

Spirit Flame

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Ennaka was the newbie in Konoha, and a very mysterious one at that. She lost one of her greatest childhood friendships that haunts her to this day and she's is determined to get it back- even if it kills her.

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1 - Reliving the Memories

"I'll race you home!" the boy said to her. He sped off running.

"You never give up do you?" She replied catching up to him easily. her black hair whipped around her face making it hard to see into the night.

The boy laughed. she had always been faster, but he was determined to win this time.

The girl was a yard ahead, but something caught her eye and she slowed down. He took this as an advantage and raced ahead of her. the girl came back to focus and ran after him. the alley way seemed uninviting and gloomier than usual.

The dark hair boy looked at her gasping, "I won!"

She turned to him, "You just lucked out. I thought I saw something back there and it distracted me." she sniffed.

"Exusess, excuses." He muttered. "See you tommorow! maybe you could teach me how to do those fire moves!" he waved good-bye and turned for home.

"yeah, maybe..." the little girl smiled. What she saw still disturbed her. She thought she saw blood. The pale skinned girl kept walking forward. Her fairly small house was a few houses away. after a while she started to worry. She knew she had a severe fear of blood and hated seeing it, but one drop made her panic.

'who's hurt? what happened?" She would ask herself. Shaking the thoughts from her head, she began to calm herself. "It okay, Everyone's fine." she told herself. But her instict got the better of her. She ran to the house and kicked off her shoes. Dad was not in the kitchen. Mom was not cleaning dishes. All of the lights were turned off.

"Mom? Dad?" she called. No answer. The house was cold.

She raced up the stairs to her parents bedroom. nothing was out of place except for a few clothes that her mother had began to fold. "Mom?" she called again. Again, only the wind whistled responded. Getting scared, the small girl hestiantly walked to her bedroom. She pushed the door opened slowly. What she saw did not confort her at all. a puddle of blood dripped off her bed, the red liquid was smeared against her wall. She felt her stomach toss and did not ry to hold it in. The girl, naueated, gagged up her lunch.

after wiping her mouth, she closed the one eye that she kept open, the left one she closed and covered with hair. The girl fell to he knees weakened. And when she looked up, only a cold red gaze was watching.

"Why? Why would you do it?" She asked him.

the eyes narrowed and a thin hand extended into a pouch.

'No! please! I beg of you! I don't want to die! She clasped her hands over her head as if to protect her from the shining black kureni.

"... Come with me, and I will spare you." he hissed.

The girl looked up with tears streaming down her face. "Yes, I- I will! i will heed your commands!" She assured him. "But please. don't hurt him. I will do anything, jsut don't hurt him!" she begged. the boy she walked home with was her best friend, she didn't want him to die.

"... Follow me, Ennaka."

"Ennaka! Wake up!"

She felt the hand shaking her shoulder. groaning, she pulled the covers over her head. She knew it was time, but she really couldn't stand leaving again.

"Ennaka!" the young voice whispered.

"What...?" she moaned.

"You told me to wake you up now, you had to... leave." the little boy gulped the words.

Ennaka sat up slowly with sad eyes. 'i'm sorry, but with me staying here puts you in great danger. I can't risk it. I got to kill him."

The red head boy's green eyes brightened, "But you said you would come back... right?"

Ennaka nodded her head with her black eye watching him. "I promise, I swear on my red eye that I will." she said fingeing her red peice of hair that had been covering her "crazy eye" .

That seemed to satisfy him.

"I made you this." She said pulling out a paper. The boy took it and smiled. "You're very good at it."

'I tried my best. for you. Besides, you are my friend... But I must go now, They are looking for me. I feel it."

He looked up to her. "Thank you. For everything." and for the first time in a while he smiled. She returned his thanks by enbracing him in a tight hug.

"I'm coming back, don't worry." Ennaka grabbed her pack and left him standing with the picture she painted.

2 - The Survivor

2 years later

"As you all know, you will be getting your tests a week from now. After that, you will leave the academy for good if you pass. It only gets harder after here." Iruka told his students. As usual, Shikamaru was sleeping, Sakura and Ino were staring at Sasuke, Naruto was goofing off, and Choji was eating. Iruka sighed and wondered if any of them were listening.

"Who are you?" He asked. The disturbance in his head was bothering.

"Introduce yourself first. It's only polite." the voice teased.

"My name is Sasuke Uchiha." he told it.

A long pause. The voice did not answer. Then it said, *"You have a strong mind to feel me. Only an Uchiha would have that ability, probably. My name is Ennaka, of Spirits, master of deception."* she told him.

"A long name you have. Why and what are you? Where are you?" Sasuke asked.

"For now, I'm in your head. But physically speaking, you will find out. Just follow the pulse."

"You guys can go." Iruka said. Kids rushed to the door eager to get out of school. "What a boring day." Shikamaru complained.

"Is that all you can do?" Ino asked him.

"What?"

"Complain, that's all you do!" Ino went off on him. While the two bickered, Sasuke listened and tried to feel the pulse he was supposed to feel. He turned in a small circle facing each direction.

All of a sudden, a beat went off in his head and vibration shook his body. It sounded like a heart, *Thud thud, thud thud, thud thud*, just beating faster the closer he got. He followed the pulse to a small, almost barren neighborhood. No one seemed to be there, which worried him. His black eyes showed no concern or care as he walked through the afternoon light. His pulse started to beat faster than ever when he reached a small cottage. He turned and went inside.

There were no lights and nothing to make out. Only odd lumps scattered the floor. Then, a light or

two was lit, and he saw paper. Just paper, crumpled, scattered everywhere. Plants lined the ceiling and two lizards peered below at him with their small black eyes. Sasuke walked through the avalanche of papers to get to the stairs.

Upstairs was no different, except there was a cleared space in the middle, where a meditating girl sat. Her eyes were closed and she made no sound of breathing or mumbling even though, her mouth was moving. Sasuke walked up to her cautiously and nudged her with a foot.

"Stop poking me would you?!" she yelled in his head. *"Now, if I can just get back in my head we'll be okay..."*

The voice withdrew and the girl opened her left eye. "I have felt your pain and suffering Sasuke. Your wish for your brother's blood runs strongly in me and you. I wish to help in any way." The girl with her hair pulled back in a ponytail stood up and did not show any emotion, she just stood, staring him down with the one opened eye.

"Who are you, then I might decide to trust you." He told her.

"Very well. I am Ennaka Ahihcu, the deceptionist. I never tell of my birth place, so don't even ask. After being used by many of people for my eye," At this note, she removed the red piece of hair covering her right eye. Behind it was a blood red eye that resembled somewhat of a Sharingan, the copy eyes, "I fled all that used me and now I wish for their deaths. Your brother being one of them. I can manipulate surroundings and talk to minds, but most of all, summon shadow spirits." Ennaka made a hand sign with both hands, she murmured something and a little shadow floated next to her, it solidified and purple glowing eyes popped on its face. "Don't touch, they're testy. Not only that, but they're evil spirits that I use to generate extra chakra for me. They make good attackers when in a swarm. But they have their flaws." Ennaka said snapping her fingers. The imp disappeared. "I fled to the Land of Winds in the Sand Village and now, after meeting someone there and leaving, I can't say the name without going crazy. Is there anything else?" she asked Sasuke.

"For now, no. But are you going to the academy?" he asked. She was strong, and if they had to fight, He would be glad for the challenge.

"... I might." she replied.

3 - Newb... Or not?

"As you can see, i'm not that organized. When I get an idea, I go crazy and never bother picking anything up afterwards." Ennaka said picking up a few scraps of paper. She sighed as she looked at her cluttered house. Sasuke wondered why she wanted to help him. why just him. If she was going to help him, she was going to stay out of his way. He narrowed his eyes and peered at her. He didn't need anymore fangirls. In fact, now that he looked, She wore a blue turtle neck shirt, the same baggy tan shorts with a ripped piece of gray cloth that hung three kurenin knives, and the same sandals. The only thing that was missing...

Ennaka turned her back to him as she picked up one of her lizards. And on the back of her shirt was a sideways crescent moon. It wasn't the same emblem as his Clan, which was a red and white fan, but it looked similar.

" ... What Clan are you from?" He asked.

Ennaka did not turn to face him, she just kept stroking her green lizard. "The Ahihcu clan. And if you're wondering, yes, our Clan is a branch off of yours. We are extinct now, besides me. Thanks to.... Itachi." she hissed the name. "I believe he wanted to erase the whole Uchiha clan, and so he destroyed my family too."

Sasuke replied, "So then you came from the Hidden Leaf village?"

"not necessarily." she said. Ennaka let the lizard climb on the canopy above. " I lived here for a while, but moved away quickly. I lived most of my life traveling and in the Sand village."

Sasuke nodded slowly. He really didn't understand but whatever.

"I think I will go to this academy. i am an expert ninja, but It never hurts to learn new things. I will need to get ready, you may leave." Ennaka said digging for her lizards.

Sasuke, glad to be excused from this crazy girl, walked through all the junk and exited the door. And lo and behold, Naruto and Sakura were out there waiting for him.

"Why did you go inside that house Sasuke?" sakura asked worried.

"Yeah!" Naruto echoed.

"Why did you guys follow me here?" Sasuke retorted.

"Well, you see," Sakura said twiddling her fingers and blushing, " I noticed you weren't walking home the same way, so me and Naruto decided to see where you were going..." her pink hair fell over her eyes in shame.

"Did you know that the house there is said to be haunted?" Naruto said looking scared. he wore his orange jumpsuit, as always.

"Oh really?" Sasuke said with interest.

'Uh-huh, they say a reptile lady lives there and likes to eat people!!!'

'How'd you figure that out?' Sasuke said sarcastically.

"I watch cartoons!" naruto sniffed.

"..... i'm going home." Sasuke said after a long pause. He turned his back on them and walked towards his house.

* * *

Iruka looked up from the papers, "So, you're Ennaka? Welcome to the academy, we'll see what skills you have when class starts." He said. Iruka looked at the papers once more. Not a lot was listed about the student. he never heard of Ahihcu, her birthplace was not said, and all the questions that Iruka wanted to know most were answered with question marks.

"I won!" Ino cheered.

"Did not!" sakura said, "My foot was ahead of yours!" They continued debating.

Shikimaru walked lazily in with his hand on his head, doing what he did best: being tired and lazy. Naruto practically hopped into class, Kiba Inuzuka, and his canine partner Akamaru walked calmly in. one by one the students filed in, wondering who this new, strange girl was. Ino was the first to talk to her.

"Who are you and what's with your wardrobe?"

"... Does it really matter?" Ennaka hissed not looking up at the bothersome girl. Ennaka reached into her pouch that was tied to her leg, she had something in there that might get everyone away from her.

'In fact, you dress like Sasuke, are you the chief of his fan club?' Ino laughed, "If there should ever be a sasuke fan club, I would be the leader." Ino looked away and glared at sakura. When she looked back at Ennaka, she found a lizard in her face.

"Eeeeeek!" Ino screamed.

Ennaka smirked. She loved to scare people. It was like a hobby almost. Kiba looked up at the commotion from the desk he sat in front of Ennaka. Kiba turned his head.

Ino, was still freaking over the lizard, and sakura was laughing her head off along with Naruto and Choji, who was eating at the same time. Shino, the bug maniac, started to watch Ennaka cautiously and shied away from her. Akamaru jumped off of Kiba's head and landed on Ennaka's desk.

"Aw, you're a cute puppy." she cooed. She loved dogs.

the white puppy, Akamaru began to sniff her lizard which Ennaka continuously kept petting. After a while, akamaru got bored of watching the lizard and walked back to Kiba.

"Now everyone, i'd like you to meet Ennaka," iruka started to say, "Would you like to tell everyone a little about your self?"

Ennaka sighed and began, "I recently moved here in the house that everyone seems to think is haunted by a reptile lady, and let me tell you now before you start spreading rumors, I am the the one your talking about and I don't appreciate it much." Ennaka stroked her lizard, "I don't like all reptiles, just lizards, I'm a painter and i'm known as "The Deceptionist" in the Sand village.... yeah"

Iruka frowned, "We need to test Ennaka's abilities. Would anyone agree to fight her?"

No one raised their hand.

"Aw comon, are you all that lazy, or just that scared?" Iruka said. the scar on his nose pricked. A hand rose up amongst the crowd. Suprisingly, it was Shikamaru Nara, the laziest ninja around.

"I'll do it." He yawned.

Ennaka looked over at her opponent amused. she handed her lizard to Sasuke, who sat behind her.

"Watch it." she said as the class walked outside to observe. Shikamaru stuffed his hands in his pockets. Ennaka stood calmly across from him on the dirt feild.

"Begin" Iruka called.

Ennaka got up her hands in the right formation, "Spirit generate." she whispered. her shadow streched a few feet from her and a little dark spirit rose from the shadows. it was small, cute, but deadly at the same purple glowing eyes at the same time. everyone giggled at the little thing. The spirit made a groaning noise that was a little high pitched.

Shickimaru smirked thinking, *This will be easy*. He did a Shadow possession justsu, which made his opponent mirror his movement. Ennaka jumped with the shadow spirit watching Shikamaru carefully. Ennaka pulled a kureni from her belt and watch the shadow try to catch her, but since she was in the air, it couldn't get her. when she jumped back farther, the shadow chased her, but stopped inches from her feet. Ennaka jabbed the knife into the ground. It was a fair ammount of length, but Shikamaru couldn't stretch his shadow farther. He realased the justsu. All the while the little spirit watched...

"You can't catch me like that." Ennaka teased. Shika frowned. ennaka made a couple hand signs saying, "spirit reaper!" the little spirit that was connected to her shadow, enveloped itself in purple flames and grew into a hooded creature with red eyes and a big sythe. then, it dissapeered, leaving the scythe floating in the air. The bone handle waved through the air intimidantly. Ennaka grunted and made another spirit come up from her shadow.

"rruff! rrruff ruff!" Akakmaru barked to Kiba, his nose was twitching.

"What is it boy?" Kiba asked. Akamaru growled and pointed his snout to the little black spirit standing next to Ennaka.

"Say what?! That thing is an evil sprit that's generating extra charkra for her?!" Kiba asked akamaru. his clan was known for speaking with dogs. "She's no ametuer..."

"You're right, I'm not."

4 - Bitter Defeat

"Huh?" Kiba turned his head. He swore someone had said something to him.

"Ha! the look on your face is completely priceless!"

"y-you?" Kiba asked pointing to Ennaka.

"Aw, see, we can be smart!" she teased, "And you're right, I'm no amateur at all. I had expert tutoring to master my skills. Shika here doesn't have a chance!"

Kiba watched immobilized. Did Shikamaru really have no chance?

The scythe charged for Shikamaru. He ducked as the scythe swung at him, *"She's playing a death match! This could get ugly. And what's with that little thing by her? its not doing anything at all!"* Shikamaru thought as he dodged the scythe once more. *"What... a... Drag."*

Ennaka watched amused as Shikamaru kept dodging. As long as this spirit still had chakra energy for her, she could last a long time. Maybe she could try that one thing out... She never had tried it on a real person before. Ennaka got her stance. But before she could make any hand signs, an explosion caught her off guard.

"... Was that all I needed to do?" Ennaka heard shikamaru's voice through the smoke. the explosion had knocked her off her feet.

"How?! how did you?!" Ennaka shrieked. Shikamaru stood holding the bone scythe. the other shadow spirit had exploded.

"It wasn't that hard, I just took the scythe and sliced your little friend. Didn't know it would make an explosion though." Shikamaru said lazily.

Ennaka glared. "I still have one trick up my sleeve..." she smirked and got to her feet.

"Sharingan!" she said. both of her eyes turned blood red. "I'd like to see you get away from me now. As long as I copy you, you can't use any surprises on me!"

Sasuke was taken aback, only Uchiha Clan members had the Sharingan Copy Eyes! And now this girl was using it even though she was not an Uchiha.

Iruka watched carefully. The girl was good, but was very confident about her spirits. Maybe a little too confident and reliable on them. And those eyes... She wanted to show no mercy, none at all. What brutal torture could have gotten that far?

"Flaming Circles!" Ennaka yelled. four rings of fire trapped in Shikamaru. She smiled. "You're not

going anywhere for a while." she hissed. But two seconds later, the flames subsided, and the fire ceased. "Huh!? I'm fresh out of chakra already?!" Ennaka asked herself angrily.

"No matter, I still have this." She took out two katana swords from her back. Ennaka placed the two ebony handles together to make one large double sided sword. four ropes were tied to it.

Ennaka thought out her strategy. but when she was about to put her plan into motion, she realized, she couldn't move!

"Ack!" she grunted. she saw the shadow on her feet. It stretched all the way to Shikamaru. He smiled and walked up to her saying, "That was easy to do. You sorta spaced out there for a moment, now didn't you?"

Ennaka glared. "You win this time. Next time I won't go so easy on you." she hissed between her teeth.

Iruka watched amused. Ennaka was a great ninja, but a little too reliable on her summons. She also needed to learn not to waste her chakra energy so quickly.

Naruto cheered for Shikamaru and choji patted him on the back telling him he did great. The students walked back in with Ennaka glaring at Shikamaru. *How? How did he beat me so easily?!*

5 - The Perfect Pyro Sensei

Now that Iruka knew Ennaka's talents and weaknesses, he needed to categorize her into a team. But, no team there was fitted well with her. The only person that really got along with her was Sasuke, but they had planned him to be with the worst: Naruto. So that idea was crossed out. Iruka looked at his list of students furiously and frustrated. No other kid would make her do any better or worse... Then, an idea struck him. He called her to him after a class.

"What?" she asked sourly. the class room seemed too quiet and deserted for her liking.

"You said you trained in the Village Hidden in Sand, right?"

"... Yeah...." She hesitantly said.

Iruka set down his papers and crossed his arms while leaning back in his chair. "Who did you train with? Who was your sensei?"

"... Those are my secrets and mine alone. If you or me, or anyone said *his* name, I will go crazy and your blood will be on these walls." she hissed. The red peice of hair covering her right eye slightly revealed it.

Iruka sighed, "Could you write it out?"

"NO! Don't you get it?! I'm not going to tell you anything!!! No matter what you say or do!" She screamed clutching her head, "I won't go back! Not again!"

Iruka watched her wither in front of him. He knew he wouldn't get anything out of her. "Ennaka, you can leave. I think I know what I need to do."

Ennaka looked up at him, both of her eyes were blood red. "You... Do you know anything?!" she hissed coldly.

" I know you had a rough past and a tortureful one too. But you fled from something in the Sand Village. I can tell."

"I didn't flee anything." Ennaka mumbled. she turned her back on him and walked away. Iruka watched the sideways red moon shrink farther and farther. He knew he had to find a private tutor for her. One that was tolerant of her. And he knew someone that might do it.

* * *

"So lemme get this straight, you want me to train this girl?" The man with orange hair said.

Iruka nodded solemnly, "Yes, are you up for it?" the scar on his nose pricked.

"What can she do? maybe she's not worth it." The broad shoulders slackened a bit.

"You think anything that doesn't have to with fire isn't worth it." Iruka laughed putting his hand on his brown hair brushing a strand from his face.

"Well, fire is the best." the fake chains on the back of his red shirt rattled.

"Well, then you'll like Ennaka, she can do a few Fire Jutsus. C'mon, Kemmi, you know you want to." Iruka taunted.

"..... What kind of fire jutsu?" the man asked.

"Wow, you're such a pyro. If you accept, then you'll see her moves, but don't focus all her moves on fire, you got it? She's got more skill than fire you know."

'Hold on! I haven't even accepted yet!" he laughed.

"Aw, Kemuri, you can't resist seeing purple fire can you?" Iruka smiled.

"..... Purple... Fire? Okay! I'll do it!" Kemuri exclaimed.

Iruka patted Kemuri's shoulder, "Good, then you'll meet me at the academy next week to meet her, understand?"

Kemuri nodded, "Don't worry I'll be there."

6 - Single Team

"I can't wait to see what team I'm on!"

"i want to be with Sasuke!"

"No! I want to be with Sasuke!"

"No! I want to!" More girls crowded around the poor kid. Sasuke didn't seem to notice their existence. The only girls that were not amongst the crowd, were Hinata Huuga, a shy and very quiet girl that had a HUGE crush on Naruto, and Ennaka.

She didn't give a crap for Sasuke. Her only goal that had to do with him was to kill Itachi. Besides, she didn't have to think about him when she thought about the *Boy*. He was her only friend and the only one that truly accepted her and she accepted him even though he was different. They had been apart for so long, she could only remember his eyes, the pale color of the sea. Ennaka sighed, he was probably dead by now.

"You know you have been waiting for this day, the day you all graduate." Iruka started the class off with a speech on how brave they all were and yada yada yada. He just kept going on and on and on. While Iruka talked, Shikamaru whispered to Naruto, "What are you doing here?"

Naruto turned his head, "Huh?"

Shikamaru glared, "You didn't graduate, remember? You failed the test yesterday."

Naruto, "Ah, but I have my headband. Iruka and I did a little "private test" and I passed." Naruto laughed, "Believe it."

Shikamaru leaned back in his chair. "Whatever."

"Naruto, pay attention!" Iruka shouted.

Naruto shrunk ashamed, "sorry." Iruka told them that they would now announce the teams.

teams 1,2,3, 4, 5,& 6 were called out.

"Team 7, Naruto Uzumaki." Naruto looked up excited.

"Sakura Haruno," Sakura, naruto's dream girl, moaned in distress.

"and, Sasuke Uchiha." Sasuke didn't seem to notice.

"HA! IN YOUR FACE INO!" Sakura shouted. Ino clenched her teeth.

"Whats with you guys, why do you like him so much? he's not that special." Shikamaru yawned.

"You wouldn't understand." Ino sniffed.

"Of course I don't. I'm not a girl." Shikamaru glared amused.

"I'd hate to be on your team." Ino said turning away from him.

"Team 8," Iruka said loudly, "Ino Yamanaka, Shikamaru Nara,"

"What was that about you hating to be on my team again?" Shikamaru laughed.

"And Choji." Choji kept munching away on some chips.

"Team 9, Hinata Huuga, Kiba Inuzuka, And Shino Aburama." Akamaru barked softly.

"And Ennaka," Ennaka looked up, "You're going to be privately trained. You're tutor is waiting outside, go meet him."

7 - FIRE!!! >:D

Ennaka got up out of her seat. *Well this was unexpected. I didn't think they would privately tutor me...* She thought as she walked outside. the air was humid and the sun was bright. Ennaka hated these kind of days. She preferred a cool shady day.

Once her eyes adjusted to the light, She saw a tall man standing in front of her. "Who are you?" she asked.

"I'm your sensei, Kemuri." Kemuri introduced. his hair blazed orange like fire in the brightening sunlight. he wore a red jacket with ragged short sleeves. a hood was on the back with some fake iron chains. Kemuri looked down on her, "So, you're Miss Fire, huh? We'll see what you can do. Follow me." Kemuri motioned his hand in a gesture for her to follow. Ennaka dutifully obeyed. She wasn't liking her teacher much. "Perform some fire jutsu's for me." he told her when they reached a small clearing.

Ennaka glared, "Which one?"

"Anyone." Kemuri replied.

Ennaka took her double-sided katana out. She put one sword handle in her mouth as she made hand gestures with her one free hand. "Flaming Circles!" she called while quickly fastening the blades together to form one sword. the blade swung in a circle and four rings of fire surrounded an invisible foe.

"Now what will you do with it?" Kemuri tested her.

"Hold your tongue, I'm trying to concentrate!" she snapped at him. "Dragon fire jutsu!" one of the fireballs withing a ring of fire, took shape in the form of a dragon. It exhaled a jet of fire towards the middle of the circle. Kemuri watched impressed and fascinated by her talent.

"Phoenix Flower!" Ennaka called out. This time, another ring of fire took the form of a bird. the bird shot out multiple jets of fire.

"Is that all?" Kemuri asked.

"Hardly." Ennaka hissed. She released the Flaming Circles and made her hands go in many complicated hand signs. "Spirit Summoning!" she shouted. Her body went numb and her shadow crawled up half of her body. Kemuri's shadow and others joined. The process took about two minutes. *If she does that in battle, she's an open target for quite a while!* Kemuri figured the flaw of the jutsu.

Once the shadows had taken up half of her body, Ennaka opened her eyes. both glowed purple. smoke formed at her feet, and purple fire shot up around her. after the fire disappeared, several tongues of purple flames surrounded her. But the jutsu quickly ended, for Ennaka had run out of chakra.

She collapsed on her knees exhausted.

"You did well." Kemuri complimented.

'Like you could do any better Pyro Sensei." she retorted.

"HEY!"

Ennaka laughed in mockery.

8 - A Rivalry Begins

Kemuri shook his head, "You're very talented, Ennaka, But you can't control your chakra energy. Your releasing more than you need to and it gets absorbed more quickly. For a comparison, you releasing chakra is like a forest fire, its wild and uncontrollable. It should be like a camp fire, without all the hazards and stuff. A campfire is under control, you add a little wood to it to make it stronger, and your okay." Kemuri explained. Ennaka rolled her eyes, this was so boring. "Do you understand?"

"Yes Pyro sensei." Ennaka mumbled.

"good, I'll test you tomorrow. Until then, do whatever, get lots of rest, and please don't set the village on fire." Kemuri told her as he walked away.

Since it wasn't even close to afternoon, Ennaka decided to see what everyone was doing. She looked around the village and went inside some shops to check out their wares, but she had no money so she just looked. After she confirmed that no one was done with their lessons yet, Ennaka decided to see what they were doing for lessons.

"C'mon one more time!" She heard a voice coming from a small wooded area. Ennaka proceeded stealthily into the brush, trying not to make a sound.

"Kyhaaa!"

"Again!" the voice said.

Ennaka peered through the branches of a tree. Two kids, probably a little older than her were training with some targets in the clearing. One of them was a girl. Her hair was brown and put up in two buns on her head. the other one was a boy. his hair was dark and long, going all the way to his waist. At the end, was a band keeping all the hair away from his face. The tips of his fingers had blue energy emanating from them.

Ennaka watched them for a while. Until the boy began to give a speech on 'Destiny'.

"You can't change your fate, a loser will always be a loser, a failure will always be a failure." He said. Ennaka was enraged. She changed her fate plenty of times. She jumped down from the tree she was in saying, "Loser will always be a loser? Failures will always fail!?"

"Leave it Neji." the girl told him. The boy Neji turned around to see the newcomer. his eyes were gray, expressionless.

"Tenten, we're done, you can leave." he told the girl. Tenten nodded and walked away.

"Who are you?" Neji asked.

"Does it matter? but if you must know, my name is Ennaka Ahihcu. the Spirit Tamer." she told him gritting her teeth.

"What was it you were saying about my beliefs?" Neji asked.

Ennaka glared. *I can tell this is going to start a rivalry... So be it.* Ennaka told herself.

9 - Scarred

The wind whistled through the trees. The sun was still high in the sky. Shadows were casted by the gloomy trees. *I wonder how Neji's doing...* He asked himself. Rock Lee jumped through the trees quickly. He wanted to make sure Neji was still there before he went home.

"You disgust me, how could you say we can't avoid our fate?!"

"... You can't. life has it's course, you can't change." Neji's voice ran through Lee's ears. the other voice was unfamiliar.

"I've changed my life plenty of times! You're so stupid, how could anyone think like that?! If thats so, why try at life when you know nothings going to happen because fate will set your course? It's pointless, and unimaginable! A world where no one tried? a world where we all did nothing, waiting for the world to shape our life... Do even try to think logically?!"

"Fate is fate." Neji said.

Lee arrived at the scene. The girl that was yelling at him looked intimidating. Even so, Neji was good. He could she right into her and beyond when he used his Byakugaan, the 'See through Eyes'. It was even more powerful than that of a Sharingan. Lee watched the two argue. The green suit he wore made him itch a little.

