like she was in an all time low, a low she could not get out of.

*“And in the air the fireflies
Our only light in paradise
We’ll show the world they were wrong
And teach them all to sing along*

*Singing Amen I’m alive
Singing Amen I’m alive*

*If everyone cared and nobody cried
If everyone loved and nobody lied
If everyone shared and swallowed their pride
We’d see the day when nobody died
If everyone cared and nobody cried
If everyone loved and nobody lied
If everyone shared and swallowed their pride*

We'd see the day when nobody died"

Nara's pace had gotten even faster. She wasn't looking in front of her. Instead, she was staring at her feet, the tears dripping from her eyes, which were already red and bloodshot. Her head was throbbing. So many thoughts were going through her head. Why couldn't Kiba understand that what happened wasn't her fault? Why did Rock Lee and Hinata go through so much to protect her, even with what she had done? She continued to sing, the thoughts and questions racing through her mind.

***"And as we lie beneath the stars
We realize how small we are
If they could love like you and me
Imagine what the world could be***

***If everyone cared and nobody cried
If everyone loved and nobody lied
If everyone shared and swallowed their pride
We'd see the day when nobody died***

***We'd see the day, we'd see the day
When nobody died
We'd see the day, we'd see the day
When nobody died
We'd see the day when nobody died"***

Nara sat down under a pavilion. It was raining, and even though she could manipulate the water, she didn't want to attract attention, and she didn't want to get another cold. The tears were still coming, but now at least no one could tell, with how wet her face was from the rain. As she was sitting alone, she noticed two people slowly walking towards her. She didn't recognize them at all, but she didn't get up and walk off. It wasn't like she really cared anymore. Nara looked down at her feet, and when she looked up again, they were right in front of her. One of them laid their hand on her shoulder.

"Are you Nara Namida?" Nara just nodded. She couldn't bring herself to say anything. She was scared out of her mind. Out of nowhere, the situation just completely changed. "About time we found you! We've been looking everywhere, for crying out loud!" She took a good look at the one that just made that comment. Her hair looked like Hinata's used to, only hers had no bangs, and was parted to the side. Her eyes were a gray-green color, and with a closer look, Nara noticed that her left eyebrow was broken twice by scars.

She turned her head to take a good look at the other girl, who still had her hand on Nara's shoulder. Her hair was long and pink, a lot like Sakura's, and she seemed to also have a big forehead, just like Sakura did. Her eyes were green, but they seemed to have a blue tinge to them. Nara looked

down for a minute, and when she looked up, her eyes were blue instead. Nara sat there, amazed, when the other girl started to talk. "If you're wondering, my name's Haruka Niroshi, and that's Kairi Uchiha. We were sent here to come find you." Nara was confused. "S-sent? By who?" Kairi smiled. "Teneka-san. She was worried about you. And she has a message for you." Nara looked at her. "R-really? What is i-it?" Kairi sighed. "Her message is this: Nara, don't come back. Leave Konoha. They're looking for you, Nara. They're going to kill you if they find you."

Nara sighed, and looked down at her feet. She knew this was coming. It was going to happen sooner or later. She wasn't really sure whether to head Teneka's advice or just stay where she was. It wasn't like she really had much to live for anymore. If she left, she'd be all alone, no friends, no nothing. If she stayed, not only would Kiba tell everyone what was going on, but she'd also be killed. Both paths weren't good, and she knew it more than anyone. But she made her choice. She was going to stay. She had friends here, and she had to make sure that she could protect them as long as she could, even if it means she'd lose her life.

Kairi and Haruka were aware of her decision. Or at least, they were when she stood up, took her bags, and started to run back home. They tried to run after her, but they couldn't keep up. "Nara! What are you doing?!" Nara stopped for a second, and looked at them, her eyes more solid and serious than they had ever been. "I-I'm going home!" She then turned back around and started running again. Kairi and Haruka stopped trying to chase her. They were tired, so they just turned back. But they decided to stay. To keep watch. In case things started getting messy.

Unfortunately, Nara wasn't looking where she was running. She bumped into someone, and fell backwards. She looked up, and all of the color drained from her face. It was Kiba. He was riding on Akamaru's back, and Akamaru was growling viciously, as if he was going to attack at any minute. Nara went to stand, but slipped, realizing that her ankle had been twisted from the fall. She backed away as far as she could, but after only a few feet, the pain became unbearable, and she was forced to stay where she was. Kiba walked up to her, and stomped his foot on her chest, not only forcing her fully down, but also snapping a rib or two. Nara was writhing in pain, and Kiba was furious.

"I told you to leave, you demon! You should've listened to me! Now I have to tell everybody your secret! Or maybe I should just kill you?" Kiba was pushing his foot down even harder, and Nara was doing everything to keep herself from bursting into tears. It was becoming too much for her. She started noticing that things were wrong. She was seeing things with a red tint. Her hearing had suddenly perked up, along with her sense of smell. It wasn't until her body changed and her mind went blank that she realized what was happening.

Her demon was taking over.