"If you think you're so tough, then lets fight!" Ennaka shouted.

" Fine. But be prepared." Neji said standing calmly.

"I'm ready when you are. Hey, you! the one with the Beatles hair cut!" Ennaka said pointing to Lee, "Be our reff, would you?"

"O-okay.." Lee stuttered. he wasn't expecting this. "uh.. Begin.."

Ennaka closed her eyes, "Sharingan!" and at the same time, Neji said, "Byakugaan!"

Veins pulsed on Neji's head and Ennaka's eyes went red.

"Manyenko Sharingan!" Ennka said. the world seemed to invert it's colors. the sky became red, the sun became black. She saw Neji in front of her... But he was not supposed to be freely moving. "Huh!?" She said, the voice echoed through the unfamiliar place.

" hmph, you amuse me, only Uchihas have those eyes. And yet, you can't perform the Uchiha specialities that their eyes come with. But I can master every aspect of my Byakugaan."

Ennaka released the illusion. Ciolors went back to normal. "Well, if I can't use that, then I'll have to use

close combat." She pulled out her katanas. They slid smoothly out of their sheaths, as if they were ready for battle.

"Fool, you can't make hand signs while holding a sword in each hand."

At this, Ennaka put a sword handle in her mouth while smiling. "You picked the wrong day to mess with me," she said through the handle, "I'm very angry at the moment. And that won't change for a while."

Neji looked at her expressionless. He ran up to her in full speed and grabbed the wrist that held a sword. With a flick, he made her fingers contract and the sword fell out of her hand. Then, he knelt her in the stomach. As a result, she spit out the sword in her mouth with a small gasp. Ennaka fell over hitting the ground with a thud.

"It's over, give up. You're a failure." Neji taunted.

"No- I won't. I'll give you my all. I would, at least, if I hadn't wasted all my chakra on my training this morning." she said clutching her stomach. Ennaka struggled to her feet, "Besides, in the end, you're in a no-win situation. You'll have a bad rep for beating on a girl, or get a bad rep for being beaten by a girl."

Neji showed no emotion as his finger tips went blue, "You... Why do you even try to avoid your fate? It's just going to bring you back on its course."

"My past... Is complicating. I met someone. And he changed my life. He made me see the world through his eyes. What it was like to be a freak. What it was like to have no one. No one at all. No one that loved you, cared for you. But when we became friends... We weren't alone. I avoided my fate of being lonely forever. Then..."

Neji glared down at her, "He left you, I can see right through you, it's what a Byakugan does."

"No, I left him... It's all my fault..."

"Fate brought you back on course. You will always be alone..." Neji walked up to the shuddering girl, "This is a reminder not to mess with me again." He put two of his nails on her cheek. They felt cold and hard. Neji glared into her eyes and she watched his with hate. Neji raked his nails across her cheek. Ennaka felt the hot liquid leaking out of the scratches.

The blue energy left his hands, "Those won't heal for a while. And when I say a while, I mean years. You're scarred." Neji turned and walked away with Lee following closely behind.

"... This isn't over." Ennaka mumbled as she turned her own way, wiping the blood off her cheek. "We're rivals."

10 - D Mission Mailing

Ennaka peered at the scratch on her cheek in a mirror. It wasn't deep, yet it was still red as if blood was oozing out of it still. But every time she touched it, it was dry. Ennaka sighed, It wasn't going to heal for a while, so why did she keep worrying about it? She might as well get used to it.

She turned around and looked at the paper-littered floor. Ennaka picked up a crumpled painting and opened it. she saw the red hair and sea green eyes, but she knew it wasn't him. Something was always missing that really needed to be there. No matter how hard or long or thorough she thought, Ennaka couldn't place what was missing. She crushed the paper again and threw it behind her. *I need to get over him. He's dead!* she thought to herself over and over again.

She looked up at the canopy above her. the vines climbed down her walls almost touching the floor. Little light filtered through the plant covered windows; making her house feel depressed and unhappy. An iguana looked down at her with its small beady eyes. Ennaka reached up and grabbed it gently.

"You guys are so cute you know that?" she said to the lizard while caressing it. The claws gripped her fingers as it stuck out it's tounge to lick it's lips. Sighing, Ennaka put the Iguana back in the vines with it's companion.

She turned her back and departed the house to train with Kemuri.

"You're late." Kemuri commented as she arrived at the dirt clearing. The ground seemed worn with use.

" Sorry, I broke a mirror and got some bad luck.." Ennaka said sarcasticly.

"What the hell happened to your face?!" Kemuri asked when the scars were revealed.

"Got in a fight yesterday after training." she replied proudly.

"With who?!" Kemuri exclaimed.

"Some kid named Neji. I hate his living guts now." Ennaka hissed.

Kemuri sighed," Whatever, Iruka told me not to focus all of our training on fire, and spirit summons, so I'm going to teach you close combat with those katanas and other stuff."

"... No... Spirit Summons? Are you mad?!" Ennaka roared. She really liked her spirits...

"Iruka says your too reliable on them." Kemuri replied calmly leaning back on a tree trunk, "So show me what you can do with those swords on my clone." Kemuri made a few hand signs and a perfect copy of himself apeared next to him. "There, now don't hold back."

"Oh don't worry.... I wont." Ennaka said as she slid out the blades. The orange ropes tied to them

rattled.

"Good, give it your all." Kemuri said jumping up into a tree nearby.

Ennaka rushed at the clone with her swords. But she stopped abruptly and made a quick left turn as Kemuri's clone did some fire jutsu. She flipped backwards and channeled her chakra through the ropes on the katanas. The thread untied and out came a small triangular shaped blade tied to the ropes. She used her chakra to extend the rope and hurl it at the clone.

One jabber out, three more to go... Ennaka thought.

The battle continued for quite a while until Kemuri said, "Enough. I have something else for you to do now."

Ennaka jumped back panting heavily, "What now?"

"Your first mission." Kemuri said smiling, "A 'D' mission."

"You're trying my skills on a 'D' mission? What kind of insane person are you?!" Ennaka was enraged. The "D" missions were really stupid like washing dishes or something. "What idiotic mission is it?!" she screamed.

"You're loud, you know that?" Kemuri said covering his ears.

"Just tell me the mission." she growled.

"Delivering mail." Kemuri puffed out his chest aggressively, "And I don't want to hear you scream."

Ennaka scowled. Delivering Mail? What kind of mission was that?!

"Here you go." Kemuri said shoving a bag of mail in her arms, "You're all set. Now get moving!"

Ennaka swung the bag over her shoulder. *Why did I join the academy again?* She asked herself.

11 - Kouba

She was... jealous. She couldn't deny it longer. All this while she wondered what the boiling feeling inside of her was. And it was jealousy. Ennaka realized this as she handed out the scrolls to the smiling faces. They all seemed to be so happy, so calm. Their lives were almost perfect in her eyes. She felt so alone in the village. There seemed to be no one suffering but her. Ennaka shook her head. But when she thought about Naruto, what he must've gone through... He did have the nine-tailed demon sealed inside of him. A Jinnuuruki; as they called the host. And Sasuke... His whole family murdered by his brother. That made her stomach turn. For her family too, had been slaughtered by the young man. The blood on the walls, the paralyzing fear, anguish, it all came back making her feel queasy...

"My dear, you don't look so good. Are you alright?" Ennaka looked up. She had been so lost in thought she didn't notice a short old man in front of her. He wore a purple robe trimmed with golden thread. His eyebrows were bushy almost covering his slanted eyes.

Ennaka touched her face. It felt cold and deathly. "I- I don't know..," she replied honestly, "I really don't know."

"Maybe you should rest. Come to my place, I have just the thing." the old man said smiling up at her. Usually, Ennaka would not care for such a stranger, but now, she just wanted to rest and clear her mind. She dutifully followed the man to a small house with a slated red roof. Flower boxes hung on the window sills making it seem so happy and alive. The man fumbled with keys and put them in the key hole. He opened the door and ushered her in.

Red wine carpet spread throughout the floor. Expensive pottery lined the hallways with statues of all sorts. Shelves of plants were everywhere with small labels attached to them. In the center of the room was a small round table for two. The chairs had yellow cushions on them making them seem so inviting.

The little man wobbled to the table pulling out a chair. Ennaka sat down with relief. She pulled the large bag off her shoulder. She sighed as the heavy load was taken off of her.

"What is your name dear?" the man asked walking to each plant inspecting them carefully.

"Um... Sorry if I appear rude, but who are you?" She asked cautiously. If the name was someone she knew, she wanted to high tail it. Everyone she met in her past had become a threat.

"Well, if it will put your mind at ease; my name is Kouba Kaen." Kouba said turning his head towards her.

Realizing the name was unfamiliar, Ennaka stated boldly, "I am Ennaka. Spirit Tamer and the Deceptionist."

"Deceptionist from the Sand Village? You have come a long way. You go pretty famous for such a young age miss." Kouba finished her sentence.

Ennaka was taken aback. did he know her? "How do you-?" she started to say.

"You're famous my dear. You're the poor peasant girl that tricked to steal food. The kazekage saw interest in you, he did. Talking into peoples head's to confuse them. How could you pull off such a feat?" Kouba said as he picked up a fern from the shelf he stood at.

"Um... Well, it pretty complicated yet simple at the same time... You see, I have this eye. And if I show it to you, you have to promise me you won't freak out." she stuttered nervously. This man was wise. he might just fish her out of her disguise if she revealed too much. But if he knows about the sand village, he might give her some answers...

"I've seen many scary things in my life. It won't frighten me."

"Well... Okay..." Ennaka hesitantly reached for her hair. the other hand reached down in her pocket to retrieve a purple hair clip. She pinned her hair back revealing the deformed Sharingan.

Kouba raised an eyebrow muttering. "How can you have a Sharingan? It's Uchiha Clan exclusive."

"My last name," Ennaka explained, "is Ahihcu. My clan is a branch off of the Uchiha. And since we carry slight Uchiha in our blood, We have many of the same traits. I was the first to have a Sharingan. Except, it is deformed. I guess something went wrong in my birth development, and it came out like this... in my right eye. But I can use it in both my eyes. but the right eye will never be normal and the radiation from it caused my hair to turn red." Ennaka said fingering the red piece of hair. Kouba listened intently while holding the fern in his small hands. "I've tried to wash the color out, tried to dye it back to black, but nothing works."

"So I see. What is your favorite color?" Kouba changed the subject dramatically.

"Uh... Purple I guess. But then again, Sickly green is cool too. I'll stick with purple." Ennaka said. she liked the color of her lizards; so what?

Kouba nodded and went over to another shelf lined with spray bottles. he got the purple one and walked back to her sitting in the chair across from her. He heaved the plant onto the table. The fern was very odd indeed. It had green leaves with bright orange edged. a golden bulb rested in the middle waiting to blossom. On the pot, Ennaka noticed the ink painted on it. It said, E-H.

"Now, take the spray bottle and spray the plant four times." Kouba instructed while handing the bottle to her. Ennaka took it and squeezed the handle. orange liquid flew out onto the plant. the bulb opened revealing a beautiful orange and gold flower. it blazed brightly like fire and made her feel... happy. But the feeling did not last long. Coldness and the feeling of rejection grabbed her as the flower began to wilt. it stayed in the state for several minutes until, a tiny spot of orange appeared amongst the black. It filled her heart with hope and made her feel alive. Happy thoughts ran through her head racing like the wind through trees. But the feeling was replaced by the normal ones she felt every day. The fern closed up back to its original form leaving her gasping for breath.

Kouba opened his eyes. he looked deep into hers and asked, "What did you feel?"

12 - The Fortune Flower

"Well?" Kouba asked again.

Ennaka gulped in the air. After the flower closed up, she felt as if someone knocked the wind outta her. "I- I..." she stuttered.

"Lets make the question easier. When the flower opened, what did you feel?" Kouba cocked his head.

"I felt... happy..." she said staring down at her hands, "better than I ever did in my life."

"Hmm.. I see. What about when the flower began to die? what did you feel then?" Kouba got up out of his chair and wobbled to a book shelf. He reached up and grabbed a thick old book with pages yellowed with age.

"I felt all of my feelings dry away and they were replaced with sadness and loneliness." She closed her eyes remembering what Neji said. *"You will always be alone..."*

"Interesting..." Kouba flipped through the crusty pages, "And when it came back to life?"

"Hope. I felt hope." Ennaka opened her eyes to look at the little man. he was very intent on the book.

"I see... well, here's what this wa all about. I just read your fortune and future."

"You read my fortune?" She asked confused. Why did he read her fortune?

"The feelings you had where effects of the flower's aroma. It made you feel different things when it changed color. The choosing of the bottle was for the liquid inside of it. If you had picked a color that wasn't your favorite, the aroma wouldn't effect you. The liquid releases the scent and makes you react to them."

"o...kay..." Ennaka didn't understand much of it, but whatever.

"Your fortune... You will meet someone of great importance to you. And heartache will you get when you meet. But fear not, all will become well in the end."

What kind of fortune was that?! Ennaka thought. Someone of great importance? Heartache? All well?! Since when had her life been well?! While she thought of these confusing words, a knock rang through the room.

"Hey, *knock knock* Gramps, *knock* Are you home?" Ennaka's ears tingled with alarm. She knew that voice...

"Coming, coming!" Kouba grabbed his cane and shuffled to the door and opened it. "Ah, Kemmie,

you're early. Weren't you training your student?"

Kemuri looked over Kouba's shoulder to see her.

Crap, he sees me! Ennaka thought miserably.

"Ennaka, weren't you supposed to be delivering mail...?" Kemuri asked cocking his head, "And why are you here with my grandpa?"

Kouba turned his head to Ennaka, "Oh? Is this your student? I found her delivering my mail, but she looked a little sick so I brought her here to make sure she was okay.

Kemuri looked down at his grandpa, "Really? Tch, you and plants. How can you stand those things..." Kemuri walked past Kouba and bent down next to Ennaka.

"Heh, heh. Hi Pyro-sensei..." Ennaka waited for a long lecture but heard none. Kemuri put his hand to her forehead.

"Hmm... You are a little warm. Did you eat something last night?"

"Yes, Ramen." she said, "Luckily Naruto didn't eat it first." Ennaka added. she and Naruto were competitive over ramen... It was of course, the best noodle ever!

"Ah, yes, ramen. Well. maybe you need a day off. I guess you'll have to resume your mission tomorrow."

'No! it's okay, I'm fine, really!' Ennaka said grabbing the heavy mail bag.

Kemuri raised an eyebrow. "you sure? I don't want you passing out in the middle of the road."

"I'm fine." She said confidently rising to her feet, "But I would like some water before I go."

'W- w- w.... Water?' Kemuri's eyes got round with fear. "get it away from me... now..."

Kouba sighed, "there he goes again... Kemuri, I think there's a little fire outside. why not look at it." Kouba laughed hoarsely.

"OKAY!" Kemuri ran out the door.

Ennaka smirked. He fell for anything.

"You wanted water? I'll be right back." Kouba fetched her a glass of water which she finished quickly. Now that she was refreshed, Ennaka thanked Kouba graciously and ran out the door with the mail bag thudding against her back.

Kouba stood outside waving good bye as she dashed out into the road of busy people.

13 - Ramen with Naruto and Dancing with Kemuri

Ennaka finished her mission just in time for dinner. She had returned the mail bag to Pyro sensei and was looking forward to a nice bowl of ramen. *As long as Naruto isn't there-* She thought too soon. As she neared the ramen shop, she heard Naruto's loud voice ring through her ears.

"Oi! Give me another one!"

Sighing, Ennaka entered the small stand. She stood behind Naruto threateningly. But alas, he was as oblivious as usual.

"Ahem." Ennaka said glaring down at him. Naruto turned around with his face stuffed full of ramen.

"Oh, hi Ennaka... meh, meh, funny seeing 'oo 'ere." He said through the food in his mouth.

"You do know what happens when I'm here right." A small smile escaped her lips. She heard Naruto give a gulp.

"... You are going down.." Naruto said grinning.

Ennaka sat down next to him, "Alright then. Waiter, start me a tab..." she said not looking away from Naruto.

"Me too!" Naruto agreed.

The cook looked at them and swore he saw an electric current pass between their eyes. "Right." he said as he started to chop the noodles. Moments later, they received the steaming ramen. The spices wafted into their noses making Naruto drool a little.

"Ready..." Ennaka started.

"Set..." Naruto said facing the ramen while grabbing the chop sticks.

"GO!" They said at the same time. Naruto shoved his face into the ramen and slurped it up gleefully.

Ennaka did the same glancing at Naruto occasionally. They continued this, ordering more bowls and so on. It seemed to be never ending. They had the chef on his toes going back and forth giving them their meals. The sun set and night came by the time they gave in.

"awww, I over did it..." Naruto moaned.

"That's the last time I eat ramen this week..." Ennaka said regretfully. She looked at the pile of dishes next to her. In seconds, she had counted the bowls.

"I got 16... What about you?" Ennaka said looking at Naruto. His pile of dishes seemed to tower over her. Gaping, she looked at him.

"Hee, I got 23!! I won!" Naruto yipped.

"You lucked out." Ennaka said putting her hands behind her head, " I wasn't that hungry."

"Yeah, yeah, whatever." Naruto said, "I'm going home. My sensei's got us a 'C' mission, I don't want to be tired." Naruto said getting out of his chair.

"Lord knows what mine's planning. Tell Sasuke I said 'hi' would you?" She called after him. He waved and ran down the road.

* * *

"WHAT!!??"

"Is it really that bad?"

"OF COURSE IT'S THAT BAD!"

"You really are loud." Kemuri said taking his fingers out of his ears. Ennaka stood in front of him in a rage.

"This is the technique you wanted to teach me?!" she shouted.

"It will help you."

"DANCING?!?!?!" She shrieked, "How could you think I'd learn anything from dancing??!"

Kemuri folded his hands behind his back, "Simple. Come at me with everything you got-"

Once Kemuri finished his sentence, Ennaka lunged at him. He swiftly moved to the side and caught her arm as Ennaka whizzed by, 'I'm not done speaking yet.' He said flipping her back on the ground. Ennaka folded her arms stubbornly.

"Listen for the rest of my directions. Come at me as fast as you can with your fists. No jutsu's or swords. Chakra is not an option either." Kemuri listed.

"Ugh, fine. Just let me beat the crap outta you." Ennaka hissed.

"Heh, I doubt you'll lay a finger on me." At this remark, Ennaka jumped to her feet and attempted to punch him. Kemuri folded his hands behind him as he jumped to the side. Getting annoyed, Ennaka tried again but missed as he back-flipped away. It seemed almost like a tap dance. He was just tapping his feet in a rhythmic fashion as jumping side to side and backwards. Ennaka furrowed her brow. Charging full speed at him, she rapidly tried to slam her fists into him. But Kemuri spun around with his arms protecting his face as the punches were blocked by his elbows.

Jumping backwards, Ennaka grasped he side. His elbow had got her rib. "Ow." she recoiled. Kemuri folded his arms over his chest.

"Do you get the idea now?"

"humph, It's just dodging." Ennaka sniffed.

"Just dodging? Dodging an attack could save your life." Kemuri stated, "Now lets work on this."

14 - Training

"Now, you try." Kemuri had shoved her a few steps.

"I'm going to look completely ridiculous..." Ennaka mumbled.

"No one's watching besides me, now dance." Kemuri glared at her.

Ennaka muttered a curse and began to tap her feet. She closed her eyes letting her "crazy eye" do all the seeing. Of course, she couldn't see with it, just sense things. If she didn't watch herself, maybe she wouldn't feel so stupid. Jumping from side to side and the worst, spinning, she began to move more swiftly now that she had the rhythm. They practiced this for hours, learning new steps and attacking while doing it.

"Good," Kemuri said studying her feet as she copied him, "Now you'll learn to do it so well, that you'll be able to dance walking on your hands."

"My... Hands?" Ennaka asked. How can you dance on your hands?

"Watch me." Kemuri said flipping backwards away from her. The sun blazed through the trees making them sweat. Kemuri gently got to the ground and got up on his hands doing a hand stand. He then proceeded to walk with them.

"I'll go faster once I get used to this..." He said to her. Ennaka watched amused. He looked so weird.

Then, Kemuri put on a burst of speed and began to move on his hands kicking as if he were punching, at a tree. He jumped, spun, and did almost everything. The more he did it, the faster he got. His attacks became more fierce and Ennaka almost felt sorry for the tree he was beating on.

"Soon, you will be able to do it just as good." Kemuri said jumping back to his feet, "But now, let's work with your swords."

"Right." Ennaka slid out the slim blades. This time, she wanted to get out all of her jabbars and show him the extent of her chakra. Literally.

Kemuri got into his stance with Ennaka holding a blade in each hand. She flipped her left sword backwards so it faced behind her, while the other one faced forward. Kemuri nodded, then charged while holding a kunai knife. He threw three mini shurikens at her, but she held up the right blade quickly as the metal clanked off of it. But she knew his plan... Ennaka spun around with the left sword, blocking the kunai just in time. Kemuri grunted and jumped back.

"Nice." He commented. Moving his hands rapidly, Kemuri let flames release into his palm. Thrusting it towards her, it got bigger and bigger until it was impossible to dodge.

Ennaka looked around desperately wanting nothing more than to get out of the heat. So she did the only thing she could do. She quickly got to her hands and released chakra into them. then, as hard as possible, pushed into the ground. She jumped up in time to miss the fireball.

"Ha! a little to slow pyro sensei..." Ennaka grinned. letting the chakra go into her hand, she moved it to the stings on the katanas. The silver jabber appeared on it's red thread. Ennaka smiled and made the string extened about four feet.

"What little doohikkie is that?" Kemuri asked looking up at the sword," Care to explain?"

"Nope." Ennaka flatly stated sending the jabber towards Kemuri's leg. He dodged and landed a few feet away.

"Then I'll have to force it out!"

15 - Kemuri's Request

Glaring down at Kemuri, Ennaka slid her chakra into the next jabber. This one had a green string instead of red.

"ah, so there's two of them... You have many surprises." Kemuri cocked his head with a grin. He moved his hands again and his hands went ablaze. There was no burn or pain as it went up his arm until they were two flails of flames. He tried to grab one of the jabbers with the fire, but Ennaka pulled it back in time.

"Do you have anything else besides fire? You're starting to bore me." Ennaka sighed as she extended the green string. It stretched and curled several feet, three more than the other. "I guess I'll have to make you use something different." She smirked.

"Well, I'd love to see the extent of those thing-a-ma-gigers, but lessons over. Time to go home." Kemuri said looking at the positions of shadows. "The sun does not lie."

The jabbers around Ennaka dropped as she released her chakra, 'What? We're done already?' she moaned.

"Uh, yeah. If you haven't noticed, the sun is exactly positioning the shadows at a 180 degree angle, meaning- "kemuri explained but was cut off by Ennaka.

"I don't care about the giant fireball in the sky and how it tells time. Well, I guess I'll see you then." Ennaka turned her back and jumped down from the tree.

Kemuri watched her go. When she had left his sight, He headed for the Hokage's house. It towered over the village. Kemuri just hoped that he was there.

"Hokage. I'm here to see Lord Hokage." He told the woman at the desk.

"Do you have an appointment scheduled?" She asked while filing documents of sorts. her dark brown hair fell over her shoulders.

"Well, no, but it's something quick. Just a slight chat." Kemuri explained.

"Okay, wait a minute. " The secretary got up out of the chair and meddled with her spectacles before turning towards a hallway. Kemuri heard the tapping of her sandals as she disappeared from view. He looked around waiting for her return, and that is when Kemuri noticed the pictures hanging on the wall of the previous leaders of the village. Stopping at each one and remembering the good deeds they did, Kemuri felt so relaxed. But the tension built up again as he got to the the Fourth hokage's picture. He was the one who sealed Kyuubi, the nine-tailed fox, inside Naruto. *I hope you did the right thing Fourth... You might have condemned us all to death. If 'they' come looking for him, who knows what could happen...* Kemuri thought putting his hand on the picture frame.

"Lord Hokage will see you now." The secretary trotted back in with a folder. She sat back in the chair as he walked by.

"Come in." A voice said after Kemuri knocked on the door. Sliding the screen door open, Kemuri stepped into the room. The Third was sitting at his desk with books and papers scattered all over his desk. Rows of shelves lined the room with a giant window behind the desk over-looking the village. "Kemuri, It's been a while. How are you?" The Hokage asked. A pipe dangled from his mouth with the smoke contrasting to the white and red garments he wore.

"Meh, I'm fine. My student is quite a handful." Kemuri replied taking a seat across from the Hokage's desk.

"I heard that Irkua wanted you to train a new girl. I haven't gotten the chance to meet her yet." The Third replied.

"Well, you wouldn't want to, she's pretty testy and loud." Kemuri grinned.

"Are you unhappy with your student Kemmie?" Hokage smiled, "I wouldn't be able to believe you couldn't handle a little girl."

"No, she's very skilled! Just... Loud and unpredictable." Kemuri scratched his chin, "Listen, I wanted you to see if there was a mission that would suit her. She's got some skill, Maybe a... 'B' mission?"

"'B'? Already?! You're asking for something very difficult, you sure you don't want a 'C' mission?"

"I want a 'B'." Kemuri said sternly, "I will only accept a 'B' ranked mission."

The Third looked into his eyes and nodded grimly, "If you think she's ready... I will see what I can do. And be back by the exams, you here?"

"Of course Lord Hokage, we'll be back *alive* for the exams. Which I would like her to participate in too." Kemuri stood up, "Alert me of the mission when you find one. Thank you Hokage."

The Third nodded. If this student was already ready for a "b" mission... He wanted to see and make sure... "Kemuri.." Hokage called after him.

Kemuri turned his head, "hmm?"

"Your student... What's her name?" he asked.

"... Ennaka... Ahihcu." Kemuri said hesitantly.

The Third looked a little taken aback. "I- I see... Okay, that is all. You may leave."

Kemuri nodded slowly, and left through the door. The Hokage turned his chair towards the window behind him. *It can't be the same one, can it?*

16 - A Visit From Lord Hokage

The Third walked through the abandoned alleyway. It almost seemed like one of those old western movies. There were doors loose from hinges, broken windows, torn down signs, and debris everywhere. No life seemed to exist there. The Hokage stepped around a corner to see more rows of houses the same as the one before. But one had a candle light shining through the window. Seeing that he had found the right place, the Hokage made his way to the house; the candle being the only thing reassuring him that life was there. Stepping to the door confidently, The Third knocked gently. No answer came. He knocked again, a little harder this time.

"... What do you want?" He heard a voice above him. The girl was sitting on her roof looking down at him with her feet dangling off the edge, "Why are you here?" she asked.

Smirking, the Hokage replied boldly, "I haven't gotten a chance to meet the newbie. Kemuri see's much talent in you dear. Much talent indeed."

"Bah! what does Kemuri know the extent of my abilities? Nothing! He started me with a 'D' mission." she growled.

"And now, he wants you to do a 'B' ranked one instead." the hokage said taking out the pipe in his mouth and blowing the smoke out through his teeth.

Ennaka looked down shocked and intrigued, "He... Wants me to do a 'B' mission?" She asked jumping down from the roof and landing in front of him, "You're not joking are you?"

"I couldn't be more serious." the Hokage replied with a little laugh, "Let me talk to you inside."

"I- I don't think thats a good idea. My house is pretty messy."

"It can't be messier than my desk! Lets go inside." The hokage reapplied his pipe in his mouth and opened the door. It was gloomy inside with little light. Squinting his old eyes through the darkness, The Third could make out shapes moving through the plants cascading throught the room.

"Allow me to light a candle..." Ennaka said pushing past him. A minute later she reappeared with a candle; lighting all the lamps in the room. It didn't give much light, but it was better than before.

"What is this paper?" The Third asked picking up a peice.

"My paintings... The mess ups." Ennaka said reaching into the bramble above her. Her hands dissappered into the leaves and came back with an inguana.

"What is that?" The hokage asked pointing to the lizard.

"An iguana. Theres a geko above you, another igauna to the upper right and a chameleon on your

shoulder." Ennaka said pointing to them, "Allow me." She said taking the lizard off his shoulder.

"What do they do?" He questioned.

"They keep me company." Ennaka said caressing her iguana. "I feel so lonely here alone, so I these little guys to solve that problem. I used to have a bearded dragon when I lived in the Sand village. So cute."

"Riight.. I got to ask you something. Are you the Deceptionist?"

"... Well, uh, yeah." Ennaka said.

"The very one that lived with the Kazekage?"

"yes.."

'Prove it." The old man said folding his arms, "Prove to me that you are the famous one."

Okay, how's this? Enough proof for you? Ennaka said in his mind, If you won't believe me, then I guess you'll give a scratch to my reputation. Just don't send me back to the Sand village. I'd really rather not go back there. I feel so much better here, the village doesn't use me as a weapon, it doesn't care that I'm disabled to an extent, and does not reconize me for power. I like it here, old man. She hissed.

"ah, yes, your eye. I forgot about it. It really gives you a specialty. Good for distracting." The Third said to her, "But I know your aren't origanally from the sand village. Where are you from, Ennaka?"

Mind your own buisness.

"Ennaka... I will say the forrbidden name. Iruka told me that there was a name you can not hear. I will say it if you don't tell me."

Tch, you don't even know what it is! Do you? she gulped.

"I can take a wild guess. I do have a pretty good hunch of what it is though..." The Hokage glared at her.

You wouldn't dare.... Say the name, and I will... I will... oh crap, what can I do. I can't exactly move when I'm talking like this...

"Ah, then I guess it's okay for me to say it..." The Hokage sighed relief, " You have ten seconds to tell me where you're from."

.... No... Can't you give me some presonal space?! She screamed.

"Ah, there's your loud side. Well, I guess I'll say it." The hokage cleared his throat and breathed a two syllable word. Ennaka covered her ears, but she had heard it.

AHHHHHH!! NO! STOP! DON'T SAY IT!!! GAAHH! Her voice errupted like an angry volcano. Her limp

body trembled and tried to flail at the hokage, but failed miserably.

"... If you want to overcome obstacles... You will need to face them. I have just the mission for you." The Third turned his back on her and walked out of the house leaving her in the darkness of the house. *A perfect mission indeed... maybe a visit to the Sand village would help.* He thought as he walked down the empty road.

17 - It Begins

"Ennaka, can you pack any slower?! If you don't hurry, we'll be caught in the rain!!!" Kemuri paced nervously back and forth.

"It's only a slight drizzle, you'll be fine." Ennaka said slipping her messenger bag over her shoulder, "So what is our mission?" She asked.

"No time to explain, its raining, gotta move, now!!" Kemuri went in a frenzy. Ennaka watched him agitated. Sighing, she got out her sword and wacked him with the hilt.

"Calm... Down... It's not going to kill you." She said putting the katana back.

"uh... guh... uhh... thanks, I needed that." Kemuri said patting his head where she hit him, "Besides, I came prepared and got... an UMBRELLA!!" Kemuri got out the umbrella and propped it over his head.

"I don't mind the rain. I actually like it." Ennaka said stepping outside, "And I'm not Pyro." She turned to him smirking.

"What you say?!" He flared up.

"Oh, nothing, nothing.." She assured him.

They walked out of the village in silence with Kemuri leading the way. He flinched whenever he had to step in an unavoidable puddle. Gray clouds raked the sky and the rain clouded their view from the front back and sides. Ennaka enjoyed Kemuri's silence. For once, he wasn't nagging at her. But then she remembered...

"What's our mission again?" She asked.

"We're going to a village to pay a visit. And to make sure they're our friends still. But if there is trouble along the way..."

" Hmm?" She turned her head to him.

"It goes to an 'A' mission..."

"An 'A' mssion? Is making sure our allies are still our allies such an important mission?" She asked cocking her head.

"Yes, allies are very important. They're important to us and we need to keep our relationship with them strong." Kemuri said.

"What village?" Ennaka continued questioning.

"Uh... Well... It's the... Sand village." Kemuri cringed expecting her to scream.

".... What...?" She hissed.

"The Sand Village." He said again a little softer.

".... NO! I'M NOT GOING THERE! WHY ARE YOU TAKING ME THERE!!??!?" she shrieked so loud birds fluttered away from tree's in fear. Kemuri covered his ears with his hands tightly.

"Please don't do that..." he said flinching.

Gasping and shuddering, Ennaka rushed up to Kemuri grabbing his shirt in a fistful. "I... Will... Not... Go... Back... There..." She hissed.

"Well, Hokage predicted this, so there's only one thing to do." Kemuri sighed. Raising his hand, Kemuri smack the back of her head hard. Ennaka fell unconsciece to the ground.

"Well, that's one way to make her shut up.." He muttered slinging her over his shoulder. He continued his trip on the dirt road. As he walked along, Kiainikika passed by-

(Ennaka: Morgan, What the hell are you doing?!)

I'm adding Kia in.

(Ennaka; I don't want that neko freak in my bio! *shakes fist*)

Okay, okay. No Kia, but Tobi will not be happy...

(Ennaka: I don't care, get her out!)

Fine. Well, forget everything I said about Kia, she is nonexistant.

18 - Night with Strangers or Old Friends?

Ennaka fluttered her eyes opened. The moon shown bright in the sky with the diamond stars dancing around it. Slowly, she sat up. A small fire was in front of her with Kemuri sitting beside it feeding it a stick.

"So you finally woke up." He commented without looking at her.

"My head... It's buzzing.." She said grabbing her forehead.

Kemuri grinned shortly and resumed to watch the fire. They sat in silence listening to the chirping of crickets as the night dragged on. She didn't mind it. She loved the quiet and darkness. It was where she was raised. Ennaka hugged her knees and rested her chin on top. *ugh, my head hurts so much... What happened? There was rain, and a blow to the head. I can't concentrate like this!* She moaned as the pain throbbed her head.

"It's what you get for screaming again..." Kemuri whispered.

"Huh?"

"You screamed, I shut you up. End of conversation." Kemuri got up and laid down on the grass. "I'm going to sleep. wake me at dawn."

Ennaka nodded and looked up at the stars trying to find pictures. But soon, she tired of it and decided to practice some stuff. Getting to her feet, Ennaka walked a few yards away from the camp site careful not to wake Kemuri. As quiet as possible, she began to perform the dancing techniques Kemuri had taught her. Shuffling her feet, Ennaka slid herself around the field of wild grass. Soon, she decided to try to do it on her hands. Slowly, she got to the handstand position and walked shakily around. After much falling and bruises, Ennaka began to move more gracefully and not so shaky. She was able to walk a few yards slowly without falling flat on her face. After she scored her goal of walking to the campfire and back without falling, Ennaka tried to go faster. That... Didn't go well. All she got was a face full of dirt and grass.

"You were doing quite well." Ennaka turned to see Kemuri watching her. The color rushed up to her face. Dancing was so embarrassing.

"So you're awake." She said softly.

"Yeah," He said yawning, "The fire was so beautiful, I couldn't fall asleep."

Ennaka rolled her eyes, "Well, since you're not sleeping, and I'm not tired... Why not work with training?"

"I'd thought you'd never ask!" Kemuri exclaimed, "I want you to tell me about those pointy thingies."

"I guess so..." Ennaka hesitantly said, "I call those 'pointy thingies' jabbers. There are two on each katana with a different color string. Red, green, blue and orange. I color-coat them to remind me which one it is. For example: My red one is a normal jabber that I channel my chakra through to extend the string however long it goes. Red goes four feet. The green one is an extension string. It's the longest of them at seven feet. The blue one is coated with poison, and the orange one absorbs a small amount of chakra when it hits an opponent. And it's the shortest of the bunch." Ennaka explained, "I control how many I want out and where they hit. So if my opponent is a long-range type @\$\$, I'll use these suckers to keep them at bay. While I use the swords for close-range asses."

"Clever. Where did you get them?" Kemuri asked.

"I made them from a broken mini shuriken." Ennaka said messing with her nails.

Suddenly, a rustle of leaves caught their attention. They turned towards a near-by bush.

"Come out. We know you're there." Kemuri said standing up. Ennaka gripped the hilt of her sword.

"Well, I guess my hiding skills are a little rusty. Kemmie, is that you? Man, it's been a while! What's up!?!?" A young man about Kemuri's age stepped out of the bush. He had long turquoise hair and brown eyes. He wore a dark navy blue jumpsuit with a white sash overlapping his shoulders and waist.

"Kaiyou..? Is that you?" Kemuri squinted into the night. Ennaka looked back and forth between the man and Kemuri.

"Yes! It's been so long! Tetsu, come on out!" Kaiyou called. A boy with bright blonde hair stepped out of the shadows. He wore baggy brown pants with white hoodie. One of his hands was wrapped in stained linen. He wore black sandals as well. Ennaka shuffled her feet. She didn't feel comfortable with these new people.

"My old teammate... It's been so long." Kemuri said grasping Kaiyou's arm.

"Kemuri, this is my student Tetsu. Tetsu, this is my friend Kemuri. We've known each other forever." Tetsu shook Kemuri's hand, "And who's this?" Kaiyou looked at Ennaka.

"Ah, this is my new student. Ennaka. Ennaka, come here!" Kemuri called. Ennaka walked next to Kemuri, "This is my old friend Kaiyou. The Water Mainiac."

"Oh great, now we have a Pyro and a Water Mainiac... What next." She said.

"HEY!" Kemuri flared up, "I'm a Pyro and proud of it! Fire rules!"

"Ah, but what happens when water comes along. Your fire doesn't 'rule' then." Kaiyou smirked. The two bickered like this leaving Tetsu and Ennaka to deal with them. They stared at them for a while until:

"I'm getting tired of this." Ennaka got out her katana and whacked Kemuri upside the head with the hilt. Kemuri did a facefall to the ground.

"Ow."

Tetsu tried to stifle a laugh as Kemuri was taken out by his student. "Meh, that usually knocks him back to his senses... But I think I hit him a little too hard this time..." She said kneeling by Kemuri, "Who votes to leave him here?" She asked looking at Kaiyou and Tetsu.

"Heh, sorry, but I can't leave my buddy behind." Kaiyou stated.

"Aw, man." Ennaka moaned.

"Nice." Tetsu said laughing.

19 - Team Kaiyou

Kaiyou slung Kemuri over his shoulder, "So, what are you guys doing out here?" He asked Ennaka.

"We're on a mission to visit our allied villages." Ennaka said standing up, "What are you guys doing here?"

"Training mostly. Kaiyou doesn't like to stay in one place for very long and likes us to adapt to different environments. So we just travel and train in different areas." Tetsu said looking around anxiously, "Man, Gyoumaru is so slow. He's worse than a slug on a dry day."

"Please spare us one of your lame comparisons and puns." A voice sounded behind them.

"Gyoumaru! It's about time you got here. You take forever." Tetsu said running past Ennaka. She turned to the newcomer. He had brown eyes like Tetsu, with his shaggy dirty blonde bangs falling over them. He wore a blue head wrap covering most of his hair with a gray short sleeved shirt and a white sash around the mid section of the shirt.

"I'm sorry, Sukauto was hard to follow. He took a long way." Gyoumaru said dusting the dirt off his blue pants. A screech cut the air. Looking up, Ennaka saw a bird of prey circling and slowly descending towards them. It landed on Gyoumaru's shoulder cocking its head at Gyoumaru's pocket. He silently slid his hand into his pocket and gave the bird a cube of meat.

"So, Gyoumaru, how does the area look?" Kaiyou asked him.

"It's silent. There's nothing to detect really." Gyoumaru replied, "Sukauto didn't see anything interesting or worth investigation."

Kaiyou nodded, "Well, while you were scouting, I bumped into an old friend and his student."

"He bumped him so hard, it knocked him unconscious!" Tetsu leaned and whispered to Gyoumaru, laughing slightly.

"Please, no jokes." Kaiyou said, "that was Ennaka's fault, not mine."

"Glad to be of service." Ennaka smirked, crossing her arms over her chest, "It was about time he shut up."

"Gyoumaru, this is Ennaka, she's Kemuri's student, (my friend). Ennaka, this is Gyoumaru, Tetsu's twin brother."

"Well, that explains some stuff." Ennaka said comparing them.

20 - Deciding to Join

Kemuri woke to see everyone crowded around him. "Ennaka, did you really have to hit me on the head with your sword?"

"Yes Pyro sensei, yes I did." She said to him.

"Hey, Kemmie, since we have nothing to do... I decided to help you on your mission. We haven't seen much action, so I think this will get us out of boredom." Kaiyou told Kemuri as he sat up, "That is, if it's okay with you."

"Yeah, you can come. The more the merrier!" Kemuri replied rubbing his head.

"What do we have to do?" Tetsu asked.

"Well, We're paying a visit to our allied village. Er- Ennaka, could you go down to the river and fetch me some water?" Kemuri asked.

"Uh, Are you feeling okay Pyro sensei? Last time I checked... You hated water." Ennaka looked at him puzzled.

"That's an order, get me water now."

"Going." Ennaka said getting to her feet. She left the group to get Kemuri's requested drink.

"Okay, We're going to the Sand Village. According to the Third, They are having problems finding water. People might be dying of thirst. We're going to confirm this, and trying to help them out." Kemuri said after Ennaka left earshot, "She's scared of something there, so she'll freak if she knows where we're going." Kemuri explained nodding his head to Ennaka's direction, "So do not say anything about it, got it?"

The three people nodded. "Good, now lets get moving." Kemuri said getting to his feet."

"Here's the water you wanted." Ennaka came back with a pitcher of water.

"Oh, I-I'm not thirsty anymore." Kemuri said walking past her, "Why don't you run ahead? You're pretty fast."

Ennaka, slumped her shoulders and glared at Kemuri. *Find a happy place...* She thought. Shaking her head, Ennaka sprinted acrossed the plain getting farther away from the group. Soon, when she looked behind her, they we're out of sight. Sighing, she slumped to the ground waiting for them. About fifteen minutes past before they came back into view; but Tetsu was not amongst them.

"Boo." She heard a voice behind her. Turning, she looked for the location of the sound, "Heh, you can't

see me." Tetsu's playful voice sounded from a slab of rock.

You're starting to bug me, you know that? She said through his mind, And I know where you are. Stop hiding already.

You can read my thoughts? Tetsu asked

No, I can just talk into your head. A little "extra" I have. She explained.

Oh, well, I'm trying to see if Gyoumaru will find me. He usually does though. Stupid falcon, it always see's right through me.

Ah, I see. Well, I'll try not to give you away. Ennaka said teasingly.

When she opened her eyes, Gyoumaru was just walking past the rock.

"Hey Tetsu." He said as he walked by.

"Damn it!" Tetsu said stepping out of his cover, "How did you find me?"

"I felt your breathing, I saw your shadow too. You need to think about those things when you hide." Gyoumaru said casually.

"Maybe next time, Tetsu... Maybe next time." Kaiyou smirked as he passed them.

21 - Promise

Mountians rose eventually into the horizon like daggerblades errupting from the earth. Their hard gray surface was almost threateningly towering over them. It was when they got to this point, Ennaka knew where they where going. She stopped aburtly falling behind in er place next to Gyoumaru.

"Why are we going in *that* direction?" She asked with her arms stiff at her side, "Why are you taking me *there*?"

"Becuase our mission is just past these mountians in the Land of Winds." Kmeuri cringed, hoping she wouldn't yell.

"But if we're going to the Land of Winds, then that means that we're heading for the... Sand Village." She gulped taking a step back, "I can't go there. The Kazekage will just lock me up again. If we go there, I'll force myself into submission. Please, don't take me back there." Ennaka pleaded.

Kemuri blinked in suprise. Ennaka said "please!" Ennaka never said please to him, "Ennaka, we'll protect you. The Kazekage isn't going to lock you up without getting through us first." He reassured her, "That's a promise."

Tetsu and Gyoumaru nodded and Kaiyou gave her a small smile and motioned his head to the mountians. "That is, unless we want to go to the Rain Village."

"NO! That's even worse than going to the Sand village!" Ennaka said sternly.

"Then to the sand village it is!" Kemuri said grinning, "Cause that's our only option. Now lets go."

Ennaka looked at the group. *If I'm going to survive, I'll have to trust them...* She thought as she took a small step forward. *You promise? YOu swear you won't let the Kazekage even touch me?* She asked in all their minds.

She felt Gyoumaru and Kaiyou's suprise as they hesitanly thought, "*Don't worry, we have you covered.*" Gyoumaru said.

"*Trust us. We won't let anything happen to you.*" Kaiyou gave her a thumbs up.

Ennaka looked from one to the other. She stepped lightly on the grass to join them, then sprinted back to them, "I don't like it, but I guess if I try to run, Pyro sensei will just catch me."

"Damn straight." Kemuri said with a wide smile.

Ennaka rolled her eyes, "You guys are all wack. Don't blame me if we encounter the 'Ultimate Weapon'." She warned. They looked at her with question, but before anyone could ask, she sprinted ahead, "Race you there!"

They watched he run past them to the feild ahead. Kemuri sighed, "Always in a rush."

"She's alot like you." Kaiyou commented.

"She reminds me of Kitei. Personality wise." Kemrui said.

"Yeah... Hope Kitty's alright." Kaiyou put a worried look on his face.

"No matter what, We're still the Triple 'K' Nothing will change that." Kemuri said patting kaiyou's back,
"Nothing."

22 - Returning Home To the Memories

"What... was that?" Gyoumaru asked his twin.

"What? What are you mumbling about now?" Tetsu looked at him puzzled.

"Ennaka... She talked through our minds.." Gyoumaru turned his head to her as she was speeding ahead of them almost halfway across the plain.

"Ah, yes," Kemyuri intertwined into the conversation, "That's an ability she seemed to be born with. Did you see her other eye, the one she covers?" The boys shook their heads, "Well, it's red. Sort of like that of an Uchiha Sharingan. Except, well, deformed. It can see... *things*."

"What kind of *'things'*?" Tetsu asked the jounin.

"The world may never know. But I guess she can see and telepathically talk through minds. Not even I, her sensei know much about it."

* * *

"What's your name?"

"E-e-e... nnaka."

"Ennaka? Can I call you, Nakki?"

She nodded feebly in fright.

Ennaka looked back at the group. Kemuri and Kaiyou seemed to be alright with the twins. She could go ahead. Ennaka took one last glance at the party before running into the cave at the base of the mountains.

"My dad, he'll give me anything. Do you want something? I can get it for you."

"Uh, all I really want right now... is a brush and a hair band or two."

The little kid smiled in thought, "My sister has those things. But I don't think she'll let you have them willingly. But I'm sure we can get them."

She nodded trembling, "Well, I'm pretty hungry too. Your dad doesn't send much food to me. Just stale bread."

The little boy looked appalled, "What? Why?"

"I don't know. I think he's scared of me. I did steal for my food before they brought me here."

"Well, that's no good. Here, lets get you someting to eat." He had almost dragged her across the town. some little kids playing on the street ran inside at a glance, "Don't worry, they always do that. I don't know why though." He assured her, "Don't worry Nakkj, we're almost there."

Ennaka looked at the kids too scared to move. They trembled as both of the two walked by. Some whispered to their friends while others stared. The ones that did whisper, Ennaka could hear their words.

"Those are the two. She can manipulate your mind and make you go crazy!"

"That one, he's deadly."

"Get them out of here! Get them away!"

Ennaka clutched her head as she ran through the darkness. She might be returning to the same people who shunned her and locked her up. She might be returning to a dead friend, She might be returning to meet her own death. *Can I really handle this? If someone say that name... Who knows what I'll do.* Ennaka thought as her memories tried to get her attention.

"Hey, Ennaka, Why'd you slow down? Man, you are worse than Gyoumaru! Gyoumaru, hurry up!" Ennaka looked up in shock to see Testu running next to her.

"I'm coming, I'm coming." She heard gyoumaru's voice behind them, "You be paitent and don't crack any jokes."

"Well, I think I'm might of." tetsu said looking at his brother with a small smile. Gyoumaru's eyes widened.

"You didn't."

"I did."

"... Ennaka, If you wish not to sophocate, I'd advise you to get out of this cave while you still can." gyoumaru ran ahead.

Ennaka rolled her eyes and rushed past Tetsu. Man, if these guys were twelve or thirteen, she couldn't tell. They seemed more like seven.

Light emanated from the end of the tunnel, she burst through happy to feel the sun. But when the rocky landscape ended, the rest was met with sand and dirt. No life at all. *Home sweet home...* Ennaka thought as she stepped on the desert sand, *Home sweet home...*

23 - Sand Village

"Whoa you three, wait for us old geezers." Kaiyou commented as he stepped out of the cave with Kemuri beside him.

"Sorry, Tetsu decided to stink up everything." Gyoumaru shoved his face within inches of his brother's.

"Heheh, oops." Tetsu shrugged innocently.

"Hey, where's Ennaka?" Kemuri asked looking around.

Gyoumaru looked around, "She was here a minute ago. Where could she have gotten to?"

"Well, do you think she ran away? We're pretty close the the village..." Tetsu commented as he squinted ahead, "Hey, Gyoumaru, Why don't you put that bird brain to work and get him to find her."

Gyoumaru rolled his eyes, "You really don't appreciate Sukaoto's specialities, do you now?"

"Not in the slightest." Tetsu folded his arms over his chest, "Now get moving you slowpoke."

"I'm going, hold on." Gyoumaru let the falcon hop onto his arm. It took off with a flutter of wings and feathers and circled over them. Gyoumaru closed his eyes and muttered something about Tetsu being pushy, then put his hands together. "Falcon Eyes!"

His vision pulsed, Sukaoto turned his head this way and that looking for the lost girl. Sukaoto let out a small screech as the Sand Village's walls were visible. the people seemed like bugs squirming through the harsh desert. In the midst of the people, he saw someone out of wack. While most people in the village wore light colored clothing, one person wore a dark blue sleeveless shirt with a high neckband. a sideways crescent moon rested on the back with black and tan capries. two swords clung to the back.

Ennaka!

"What did you see? Where is she, did you find her?" Tetsu shook his brother's shoulder as he opened his eyes.

"Well, yeah, I found her. But she's already at the village."

"Whoa, hold on, what?! Ennaka willingly went on her own to the sand village without us?!" Kemuri said taken aback.

"Apparently so." Kaiyou responded walking in front of the twins, "I guess we better catch up before she does something or something find her first."

"Right." They agreed.

* * *

So... quiet. So little life... So many empty streets.

"... No.." She whispered to herself. She would not let herself believe he died. She would continue to search.

"Hey, you! The one with the moon on their back!" A voice sounded.

Ennaka froze where she was closing her eyes trying to calm herself.

"You're from Konoha, aren't you? This is the Sand Village! Get lost!"

Ennaka twitched feeling her anger boil. This was her home. She wouldn't be casted out now! She took her hair out of her eyes and tucked it behind her ear.

"Are you listening to me! Get lost, or state your business!" The angry man shouted to her. Ennaka turned her head slightly feeling the lust to strangle whoever was talking to her.

Leave. Me. Alone. She felt the man's fear immediately.

"Oh-no, it's her. She's back!" He hissed stepping back, "I saw that eye!"

Tell no one of my presence. Tell no one of my living. I live only to defend my rights and to protect those close to me. I wish not to be locked up again. Tell the Kazekage, and I'll kill you! I should be welcomed into my home, not shunned or casted out! I wish to see him! Where is he!?

By the time she had asked the question, the man had began to sweat and gape at her telepathy. "No! Get away, leave me alone!"

Tell me!

"I don't know! Just leave me alone! Go away!"

Seeing that the man was of no use to her, Ennaka left his mind thankful to be inside her own again. He collapsed grasping his head as she walked away.

Many people had recognized her when they glimpsed her eye. It was overwhelming to talk to all of them telling and threatening them not to tell anyone they saw her. But she guessed some would have done so anyway. *It won't be long now...* She thought. Ennaka reached the center of the almost deserted city. Where everyone was... was still a mystery. The Kazekage's house rose above her. She wanted her visit to be a surprise, it wouldn't help if all the residents told of her coming. Besides, this is where she was raised. In that building.

She opened the sliding doors and entered quickly looking around making sure her friend wasn't in sight. When she confirmed his existence was not present, she decided to have a little chat with Lord

Kazekage.

24 - Senses

"Ennaka! Wait!" A firm hand grabbed her arm, "What do you think you're doing!? A few hours ago you were scared to even see the Kazekage, now you're *trying* to see him? Which one is it!?"

Ennaka jerked up. Swiftly turning, she saw Gyoumaru holding her with a very confused and concerned look on his face. She looked around at her surrounding as if just noticing what she might be getting herself into.

"What's going on...?" She asked herself quietly, "Why do I feel so angry..."

* * *

"Lord Kazekage!" A man rushed into the room. He had sweat pouring from his forehead with fear glazed acrossed his face.

"What is it?" He asked raising an eyebrow.

"A citizen was found laying on the street saying that he saw the Deceptionist! I think she's returned!"

The Kazekage leaned back in his chair, "... The Konoha ninja... I have heard scouts saying they've seen the Konoha ninja... It seems Ennaka has a little trouble deciding where her loyalties lie. Bring her in now."

"What?"

"Open the door and let our guests in." The kazekage hissed like a rattlesnake.

Confused, the sand ninja opened the sliding doors. Two kids tumbled into the room: a boy and a girl.

"Ennaka, so glad you could join us. I knew they were sending Konoha ninja, but I'd never guess you'd be amongst them."

"Yeah, yeah, put a rat in it you snake." Ennaka retorted standing and brushing her clothes with a hand, "It's not like I willingly came or anything."

"And who's your friend here?" The kazekage leaned forward inspecting Gyoumaru.

Gyoumaru remained silent wondering if this man was friend or foe. In Ennaka's eyes, he seemed foe. But then again, he was Konoha's allied nation.

"Why would you like to know? I only want a few answers from you. It's been so long, I think it's time I caught up with your curfew." Ennaka butted into Gyoumaru's thinking time.

"... You do know that I have listed you as a missing nin." The man rested his head on his shoulder, "I could send my men after you right now."

"Tsk, tsk, tsk," Ennaka shook her head, "I was never an official ninja of Sunakagure. You of all people should know that. I was brought up in your house. And I really would like to see my childhood caretaker. He did a much better job of taking care of my needs than you did. Please, don't say his name. I'd really don't want your blood smeared on these nice walls and floors. Though, tasting your blood in general seems so refreshing. It almost makes me happy." Ennaka slithered on a sick twisted smile.

"Ooh, testy are we? You've become just like your spirits. Twisted and unpredictable. Your caretaker, huh? You still think of him as a friend don't you? How sad, I bet he wouldn't even acknowledge your existence after the promise you broke. Even so, He still sickens me."

"Y-you mean... He's... alive?" Ennaka stuttered feeling her heart flutter like a bird in a cage.

"Yes, of course he's alive. But he's not in the village at the moment. He left on a mission."

Ennaka gasped with relief, "He is alive. Oh, thank heavens!"

"What did you think would happen to him?" The kazekage chuckled, "He's almost indestructable!"

"Well, quite a few things. People were always trying to kill him. Even more so people had a grudge against his powers, and Don't let me forget what I had to watch!"

The kazekage glared intensely, "You have a very big mouth, Nakki."