11 - Akuma (Demon) -Unfinished-

Nara was struggling, not only to withstand the pain, but also to hold back her demon. She could hear its voice echoing in her head, telling her to let go, to rest, to let it take over. Her body was starting to change. Her muscles were tensing up, seeming to be getting stronger with every passing second. Her eyes changed as well. Her pupils became slivered, and the iris dilated, the color growing more intense. Her canines had grown, and become needle-sharp. Nara suddenly snapped at Kiba, and he backed away, knowing very well what was happening.

Nara stood up, her back hunched over, her arms dangling in front of her. Her ankle no longer hurt. The injury seemed to have suddenly healed. The same thing was happening to her ribs. Suddenly, her body started to grow bigger, and change shape. Fur started to grow, and her legs became hunched, as she stood on all fours. Six long tails sprouted from the base of her spine, and it wasn't long before she was fully transformed.

Her eyes were the only things that still showed the old Nara, the girl with eyes filled with compassion and sadness. Nothing else was the same. Her body was covered in a pale silver fur. Six whip-like tails were thrashing behind her. Her furry, pointed ears were now pressed against the side of her head, her hackles raised, and her teeth bared. She was in the perfect position to strike, and really seemed like she was ready to go at Kiba and kill him. However, when she was just about to start moving towards him, she felt two pairs of hands grasp on to her front legs. She looked down, and saw Hinata grabbing on to one leg, and Rock Lee holding on to the other. Both had tears in their eyes, and a look of compassion that Nara seemed to know all too well.

"Nara! It's us! Your friends! Please, don't attack Kiba! I know he hurt you, and I know how you feel, but dont do it" Nara looked down at Hinata. Her eyes were bloodshot from her tears, and she was shaking as she was gripping her leg. Nara wanted to answer, but instead, a gruffer, deeper voice responded. "The Nara you know isn't here anymore. She's gone, and hopefully, she isn't coming back." Hinata winced. These words, even though Nara wasn't even saying them, were painful to hear.

"Nara! We know that's not true! Just snap out of it!" Nara turned her head. Rock Lee, instead of gripping her leg, was now gripping her neck, in an effort to hold her back, even though she was growing bigger every minute. Nara suddenly snapped at Hinata, and she let go, in fear of getting bitten. Then Nara turned to bite Rock Lee. He, unlike Hinata, stood his ground. He withstood the bite he received on his shoulder, but once she started running, he fell off, hitting the ground hard enough to knock him out. Hinata ran over to tend to him, helpless as she watched Nara charge at Kiba, with a look of murder in her eyes.

Apparently, Kiba had gotten smart and ran off. As Nara ran to find him, she came upon a horrific sight. Dozens upon dozens of ANBU were gathered up, and fighting against the group of people she never wanted to see again: The Akatsuki. Multiple ANBU had been slain already, and the Akatsuki seemed to have an advantage, even though they were highly outnumbered. Nara tilted her head back and howled, to show that this battle could never be won. Not by anyone. She would keep that from happening.

Nara turned to approach Kiba, who had decided to show himself. Nara bared her teeth, her glaring eyes piercing through him. Kiba was ready to attack. His man-beast clone was in effect, and he was more than prepared to be ready to end Nara's life. Right here, right now. He had no problem with getting his claws dirty in the process. But something in the back of the head was telling him otherwise. Did he really want to kill her?

Nara noticed him wavering. Her demon had its mind set. Kiba had enraged it, so he was gonna die. That's what the demon thought, anyway. Nara was doing everything she could to get her feelings known. Sure, Kiba hurt her, and Kiba hated her, but she loved him all the same. He was the first one who had truly loved her ever since she came to Konoha. As these thoughts raced through her mind, she didn't notice her self-control slowly slipping from her grip. Then, her mind went blank. The demon had taken over.

The demon, unlike Nara, had no intention of leaving him alive. This demon was a killer, a merciless fiend, and although it didn't seem like it, that demon could destroy the village, and the whole country if it wanted to. It was huge by now. One move and Kiba could be crushed by just the demon stepping on him. Its eyes were still a golden color, but they no longer showed the compassion and pain that Nara's eyes had shown. They just showed hatred, agony, and a feeling even the demon had never shown before: bloodlust. The demon had an urge to kill. It wouldn't stop until the Inuzuka's blood was spread across its claws, which were bigger than Kiba's head.

By then, both the Akatsuki and the ANBU had stopped their fighting, to marvel, in admiration and in fear, the battle that was soon to happen. Both sides had their bets. Akatsuki wanted Nara to kill Kiba, and to return to them. The ANBU wanted the demon itself to die, but for both sides in all to live. Then, it happened. The demon charged at Kiba, teeth bared and face twisted in anger. Kiba was just able to get away in time before being crushed by the demon's feet. The demon came charging at him yet again. This time, Kiba stayed where he was, and grabbed onto its fur just as it passed him, and began his climb. Somehow or another, he was able to get on the back of its head, where he took out a scroll, and proceeded to start the hand signs for a jutsu.

The demon thrashed its head, trying its best to get Kiba off its head. Even rolling on its back did no good. Somehow, Kiba stood his ground, and managed to finish his jutsu. A series of chains spread from the scroll, pinning the demon to the ground. Each of the chains was glowing, most likely from sucking up the demon's chakra. The demon thrashed against the ground, and slowly, the chains were beginning to snap. Kiba was shocked. If that demon was breaking through one of his strongest jutsu, was there any hope?