"ONLY HE MAY CALL ME THAT!" Ennaka roared as the Kazekage hissed the nickname.

"E-ennaka, What's going on?" Gyoumaru looked up at her with worried eyes, "Who are you talking about? What's happening?"

Ennaka's mood seem to lighten as she heard his voice, "I'm a resident of the sand village. I have many ties here. Some not as good as others." She said not looking away from the Kazekage's eyes, "The biggest tie was a person that made me feel better as my misery of living here was proceeding. Man, I hate when you used me for my eye!" Ennaka growled at the Kazekage.

"You're unique, I had to-" He began but was cut off.

"Use her in every situation like a double edged sword?" Tetsu walked in followed by Kemuri and Kaiyou.

The Kazekage narrowed his eyes, "Who are you?"

"We are-"

"The Elemental Trio of the Leaf village-"

"Kaiyou-"

"And Kemuri." Kemuri juggled a ball of fire in his palm, "I heard you had a drought. We have come to help. Right Ennaka?"

Ennaka turned to her sensei with her blank face, "... Only for the Sand Village. Not for him." she said pointing at the Kazekage, "Never for him."

Tetsu helped his twin to his feet, "Well, here's a start. I'm actually late for once!"

25 - Crazy Much

"Well, if you're Elemental Trio, where's the other one?" The Kazekage asked raising a brow.

"Uhhhhmmm... For now, we're just the Elemental Duo." Kmeuri replied scratching his head, "So what's the problem here?"

"Rain. We have no rain; or water supplies." A sand village ninja piped up.

"Indeed, everyone went to look at the river where the water flows, but none have come back. Most of my people are in the hospitals and houses begging to quench their thirsts." The Kazekage said.

Ennaka stepped by Kemuri, "We'll go see the water source." Kemuri offered, "If that's okay with you."

The Kazekage narrowed his eyes, "Very well... Find the problem."

* * *

... He must be around here somewhere. Kazekage said he survived. Ennaka thought looking around thoroughly. She touched the side of her head with a finger, He usually accepts my mind invasions. But I can't find his mind! She moaned in distress. Tetsu and Gyoumaru took their places on each side of her.

She looks really worried... Gyoumaru pointed out, *Wonder what she's up to.*

"Hey, what's that?" Kaiyou asked stopping at a corpse of a dead sand ninja.

"He's dead." Tetsu stated nudging the body with a foot.

"guh..." The body groaned. Tetsu jumped back.

"It's a zombie!"

"You've read too many fanfics, it's just a dying person." Gyoumaru said flatly.

"The water... blocked... Ninja... Attack." The man said and died. Ennaka seemed not to notice the loss.

Not him. Ennaka thought walking past the body. "By the looks of it, there are ninjas up ahead-" Ennaka took off before Kaiyou finished.

"Ennaka!" Kmeuri shouted. She didn't hear.

He won't be near water... That's for certain. But maybe I'll run into him anyway. She hoped running through the desert. A person stood in front of her when she looked up.

"What's the rush?" She asked smirking.

Get out of my way. If you don't, I'll get very mad. You don't wanna catch me mad. An impressed look smeared across the woman's face.

"Mind reader?"

"No."

She cocked her head, "What are you then?"

"I'm not a what. I'm a who. I am the Deceptionist. Now go home before I rip your head off."

"Ooh, I thought you were dead. Or did you chicken out?"

Ennaka growled and released her genjutsu that she had been using since she got away from the group. Multiple spirits faded into view showing their ghostly appearance.

"What's this? some kind of illusion?"

"No, this is reality.. Die." Ennaka hissed sending the scythe carrier into battle first leaving the woman behind. The others around her moaned and groaned like most zombies did. The scythe carrier caught up moments later with blood dripping off the end of the blade.

"Good work." She said sliding out a katana, "I got the rest." The spirits sunk into the ground leaving her alone in the heat. She followed a trail where she knew the river once ran. The closer she got to the source, the more bodies littered the sandy surface. She had heard Kemuri's pleas for her to stop, but she paid no heed. Ennaka wanted blood, she wanted it now.

Something hissed nearby. Ennaka froze in the spot. She looked around fretfully wondering where the sound came from. she felt the steam ooze out of her pores and the marks form on her torso and arms. "Crap." She said watching her seal open up. It only happened when she was around a snake. Her parents had put a seal to prevent some Orochi guy to get her. She sliced the snake's head off with her sword and felt the seal's relaxed state. They seeped back into her skin and the steam stopped.

'Ennaka wait!" Gyoumaru grabbed her, "Wait for us!"

She felt her knees shake. The seal left her in a state of shock when it was over. She silently let Gyoumaru take her back to the group where Kemuri gave her lecture on staying with them. Of course, she didn't listen.

"Hey Ennaka, what's this 'Ultimate Weapon'?" Tetsu asked, "i've been meaning to ask, but I kept forgetting."

Ennaka did not respond.

"Well?" Kaiyou inquired.

"A Sand village secret." She said trying not to reveal too much.

"Oh, are you now loyal to them and not Konoha?" Kemuri asked.

"I can't tell you without killing something." She replied looking ahead, "It will drive me crazy."

"Oh, well that sucks." Gyoumaru pitied. Sukauto let out a scream. Where a waterfall came down a mountain side, was a dam.

26 - Whoo hoo! More Guards!

"Well, that just might be a slight problem...." Kaiyou commented looking at the dam in the distance.

"Yeah, really." Gyoumaru said, "You want me to scan?"

"Hurry up already! We don't have all day, SCAN WOULD YOU!" Tetsu screamed. Gyoumaru and Kemuri covered their ears.

"Man, you're almost as bad as Ennaka over there!" Kemru moaned, "I don't need two loud mouths!"

Ennaka was oblivious to their conversations. She just felt so weird. Her world all of a sudden went upside down, left and right! it seemed she was being shaken like a snow globe. All these feelings had started firing up her veins after they had told her their destination. And now, all she wanted was revenge. Something to let her nails rake across... Something like... flesh. Ennaka looked at her hands. they were blood stained and caked with sand and dirt. Sand... It brought her comfort, hate and many emotions thrown at her. She picked up a small grain and rolled it between her index finger and thumb. it crumpled away into dust. Ennaka made a hand sign. She stood up and let her Sharingan take over her other eye. Looking around, she made more hand signs and withdrew a sword. She let her chakra course through the green string and let the jabber shoot inches from Goymaru's face. He yelped in surprise as the jabber flew into an approaching person. He wore a Rain ninja headband and an umbrella was clinged to his back.

"Whoa, that was unexpected." Tetsu said slowly.

Ennaka walked past the silent crowd making her way to the Rain ninja. He moaned clutching the place where the jabber had hit him. (which was a little below the heart) Ennaka got a fistfull of his shirt and pull his ear to her mouth where she hissed almost demonically, "Tell 'Pain' I have a little messege for him. I. Will. Kill. Him." She stated firmly, " Oh, and while your at it, tell him that I have a messege for Itachi too. Tell him, that I have almost my whole life set on killing him. I also have caught up with his little brother and I'm currently trying to drive him away from his path. Oh, and Tell Deidara and Sasori I said 'hi.'" She said thrwoing him to the ground. She left him struggling to his feet mumbling about 'stupid Rain nija' and 'traitors' and 'better off without him' stuff.

"Man... She's vicious when she's angry!" ATetsu said taking a step back, "Reminds me of my grandma."

"Looks like the Rain ninja's are behind this. Heh, wonder why." Kaiyou said with a shrug, "Well, lets go break that dam."

The group traveled acrossed the desert while Gyiumaru scanned the area for more enemies. If they did find a Rain ninja of sorts, Ennaka would rely messeges to this guy named 'pain' or something like that. The wind within the desert began to increase sending debris into their eyes. Ennaka didn't seem to mind much, she just would wipe her eyes occasionally.

How will we break the dam? She asked through minds unable to talk with sand billowing in her mouth.

"Dunno! We could give you guys a tutoring of Chakra control!" Kemuri said yelling over the hissing winds.

I already know how to focus chakra. I learned it before I came to the Sand village.

"Show off.." Tetsu mumbled. Ennaka shot him a warning glance which he got quickly knowing that she was trying to tell him to.. oh, I dunno, shut up maybe?

When they reached the wall blocking the water, Ennaka cocked her head studying the structure. Sukauto hovered above with a careful eye out for intruders. After a long silence, Ennaka scratched the surface of the dam. it was moist and eroding. Letting her fingers crawl across the wall, she felt it get more damp the more she drifted to one side of the wall. Ennaka studied this spot for a while then turned to the group.

"Who has the stongest punch?" They looked around until all eyes drifted to Pyro Sensei. Ennaka stepped aside, "Would you do the honors?"

"B-but... it's wet behind that wall... There's lots and lots of wet..." he whimpered cowering, "Kemuri's no like wet!" The whole party groaned and kaiyou stepped forward.

"Fine, I'll do it." Kaiyou cracked his knuckles while everyone else moved to higher ground knowing that water would be crashing around them at any moment. Kaiyou pulled back his fist letting chakra pulse around it. He trusted his hand forward and- BAMMO! a chunk of the dam fell to the ground near the man. water gushed out leaving Kaiyou drenched. The kids watched as Kaiyou threw another sucker at the wall letting more water flow. this continued until the wall became soo weak from lack of structure, that it collapsed entirely letting the water shoot out like a volcano. (comment from Kemrui: Ooh! I LOVE VOLCANOS!)

Kaiyou jumped out of the rushing water as it filled the trench where the water once resided. Kaiyou sat by them gasping, "Whew, that used alot of energy and chakra." Tetsu and Gyomaru crouched by their sensei making sure he was okay.

"Ahha!" A voice shouted to them, "So, your the Konoha ninja foiling our plans! Well, we'll show you what for!" A group of three Rain ninja stood at the edge of the river with smirks across their faces, "It took us a while to build that without anyone noticing... And now you're going to pay for destroying it!"

Ennaka, not turning from her spot, shook her head, "You guys just don't get it do you?" A shadow seaped up her side followed by others, "I'll show you why you don't mess with the Sand village. And what happens when you mess with me!" She turned her head with her eyes glowing purple and her skin turning the color of shadows. Shock twisted onto the enemies faces as Ennaka launched herself into battle.

27 - No Mercy for Rain

"Someone stop her!" Kemuri shouted to the group. Tetsu looked around completely confused, and Gyomaru just looked at his twin for a plan. The pair shrugged and ran without one, just hoping that adapting to the situation like Kaiyou had taught them to do, would work. tetsu pulled off his white sweatshirt showing that he had another tan one under it. He dived into the sand of the desert blending in with the light colors. Gyomaru untied the ice whip by his side and snapped it open with Sukauto flying above him.

Ennaka lashed out with a purple flaming hand at one of the rain ninja's face. Startled at her new ability of speed, the three men were deffenseless against the upcoming attack. The shortest one took her blow being knoeked down in a whirlwind of dust. The other two took out their weapons just noticing that the rest of the group had came to help the insane lady charging at them.

You can't win... Give up, there's nothing you can do. Turn around and run before your bodies are crumbled by my hand.... It was like the devil whispering in their ears, *She'll just kill you. And Judgement will await you. No one wants that do they?* The female voice hissed, *You picked the wrong time to mess with me. I'm in a pretty bad mood; but then again... I'm always in a bad mood!* Ennaka let the shadows around her face lick her left eye.

* * *

(A/N): Okay, I noticed that some of you might have Ennaka's eyes confused... So here we go! Ennaka's 'deformed eye' is (if you were facing someone), on your left, her right. and vise versa for her other eye. Yeah, back to the fight!

* * *

The rain ninja thrown back by Ennaka's puch suddenly felt a hand grip his ankle. Tetsu rose from beneath the sand and socked the guy in the gut with a nasty punch. Gyomaru lashed at the tallest member with his whip delivering sharp icy pain to the man's arm. While the man was imoblized by Gyomaru, Sukauto dived down in the man's face and began to peck.

Ennaka heard a scream from one of the men. She turned and saw Sukauto swallow something while his victim ran around ranting, "My eyes! My eyes!" Ennaka grinned with satisfaction. A fitting end for a rain ninja. She turned her attention back to the last remaining guy. Kemuri was guarding Kaiyou from further harm considering the man was beat from destroying the dam.

Ennaka threw her hands into multiple signs after biting her thumb. She placed the bloody thumb on the ground whispering, "Summoning jutsu!" A puff of white smoke emanated in the ground in front of her draining the blood into the sand. When the smoke cleared, a lizard, about seven feet tall, stood by her. It had two small steel shoulder pads protecting it's shorter forearms and a leather vest that hung a small dagger. The scales on it's head shown greenish blue with a few random orange scales. The throat patch on it's neck expanded with a red hue. A sheathed short sword hung at it's waist that was half her height.

She nodded in approval of her work. the now very jumpy lizard was Hachuu, the Biting Lizard Samurai. Hachuu drove out his sword and snapped his teeth together gleefully.

"What is that?!" The man asked.

"This is my summoning Hachuu," Ennaka explained, "He's a lizard swordsman that has a very unique way of desposing of it's victims. First, he'll bite a limb, then use his word to hack you to peices. After you're nothing more than a bloody mess, He'll eat your still hearts ant organs. The bone's he'll burn and scatter the ashes on crap. And that's going to be your fate if you don't leave the Land of Winds now. And I'll have Hachuu chase you clear of the land if proven neccessary." Ennaka smirked with the purple fire balls dancing around her. The pupilless glowing eyes were so alein and merciless, enjoying the thought of bloodshed. Hachuu hopped from one leg to the other cocking his head continuously waiting fo Ennaka to give the signal for him to attack.

The rain ninjas that heard her description of death that awaited them cowered letting their guard down. The blind ninja wobbled around trying to figure out where this Hachuu was. When non fled, Ennaka sniffed and gave the comand, "Batsu Ame!" The lizard yipped and hopped like a frog to it's new found victims. One of the ninjas fled as Hachuu approached. The blind man fumbled around screaming as Gyomaru's whip cracked across his back sending sharp pain. Tetsu was playing a game of 'Try to find me!' with the fleeing ninja, but the rest is self explanitory. Hachuu looked from one rain ninja to the other knowing that 'Batsu Ame' was "attack rain."

Suddenly, needles fell from the sky peircing and clanking off Hachuu's scales. The lizard squeeled in pain feeling poison spread through his body. His yellow slitted eyes searched for the attacker and wadered to the ninja to his left. The man had his hand clutching a umbrella. Hachuu roared and charged full speed at the rain ninja. The man took out a kunai and threw it at the reptile. He raised his short sword deflcting the knife as it hurtle past him. Then, the ninja threw more needles aiming for the beast's eyes. Hachuu ducked and clamped his teeth on the man's arm. His teeth sunk into flesh and blood poured into his mouth. He flet the hard muscle and bone snap under the pressure. The man screamed in agony as Hachu began to pull. Ennaka laughed silently seeing her enemy's foretold death unfold. Hachuu thrusted his sword into the struggling prey's chest sending blood flying onto his body. The blind man, hearing his companion's despreate screams and shouts for help and pain, ran from the sight terrified and tripping as he went ambulling through the desert.

Hachuu shook the now limp body back and forth sending a small shower of blood everywhere. He dropped the man on the desert sand with the arm still hanging out the side of his blood-stained mouth. Ennaka looked away as her shadow spirit possesion justsu worn off. Even though she had gotten over most of her fear of blood, she could stand to see so much of it. While Hachuu dug into the corpse, Gyomaru rushed to her side with heaving breaths.

"I couldn't think of a more gruesome death than that..." Gyomaru said putting a hand on her shoulder. Tetsu, who was by Kemuri and Kaiyou, looked at the lizard with awe and fear.

"And I thought dinosaurs were extinct! Talk about voilence! that's a rated 'R' movie there..!" Tetsu said making his hands like a video camera, "And here we are int the middle of a barren desert watching this dinosaur, a real beauty mate, eat this dead corpse of a human-"

"Please stop." Gyoumaru moaned in annoyance, "Nobody wants to listen to your news report."

"I'm not a reporter!" Tetsu said crossing his arms, "I'm the 'Crocodile Hunter', mate!"

Kaiyou put a hand to his forehead and mumbled, "What am I going to do with him!?"

Ennaka walked up to the feasting lizard not looking at the carnage at her feet. The lizard looked up with blood drooping from his mouth, his teeth making clicking noises. Ennaka rubbed her fingers across the neck scales feeling their fragileness. Kemuri shook his head with disgust.

"He shouldn't have died like this..." He said.

"All rain ninja should die in a puddle of their own blood." Ennaka said looking at the beast's eyes. They stared back unemotionally. The slitted pupil darted back and forth between the kill and her, "Hachuu..." Ennaka took out a needle on his back, "I'm assuming no one here knows a medical jutsu or has some kind of antidote with them do they?" The group shook their heads, "Looks like I can't release him until we get back to the village then. Hachuu needs an antidote to cure the senbon's poison." Ennaka said pulling out another needle. Hachuu flinched as air was exposed to the wounds.

"We have to travel with the dinosaur?" Tetsu asked taking a giant step backwards, "Then keep it far away from me."

"What happened to you being the 'crocodile hunter'?" Gyoumaru teased.

"Meh, it wasn't the job for me. Not a good salary I guess." Tetsu shrugged. He walked over and picked up his white sweat shirt.

"How many sweat shirts are you wearing under that?!" Ennaka asked. Two sweatshirts in a desert must be driving him insane.

"Oh, about four." He replied counting his fingers.

"Aren't you hot in that?" Kemuri asked scratching his head.

"Just a little, not much." Tetsu replied shoving his hands in his pockets, "I've gotten used to traveling in heat."

"Right. Well, lets get heading back before the poison starts taking effect." Ennaka said finishing pulling out the last senbon on Hachuu's neck. Hachuu took one last bite out of the carcass and then sheathed his sword and followed Ennaka as she headed for Suna. Gyoumaru walked near the lizard admiring it's speed, body, and how it would strive out in the wild.

"What other kind of things do you summon?" He asked catching up to Ennaka.

"Other types of lizards, shadow spirits, evil spirits, restless spirits, and when I have a Zipper Spirit's purple chakra, I can summon a three headed beast/chimera like thing. If I morph the heads together, they create a dragon." Ennaka listed her summons to him, "Mostly I summon evil spirits. They're easier

to control. Well, so are lizards but they tend to take up more chakra."

"That's... alot of summons you have there..." Tetsu joined in.

"Yeah. I like to use them alot then join the battle myself. But sparing with my swords aren't always bad."
Ennaka said shrugging.

She seems to be in a better mood than before... Gyoumaru commented to himself, That's some good news.

28 - Agreement in Secret

Kemuri and Kaiyou watched the students in front of them trailing behind the lizard. They had been captivated by the battling they had shown earlier.

"And did you see the part where Ennaka punched the guy in the jaw and thrusted him to Tetsu, who grabbed and punched him!?" Kemuri asked as they conversed.

"I know!" Kaiyou agreed, "And when Gyoumaru and Sukauto were working together like that! I've never seen Sukauto on the offensive side before!" Kaiyou shook his head in amazement and wonder of it all, "Those three are like the perfect team."

Kemuri smirked suddenly, "Kakashi would be sooo jealous! I heard he got the Jinjurruki, The Uchiha and that one Sakura girl. And they all practically hate each other!"

Kaiyou looked ahead at the lizard, "Yeah..."

"So, Gyoumaru..." Tetsu whispered to his brother out of range from Ennaka, "What do you think of her now?"

Gyoumaru tensed at Tetsu's hand on his shoulder, "Um, well... She's strong and.. An Uchiha descendant..."

"You mean pretty right?" Tetsu elbowed his brother's shoulder winking, "I've been watching you from the shadows, 'seeker', and I think you've taken a liking to her, eh? eh?" Gyoumaru turned his head swiftly to glare at his twin, "Don't try to hide it... I'm the hider, remember? I can watch you without you ever finding me! And you know, She's-"

WAMMO! Gyoumaru socked his brother's jaw, "No matter where you are, Sukauto and I will find you."

Is there something you two knuckle heads would like to share? Ennaka asked as they wrestled in the sand, *Keep it up and Hachuu might decide you as easy prey.*

The pair froze and jumped to their feet brushing the dirt off their clothing, "Uh, yeah... right." Tetsu said shaking his head to rid the sand and trembling at the same time, "Lets go.."

Kaiyou laughed to himself as Ennaka commanded them to get moving, "She has an air of authority, doesn't she?" He asked talking with his friend again.

"Yeah," Kemuri sighed, "That's sometimes a problem... She usually talks back to me."

Kaiyou laughed, "The great Pyro Sensei, beaten by his own student, how quaint..." Kaiyou's eyes dimmed to serious, "Listen Kemmie, the Chunning Exams are coming up and all... But I haven't... Y'know... Been there in a while. And plus, we need three student squads to enter... Since you have one,

and I have two... And they're the perfect trio... Whaddya' say? Wanna cover my kids as sensei for the exams...? I really don't want to have to confront everyone suddenly."

Kemuri blinked in surprise. Kaiyou wasn't like that. He was really attached to the students, Kemuri could tell, "You... You're sure?"

".... Yeah." Kaiyou looked at the sandy surface by his feet wathing dust puff in the air with every step, "I, Kaiyou Mizu, recomend both of these gennin." Kaiyou said the pledge that was to be said in front of the Hokage.

* * *

When they arrived at Suna, Hachuu began to walk a little more wobbly than befor getting Ennaka very worried and upset, "W better get there soon... Hachuu's not going to be able to stand for much longer..." She said letting The lizard lean on her a little. The few people outside of their homes, watched the beast with fright and knew exactly who it belonged to. Ennaka would look around as if desprately trying to find someone.

"You okay?" Gyoumaru asked.

'Huh? Oh! Yeah, I'm fine." She said looking over her shoulder. She withdrew her hand from Hachuu's scaley neck and moved the hair in fron of her eyes behind he ear. It pulsed slightly, searching... She called out with it wondering if anyone would respond to her "mind-invatations." None came back. Only stony silence. Once they reached the Kazekage's place, Ennaka rushed inside with Hachuu almost being dragged in by her.

"So, the rain ninjas are getting desprete now are they?" The Kazekage asked as Kemuri told of the events that unfolded, "I see... But you have helped us greatly, and for that... Sunakagure thanks all of you. But now... I must ask something from you."

"From us?" Kaiyou asked raising an eyebrow.

"Ennaka must stay here in Suna. This is her hometown after all... I have someone that she's probably dying to meet again."

Ennaka looked up with hate in her eyes, "Yeah, yeah, keep talking... I gotta see him with my own eyes before I decide to stay with a rat like you."

"Oh? Is that so? Well, I fill those needs now because as I said earlier, He's gone rgiht now with his teacher... You know his sensei right?"

"Yeah, I remember him. but if you were in the right mind, smart at all, you would wait for the Chuning Exams to end before taking- oh wait, I mean dragging me back here." Ennaka said glaring at the Kazekage with stabbing his heart in mind, "Besides... he is going to be there so i'll see him then. Not like I'm going anywhere for a while."

The leader of suna looked at her with amusement dancing across his hidden face. The sharp brown

eyes smirking underneath the Kazekage uniform, "Well, I hear your lizard thing squealing upstairs... Maybe it's finally dying..."

Ennaka ran out the door with the twins hot on her trail. The door slammed behind them as Tetsu vanished behind it.

"if you wish for no trouble... I'd advise you to give Ennaka to me willingly..."

"I'll die before I give her up!" Kmeuri said shaking a fist at the Kazekage. Kaiyou put a hand on his shoulder.

"I'll say it again. if you want no trouble... Give the girl to me."

"You shouldn't be asking us... You should be asking the Hokage!" Kaiyou butted in.

"... You have until the Final rounds of the Chunning Exams to decide." the village leader dismissed them with a flick of a hand.

29 - On the Road Again

Hachuu was laying on his side in the hospitle part of the building. Many medical ninja's stood on either side of him holding down is limbs and tape covered his jaws so he wouldn't bite. Someone else stood at the rear pinning down his bladed tail.

Ennaka rushed in with Tetsu and Gyomaru praticly running her over.

"Is he going to be okay?" she asked suddenly.

"Well, the poison has been inside him for a very long time... and he's starting to have some spasms." One of the doctors said pulling his laytex gloves down farther, "We gave him plenty of antidotes, but we're not sure if they're taking effect."

"Why did you tape his mouth shut?" She asked walking over to Hachuu placing a hand on his scaley nose, "He won't bite unless I say so."

Hachuu whimpered a gurgling sound and began to thrash and struggle for freedom. The medical ninja's pushed down and avoided the lashing claws, 'Untape his mouth!' someone shouted. Ennaka took one of the spines on Hachuu's neck and pulled him down gently to eye level with her.

"I'm going to take this thing off your mouth, okay?" She said stepping to the side of his face beginging to remove the duct tape. As soon as it was off to the point Hachuu could tear the rest off by himself, he snapped his mouth open and shook his head vigorously with his eyes spweing hot tears. He curved his slender neck in an arch and hicupped several times before gagging up. It smell horriffylinly terrible, but Ennaka handled worse. She walked to Hachuu and patted his side, "See? All better." Hachuu pushed his snout to her shoulder and sniffed it before niping it slightly like a horse would do to your clothes or pockets when you had a treat with you. But Ennaka had no such treats, so he turned his attention to the people holding him down.

"Okay, easy now... Let him go in one, two.... Three!" The lead doctor instructed. They let go and hachuu basicly leaped to his feet. Tetsu took a step back behind his brother. Hachuu cocked his head with interest at the twins and made his way over to them with his tail dragging behind. Without his armour and sword, he looked like a dinosaur ready to eat you. Gyomaru stood perfectly still trusting that Ennaka liked them enough not to give a comand. Ahchuu stopped in front of Gyomaru and put his block like head at eye level with him. his eyes almost seemed to be pleading.

"He wants the meat in your pocket." Ennaka said folding her arms.

"Meat? Oh! Sukauto's meat!" Gyomaru pulled out a small cube of meat feeling Tetsu tremble behind him. Hachuu cocked his head at the red cube and sniffed it smelling the aroma of raw meat. Gyomaru flicked it in the air and Hachuu caught it between drooling teeth. At this point, Ennaka realesed her jutsu making hachuu disappear as he gulped down the treat.

"Shall we head back now?" Kemuri said leaning on the doorway.

"Yeah, I'm starting to hate sand." tetsu said stepping from his place behind his brother, "Remind me not to go to the beach this summer."

* * *

They had been traveling from Suna to Konoha for three days now. And when they finally got to the enormous gate's to the hidden village, Kaiyou departed them with a curt farwell telling his tudents he would return shortly.

Ennaka felt her heart rest at ease feeling Konoha's cool winds pass through her hair, and not Suna's blistering hot desert sand wind.

"well, I'm going home. I got some lizards to take care of and paper to pick up, and pictures to paint." Ennaka left the three others without another word. She assumed that naruto would be at the ramen shop, so she made a mentle note to stop there on her way home. But, Naruto was not there. So she ordered some ramen to go and left her money on the counter. As she ran through the barren neighborhood she lived in, she couldn't help but feel her heart leap. *Once the Chuning Exams come, I'm going to see him!*

30 - Team 7 Returns

The next day, Ennaka began to look for Sasuke. It wasn't that she liked him, or some screaming fangirl stuff... But being related somewhat, it only made sense to her to stick with your pack, right? She felt belonged when she was with family. When in Suna, she felt like an outcast because amongst all the desert dwellers, she was the only one who had dark hair, the only one who had a crescent moon on their back, the only one who had a Sharingan. It was.... *awkward*.

She stopped at the ramen shop to see if Naruto was there, but alas, he was not. Ennaka sighed wandering through the village aimlessly. Wishing that by luck, she would run into him.

"Excuse me, Miss, But are you looking for someone?" A voice sounded behind her. Ennaka turned her head slightly to glimpse the person speaking to her. He had a bright orange book in hand with bushy gray hair. His Konoha headband covered one of his eyes and his facial features, nose and mouth, were covered by a dark blue cloth mask.

"Um yes, in fact I was." Ennaka said turning her body to the stranger, "Why do you ask?"

"Well, It's just my duty to help a lady in distress." The man said calmly with his nose buried in the book, *Make Out Paradise*.

"Is that so?" Ennaka said raising an amused eyebrow, "Well, if you must know, I'm looking for my distant relative. Maybe you've heard of the last Uchiha, Sasuke." Ennaka said betting that he wouldn't know him.

"Ah, Sasuke? He's one of my students along with Naruto and Sakura. They're probably resting at their houses. We just got back from a very, very long journey."

Ennaka eyes sparked with interest, "Oh? So you're Sasuke's sensei. I've never met you before. I'm Ennaka Ahihcu, student of Kemuri Kaen or Pyro Sensei." Ennaka introduced herself.

"Kemmie? You're his pupil?! Wow, he's really moving up in the world now is he? I'm Kakashi Hatake, the Copy Ninja."

"Copy? You live up to your name, because you copy my abilities as well." Ennaka tossed her hair out of the way, "I have Sharingans as well."

"Hm, I'm just living up to my name. That's all. You do know where Sasuke's house is right?" Kakashi asked looking up from his book.

"Yeah, I know." Ennaka said bowing curtly to the ninja, "Thank you anyways!" She said racing towards the Uchiha's place.

Sasuke sighed as the knock on the door began to irritate him. He swore, if it was Sakura, he was

going to pummel her until she was no more. Reluctantly, Sasuke opened the door.

"Hello neighbor!" A cheery mocking voice greeted him. Ennaka pushed her way in ignoring Sasuke's glares of protest. She ungracefully flopped down on his couch resting her feet on the arm of it.

"What are you doing here?" Sasuke asked grudgingly.

"Aw, c'mon now, You shouldn't treat your family as if they aren't there." Ennaka said smirking, "We are related you know."

"Yeah, yeah, family gives me bad memories, thats all." Sasuke said standing over her with a monotone expression.

"I heard you had a long mission. How'd it go?" She asked looking out the window.

"Long. Very very very long." Sasuke said folding his arms, "Why would you care?"

Ennaka let out a sigh, "because, you're family. And family sticks together. I'd like to be informed." She swung her legs up until she was in sitting position, "is your sensei letting you take the Chuning Exams?" She asked putting her hands on her knees.

"I don't know. I hope so." Sasuke said walking toward the window, "But Naruto and Sakura might hold us back.. they're so weak."

"Is Naruto really all that bad?" Ennaka asked, "Sure he's a knuckle head, but he's still pretty strong. Maybe not as intellegent.... but..." Ennaka let the subject trail.

"Hn." sasuke replied, "Well, I gotta get ready for tommorow. Kakashi has us going and doing 'D' missions." Sasuke said pratically dragging her out the door.

"Nice seeing ya!" Ennaka said as she left his house. *Some family reunion that was...* She thought.

As she walked home, she noticed Sakura standing outside her apartment. The pink haired girl didnot notice her until the last second.

"Hey Sakura." Ennaka was only inches from her face making Sakura jump.

"Aaaah!! Oh, it's just you Ennaka..." Sakura said unenthousiasticly after screaming, "Why are you here?"

"Oh, well I was just visiting Sasuke and on my way home I saw you, so I decided to say 'hi!'." Ennaka replied.

"You were at Sasuke's?! What?!" sakura shreiked, "How come he pays attention to you and not anybody else?!"

"Uh, because we are distant cousins." Ennaka tapped Sakura's overly large forehead with her index

finger, "Duh."

Sakura calmed down with a puzzled look on her face, "You're... cousins?"

"Uh, yeah." Ennaka said rolling her eyes, "Didn't you notice? Oh that's right, your observation skills are worse than Naruto's." With that, Ennaka left an infuriated Sakura.

31 - Don't Say that Word!!

The day was so boring. Ennaka had stopped by Kouba's house to see what he was up too, but he had to run errands. Sasuke was on his crappy missions and there was no sign of the foreigners for the Chuning Exams.

"Yo! Ennaka! Wait up!" She heard Tetsu's voice call out to her. Without looking behind her, she stopped to let the twins reach her side. Tetsu ran up on her left with Gyoumaru on her left.

"Hey you two bone heads. What's up?" She asked.

"Well, Your sensei got us an apartment to stay in since our parents were so smart and went on a mission without unlocking our door, so we're pretty much stuck outside our house." Gyoumaru stated, "Then we walked around for a bit, and we saw the Kyuubi kid... Man, he was hyper... And yeah. that's it."

"Me and 'Seeker' here wanted to see your place." Tetsu chimed in.

"hm, my house huh?" Ennaka replied, "Eh, I have nothing better to do. Follow me." She led them to the deserted street and unlocked her door leading them in her house. She flipped a light switch squinting not so used to her house being so bright. Her reptiles clung to the ivy vines above looking down at the new arrivals.

"how many lizards do you have?!" The twins asked looking at all the beady eyes staring at them.

"I have no idea myself." Ennaka said. She had cleaned up most of the paper within her house. And when I say clean, I mean shoved it into a corner of her house.

"What's with the waterfall of paper?" tetsu asked as Gyoumaru cringed.

"Please, no jokes!" His twin pleaded.

"...Sorry..."

Ennaka let the boys rumage through her house while she went upstairs and flopped on her bed. She took out a peice of paper and began a rough sketch of her next paiting. But moments later, was interrupted by the sounds of someone climbing the stairs.

"What are these?" Tetsu asked unfolding a painting.

"A painting." Ennaka said flatly.

"Of what?" Gyoumaru said climbing up behind his brother, "They're all the same things."

"A childhood friend of mine." Ennaka let out a sigh. She better change the topic fast if she wasn't going

to say the name- oh, too late!

"What's his name?" Tetsu asked leaning on the stair case railing.

"....." Ennaka tapped her foot to calm her nerves, "I mustn't say." She said trying to continue her sketch.

"Why? is he your boy friend or something?" Tetsu asked eyeing the picture.

Ennaka looked up from her picture her eyes glazed, "I'd have to say, he's my caretaker, yet my bestest friend in the whole wide world. The only one who let me feel the pain he was going through and the only friend that cared for him. And in turn... He gave me anything."

"You said you wanted that hair brush right, Nakki?"

"Yeah."

"C'mon! lets go get it!" The boy dragged her through his house until reaching his sister's room, "Shh... If I'm caught in here, they'll probably kill me."

Nakki gasped, "What?!"

"Not literally." The boy assured her as he snuck stealthily in the room. Ennaka followed looking around. There was a dresser on one side of the room with a mirror. Ennaka tip toed over to it and got her hands on a face-paint container. the dull white walls around her almost were begging for a makeover... How could she resist? Ennaka put her fingers in teh purple paint and smeared it on the wall.

"Huh..." gyomaru said, "Why do you crumple them up?"

"They're not right. Somethings missing. They're mess-ups." Ennaka said starting to draw the hair. The twins shrugged and returned down stairs. After a while the trio was bored once more, so they went outside and walked around town. Until Tetsu claimed that he forgot to shut the windows at the apartment.

"WHAT?! SUKAUTO COULD FLY OUT!" Gyomaru slapped his twin's head and ran away towards the apartment with tetsu running behind him saying, "It wasn't my fault!"

Ennaka sighed and walked around without them. She then came upon an interesting sight. Naruto Sakura and three little kids were running around screaming as Sakura tried to pummel them. But what interested her the most was that she saw Sauge hiding in the branches of a tree just above them. Quickly, without Naruto or Sakura noticing, she snuck up to the branch just above Sasuke.

"Hey." He said watching his clumsy teammates run around.

"hn." she replied watching as well. then, one of the little kids ran into a person with a black long sleeved shirt, with black pants, purple face paint, and a cat like hat covering his hair.

Ennaka gasped a little. on his hat was a sand village head plate. Then she smirked to herself letting her

emotions overwhelm her. She knew this guy anywhere... "Kankuro..." She whispered teasingly.

32 - GAARA!

Kankuro had grabbed the kid that ran into him. which turned out to be Konohamaru by his scarf and pulled him to eye level. Ennaka watched with mischief twinkling in her eyes.

"What are you so happy about?" Sasuke asked looking up at her.

"Oh, nothing..." She replied swinging her legs around as she sat on the branch above him.

"Put him down!" naruto said charging at Kankuro. Kankuro waved his fingers around and "magically" made Naruto trip. "Ow."

Sakura yelled at him for his clumsiness and told the foregner, "I'm sorry, the whole thing was my fault. We were just messing around." She tried to apologize. He ignored the comment and tightened his grip on Konohamaru.

"Put him down, Kankuro! We don't have time for this! What if *he* comes!" A female voice scolded from behind him. A girl with a large folded fan tied to her belt walked from behind Kankuro. She had blonde hair tied in four spiky buns behind her head.

"He isn't coming for a while. lets mess with these punks." He replied as Konhamaru began to try and kick his captor.

"Let me go! That hurts!" He cried.

"Fine, but i'm not involved in any of this... okay?" The older girl sniffed.

"Yeah, whatever Temari."

Ennaka watched ready to stop the action. She knew Kankuro was scared to death of her.

Did your father not tell you that I was here? She contacted his mind.

Kankuro face twisted with confusement. He was just about to punch the little squirt until that voice interrupted him.

Ha! The look on your face is priceless. But then again, we haven't seen each otehr in a while... Now have we? she hissed.

Kankuro loosened his grip on the little boy. *W-what?* Suddenly, Sasuke threw a rock from his hiding place at Kankuro's hand. It hit it's target perfectly making Kankuro drop his victim. "Hey! Who did that?!" he exclaimed.

"Why don't you just move along so there isn't any trouble. Go home." Sasuke said revealing his hiding

spot. He tossed another rock in his hand then grabbed it and crushed it to dust.

Ennaka rolled her eyes. He was playing hero right when she was about to save the day. Naruto seem agitated too that he couldn't stop the guy.

"Gah! another twurp I have to deal with! I'll get rid of you first!" Kankuro exclaimed forgetting the voice that had been talking inside his head. He unslung the "mummy" like figure on his back.

"Are you really using Karusu for this!?" Temari cried, "Stop it already!"

"Shut up!" He replied.

"Kankuro... That's enough." A new voice said. All birds seemed to stop chirping and all life seemed to have went mute. Ennaka's stomach clutched and turned. Sasuke, looked a little shocked. The new arrival was right behind him on the next branch over and didn't even make a sound!

Kankuro called off his thingie and gasped, "Oh, uh... hey..." He hesitantly said, "It's not my fault! They picked a fight with us fist and-"

"Shut up! Or I'll kill you..." The voice hissed. It seemed to carry the scent of blood and death. Ennaka swung upside down so that she was dangling next to sasuke's head, "I'm going to see our new guest." she told him. He nodded as she disappeared to the branch over.

Ennaka stealthily crept over to the branch and she saw the black sandals on the bottom of the branch clinging to it with invisable chakra. She looked down hesitantly knowing just who was down below her.

"I-I'm sorry Gaara... I was totally out of line..."

Ennaka's head whirled. And many emotions overwhelmed her. Sadness, joy, fright, happiness, anger. It drove through her body making her mind jump around in her skull. She felt her nails rake across the bark and her teeth gritted. Her memories flew back and suddenly, she remebered... She knew what he looked like!

"I said shut up!" Gaara repeated. Kankuro and Temari went mute. Ennaka resisted the urge to shout out his name and look directly into his face. Gaara disappeared in a whirlwind of sand and appeared seconds later by their sides. "Lets go. I'm sorry for the trouble he caused." Gaara said turning to Sasuke who had decided to land. Ennaka sat in the tree too shocked to move. As they began to walk away, Sasuke asked the feared question.

"What are your names?"

Temari spun around with a grin, "You mean me?"

Sasuke scowled, "The one with the gourd on his back."

Gaara turned around, "My name is Gaara... Of the Desert. I'm curious about you too. Who are you?" he asked in a monotone voice. It sent a chill down her spine. And Ennaka's head buzzed once more with

confusement as her vision pulsed and blurred everything out.

"My name is Sasuke Uchiha." Sasuke replied calmly.

Naruto bounded over to his teammate, "I bet you're dying to know my name, right!?" He asked energetically.

"... I couldn't care less." The boy with the blood red hair said before walking off with the rest of the Sand Village ninja. Ennaka shook her head and decided to pursue. She jumped to the next tree and waited for the three people to get out of sight of Naruto, Sakura and Sasuke.

When they had passed that stage, Ennaka leaped down in front of them. Kankuro moaned, "Ugh! Not another one!"

"I wouldn't be talking doll boy!" Ennaka retorted. Temari cocked her head with amusement and Gaara remained hidden behind the two.

Kankuro seemed taken aback by the comment. Ennaka let out a sigh with her hands trembling, "I'm interested in you at the moment. I'm here to see... Gaara." she gulped with sweat sliding down her forehead. Kankuro and Temari stepped aside as Gaara walked past them.

He looked so much different from the last time she saw him. His jade eyes ringed with black stared unblinkingly through her. The huge gourd on his back that held untold amounts of sand was wrapped in a white sash that curved around his body at his shoulder and waist. And the black jump suit with a fish net shirt consisted the rest of his garments. But what interested her and scared her the most... Was the kanji above his left eye. Ennaka resisted the urge to gasp as she read it to herself. It said 'love' or 'ai'. And at that point, she knew what had happened to him.

"oh-no..." She breathed and mustered up her courage, "Gaara, it's been a pretty long time. Do you remember me?" She asked feeling her hands shaking. Gaara remained silent.

Unintentionally, she sent a "mind invitation" to him. and he responded with a cruel remark.

"You didn't come back."

I'm sorry! I-I was... She pleaded.

"Too scared, right?" Gaara asked hissing the words.

No! Well, sort of- I mean-

"Stop it. I was shown the truth the day after you left. Don't bother."

But Gaara... I had unfinished business. I told you that! I had to kill Leader! But I must train first!

"Shut up. You're only hurting yourself." Gaara said leaving her mind.

Ennaka's stomach lurched. She opened her eyes to see Temari and Kankuro watching them.

"Is that really Nakki?" Temari asked.

"I really think it's her..." Kankuro replied. Gaara opened his eyes and walked up to her. Ennaka froze feeling his breath on her face. He raised his hand and a thud sounded behind her head and blackness took over her body.

33 - In the Hospital

Ennaka opened her eyes and yawned. It was bright outside the window and the bed she was laying in seemed to melt her body away in a sleepy trance. She rubbed her eyes and sat up. Something wasn't right. Where was she?! Ennaka noticed that the room was too bright and clean to be her own. She wore one of those hospital gowns with her forehead bandaged along with her torso and arms. And someone had pulled out her ponytail so her hair flowed over her shoulders.

"Ah, so you're awake!" The nurse in the room greeted cheerfully.

"Un... my head... What happened?" She asked groaning as she sat up.

"Easy, now. I'll tell you in a minute." The nurse said pushing her gently down, "How do you feel?"

"Sore." Ennaka replied obeying the woman's pushes. The lady took out a clipboard and pen and wrote some notes.

"Okay. Well, witnesses said they saw a few Genin from the Sand talking to you, then one of them smacked you upside the head and tossed you against the fence before walking away."

Ennaka's eyes shot with alarm, "GAARA!" she exclaimed sitting up suddenly.

"Whoa! Lay down missy! you have broken ribs!" The nurse said pushing her down again.

"Guh, but I need to-"

"Ah, ah, you aren't going anywhere!" The nurse waved her finger in Ennaka's face. She tried resisting the urge to bite it.

"Um excuse me, but am I in the right room?" Someone opened the door and walked in holding the bright orange book.

"Oh! Kakashi! You're just in time!" The nurse rushed to his side, "I heard that Kemuri sent you since he was busy. Ennaka's right over there. Make sure she doesn't leave! Bye!" The nurse rushed out without giving Kakashi a chance to respond. He shrugged and walked over to the side of her bed putting his book away.

"So, why are you here?" He asked.

"Meh, Gaara knocked me out."

"Gaara?" He asked.

"Some Sand ninja." She explained briefly.

"I see..." Kakashi said looking at her face. He stared at it for a long time as if he was reading a biography.

"What?" She asked, "What are you staring at?"

"Let me see your right eye." He instructed.

Ennaka shrugged and tucked her hair behind her ear. Kakashi studied it for a while with his face almost seeming sad and proud.

"You're just like him. He would be proud of you..." Kakashi said turning to the window.

"Huh?"

"Oh nothing. Oh nothing." He assured, "You remind me of an old friend of mine, that's all."

Ennaka raised an eyebrow, but dismissed the comment with a grunt, "Sasuke... How is he doing?" She changed topic.

"He's advanced at almost everything thrown at him." Kakashi responded sitting on the window sill, "reminds me of well, me!" The man chuckled. Ennaka rolled her eyes.

"Does he mention his family much?" She asked.

"Naw, just his hate for his brother." Kakashi peered at the wall and looked at the clipboard on the table next her bed. He picked it up and took the pen. He looked at the part where it said 'Name: Ennaka Ahihcu' Kakashi scratched out the 'Ahihcu' and replaced it with what it spelled backwards. He laid it on her lap. Ennaka picked it up and looked at his handy work.

"So you know who I really am, huh?"

"Pfft, wasn't that hard. You are your brother's little Enki, after all." Kakashi folded his arms.

"You know about my brother, huh...? I didn't even get to meet him." Ennaka felt her eyes go all wet.

Written on the clipboard was : Ennaka Gimana Uchiha

"I knew him well. He died like a hero, and it was better than being murdered by Itachi." Kakashi laid a hand on her shoulder as she cried.

"I-I just.. wish I knew him.." She hicced past her tears, "If- only he was here... If only..."

For the rest of the day, she sat there looking at the clipboard while hugging her knees with Kakashi by her side telling tales about her brother.

34 - Flaw in the Plans

Kemuri watched the other sensei's pledge or reject their genin to the Hokage. He felt his sweat roll down his cheek in shiny pearls. When it finally was his turn, he stepped up and took in a breath.

"I'm the Jounin of team thirteen. My team is, Ennaka Ahichu, Gyoumaru Kyougi , and Tetsu Kyougi. And now I, Kemuri Kaen, recomend all three of these Genin." He gulped ready for the feared question.

Sachorobi looked up from his paper confused, "Kemuri, The Kyougi Twins are Kaiyou's." The Hokage said, "How'd you get your hands on them?"

Kemuri sighed and replied, "While I was on my latest mission, I ran into the twins who had gotten seperated from Kaiyou. We waited for a long time unil we couldn't postpone any longer. I took them in. And I fear Kaiyou might be... Dead." The pyro lied. Multiple gasps were heard from the people around him. But Kakashi Hatake just looked over to him rasping his nails in 'moors code' on a kunai. Kemuri got the messege: *Meet me outside after this is over.* Kemuri nodded briefly.

"Dead?!"

"That can't be!"

"Now there's only one Elemental left!" The Jounins discussed the matter amongst themselves creating a wave of murmurs.

"Enough!" Sachorobi said, "We'll discuss Kaiyou's disappearance before the Final Rounds of the Chunin Exams. For now, consenstrate on your students." The Third nodded to Kemuri, "I will let you take the twins for now."

Kemuri let out a sigh of relief. At least he wouldn't have to worry about it for a while. And hopefully Kaiyou would return by then. The Hokage dismissed them and Kakashi waited outside for him.

"What is it?" Kemuri asked.

"It's about Ennaka." kakashi said folding his arms, "She's haunting me."

"Pardon?" Kemuri was confused. Haunting? Huh, what?!

"Her brother. You know him?" Kakashi asked avoiding eye contact.

"... Oh." Kemuri and Kakashi stood there for a while in silence.

"And I guess you know then." the copy ninja broke the silence.

"That she's an Uchiha? Yeah... It wasn't that hard. I mean, it's spelled backwards for God's sake!"

"You know that Itachi didn't kill them all then. He left out her... And for one particular reason." Kakashi looked into the distance. Kemuri cocked his head. "He wanted her eyes... For Akatsuki."

"Akatsuki..." Kemuri repeated, "She could have vital information that concerns them..."

"Don't try." Kakashi said, "She's really confused and scared right now. The one word that no one can say in her presence that Iruka was talking about... She found the person with the name. Gaara is here for the exams. I fear that she might be distracted by his presence instead of working with the twins."

"Looks who's talking. You got Sakura trailing after Sasuke." Kemuri retorted.

"But they're on the same team. You do know that Gaara's a Jinjurriki. And he has a lust to kill. If Ennaka gets too close, he might just decide to kill her. No one can tame that killer." kakashi looked at Kemuri's eyes. He did not respond. He just looked at his feet.

"What do you suggest I do?" The distressed sensei asked.

"Absolutly nothing." Kakashi replied leaving him there.

* * *

Ennaka looked at the open window of the hospital. She was such a bad girl.. sneaking out of the hospital... Ennaka ran out of sight amongst the crowds of people looking around desprately for Gaara. She didn't care if he beat the crap outta her. She wanted to be forgiven, she wanted the old Gaara back. Ennaka cringed as her ribs began to protest her movements. But she kept going despite the pain. Eventually she ended up at the place the Sand ninja were staying. Gasping for breath, Ennaka knocked on the door fearing that Gaara would answer.

"I got it." Temari's voice was heard as footsteps reached the door with a click of the handle. She opened the door, "E-En-nnaka? Nakki?! What are you doing here?!" Temari schreeched a whisper, "Gaara will kill you if he see's you here!"

"Yeah, yeah. I don't really care right now. I just want to pay a visit to my foster family. Is that wong in any way?" Ennaka asked.

"Of course not... Uh, come in I guess.." Temari stood clear of the doorway as Ennak walked in.

"Who is it?" Kanakuro asked from the top of a stair case.

"Your worst nightmare." Ennaka replied popping her head in his view. He moaned in protest.

"Shhh!! Gaara's meditating! Do you want your head cleaved off?!" Temari scolded softly. Ennaka grunted her approval and Kankuro made his way down the stairs.

"Why did you come here? Gaara just whooped your @\$\$!" Kankuro asked softly.

"Because, I still consider Gaara my friend even if he doesn't view me in the same air... And I still see that you wear makeup and play with dolls." Ennaka remarked.

"Dolls?! Their puppets!" Kankuro roared a bit too loudly. Noise was heard from the top of the steps and a screen door opened. Temari gasped softly as a black sandal led by a matching one slowly appeared from the room. They froze as Gaara came down the stairs. Ennaka held her breath as he caught sight of her. Gaara stood in front of the three for a minute; staring them down. It seemed an eternity before he pushed his way past them and made his way to the kitchen. Ennaka let out her breath raggedly. That was way too close for comfort! The siblings of the monster let out sighs as well.

"Okay, I'm going by Baki just in case Gaara decides he wants me for lunch!" Temari rushed up the stairs with Ennaka behind her.

"Me too." She agreed. Kankuro nodded as he looked back at his younger brother before following them.

"Hey, Baki." Ennaka said as she approached the man. (baki is hard to describe, so just look him up somewhere if you don't know what he looks like)

"Who is this?" He asked Temari.

"Take a wild guess." Kankuro said as he came to join them.

Baki peered at Ennaka for a while. She stood erect as he inspected her. "Wait... remove the hair in your face." Ennaka obeyed pulling her hair back. Baki smirked and clasped her arm as she smiled as well. "So you've been here all this time! It's been so long... And I guess you saw Gaara, right?" Ennaka's expression went from happy to sad as she recalled their 'reunion.' "I see you saw what became of him... I think he thinks you abandoned him... And I don't blame you for doing so!"

Ennaka raised her head, "I didn't run away from him! I ran away from Akatsuki!" She said sternly. Baki's face twisted into a glare.

"Akatsuki... I see... Enough talk about Gaara, tell me; are you coming back to the Sand?" Baki asked. Ennaka's eyes darted from one way to the other looking at her peers.

"I don't know. I'm very content with living here, really. I just got settled...."

Baki's eyes flashed into anger, but it lasted so shortly, Ennaka wondered if she really saw it, "I can give you a tour if you'd like. Konoha's an interesting place. It's where I was born if you didn't know." Ennaka suggested.

"You can take the team. I have to do some file work to register these guys in the Exams." Baki replied patting her shoulder. "Feel free to go wherever." He said addressing Kankuro and Temari. "And most importantly... Do not let Gaara out your sight."

35 - Gyoumaru meets Gaara of the Desert

After much persuasion from Temari, Gaara agreed to come with them. Ennaka, nervous that Gaara was right behind her, stuttered her words.

"S-so... W-where d-do you want to go first?" She asked.

Kankuro shrugged, "You're the tour guide. You tell us." Ennaka shot him a glare before continuing her way around the village. Then an idea struck her a moment later.

"If you want me to be a tour guide... I'll do it at my best..." Ennaka put on a smirk as Kankuro watched her nervously. She was just like a little sister. Annoying and scary. "Over here on your left, we have the Hokage's house where he does all of his paper work and sends us on missions. If you look to the right, you'll see a book store where Naruto goes to look at stuff. I occasionally visit as well. If you look up, you'll see the monuments of our Hokages. Since I didn't have my education here, I don't know very many of their names. One is Sachorobi, the Hokage now, and the other is Minato. Or something like that. Now, if you follow me through this barren street, you'll notice that we have entered the Uchiha residential area which is completely deserted thanks to Itachi Uchiha who kills everyone except for his little brother which you all know as Sasuke." Ennaka continued her perky tour guide speech. She could tell Gaara was annoyed for he rolled his eyes at every comment she made in her 'tour guide speech.' but hey, at least she was doing the world a favor and making Kankuro very agitated. Temari was very happy her brothers were being quiet for once. Well, Gaara was always quite anti-social but at least Kankuro shut up for a bit. And besides, She enjoyed Ennaka's comedy.

"Who is that?"

"Why are they with Ennaka?"

"She's from the Sand village, remember?"

"Oh yeah. Well, let's say hi!"

Tetsu ran out from behind a street corner, "Hi Ennaka! Who are your friends?"

"Tetsu, did you really have to do that?" Gyoumaru followed his twin.

"Who are these runts?" Kankuro asked inspecting the brothers, "They're just a bunch of weaklings."

"These 'runts' happen to be my temporary teammates." Ennaka said glaring.

"Oh..." Kankuro backed up a little.

When Gyoumaru spotted Gaara, he crossed his arms with Sukauto ruffling his feathers on his shoulder. A leather string was tied to his leg and was grasped in Gyoumaru's hand. Gaara stared

unblinkingly at him. Ennaka looked from one to the other. Wondering who would talk first.

"What are you doing?" Gaara rasped in his cold voice.

"trying to beat you in this staring contest." Gyoumaru replied straining his eyes.

"Looks like you have some competition Gyou... Ennaka looks fond of him..." tetsu nudged his brother. Gyoumau whirled his head to him and Sukauto screeched in protest as his shoulder moved jerkily.

"tetsu, if nothing kills you in the Chuning Exams... I will."

Ennaka glared at Tetsu for the remark and made a mental note to pile drive his face later. Gaara looked at the two Kyougi's a while longer before shutting his eyes and whispering into sand. He reformed behind Gyoumaru sending a startled jump to Sukauto.

"I can tell you're a smart one... interesting..." Gaara hissed, "If not anything, you'd be a worthy opponent for me... but none the less... I would obviously come on top."

Gyoumaru gulped as sand was felt crawling up his legs.

36 - Little Gutsy to Order Gaara

"Save it for the exams, Gaara." Ennaka ordered, 'You don't want that falcon pecking out your eyes, now do you? It gets testy sometimes.'" Ennaka added trying to make Gaara let go of Gyoumaru. Sukauto chirped running his beak through his feathers. Gaara did not respond. His sand curled up around Gyoumaru's knees. He didn't struggle, I mean, it wasn't like he wasn't going to kill him, right?

"Gaara, stop. What good will it do if you kill him now? Gyoumaru isn't the kind of person to fight back, so if you want a fight, wait for the preliminaries." Ennaka said stuffing her hands in her capris pockets. It may look like she was calm on the whole situation; but really, she was so scared that she was almost about to leap out of her skin. Temari watched paralyzed and Kankuro didn't really care. Tetsu watched horrified as the sand started to crawl up to his twin's waist.

"Why don't you fight? Is it so much trouble to defend yourself?" Gaara asked so softly Gyoumaru barely heard him. He gulped and replied slowly choosing his words carefully.

"What good would it do to fight back when the sand will just constrict when I move?" Gyoumaru observed. Suddenly, Sukauto lashed out with his talons aimed for Gaara's face. Gaara, surprised that Sukauto had moved without warning, caught the bird in sand when it was a centimeter from his face.

"Gaara! Put them down!" Ennaka ordered again. Gaara grunted and the sand fell to the ground and squirmed back into his gourd. She let out a sigh of relief before walking up to the panting Gyoumaru. "Are you okay?" She asked.

"Y-yeah... I think so... Just a little shaken." He said avoiding her eyes. Ennaka nodded before scowling at Gaara. He returned the gesture the same way, staring at her with a murderous gaze.

Tetsu was about to shoot his mouth off, but Ennaka slapped her hand over his mouth whispering, "Do you want to get yourself killed?! Gaara shouldn't be dealt with by yourself!" Tetsu glared at the red head before leaving with his twin.

They were silent the rest of the way until reaching her own house. "And this is my house."

Temari peered at it with curiosity, "May we see?" She asked.

"uh, as long as you don't touch the paper." Ennaka said leading them to her porch. She unlocked the door and held it open for them except for Kankuro. She let go when he walked by making the door hit his face.

"Oops, must've slipped!" She giggled, "Sorry Kankuro."

He glared at her rubbing his head before entering. Temari looked around with her eyes inspecting the interior, "It needs somework. your wall paper is beginning to peel... and the plant water it starting to bleed on the walls." She said examining the ceiling.

"Cool it, I just moved here. of course it's going to need some work. And lucky for me, these vines were already here. I just stuck in a few lizards and-"

"Oh my God, you still have those nasty things?!" Kankuro exclaimed just now noticing the many eyes staring from above, "Temari is still stuck with your bearded dragon at home!"

"Oh, it's still alive? Well that's some good news. I'll take it back when I can." Ennaka said gleefully. Gaara didn't really do anything. He sorta just stood there being Gaara.

"I see you still paint.." Temari added her comment looking at the paper piled in the corner of the house.

"Water color paint, Temari, water color paint." Ennaka corrected her taking out a picture frame. There was a dragon painted on it flying through the dawn of the day."This one's my favorite."She said passing it to kankuro. He snorted and passed it to his sister murmuring.

"Show off..." He said. Ennaka walked by and stepped on his foot as she walked past. "Ow! Hey! What was that for!?" he exclaimed.

"Beacuse I'm like a little sister, annoying." She said tapping his nose. He growled in protest as gave him a teasing smile, "Ah, sibilings are so fun to annoy."

After exploring her house for a bit, Enaka escorted them back to the apartment and said her farwells before returning home. Kmeuri was at her door waiting for her.

"Pyro sensei?" She asked approaching him, "What is it?"

He looked at the house with mournful eyes, "Why did you choose to settle in this house? Out of all the other houses, why this one?" He asked still looking at the house.

"Um... Beacuse it happened to take my fancy with the vines for my lizards." She said hesitantly, "Why do you ask?"

"Because, "The man sighed, "This is where my old teammate Kitei used to live... She brings back sweet memories. Before we split up." Kemuri trailed off. They stood there for a while in silence. Ennaka broke it a few several minutes later.

"So, when do the exams start?"

"Huh? Oh, they start tommorrow. So be at the acdemy by eight, okay?" He said before continuing, "And please, work with the twins!" He moaned before leaving her there.

37 - Meeting Team 13

Ennaka met up with the twins on her way to the Academy. An early morning fog decided to creep across the Land of Fire making them feel uneasy, and nervous. Ennaka looked from Gyoumaru back to ahead of her. Yesterday's meeting with Gaara hadn't been a pleasant greeting. He seemed a little quiet, and Ennaka sensed that Tetsu was feeling down as well. She looked at her feet wondering, *Has Gaara really become the monster within him? As Ichibi really got to him? Was it all my fault? Should I have stayed in Suna?* The questions haunted her throughout the silent walk to their destination. Many other teams were waiting outside shivering in the early morning breeze. Sasuke was not among them, but she saw Kiba, Shino and Hinata together. She told the twins her destination before making her way to the trio.

"Well, well, well, if it isn't dog boy, bug boy and Hinata." Kiba's nose twitched as the unfamiliar smell reached his nostrils. Akamaru squirmed vigorously within his coat until he hopped out with a playful bark. Shino turned his head frowning at the remark. Hinata gazed at the new comer as well.

"Well hello Akamaru. Did you miss me?" Ennaka cooed sweeping the little white dog up in her arms. Akamaru wagged his tail barking.

"Akamaru!? HEY!" Kiba shouted as Akamaru began licking Ennaka's cheek, "You really can't like her could you!?"

Akamaru yipped a response which Kiba took offensively, "What do you mean she smells better than me?! Are you saying you like her more than me!?" Shino made no comment to the situation while Hinata just giggled.

"Is that so Akamaru? I guess it's because I shower, unlike a certain someone who probably has fleas!" Ennaka said smirking at Kiba. Akamaru barked again, this time catching Kiba's attention.

"Wait, she has dog treats with her...? Beef jerky flavored dog treats?!" Kiba exclaimed rushing to Ennaka's feet begging, "Please! Let me have one!!!"

Ennaka gazed down at the 'mutt' with disdain, "Okay, I knew you like dogs, but DOG TREATS?! Ugh, well, I guess one wouldn't hurt." Ennaka rumaged through her pockets taking out a bone shaped treat. Kiba sat on his hind legs with tongue lolling out of his mouth. She set Akamaru down next to him and said, "Okay, sit." Akamaru obeyed, "Roll over." Both man and dog rolled around the grass, "Play dead." They stopped and Kiba acted out a fight scene and then stuck a stick through the gap between his arm and waist and fell over to the ground. Ennaka nodded impressed, but she wasn't done messing with him yet.... "Beg." Kiba got up and rushed to her feet, and started to plead.

"PLEASE! GIVE ME THE TREAT! I'LL DO ANYTHING!" Kiba put on his best puppy eyed face while Akamaru did *thee* best puppy face. Ennaka smirked and waved the treat in front of Kiba, who snapped at it, but before he could grasp it, Ennaka threw it to Akamaru who ate it quickly before his master could respond.

"Pitiful." Shino said.

Suddenly a burst of hysterical laughter made Ennaka look away from Kiba's scowling face. Naruto was laying on the ground pounding his fists into the soft earth, "I can't believe it! Wow Kiba, you're pathetic!"

"Naruto can't 'believe it'? That's a first." Shikamaru walked up to them yawning, "It was such a drag to wake up this morning. Can't a guy sleep?"

"Shut it Shikamaru." Ino ordered, "No one wants to here it."

"So, Ennaka... Who are these guys?" Tetsu asked walking up to her side.

"The leaf village genin." She replied, "Who else?"

"I think he wants specific names." Gyoumaru entered the conversation, "Of course, he's to stupid to ask." Tetsu glared at his brother.

"Well, there's Ino, that's Hinata, that's Shino, Naruto, and Shikamaru and Chouji is just coming up from over there, and that's Kiba, and his dog Akamaru."

"Who are they?" Kiba asked pointing at the twins.

"It's noy polite to point." Gyoumaru shoved Kiba's hand out of his way.

"You mean you haven't heard of us?" Tetsu gasped in a comical fasion, "Well, I guess we must indroduce ourselves!" He exclaimed dragging his twin by the back of his shirt. The others gathered around Tetsu who anounced proudly, "We're the Kyougi Twins! Also known as Hide and Seek. Tetsu's the name, and this other lower clone of my superity is-"

WHACK! Gyoumaru shoved his twin to the ground standing over him, "I can introduce myself, thank you." he sniffed. "I'm Seeker. Or, people ussually call me Gyoumaru or Gyou, for short." he said." And this is my trusty falcon Sukauto." Sukauto screeched from Gyoumaru's shoulder, flapping his wings threateningly.

"Uh, but why are you here?" Naruto asked scratching his head, "Isn't there another person in your team?"

"That would be me." Ennaka said stepping forward. Silence followed her approach. She looked around warily, gazing at the eyes inspecting her with curiosity. "They're my teammates for now." Eyes of understanding followed. Tetsu struggled free from Gyoumaru's foot. He smiled happy that Ennaka actually accepted them as teammates... for now.

When they finally let them all into the acdemy, they had to wait again. For what reason, she had no idea. While they waited, Ennaka decided to look at her competition. She saw many different head bands and faces. all had different weapons with them making it looked so unorganized. Suddenly, she saw that one guy... Neji. He was talking to that Lee guy. Ennaka felt her rage boil inside her with her scars

pricking.

"Hello.. Neji..." She hissed approaching him.

"Ennaka." He greeted rudely. "Still the same weakling you were before?"

"I'LL KILL YOU FOR THAT!" Ennaka sprang at him with her psycho dog level at max. Neji didn't move from his spot. He knew what was coming. A shadow extended into Ennaka's making her land to the ground with a thud. A force tugged at her body that she could not control.

"Shikamaru! Let me go you two face lazy, good for nothing ninja! Let me at 'im! GAH!" She exclaimed struggling for her freedom.

"You're such a pain." He said. "Sometimes you drive me crazy, you know that?"

"JUST LET ME GO WOULD YOU?!"

38 - So You Wanna be a Chunin, Huh?

"Okay." Shikamaru said letting his Jutsu go. Ennaka fell over as the pressure from her legs was released. She sat up and glared at the ninja before concentrating on the now walking away Neji.

"Who was that Ennaka? Was he a friend of yours?" Tetsu asked butting into her buisness *again*. He stared at neji for a while then asked, "What's up with his eyes?"

"One, he's the exact opposite of friend. Two, He's a Hyuuga, so his eyes are like that since he has a Byakugan." She said brushing her pants off. Gyoumaru stood near by talking with Shikamaru. They were nodding and stuff, looking over at Tetsu with smirks. "I think they're tlking about you." She said looking over at Shikamaru and Gyoumaru.

Tetsu slumped his shoulders and glared at the ground. "Ugh, I'll be right back." He walked over to them and asked sternly, "What are you talking about?"

Gyoumaru smiled innocently, and Shikamaru responded, "You're twin was just telling me of how good of a comedian you are."

"Huh?" Tetsu asked with his mind all jumbled.

"How you screw up everything in a comical matter." Gyoumaru added.

"HEY!" Tetsu shouted tackling his brother.

"Ah, brotherly love." Ennaka said walking to the lazy ninja.

"These guys are a drag. How do you put up with them?"

"I don't." She replied to his question sighing, "Instead, I do this," Ennaka rocked on her heels then said sweetly, "Oh boys, Gaara's looking at you really annoyed like. It's best that you stop if you want to live. That or I'll get Hachuu."

The boys stopped struggling and froze. Gyoumaru was grabbing Tetsu's hair while Tetsu was headlocking his brother with his leg. They stared at each other wide-eyed before struggling to get themselves untangled. Ennaka grinned evilly. Shikamaru left with a sigh, and the twins searched desprately trying to find the cold hearted killer. When they figured Gaara was not in sight, they glared at Ennaka, annoyed. She smiled wickedly, it was so fun to torment the knuckle heads. (comment from Naruto: YAY! I'm not the only knucklehead!)

"Heh." She sniffed walking away from them. They trailed her anyway deciding there was nothing else they could do. Suddenly, a crowd of people pushed their way through crushing them in between other Genin as the sqirmed to get to the now opening doors that led to their first destination. Ennaka growled from her throat making a sllight demented noise. She continued this until they were carried out of the

mob and were able to move their arms freely. Ennaka cleared her throat, since it was scratchy from the noise she made. Other people poured into the room making their way to the over crowded room. There were multiple tables with chairs lined in neat rows facing the front of the room. Sorta like a class room. In fact, there was a chalk board on the wall at the front of the room where the desks faced. Jounin ninja stood in front like sentries. As more kids filed into the room, Naruto shouted as loud as he could:

"I'm Uzumaki Naruto, And I'm going to beat you all!" Saikura whispered threateningly in his ear, but he ignored her pleas for him to stop, "Believe it!" He exclaimed. Glares from all over the room focused on the orange ninja. He smiled confidently, not getting the idea that they were hating his living guts. Ennaka shook her head embarrassed that she knew him. But her eyes were avoided by all around her. She wondered if they knew who she was. But with Kankuro's big mouth, it wasn't much of a surprise to her. She stared at her feet for a while since no one was willing to partake in conversation with her.

"So, you're here, too." Someone said. She jerked her head up defiantly, wondering who would be so brave to approach her. But then she relaxed as she saw Sasuke standing there.

"Yeah, guess your team didn't hold you back." She commented looking over at Sakura strangling Naruto.

"Hn." He replied looking over in Gaara's direction. "What's up with that Gaara guy?" He asked narrowing his gaze. Ennaka hesitated wondering if she should share Gaara's weaknesses.

"I-I don't know.." She stammered.

"We all know that's all lie." He said looking over his shoulder at her half smiling. "You're obviously attached to him."

She glared at him for a moment for the remark then realized, what he said was true. She would follow Gaara everywhere if possible. Anything to protect him from the dangers of Akatsuki. She sighed, "You're right. But that doesn't mean I'll give you answers about him freely. But I'll tell you this. Don't get in a fight with him unless you want to kiss your dream of killing Itachi goodbye. Once you get caught in his trap... you're a dead man for sure." She said smiling slightly. "Don't be stupid and try it. Trust me, I've known Gaara for a long time. He loves only himself and fights for only himself. He shows no mercy, he runs his fingers through the blood of his victims. He'll probably taste some if I'm not mistaken. Moral: Do not get entangled with Gaara." she finished. Sasuke stared at her sternly with a calm expression.

"Do you think he's stronger than Itachi?" He asked looking at the murderer again. "You speak highly of him."

"I don't know exactly. If Itachi was dumb enough to get locked in Gaara's signature move, I bet Gaara would win. but if that wasn't happening... I can't say."

"Well, if he's equal to Itachi..." He paused glaring at the Sand ninja, "I want to fight him."

"If you want to commit suicide, go ahead. But I warned you." She said raising her arms up with innocence. He nodded slowly before returning to his group.

"Alright you kids listen up!" A jounin ninja appeared from a puff of white smoke, "I'm Ibiki Moreno your proctor. If you want to be a Chunin, sit down!" Kids walked around and desperately tried to find a spot. Ennaka found herself sitting next to a fairly tall leaf Genin. He looked sideways at her before returning his gaze to the front of the room. She grinned not even glancing at the person next to her. Naruto and Hinata, she noticed, were sitting behind her.

"For you kids to pass the first round of the Chunin Exams, you must take a written test." The proctor instructed. She heard a desperate moan from Naruto who whined, "A written test!?" She shook her head with amusement. If Naruto passed, she would never hold anything pass the kid again.

39 - Remember Kids, Cheating is Good for You!

"Alright, the rules are simple." Ibiki said, "If you get caught cheating, we eliminate five points. If you get caught cheating over five times, you get kicked out. And the tenth question is not on your test. You will get to choose if you want to answer it or not. I have Jounin ninja watching your every move. They'll write what they see on their clipboards." He explained as the observers sat down in chairs lining the walls of the room.

Ennaka knew their plan. They were trying to get them to cheat. Any moron could figure that. She went through this kind of stuff when she was with Itachi. It wasn't hard... hopefully. Another person passed out the papers. The nine questions looked very elaborate. *Crap, I suck at math...* She thought looking at all the math problems. *Hopefully Itachi's skills and Kakuzu's stupid money lessons will pay off...* Ennaka reached into her back pocket and pulled out a small orange geko. She petted it with a finger then stuck it under the desk. *Now be a good lizard and look at everyone's answers.* She thought to herself. Ennaka glanced around the room and saw Gyoumaru use Sukauto to see through the bird's eyes. Of course, a falcon could see ten times sharper than humans. Then she glanced at Tetsu who grasped his head in confusion; the poor kid couldn't do math to save his life. Ennaka pitied him and decided to be a good teammate and give him the answers.

Psst, Tetsu. I'll tell you answers once my lizard comes back. Don't worry. She assured him touching his mind. While she waited patiently for her pet to return, she watched Gaara use his 'sand third eye', a jutsu where he creates an eye out of sand, to look at other people's papers. Sasuke was using his Sharingan to copy the pencil movements of the person in front of him. Lee used the reflection of his head band to see the answers. Sakura... already knew the answers. Naruto... Just sat there confused.

Suddenly, a jerk from her pants made her look down. The geko had lept onto her lap with a thud. It gazed up to her and she touched it's mind while still linked to Tetsu's. How she could do that.... She had no idea. *The lizard says the answer to question two is point X. The other part to that question is Point A will strike first with the kunai. And three is The ninja with the most ranked mission. Four is... Okay, it didn't get four. Five, Point C, B and F are parallel to X, G, E. With Team 1 facing Team X, Team 6 facing Team 2, and Team Y facing Team L. Six, We send it by birds. Seven, The Shuriken is more effective than the Katana. Eight, Which is stronger, Bykuugan, or Sharingan.... I should say Sharingan, but that's the wrong answer... bastards. Answer's A. And Finally, nine. It says it didn't get those either. I'll send it out again.* Ennaka left his conscienceness and wrote down the answers on her own paper.

She glanced at problem four and nine. Four's question was, "What is the perimeter of an arena with a diameter of six, and a chord of twelve?" Ennaka blinked. That was simple, you just multiply the diameter by pi, and there's your answer. Ennaka scribbled it down and answered it in less than a minute. Then she moved to the problem number nine. "You are part of an organization. And say that your organization wants world domination. how do you get the money to support your group?" Ennaka gasped and read the question again to make sure she hadn't saw things. This was like the Akatsuki! And organization that wanted world domination that needed money for the cause! Ennaka grinned knowing the answer immediately from her own life experiences. *Thank you Kakuzu...* She thought to herself.

She glanced at the clock. She had finished the test thirty minutes early! Wondering what she should do for remainder of her time, she decided to doodle on the back of her test. Flipping it over with a slight swish, Ennaka took her pencil and sketched. She drew the eyes, then the scope... Then the mouths... Ponytail... Akatsuki robe... Ennaka filled in the last of the clouds and looked at her work. She saw Deidara staring at her with his hand holding a clay bird. She surveyed him for a minute. Ah, the good times she tormented him... Then she decided to draw the whole group. She drew a sharkman with an oversized sword, and Itachi and Sasori, and the rest of the members. Soon she was staring at the Akatsuki. and they stared back. Ennaka tried to forget what had occurred there.. But her past lingered taunting her...

40 - The Tenth Question

She lingered on her drawing, making herself feel all of a sudden weary, and tired. Several teams had been caught cheating over five times and were kicked out of the room. Soon, few were left from the majority that used to be there. Ennaka ignored the shouts of the proctor as he called off names and teams that had cheated. Some had to be dragged out because they refused to quit the exams so early. Finally, when the last minutes had drained, Ibiki announced: "Put your pencils down and prepare yourself. You have a choice. You can either stay and answer the last question, or you can leave and come back next time the Chunin Exams come around. You'll have three months to think about the question if you quit now." Multiple people rose their hands and forfeited. They left with their teams and were escorted outside. "Is this it? No one else is going to give up?" A hand rose amongst the sea of heads. Ennaka noticed that it was Naruto's. "Are you going to surrender?" The man asked him.

Naruto slammed his hand on the desk and shouted as loud as he could, "I'M GOING TO BE HOKAGE WHETHER YOU LIKE IT OR NOT! SO BRING ON THAT LAST QUESTION ALREADY!" He slumped back down in his chair fear and pride mingled in his eyes. Ennaka tired not to burst out laughing.

Ibiki looked around for anymore hands then continued, "Okay... Are you ready for this?" Ennaka gulped. This was it... "Congratulations. You all pass."

"WHAT THE CRAP!?" Ennaka blurted. "Where's the question!?"

"I already said the question. I asked if you wanted to stay or not." Ibiki replied to all the puzzled faces. "I actually had jounin dress up as students so that someone in the room had the right answers. The lesson was to cheat and find that person."

The person next to Ennaka smiled sheepishly and waved at everyone. Ennaka planted her face to the desk and smacked it against it over and over and over again. The answers were right next to her the whole time! She felt so stupid. In fact, she felt this whole test was stupid. Murmurs filled the room and lifted the silence. Suddenly a giant cloud of white smoke filled the front of the room. A young woman with purple hair and giant tan coat stood there with a giant billboard behind her.

"Listen up you maggots! It's time for the second exam! So get up and follow me!" She exclaimed.

"Uh... Anko, you're early again. I'm not done yet." Ibiki said to her.

"Oh, whoops. Sorry!" She said and disappeared and a puff of smoke.

"Alright, pass your papers in and wait outside. You'll receive further instructions there." Ibiki said motioning to the exit. Kids filed out of the room relieved to get fresh air. Ennaka left with the twins and discussed what happened to her during the test.

Ibiki walked around the room as the last of the children got out. He then started to collect the test papers. One of them he noticed, was completely blank. On the name section, was the name: Naruto

Uzumaki. "Naruto didn't write anything on his test! What a kid." Ibiki said to himself as he collect more tests, he spotted one that had something on the back. He flipped it over and stared. The S-ranked crimanals from different villages were standing in a line next to each other all wearing the dreaded black cloaks and red clouds. Someone knew about the Akatsuki. But what Genin could? Ibiki turned the paper over again and looked at the name: Ennaka Ahichu. He studied the answers that she gave on the test and found that every single one was correct. This was a Jounin leveled test! And she had all the answers! Ibiki decided to look up more on this kid.

41 - Interview!

When they reached the outside world, Ennaka stretched relieved to have the room to stretch. Teams met up with their relieved squad leaders to report how they did. Kemuri rushed over to them, "You made it! He said joyfully.

"What? Did you think I was going to fail or something? I was taught by the best y'know." Ennaka said putting her hands on her hips while grinning, "Those questions weren't that hard. I probably got them all right." She boasted. When there was an awkward pause, she admitted, "Okay, so it was hard and I cheated for most of the questions... But I still probably got them right..." She bragged.

"Ennaka, don't lie. Or Santa won't give you presents." Tetsu teased.

"Shut up or else I'm going to cllobber you!" Ennaka wacked him with her fist. He rubbed his head while gazing at her with a hard stare. Gyoumaru ignored their bickering and continued to meddle with one of Sukauto's loose feathers.

"Ennaka, don't kill your teammates, Tetsu, don't tell a joke unless you want Ennaka to beat you senseless. Gyoumaru... Just keep quiet like that and you won't have to face your teammate's wrath." Kemuri warned them. "Well, good luck on the second test. Oh, and please don't die." He pleaded before entering the testing room they had just been in.

"C'mon, lets go." Ennaka ordered. She followed the crowds of kids led by Anko. She led them out of Konoha a few ways and stopped at a very high fence that seemed to stretch for miles. There were huge trees behind it with wildlife probably teeming inside. There was a little stand near by with a stack of papers. As Anko explained what the next task was, she couldn't help but feel her arms begin to itch slightly. Looking down, she saw tiny black dots in her skin. They were hardly noticeable. But Ennaka knew that a snake was close. Stupid snakes. Ennaka scratched some more until her skin began to turn red.

"Oh, The academy kids want an interview for their school newspaper, how could I forget?" Anko smiled sweetly at the three kids in front of her. Ennaka looked up, Somehow, Konohamaru and his friends Moegi and Udon were there by Anko asking for an interview.

"When did they get here?" Ennaka leaned into Gyoumaru's ear and asked.

"Just now in a box." He said confused himself. They stood there watching Anko answer the questions patiently. When she was over, they spread out into different directions to take comments from the Genin. Moegi, the red head girl with slight blush, made her way suddenly to Ennaka.

"You, ma'am," the girl asked sweetly, "would you mind answering a few questions?"

Ennaka sighed, she couldn't say no to a kid, "Sure." She tried to sound friendly.

"Okay, tell me little about your team." Moegi asked clicking her pen to life.

"Well, I'm a member and team leader of team thirteen. My team is consisted of me, Ennaka Ahichu, and these two gentlemen Tetsu and Gyoumaru Kyougi. They're twins if you hadn't noticed. Our Jounin leader is one of these 'Triple K' people. His name is Kemuri Kaen. Or as we call him, Pyro sensei because he is a fire maniac. Anyway, our abilities are most consisted on natural team work. I usually use summons or genjutsu to catch opponents off guard and Tetsu comes almost as if out of no where and hits him. While gyoumaru works with his falcon friend Sukauto. Funny thing is, Gyoumaru can see through Sukauto's eye's using some sort of jutsu." Ennaka continued as Moegi wrote it down on her note pad. Finally she moved onto The twins... And I'll save what they say for the next chapter....

42 - Bragging Much

Moegi made her way to the twins and Ennaka just sat in the grass trying to ignore that stupid itch. When Moegi reached the boys, she asked them politely, "Can I have an interview with you?" What they didn't know, was that Ennaka had already taken the interview.

"Of course we will!" Tetsu said cheerfully. He dragged Gyoumaru over and sat down. "What do you want to know?" He asked.

"Um, first... Who are you?" She picked up her pen and clipboard ready to write.

Tetsu sighed, "Still, nobody knows who we are..."

"No! We are not doing that stupid introduction that we last time! I'll take care of it." Gyoumaru said shoving his brother away. "We are the Kyougi Twins of the Kyougi Clan. I'm Gyoumaru, also known as 'Seeker' and that's my twin Tetsu, or the 'Hider'. He tells terrible jokes and is a complete idiot."

Tetsu shoved a hand over Gyoumaru's mouth, "That's enough about him, I'll tell you about me. I'm the most intelligent in the group and the best, the strongest, and cool, elite, and-"

Gyoumaru pushed him away, "He lied, he's just the opposite. Anyway, this is my loyal falcon Sukauto who helps me out when needed."

"How do you feel about taking this Exam?" Moegi asked another question oblivious to the twin's bickering.

"It's kinda hard and challenging, but we know it's all worth it in the end." Gyoumaru replied.

"What do you think of your team leader Ennaka over there?" Moegi asked innocently not noticing Gyoumaru's face flush red.

"Uh... Well...Er, I..." At this point, Tetsu pushed his twin down and replied for his brother, "He thinks she's pretty."

"Shut up!" He slugged him in the face. "She's right there... Say that in front of her and you're dead, dude!" Gyoumaru warned.

"Uh, huh. Okay, got all that. What attacks does she prefer, do you think?"

"Prefer? Well, she's told us that she rather uses shadow spirit summons because they take up less chakra and are easy to control. She also has a deformed eye behind her hair, and it can talk into people's minds. Calls herself the Deceptionist from the Sand Village..." Tetsu said putting his finger to his mouth. "Other than that, she sometimes puts lizards into battle."

"Cool, well thank you very much, and good luck!" Moegi said standing up and walking to the next group.

"So, how'd the interview go?" Ennaka asked approaching the pair. They cringed and turned their heads slowly.

"Uh, good?" Gyoumaru said shyly

"Yes! It went very well!" Tetsu said shoving his brother down.

When everyone had taken the interview, Anko moved on to the directions, "Okay, you go in this forest with only your weapons and this scroll, either Heaven or Earth scrolls. If you have a Heaven scroll, get an Earth scroll, if you have an Earth scroll get a Heaven scroll. Then go to the tower in the middle. But whatever you do, don't open the scrolls until you get there. You have five days to get to the tower before you fail. Any questions?"

When nobody replied, she said to take positions at the different gates. The children obeyed and waited at their assigned posts. The gate slowly lifted in front of them and people shot off into the forest. The wind rustled as if opposing them. All the while, Ennaka couldn't help but notice that her arms were starting to stop itching so much. Thankful for that, she sighed in relief. Now, they just had to find that scroll.

"What scroll do we have?" She asked them.

"Anko gave us an Earth scroll." Gyoumaru replied tossing it to her. "We need a Heaven scroll."

Ennaka caught the scroll and put it in her pack. "Let's stop and devise a strategy." She commanded. They stopped in a clearing with the bare woods and trees towering over them. The trunks themselves were an unspeakable width. "We're going to be staying here for the night so we can come up with a plan. I'll get firewood. You guys find something we could use as a tent or something." Ennaka told them. The twins nodded and split up. Ennaka turned her head and called out with her mind to Gaara. She knew he probably wouldn't hear her, but surprisingly, she felt his mind brush hers slightly. And in that millisecond, she could figure out where he was. Ennaka lept forward excitedly and shot off in his direction. Gyoumaru and Tetsu would be gone for a while. She might as well see how the sand siblings were doing. She veered to an undergrowth and noticed that she was not alone. Kiba, Shino and Hinata were below her watching the scene unfold.

Gaara was facing a Rain ninja she recognized from the first exam named Shikurahe. He threatened Gaara not to get in his way which Temari contradicted and told him to fight Gaara. Kankuro agreed, but the Rain ninja pressed on. Ennaka sat in her position in the tree and watched with glee. Gaara was going to kill a Rain ninja! What joy!

43 - Gaara's Cruel Strength

Ennaka swung her legs over the branch and hung upside down. Watching it upside down seemed to relax her. And, she could hear the conversation below even better. But before she started paying attention to it, she noticed Kiba's jacket quivering like a leaf. Akamaru squirmed and whined slightly and quietly. His body shook from head to tail with his face buried in Kiba's chest. Kiba kept trying to comfort the puppy, but his efforts failed. Ignoring Akamaru for a minute, Ennaka concentrated on Gaara.

His siblings smirked behind him, and the rain ninja looked uneasy with the sand ninja's overconfidence. Shikurahe advanced and threw six parasols into the air. Gaara stood motionless with the cork on his gourd shaking violently. Shikurahe tried to look relaxed, But Ennaka could feel waves of fear emanating off of him. The waves traveled through her eye sending signals to her brain. Almost like when your eyes send pictures to it. Sometimes, birth defects weren't bad. They gave her new abilities. Anyway, Ennaka knew that this is how it should be. Rain should quiver and fear the Sand... Sand was her home, Gaara was her friend, like a brother. And same with Kankuro, except more annoying. And Temari was like an older sister to her. She felt them as her family, maybe not in the same way for Sasuke, but family non the less.

"Take this! One thousand needles!" Shikurahe shouted. senbons poured from the sky from the umbrellas. Ennaka swung upward so she was right side up. If senbons were going to hit her, she didn't want to be upside down. Fortunately, none struck her or Hinata, Kiba and Shino. Ennaka gazed up at Gaara smiling. This was it, she could just taste the blood... When she looked ahead, sand was wrapped like a cocoon around Gaara. Needles stuck out of the sand's surface, and not a scratch was on Gaara. The Sand Master remained expressionless and replied, "You made it rain needles? I have an idea, lets make it rain blood instead!" He hissed. The rain ninja twisted his face in shock and frustration.

"Gaara's sand acts on it's own. He doesn't even have to say anything and it will protect him." Kankuro explained, "You don't have a chance against Gaara." Temari nodded in agreement. Ennaka wanted to shout out and tell Gaara to kill them all, but if she did, he would just probably kill her too. Ennaka decided it was best just to stay silent.

"Sand Burial!" He said stretching out his open hand. The sand squirmed over to the rain ninja and crawled up his legs. Shikurahe struggled but it was to no avail, the sand wrapped around his body imprisoning him in a sandy cocoon. Ennaka decided to get a better view from down below. She silently crept down the tree and sat next to Shino. They didn't notice her presence, awestruck by Gaara. (As they should be!!!) Ennaka sighed and said, "Amazing, isn't he?" The trio jumped and turned their heads in her direction.

"When the hell did you get here?!" Kiba asked softly.

"Oh, I've been sitting up in that tree this whole time watching. But this is a better view." Ennaka said pulling her knees to her chin, "Wow, Gaara's been kickin' @\$@ and taken names!" She commented. Shino peered at her nervously. Hinata put her hand to her chest with a scared expression.

"H-he's not going to h-h-hurt us, is he?" Hinata whispered.

"If you jumped out now, he probably would kill you." Ennaka warned, "So stay quiet."

"I could just cover your big fat mouth and you'd be dead, but that ould be too boring..." Gaara explained. He lifted his arm a few inches. Shikurahe's sand prison rose off the ground into the sky, "Sand Coffin!" Gaara exclaimed and closed his hand into a fist. The sand constricted the rain ninja's body and BAM! There was a blur, and blood splattered all over the place. Gaara held one of Shikurahe's parasols to protect him from the down pour of red liquid. "There was no pain. The jolt was so fast he wouldn't have felt it." Gaara assured the blood stained comrades of Shikurahe. He threw down the umbrella, "But it's not enough for me..." The sand squirmed to life again and began to pile itself on the other two ninja's who had pleaded to take their scroll and leave. But Gaara continued until he covered their heads with sand.

"Hey, it's a Heaven scroll. Just what we need. What luck." Kankuro said picking up the scroll.

"It's not enough for me... We need more." Gaara hissed staring at the ground. Ennaka clutched her pack with the scroll in it. Now was the not the time to greet him.

"Listen Gaara, we onlt need one set of scrolls, this is enough."

"No, there must be more blood shed." He glared at the ground clenching his fists.

Kankuro grabbed Gaara's sash and pulled him, "Sometimes you have to listen to what your big brother tells you, alright?!" He ordered.

Put him down, put him down, c'mon, you're going to get killed! Ennaka thought to herself. Sweat beaded on her forehead, would Gaara really kill his own brother?

"I don't care about my family, so back off. Or I'll kill you..." Gaara narrowed his black ringed eyes.

"C'mon Gaara, can you behave for your big sister just this once? Please?" Temari pleaded politely. Fear glazed her eyes.

Gaara stretched out his arm in Ennaka's direction. She cringed, did he know she was there? Her mind buzzed and her breaths became shallow. But then her hand brushed something near her. gazing by her hand, she saw the cork to his gourd. Ennaka brushed it with her hand feeling it's textury surface. She moved it a few feet away from her by pushing it with her hand. Gaara opened his hand with sand accumulating by his palm. The cork quivered near her. Ennaka shut her eyes wondering if he was trying to get his cork back, trying to kill her, or trying to kill Kankuro.

"GAARA!" Temari screeched. Ennaka opened her eyes. There was no more blood, no dead people. and the cork next to her had flew into Gaara's hand.

".. Okay... but just this once." He warned them. Ennaka sighed in releif. Kankuro mimcked her action and followed Gaara. Temari came near him and smacked him in the head whispering multiple threats.

Ennaka sat back against a tree trunk.

"He's scary." Kiba said once the sand ninja's left. The others nodded besides Ennaka. They left her there and pushed onwards to the tower. Ennaka sighed and got to her feet. She should at least get some wood or else the twins would know she went after Gaara. They might not trust her if they knew that. Ennaka collected the wood and returned to the camp shortly.

"You sure took your sweet time." Tetsu sneered as she walked into their sight.

"Most of the wood was damp and unusable. You should be glad I came back in one piece." Ennaka replied glaring.

"Now c'mon guys, let's just set up camp. We're all tired." Gyoumaru said with a yawn.

"You weren't with Gaara were you?" Tetsu asked. Ennaka felt her gut clench. How did he suspect that she had been looking for Gaara?

"... No." She sniffed. "After what he did to me, I wouldn't dream of it." She lied.

"Right..." Tetsu said glaring at her. "...right.."

44 - Tetsu Speaks Out

Ennaka dumped the fire wood in the center of the clearing while Gyomaru sorted out things for a good shelter. Tetsu was helping his brother with the landscaping, but most of the time he just glared at her.

"What is your problem!?" She asked after a while.

Tetsu turned his head away with his brother watching him with concern. There seemed to be no trace or hint of funny left in his face. Ennaka scowled and glared at the wood in front of her trying not to do a fire jutsu. She looked at Gyomaru and noticed something, "Hey, where's Sukauto?" She asked.

"Foraging." Gyomaru replied without looking up. "He's getting food. Sukauto knows what's good to eat in the wild and what's not. Hopefully he'll bring us a few things."

"Need help with the shelter?" She asked him.

"... Uh, sure I guess..." He said ducking his head shyly not used to her addressing or helping him so much.

"Where do you plan to put it?" Ennaka said to him studying his pile of lumber. When he did not reply, Ennaka said pointing, "It'd be nice if we could prop it on something like a tree or rock. I see a stream right over between those two trees. Maybe there's something over there." Ennaka walked between the two trunks and examined what lay ahead. The stream was a few yards away from her down a small slope. There was a few medium sized rocks to her right, and to her left was... AH-HA! A tree with a split trunk! Ennaka walked up to the tree and ran her fingers along the bark's surface seeing if it was stable. Then she went inside and examined the interior. The compacity could fit the three and bird, plus it could shelter them from rain. Not only that, but they didn't have to build the whole structure! It was perfect! Ennaka walked back to the clearing and exclaimed excitedly, "I found it! I found it!" She rushed back to the tree going in it again. Gyomaru followed her in shortly and examined the structure. He rubbed his chin and peered at it intently.

"Huh, this could work..." He said to himself. "Just needs a little patching up and touching up before it's completely usable."

Tetsu came in with his arms crossed a scowl across his face. Ennaka, for once, wished he would crack a joke. Looking back at him she felt her insides burn and boil with rage. Why couldn't he just mind his own business?! Ennaka let out a frustrated growl and marched up to Tetsu and shoved her face inches from his. "What is your problem!?"

"... You... You went and saw him, didn't you..." He hissed defending his position. Ennaka's face twisted into a snarl and she let out another growl.

"And so what if I did!?!!" She bursted out unable to contain it. "Yeah, I went looking for him, Yeah, I saw him. But I didn't converse with him in any way, so why should it matter to you!?" She panted with her mouth feeling chalky. "Back off would you?!"

"I knew it. Kemuri was right." Tetsu said staring back at her defiantly.

Ennaka let her anger seep away for a moment with shock scratched suddenly on her face, "Pyro.. Sensei?" Gyoumaru looked away with a frown.

"Yeah, that's right. Kemuri- sensei said you would go running off to find Gaara. He said to be on guard. I don't know what you did or what happened to you when you were in the Sand village, but your with Konoha now. Your village is Konoha. You have to remember that your headband clearly states that you represent the Hidden Leaf Village. Not Suna, Not Amega, not any other village besides Konoha. And that is where your loyalty must lie." Tetsu said making her cringe with every word. Ennaka was taken aback. Pyro sensei didn't trust her...

"Arrgh! Just leave me alone would you!? You don't know what it's like to be torn between your family and village like this! You don't what it's like to have your family kill everyone important to you. You don't know what it's like to have everyone wanting you for power and crap, You don't know anything about me!" She screamed in aggervation. Ennaka stared at Tetsu's unemotional face before he began to continue.

"No, I don't. It doesn't matter what hapened to you in the past. You're with Konoha, and thats how it will be from now, until this exam is over. Until then, your working with us." Tetsu said boldly, "So shut the hell up and start paying attention to whats happening right now."

"How can I? I've been like this my whole life, lingering on what I should've done so and so years ago, wondering if my friends and family are alive, wondering about Itachi and the Red Clouds and everything! Gaara is like my brother, I can't just leave him like this! He's possessed! I want to help! I- I just can't get it through his sand laiden skull..." She exclaimed throwing her hands in the air in confusement. "Just leave me alone..." She said storming away from them. Ennaka walked around, thinking about Tetsu's words. But as she thought, Neji quoted her mind. *Fate brought you back on course. You will always be alone.* Ennaka clenched her fists with hot tears trying to escape the moisture of her eyes. This shouldn't be happening to Gaara. This shouldn't be happening.. Not at all. As Ennaka wondered farther, she noticed that something must be following her. She spun around looking from left to right feeling the pressense of another conscience reach her eye.

Suddenly, someone came down from the treetops above and landed in front of Ennaka. She stook a step back and took a look at this new person. Part of it's face seemed to be melting off revealing pale white skin underneath and a yellow slitted eye staring at her with amusement. Ennaka glared defiantly at the.. thing... The headband showed a spiky squiggle representing grass. Grass ninja... Huh, interesting. They stood there a while staring at each other. Ennaka all of a sudden felt her arms begin releasing the seal. There had to a be a snake somewhere nearby. Ennaka felt her skin begin to turn hot like a rash. The person watched for a while, then said in a hissing voice, "I like your style... You crave power... I have it if you join me..." The grass ninja said. "Your mind is being of a pester to me. I feel it trying to touch me."

"What?" Ennaka said flatly. She wasn't doing anything. Or was this seal making her do things she didn't realize she was doing?

"Ah, I know who you want to kill. I know your origins Uchiha girl. You want to kill Leader... right?" the voice carried through her ears.

"H-how do you k-know about P-Pein?" She asked hugging herself trying to keep the burning down to the least amount possible.

"I have my ways... Ennaka." The person took the flesh dangling from the face and peeled some more off. "Your cousin was that of a hassle to me. Just what I would expect from an Uchiha..."

"Who are you, and how do you know about me?" She asked loudly. Her arms still were itching vigorously. Ennaka felt her breaths become labored. What was this person? Who was this person?

45 - An Old Enemy

Ennaka clutched herself even tighter. How could a simple grass ninja know so much about her? Her origin... Akatsuki remembrance... She didn't have any contact with the Grass except for Zetsu...

"I'll ask again politely once more; Who are you?" Ennaka asked again feeling the black markings spread. Stupid snakes...

"That is for later. You wouldn't let me converse with you if you knew..." The ninja hissed. Ennaka cringed, this guy was going to give her nightmares... "Well then, I guess I'll force it out then!" She exclaimed and slid out her katana's. She tapped her heels against the mud covered ground. Hopefully Pyro sensei's dancing lessons would come in handy...

"Ha, fool. You can't beat me." The ninja hissed once more.

Ennaka growled and jumped to the air making hand signs as she went. "Fire style! Flaming Circle Jutsu!" Ennaka said spinning both swords all fasta' like. They began to glow a deep orange smoldering hot sparks. They all of a sudden created multiple rings of fire circling and trapping the grass ninja in a fiery arena. Ennaka landed on the branch of a large tree and smiled with satisfaction. The ninja seemed unimpressed by her work.

"What little trick is this? A fire jutsu... Huh, clever." The ninja said in it's hissing voice. Ennaka clenched her teeth and moved her hands in a solid pattern and rhythm. she stared at her ash laden hands as she made them, studying the burn marks. "Phoenix Flower Jutsu!" She said. Out of one of the four rings around the mysterious ninja, a flaming fire ball appeared taking the shape of a bird. The bird opened it's fiery beak as if gaping for food and released multiple jets of fire. The ninja took it in, letting the flames strike the clothes it wore. Ennaka still couldn't figure the gender. When the smoke cleared, Ennaka noticed that where the hissy ninja was, there was a scorched log instead. (comment for those people who've watched Naruto abridged: LOGGED! XD)

Ennaka looked at it suprised. Replacement jutsu? But, when did it have the time to do one of those??? Suddenly, a hand grabbed her shirt from behind and pinned her against the trunk of the tree she stood on. "You're good.. But not enough to beat the Leader or Itachi..." The shadowy ninja replied. "And I know how you can be." Ennaka felt the ninja grip her throat tighter as it closed in by her ear, "Join me, and I'll make you more powerful than you'll ever dream of being..."

The thought was tempting. Join this person and she would fulfill her goals in life and could live forever in peace. Sounded simple. But Ennaka knew the words of the devil when she heard them. Ennaka struck out her knee into the gut of her captor. The grass ninja gasped as the wind was knocked out of them. Ennaka felt her arms burn more than ever. Looking down, she saw thick blots of kanji strokes appear writing on her skin. This must be pretty big @\$\$ snake for her seal to act up so much.

"Ooh! What kind of trick are we pulling out now???" The ninja asked getting up. "Well, whatever it is, you won't have the time to show me!" All of a sudden, their neck stretched out like a giraffe, and curling like

that of a snake. Ennaka jolted to her senses and dodged the gaping mouth of her enemy. She jumped down from the tree only to be caught in the sticky wet mouth of something. Ennaka felt her torso start catching her arms pattern. It didn't take long before Ennaka knew she was in the jaws of a giant... snake... Feeling her phobia take over, Ennaka felt a boost of undenyng energy take over her as if someone had dumped chakra all over her. Performing the necessary hand signs, Ennaka felt the cold shadows ooze up her skin and curling and coiling around her body in ungraceful patterns. Ennaka sat there waiting for the process to cease. When her limit of two minutes drained, Ennaka opened her purple eyes and thrust her arms to her sides. purple energy flowed from her palms and created a flaming fireball with purple and blue tongues of flames. Ennaka thrust it into her captor and the snake coughed her out as smoke billowed in its mouth. Ennaka ran out of the creature's mouth finding herself face-to-face with the ninja. The head was still connected to the stretchy neck and the tongue was replaced as a sword. Ennaka looked at her black shadowey hands glowing with purple fire at the finger tips. She had to eliminate this thing. It knew too much.

A slice of pain jolted Ennaka back to her fight. The grass ninja's sword slashed at her thighs. Ennaka proceeded to dodge in a dancing matter twisting in complicated poses to avoid the sharp blade of the creature's sword. All the while, Ennaka threw all she knew at this ninja. What had driven her in Suna had not come back. Her hate for the Kazekage would not ignite. She just was trying to survive. Ennaka summoned multiple shadow spirits, but the ninja's snakes defeated them with a brush and flick of a tail. Ennaka bit her lip in frustration. She was beat... This couldn't go on much longer... Ennaka, in one more fugal effort to save herself, mustered up all of her energy and bit her thumb firmly. She drew a circle around her with a perfect triangle inside. (Think Hidan...) She struck her palm in the middle and screeched with the last of her breath, "Summoning Jutsu!!!" A puff of white smoke filled her lungs and blurred her vision. When she saw what she summoned, Ennaka felt herself drain. this was it. If this didn't work... It was all over. Three ten foot tall lizards stood on either sides of her. They were like that of Hachuu: human footing, swords, round spartan like shields, shoulder pads. But these lizards had bigger teeth and claws than Hachuu. Plus they were much more aggressive.

"Fight." Ennaka said. The Lizards yelped in glee as they plunged into battle. While the snakes were busy fending off the blood thirsty lizards, the grass ninja came up to Ennaka with a smirk. "So that's your last move.. I have to hand it to you, you did better than Sasuke." The neck stretched slowly until the head reached her neck, "But it wasn't good enough..." Two small pricks stung her neck as the ninja began to bite her. But Ennaka felt only the pain of her arms and torso growing hot with the seal growing more. a few minutes passed... nothing happened.

"Listen whoever you are. My arms are really hurting. If there's a snake around me, could you please kill it? Unless you want to be flung around by your teeth." Ennaka said craning her neck trying to inspect the environment.

"Just give it a minute..." The ninja said frustrated. The head latched off of her and hovered in her face. "Why isn't my Curse Mark working?!" The creature asked frustrated. Ennaka felt her stomach lock... Curse mark... That could only mean...

"OROCHIMARU!"

46 - Snake Man

Ennaka stared and staggered back a few steps. Orochimaru! He as the reason she had this stupid seal in the first place! Ennaka sputtered as if she had been drowning, "EW! OROCHIMARU! GET IT OFF! GET IT OFF!" She shrieked running around in a circle. her seal seeped up into her face, her neck tingling.

"Ugh, you got it. It's me. But thats not what I'm here-"

"You perverted monkey! You sicko you, you..." Ennaka tried to thimk of another nisult, "Micheal Jackson look alike!"

Orochimaru stared at her confused, "Who's Micheal Jackson?"

"You!" Ennaka said, "Now get away from me!" She warned, "Or I'll go demonic!"

"Ooh, I'm so scared, Little Ennaka's gonna hit me! What will I do!?" Orochimaru mocked, "Last time I saw you, you were that little runt following Itachi around."

"Yeah, and I'm related to the very same guy who defeated you with the same power!" Ennaka threatened."What would Sasori say? He was very angry at you. I believe his new partner hates you more."

"New partner? Already?"

"Yeah. Called Deidara. Such a nice guy. Better than you that is!" Ennaka spat. "What did you do to Sasuke!?" She asked deafiantly. Orochimaru covered his ears. "I said, What did you do to Sasuke!?" Ennaka ordered.

"The same thing I'm gonna do to you!" He screeched and his neck streched once more. Ennaka stood there waiting for him to get close enough, then she sprung into the air and landed a crushing foot into his skull. Orochimaru squealed and retreated back to his body.

Ennaka felt her Spirit Shadow technique begin to slip. Ennaka decided to use the best of it's power now. "I'm going to end this here and now. Demonic Flaming Spirit Circle!" Ennaka said. Puffs of black smoke began popping and crackling; containing a spirit of every shape color and size within. Soon, she was surrounded by an army of shadow spirits. They moaned like zombies and the faces on their tummies each held a different expression. Ennnaka felt her chakra fading quickly, "Get him!" She told the little spirits. One spirit held back as the others advanced. It had a zipper on it's stomach that represented someting of a mouth. Ennaka looked down, the spirit gazed up at her pleading. Ennaka knew this was the most unevil of spirits. The purple chakra it contained in it's belly is what she needed now. Ennaka nodded, and the spirit clasped it's tiny hand on the zipper handle. Tugging gently, the zipper latch flew open and purple energy flew out of it's pouch blowing across Ennaka's body. She felt her energy rise and her strength return. Ennaka lifted her head as the spirit dissapeared in a puff of

smoke; she let out a growl. Orochimaru was not going to get the best of her.

Orochimaru let his unusually long tongue snake out. Then he curled his hands and then tongue became a snake with a sword protruding from its snarling mouth. The snake man tilted his head flashing the sword's blade threateningly at the approaching spirits. Ennaka glared defiantly. Now she had too many summons. Three lizards, and over fifty spirits! Some had to go. Ennaka glanced at the snakes above the commotion. Her lizards had killed one giant snake with multiple stabs of their swords, and they now were fighting off the other one. Ennaka decided to call them off. She had one more thing she wanted to summon... Ennaka released her Samurai Lizard Trio and got out her katana's once more. Her shadow spirits had encircled Orochimaru who tried to fend them off by swinging his head around with the blade slicing through the shadows as they poofed away. While he continued that, the outer ring of spirits joined hands and bursts into rings of orange and violet fire. The other spirits in the inner core retreated and the outer fire closed in on Orochimaru. He stopped swinging and looked around with his yellow eyes.

Try to dodge this you bastard. Ennaka thought as she performed her tiger seal hand sign. "Dragon Fire jutsu!!!"

The fire around Orochimaru began to connect into one big ring. Then streams of flames sprouted from the main ring connecting at the top making a dome like structure. Burnt branches began to burn and crumble to ash as it was lit aflame. A giant ball of fire emerged at the top of the dome absorbing the smoke and ash around it with the fire along with it. They began to take a shape. A fiery jet of flames erupted from the main body. It took the anatomy of a limb. A clawed limb. Three more mimicked it and began sprouting from the hot flames. Then wings, and a tail. And then out came the head. It had horns, fiery yellow slitted eyes and a forked tongue curling out of its gaping mouth. The fiery dragon floated aloft in the air and bellowed. From its mouth, a crackling sizzling sound forced its way out of its mouth. Blue fire gathered and then shot out at Orochimaru. There was a blast of fire, a sting to the neck, and everything was blotted out from Ennaka's gaze.

47 - Cursed

Gyoumaru sat on the forest floor gazing at the sky anxiously. Where was his bird? Suddenly, a piercing shriek of Sukauto cut the deathly air. The falcon descended onto a branch.

"Did you find her?" He asked the bird of prey. Sukauto chirped and lowered his head. "That's okay... Come inside for a break. I'll go and look for her." Gyoumaru sighed. Sukauto flew through the split trunk while Gyoumaru paced nervously around the brush. Ennaka had been gone for a bit of time. Had Tetsu's speech make her want to side with the sand village? These woods were dangerous. Who knows what could happen? Gyoumaru stopped pacing and went in the tree hut that he had built without much help from Tetsu. He looked around until his eyes landed on a pile of berries Sukauto had collected for them. He got a handful and shoved them in his mouth accepting the bitter taste. Wiping his mouth, the 'seeker' set out; trusting his bird to hint Tetsu of his whereabouts. He tried to follow Ennaka's direction. Where ever she was, it was far from the site. Gyoumaru set one foot down in front of the other deep in thought, watching his feet as they repeated the pattern of stepping in front each other in an endless race. A scream jerked his mind back to reality. The shout was distant... Was it Ennaka?

* * *

Ennaka screamed as Orochimaru's fangs clamped once more on her neck. She tried to struggle, but Orochimaru had his arms firmly gripping her shoulders. "How? How did you escape that attack!?" Ennaka said between clenched teeth. Her arms really were burning now, as if she was on fire.

"You fool, while your little... *things*.. Were attacking me, did a replacement jutsu." Ennaka looked over to the charcol that the flaming dragon had created. A scorched log sat amongst the ash. (LOGGED! XD) Ennaka felt her neck swell. Orochimaru clamped down harder making her grunt. "Does it hurt yet? Do you feel the pain oozing through you?" Orochimaru hissed.

"The only thing that I feel, is the seal on my skin itching like hell." Ennaka replied telling the truth. She actually could barely feel the needles in her neck.

"Is that so? Well, I have just the thing..." The man bit down even harder. A sudden chill took over her body... something was happening. Her mind buzzed as if drunk, her eyes beginning to water. the pain coursed through her neck, then her arms and it continued spreading through her body. Ennaka let out another scream. Her seal began to mingle with whatever Orochimaru had put in her. The chill met the fire and that did not end in a pleasant combo. Once the two had joined, her skin kanji's began to fade ever so slightly. And along with that, new patterns began crawling around her skin. Ennaka felt her limbs go numb and they fell at her side like dead weight. Orochimaru let go and tossed her to the tree's trunk.

"Now, like your cousin, will follow and join me..." Orochimaru smirked coldly.

"Heheh... You're a fool Orochimaru... What do you think this seal is for?" Ennaka chuckled defying the pain in her back. Orochimaru glared down at her. "It was to prevent your influence to take over me. So I would not get this curse..." Ennaka said wiping her blood stained chin. "You're nothing to me." She said

weakly.

"You may not have a curse mark... But you have my poison running through your veins..." Orochimaru hissed with pleasure.

Ennaka sputtered and weakly tried to get to her feet and get footing. Her knees wobbled feebly. She smirked confidently, there as no way Orochimaru could effect her-

Ennaka coughed. She look at her hands bare arms. Striped markings began forming all over them coursing all over her. They streched acrossed her face. searing pain enveloped her innards as she clutched her gut and fell to her knees. What was this? This feeling of unending rage returned her body. She felt weak, get over powerful... Ennaka grabbed her head as her surroundings began to spin. She grimaced as the markings began to glow a smoldering orange. Orochimaru watched carefully swining his black, long hair out of his eyes. *It- It's already going to a level two!* He thought with wide eyes. Ussually for that to happen, you had to be in a half dead dtate as your body got used to the mark. But Ennaka had no mark. Only poison.

Her skin began to turn a maroonish color, her eyes began to seep hot tears. Her armed shuddered as her skin and bone was stretched. Ennaka felt her hair band snap as the groing hair could not contain itself. She shook her head vigorously as her ears began to change shape and her head sprouted shaft like horns. She screamed a blood curlting scream unaware of why she was transforming. Orochimaru grinned watching the extra skin that grew off her arms harden into steel hard plates. Her toes and nails began to grow as well, inching bigger with a spike pushing itself out of each hand in the back of her palm. Her feet grew beast-like and she began standing on Diagrade feet. With her heel resting on the balence of her toes.

Ennaka looked at her arms. They had a giant fin sprouting from her forearms. She touched them and found tham as cold and as hard as metal. Her hands hand long nails and her feet were... animalish... Ennaka saw her Konoha ninaj band on the ground. She stared at herself in the reflection of the metal plate. Her hair had turned gray, skin had turned maroon, and her teeth had sharpened to fangs. Her eyes now gleamed yellow, while her deformed one stayed a Sharingan. Her forehead had three alined spikes on them. The middle one being slightly longer than the others. Ennaka found herself staring mostly at her black ringed eyes. And as she stared at them, she couldn't help but think of Gaara...

"This is your curse. You will seek power from me whether you like it or not. You will be attacted to this power like a misquito is to blood. And soon, you'll drain that power for yourself..." Orochimaru hissed.

Ennaka twitched. Then she collasped. HEr stoch churned and she felt her mind blank out. Orochimaru calmly walked to her still body. He reached down trying to grab the neckbank of her shirt, but a mini shuruken grazed his palm.

"Don't touch her you filthy traitor!"

48 - Rescue

Gyoumaru panted heavily. The shuriken hadn't gone where he aimed, but at least he hit the guy. Orochimaru took a step back in a surprise. New guests? How rude to barge in without being invited. Orochimaru turned to the boy who leaned against another tree trunk. The forest floor below seemed so distant...

"And who are you?" The man questioned.

"... Don't... Touch... Her... You Bastard..." Gyoumaru said gulping for breaths between each phrase. He looked at her body wondering what had happened to her. But that didn't matter, what mattered was him getting her away from this crazed man. Gyoumaru shuffled forward clutching his gut. The ran had given him cramps. He unclipped his whip from his belt and held it in its wrapped position.

"Oh? And what toy is this?" Orochimaru asked grinning, "Do you think that a rope will hurt me?"

Gyoumaru clenched his teeth and unfurled the whip; revealing its hidden icy end. Snapping it against the tree to intimidate the snake man, Gyoumaru felt the foundation of the tree branch vibrate, echoing through the tree. Orochimaru stepped back from Ennaka's body. "You want her that bad, huh kid?" He hissed sending a chill through the boy's spine. "Well, try and take her from me."

That was enough to seduce Gyoumaru into the trap. He pushed off the branch with his feet launching himself at Orochimaru with his whip curling around this way and that. The Sanin ninja jumped out of the way so that Gyoumaru was standing between him and Ennaka. Right where Orochimaru wanted him... he twisted his hands and curled them into a snake hand sign. Then Orochimaru bit his thumb and placed it on the tree. A snake appeared from within and slithered to Gyoumaru who lashed his whip at it. The snake hissed and jerked backwards, only to multiply into two. Gyoumaru looked down at the two creatures wondering where that came from. Not being able to react soon enough, the snakes bit at his heels, pricking his skin. He grunted in pain as the wriggling beasts constricted his legs. Orochimaru laughed and said to him, "Did you really think that you could beat one of the Sanin? You'd be a complete idiot to think that!" Suddenly, the struggling Gyoumaru popped into smoke and replaced with a log. "What?" Orochimaru said surprised, how could he have been fooled by a simple trick like that?

"Boo." Gyoumaru said pinning his kunai into Orochimaru's back. The snake man spat as the knife was lodged firmly into his back.

"Why you little brat! You'll pay for that!" His head twisted and his neck dislocated stretching to meet Gyoumaru's gaze. His tongue lolled out turning into a cobra. It spat and hissed, gaping mouth exposing sharp fangs. Gyoumaru, surprised and grossed out, stood there wondering what he should do. Should he fight, or make this his get away? But his pondering didn't last long. The snake extended its body and dug its fangs into his chest. Gyoumaru yelped in surprise, not expecting the attack. He put his fingers under the snake's cotton-like mouth to try and dislodge the needles stabbing him.

"Those fangs were lined with poison. If your lucky, you might die quickly." Orochimaru said with an evil

smile.

The boy grunted, inhooking the jaws from his body feeling the warm blood soak into his shirt. Gyoumaru panted feeling weak. Then, he ran around lashing his whip out, making it crackle like lightning. It struck The sanin in the jaw and howl in pain. Gyoumaru pick up Ennaka slinging her over his shoulder. He felt her breaths on his neck. They were cold. He grunted and lept down to the forest floor, trying to escape the fight. Not looking back, he ran trying to remember where the camp was. But he heard the pursuing foot speps behind, So he threw Ennaka into the brush and spun around seeing Orochimaru right behind him. Unable to stop, the man skidded into Gyoumaru's raised knee, which pinned him right in the gut. He coughed, feeling something lock in his throat suffocating him. Giving another kick, a scroll flew out of Orochimaru's mouth landing in Gyoumaru's open palm. He struck out again with the oze whip, this time making a freezing jutsu with it. When the whip rached contact with skin, it froze into an icy prison.

Gyoumaru staggered back. he firmly gripped the scroll in his hands panting. That was more than a hassel then he thought it would be. Retrieving Ennaka from the brush, he gently liftted her onto his shoulder where he walked slowly away from the frozen man. He looked down at the parchment grasped in his mud and dirt caked hands. The symbol was unmistakable. It was just what they needed. A Heaven scroll.

49 - Call Him Worthless Now

Eeww, that's just nasty! There's slobber all over it! Gyoumaru thought as he shivered. The drool was really making his hand feel filthy. Stuffing the scroll in his pocket and shaking his hand to relieve them of the nasty liquid, Gyoumaru felt his head begin to buzz.

Guh... Gyoumaru? Is that you? Ennaka's voice echoed in his head.

Yeah, it's me. Are you alright? He responded happy that she was talking.

I think so... What happened? I feel so cold... She said. *And my body feels as hard as steel...*

Well, for starters, you have skin flaps that are protruding from your arms like fins.. That might be why. And whatever those things are made of might be making you cold. He said looking down at her face. She seemed unconscience. *Plus you're unconscience. That might mean something.*

Yeah, I know I'm unconscience! If I wasn't, I wouldn't be speaking through your mind now would I? She snapped, *Sorry.. I know I'm being rude. I'm just really frustrated right now. Without the use of my body, I feel powerless.*

Yeah... He said looking for a place to rest. Unable to find the original camp, Gyoumaru settled for a shelter like structure made from roots of an enormous willow tree. He set Ennaka against a moss laden ground and stretched.

I'm slipping conscience from my mind. I've used up too much chakra... Way too much... Take the lizard out of my pocket and let it go. Ennaka said before going silent. Gyoumaru looked at her pouch and unstrapped it from her belt. He opened the flap and rumaged through it finding the earth scroll and medical herbs with the occasional shuriken. Something squeaked as he brushed past another herb. Pausing, Gyoumaru gently lifted a small orange geko from the herbs. Grass stained, the animal blinked obliviously. Sighing, he set it down on the tree branch and watched it scurry away. *Now what?* He thought. His leader was out cold, his brother wasn't with him to lighten the day, and here he was in the middle of a god-forsaken forest with man eating beast probably everywhere! Gyoumaru sighed, maybe he could find out his location. He floded his hands and paused, "Falcon Eyes!" His pupils dissapeered and he was flying through the air. Flapping wings took over the sound his ears as wind rushed past his feathers. Sukauto looked left and right in search of something. He screeched softly, the wind making his voice muffled. The tower rose in his midst with it's poor shakling tearing and eroding. Sukauto zoomed his vision on somethin in particlular. Gyoumaru saw the willow tree and his gray shirt throug h the brambles. Exiting the trance, he saw his falcon circling overhead. It gave a high pitched screech, and Gyoumaru gave a low whistle call back.

Ha! Call him a worthless birdbrain now Tetsu! Gyoumaru thought as relief flooded over him. At least someone knew where he was... At least someone, even if it was a bird.

Sukauto dorve throug the air, his wrings slightly open so he made a smooth landing. Gyoumaru

outstretched his arm and let the talons clutch his arm. "Good boy, Sukauto!" He praised. The bird ruffled its feathers and bobbed its petite head embarrassedly. Gyoumaru ordered it to perch on a branch. The falcon obeyed with a flutter of wings. Gyoumaru found a parchment and began to scribble his whereabouts to Tetsu. He rolled it up and tied it with grass, since no other resources were available. Then, he took another grass stalk and tied the note to his falcon's foot. Sukauto balanced his foot gently and cocked his head as the object was attached to his ankle. "Take this to Tetsu. And make sure that note gets to him, you hear?" He instructed. The bird screeched once more and took off again circling a few times before flying in a westward direction. Gyoumaru slumped against a root and sighed. It had been only the first day, and they already were having problems... Soon, he drifted into sleep, exhausted.

50 - Explanation

Gyoumaru woke to the sound of a hooting owl. Stars began to appear within the darkening sky, Gyoumaru noticed Ennaka's form turn normal. Her fins grew back into her arms and her diagrafe feet became human. Her silvery hair returned to it's black strads, and the spikes on her head began to sink into her skull. Finally, her maroon skin shaded into her color drained face and body. The striped marks showed up again and crawled into the kanji of her arms. But the seal did not go away. It stayed, smoldering like when water hit something very hot.

When the last of the marks Orochimaru placed on her vanished, Gyoumaru noticed something. Her hair was down. He had never seen Ennaka with her hair down. It flowed around her shoulders and stopped at the blades of her shoulder bones. The red piece of hair that covered her eye was not the only hair in her face. Strands of her midnight hair coarsed itself over her eyes. It bothered him. Like when someone had a scar in an obivous place that made you want to pick at it. Hesitantly, He moved her hair out of her face, including the red one, behind her ear. She looked so much better with out her hair up. It covered the nasty scar she got from that Neji guy she hated so much.

Gyoumaru got up. If Tetsu was looking for him, He needed to make a signal, or something that would light up his location. But not so much that it would attract unwanted company. Gyoumaru looked out from the willow. What would he do?

"Fire would work nice." Ennaka said through his head.

"So you finally got subconscious." He replied.

"I feel much better, my body is still imoble becuase the other half of my brain isn't coooperating as I'd like and decided to take my 'wake up' as a sleep invitation. So right now, I'm basicly sleeping."

"Your confusing me now. What's going on?" He asked turning to her. Of course she wasn't awake, but it just seemed polite to look at her while she was talking.

"Allow me to start from the begining. And I've only told few people this, so your lucky. My Sharingan eye is a birth defect. I'm related to the Uchiha Clan, and have Uchiha blood in my veins. I was the first in my family to ever have a Sharingan, but of course, I only have a little Uchiha in me. So, something went wrong in my birth developement when my eyes were growing. Somehow, my right eye was linked to my subconscious. Through where I converse with people. And my other eye developed correctly with a Sharingan and all. I've learned that my subconscious and conscience are like two beings. But I can't control my conscience as no one can. But my conscience has taken over the part of my brain that tells you to sleep and wake. I tried to move it, but that just activated me to sleep. So I'm stuck like this until my conscience decides to wake me up."

"And how long will that be?" Gyoumaru asked.

"Few hours at least." She replied. *And I still feel cold."*

"Wait, I'll fix that." He said slipping his short-sleeved gray shirt off so that his long sleeved gray shirt was all he wore on his torso. he draped it on her shoulders. "Any difference?"

"Sort of. Well, anyway, as I was saying before, if you could light a torch with fire, It would provide light for us, and it would make it easier for Tetsu to find us." she said. "Problem is, where are you going to get fire? I would help with that. It's only natural that Pyro sensei taught me fire jutsu. But as you can see... I'm useless here."

"Yeah. I might be able to get some fire. I know I use ice moves, but that doesn't mean I can't do a basic fireball jutsu." He said with grin. Ennaka departed his mind and he found a substantially good sized branch. Setting it down, he performed the necessary hand gestures before igniting the wood. He fixed it between two roots hoping that the dampness of the roots would keep it from catching fire. Sighing, He supposed he should rest. Entering the structure, he went on the opposite side of Ennaka and laid his head down on the damp forest floor, shut his eyes and drifted off to dream land once more.

51 - Hang On

Ennaka fluttered her eyes open. She yawned and stretched her arms feeling sore. Gyoumaru laid across from her twitching. Ennaka shook her head, unused to having her hair down like that. It felt so weird. She gripped her extra hair band on her wrist and put up her hair.

Now where did Gyou take me? She asked herself exiting the tree. She noticed a burnt stick hanging from one of the roots. The flame had expired, but at least it hadn't caught the rest of the tree on fire. Ennaka looked back into the shelter. Something held her gut and made her fidgety. Something was wrong. She rushed to Gyoumaru and saw two puncture marks on his chest. "oh-no..." She gasped knowing where they came from. Orochimaru had poisoned him! She gritted her teeth. Curse her for not knowing any medical ninjutsu. She played with her hands wondering what she should do. She couldn't leave the spot. If anything all mothers tell their kids this over and over again: When you're lost, stay where you are.

Ennaka sighed, it was going to be a while before Tetsu arrived. Or maybe he was lost? Ennaka looked at the ground for no reason. Could she try finding him with her mind? It was better than sitting and doing nothing. Ennaka closed her eyes and probed the area for a human conscience. None came in contact with her. But she didn't stop. If Tetsu were to come near, she could tell him exactly where she was. Suddenly a small jolt came to her. A conscience had entered her area! And what luck! It was Tetsu!

"I can't believe I'm saying this, but boy Tetsu, am I glad to see you!" She exclaimed excitedly.

"Yeah, keep talking. Where's my brother?!" Tetsu asked unpolitely.

"He's here, don't worry!" She assured, *"But Orochimaru poisoned him."*

"Orochimaru!? A sannin? Crap... Where are you?"

"Giant willow, hard to miss." She said swiftly.

"I see, I see." Tetsu said as he came into view.

"Where is he?!" He said almost running Ennaka over.

"In here. C'mon." She said waving her hand in Gyoumaru's direction. Tetsu shot in and knelt at his brother's side.

"What happened?" He said with wide eyes, "What's going to happen to Gyoumaru?"

"I don't know. But I'll try to explain everything best I can on the way to the Castle. We're going to have to get him to the tower. There's bound to be medical ninja waiting there."

"But we don't have another scroll, do we?" Tetsu said with mournful eyes.

"I think your brother solved that..." She said taking out the Heaven scroll from gyou's pack. "We need to get moving. Carry Gyoumaru and I'll lead the way."

"Right..." tetsu said slinging Gyoumaru's arm around his shoulder. "Hang in there buddy..." He whispered.

52 - Weeee're off to go to the Castle of Oz!

"Sukauto is banking to our left, the tower must be close by." Ennaka said shouting back to Tetsu he grunted a response and squeezed his brother's limp hand. They had to hurry.

The team had been following Sukauto all day. I guess they were more to the outskirts than they expected. As they went more inward, the trees got even thicker and denser. Not to mention taller. Regular sized leaves were roughly the size of Sukauto! Tetsu stared ahead waiting to see the entrance to the castle. Saving Gyoumaru was his top priority on his list. Second, was to ask what was all over Ennaka's arms.

"We're almost there!" She called back to him.

"You said that an hour ago!" Tetsu replied with a moan. "We'll never get there!"

"Hey! Don't make me come back there and slap you! Think positive you moron." She sneered. Tetsu growled his disapproval as she continued ahead. He was soo tempted to make a joke. But he bit his tounge resisting the urge. If he could hold back for over a day, he could hold off for a few hours more. He knew the perfect way to piss Ennaka off. But the thought was too... Hasty. But he decided to go for it and risk his neck. Gulping in a deep breath, he began to sing (remember this Cashie?)

"Are we there yet? Are we there yet? No we're not. No we're not. When we gonna' get there? When we gonna get there? I don't know, I don't know." He repeated the verse over and over and over again, until Ennaka stopped and suprisingly came in after the verse "when we gonna get there?"

"Riiight now. Riiight now." She said smirking. Her finger pointed to a shooty tower with it's roofing made out of shingles. The doors was metal and the handles bronze. Tetsu glared dissapointed. She never yelled at him throught the whole song. "Whelp, guess we go in." She said pulling on the handle. The door creaked open. She held it open for Tetsu and smiled, "Ladies first." He sighed and walked past her trying to kick her in the shins. Yeeaah, that didn't work. Ennaka dodged his feet carelessly and walked in after him.

"Hello?" She said. The room was made of poor tiling and cement walls. There was another door across the room. Tetsu was already making his way to it. "Hold on cowboy." She said stopping him. "Lets open the scrolls first." He nodded in agreement and heaved Gyoumaru off his shoulder and gently placed him down on the floor. Tetsu gripped the scrolls and opened the latch that held it close. Ennaka did the same for the other scroll. The rolled open, draggin onto the floor crossing over each other in a "X" fomation. There was a cloud of smoke and Iruka stood on top of the scrolls drinking a cup of coffee.

"Hey guys." He said taking a sip. "You passed the second test, so go through those doors and- HOLY CRAP WHAT'S WITH YOU GUYS?!?" He said suddenly.

"Hah? Tetsu said cocking his head.

"You have stuff on your arms and that guys looks dead!" Iruka said pointing to Ennaka first then Gyoumaru.

"oh, yeah... Bout that." Ennaka said scratching her head, "This little fella got poisoned and needs treatment. And I have no clue whats with my little seal here. I guess It opened up when I got too close to a snake and won't go back." Ennaka lied leaving out Orochimaru. "I might have to see whats with that later."

"Okay, you look fine. but Ennaka, take Gyoumaru and follow me. We're going to see the medics." Iruka said. "Tetsu, just go through those doors and we'll meet with you shortly." He instructed. Tetsu sprinted off to the door and opened it, running past the void beyond it. Ennaka slung Gyoumaru over her shoulder and followed Iruka up a few stairs before coming into a room filled with stretchers and beds. The medical ninja there glanced at them briefly.

"Yes, what is it?" He sighed. He wore the basic white jump suit with blue laytex gloves. His mouth was covered by one of those things surgeons wear during a surgery. Except, this guy wasn't in the middle of a surgery.

"Uhh, this kid was poisoned by a snake..." Iruka said, "Would ya look at him for a sec?"

"Yeah, sure."

"... Like now." Iruka said taping the man's shoulder. "She also needs her arms wrapped." Iruka pointed back to Ennaka."

"Okay, okay. Don't rush me." The medical ninja made his way to her and took Gyoumaru and laid him on a stretcher. "here, you know how to bandage yourself up." He tossed Ennaka some linen wrappings. She unwrapped them and tied them around her shoulders down to her elbows, since that is where the seal stopped. She did the same for her other arm as well.

"How is he?' Ennaka asked approaching the bed where Gyoumaru was.

"Bad. He's out cold and the poison has already been in his body for a long time. He will have to forfeit the next test." The medical ninja said giving the boy a shot in the arm. Ennaka half closed her eyes and sighed. If it was for his safety... Then she supposed it was best for him to stop now.

"right..." She said before leaving the room quietly. She went back down the stairs and went through the door tetsu previously went through. She gasped at what was behind it. Gaara stood a few yards away with his siblings, Temari and Kankuro. He glared at them defiantly with his hate sending fear into his older brother and sister's eyes. She felt her emotions toy with her mind again. But they didn't get the better of her. Mustering up her courage, Ennaka approached the trio and confidently walked up to Temari.

"Hey guys. You made it too huh?" She said as they noticed her.

"Yeah, we finished the test in a hour. It wasn't very hard. You should've seen the way Gaara killed these rain ninja! it was so cool he did this thing and-" Kankuro began to ramble on about what she already

saw.

"Enough Kankuro. Ennaka already knows what happened." Gaara's icy voice made them go silent.

"What do you mean?" Temari asked.

"She was there the whole time watching you idiots. Even a blind man could've saw her." Gaara growled. Ennaka froze with her neck hairs standing on end. Kankuro blinked and looked at his sister, who shrugged.

"heheh... uhm, it was a coincidence?" Ennaka tried to make a pitiful excuse. Gaara snorted and Kankuro placed her in a head lock with a snarl.

"You little cheater! You were spying on us weren't you!?" He exclaimed choking her.

She wheezed, "Gah! Let me go! Damn it Kankuro I can't breathe!"

53 - Call Me Nakki

"Kankuro!!" Ennaka gasped clutching Kankuro's arm.

"Leave her alone, would ya? Father wouldn't be happy if you hurt her." Temari scolded.

Kankuro snorted and loosened his grip on her. Ennaka slid out of his grasp rubbing her neck. Gaara... He wasn't doing anything in particular. Just giving his brother the usual glare. Ennaka sighed and kept carressing her neck until she came about the puncture wounds in her skin. Flinching, she put her fingers over each small hole. What would happen to her now that this *poison* was in her body.

"... Temari-chan..." She said turning to her, "How does my neck look?" She asked. Temari looked at her concerned then turned to Kankuro glaring.

"See? Now you hurt her!" She growled before returning her attention back to Ennaka. "Let me take a look." Ennaka held her head out of the way so that Temari had a good view of the bite marks. Ennaka felt her memories in the Sand village soak into her mind. Temari had always been like a sister to her. A nice one too. Ennaka remembered how Temari had always been there to support her when she stumbled through life. Almost like a senpai, her teacher. "Oh, my. What do we have here?" She gently touched the wound.

"Snake bite." Ennaka said plainly. Temari gasped a little and Kankuro and Gaara glanced over their way with interest.

"It's not serious is it? What about your seal? Are you alright?" She inquired.

"My seal isn't acting up, but I do have this." Ennaka began to unwrap her bandages so that a fair amount of the kanji was showing. "It won't go away."

"Is that bad?" Kankuro asked.

"I don't know." Ennaka admitted bandaging her arm up again.

"... What kind of snake was it..?" Gaara's chilled voice suprisingly entered the conversation making everyone jump.

"... Uhm... Well... I don't think you would believe me if I told you." She said worried.

"After all the demented creatures we saw in that forest, I think we'll believe anything now." Kankuro said tilting his head, "Spill it girl."

"It was... A man named... Orochimaru." She said hesitantly and quietly. The siblings glanced at each other before Temari perked up.

"Did.. He give you a curse mark?" She gulped.

"...No..." Ennaka said looking at the ground. Temari sighed with relief.

"Well, that's good." Kankuro said smirking, "I still have a bone to pick with you. Don't want you dying on me now do we?"

"Bone to pick? Well cudoos to you, I was just thinking the same thing!" Ennaka sneered.

"Ah, tuchë." Kankuro replied then yawned, "I'm hitting the sack. See ya tomorrow." He turned and walked away out a door.

"Yeah. Me too." Temari said rubbing her eyes, "It's pretty late." She shuffled away following her brother.

Ennaka shuffled her feet. It was just her and Gaara now. Man she was so nervous to be around him by herself. But she had to prove to him that she wasn't scared of him. Her trembling skin betrayed her confident thoughts. Gaara watched his siblings disappear pass a door. But he soon turned his attention to her and his eyes narrowed. Ennaka took in a breath wondering what he was thinking.

"You..." He said. She cringed at the coldness and hate on his breath, " You know about that Uchiha kid... Don't you?" Ennaka smiled slightly.

"Geez, how'd you guess?" She tried to get her humor back in wack like it used to be when they were kids.

".. You fool, you both have the Sharingan. Don't play dumb." He hissed, with his jade eyes furious. "What are his.. attributes?" He asked intrigued.

"If I told you it would be cheating. I don't hand out weaknesses to anyone without a reward... Besides, Sasuke's my distant relative! I don't want to hurt our family bond." She said shrugging innocently. Gaara furrowed his browless brows. (Gaara; Lee took them! it's all his fault!)

"You're practicly begging me to kill you. Spit it out you moron!" Gaara ordered. Ennaka bit her lip. But then, an idea struck her.

"Okay, I will... On one condition." Ennaka said raising a finger. Gaara peered at her anxiously. "You have to call me by the nickname you gave me when we were kids. You remember it, right?" She smirked. Gaara grunted in aggervation and mumbled a few curses before meeting her gaze.

"Arrgghh... Fine..." Gaara replied twitching. "I'm going to regret this..."

"Aw, don't be that way Gaara-kun. C'mon, it's not that bad. Say it." Ennaka tempted, overjoyed that Gaara might just call her by her nickname once more. He growled, "Hell no."

"Please?"

"I said no."

"Pretty please?"

"No!"

"Purrrllleeezzz??"

"Shut up, Nakki!" Gaara stopped, and paused silently looking dazed. He breathing was irregular, and he seemed too shock over himself. Gaara looked at his hands. Ennaka smiled. "It wasn't that hard, now was it, Gaara?" She cooed. He glared at her then walked away silently with a scowl on his face.

54 - No Matter the Cost

As Gaara walked away, Ennaka noticed Tetsu looking at her. She hoped he wasn't angry for talking with Gaara. Slowly, she approached him. He wore a concerned expression with his arms folded across his chest. Ennaka gave a small smile to try and lighten the mood.

"What was that all about?" Tetsu asked. (but not unpolitely)

"Hmm?" Ennaka sighed. She was so happy that Gaara had called her by her nickname she could hardly focus.

"The Gaara guy, What's with him?" Tetsu repeated the question specifically.

"He's angry cause I got him to say what he didn't want to say. I'm glad he didn't hurt me." Ennaka said with a sigh of relief.

"I see... How's Seeker?" Tetsu changed the topic.

"I don't know. Medic said he wasn't doing good, but he's strong. it's nothing he can't handle. Really." Ennaka reassured him. But she had her own doubts as well. She bit her lip, unwilling to tell him that Gyoumaru couldn't participate in the next test.

Tetsu stared at the ground and shuffled his feet. "Listen. I have to tell you a few things. C'mon, lets rest up." he sid motioning to the door where the Sand Siblings had exited. Ennaka nodded puzzled and followed him past the door and up a flight of stairs where there was a room with a couch, a coffee table and two beds. "One of us will hafta sleep on the couch if gyou gets better soon." Ennaka ringed. She knew Gyoumaru wouldn't be with them for this.

"What is it?" She asked, sitting down on one of the beds. it had white sheets and a very uncomfortable mattress. Ennaka wondered if the couch was any better. "What was it that you wanted to tell me?" She asked again with a little edge in her voice. Tetsu sat on the other bed with his legs dangling over the edge. e began to twiddle his fingers.

"Listen... I know Gyoumaru isn't doing well. And I know he might... might..." Tetsu began choking on his words trying to finish his sentance, "He might die. I know that. If... if he doesn't survive this... I juist wanted to tell you his thoughts that he's told me." Tetsu said with a tear rolling down his cheek.

"No... don't talk like that! He'll make it Tetsu! I promise you!" Ennaka wailed in disbelief. Tetsu couldn't doubt his brother!

"Yeah, but... I need to tell you this or you'll never know. I know I'm a terrible joker and all, and I usually have a light additude and the air of funny... but I feel that this is no time for jokes. My brother might be dying, and without him... I feel incomplete. Whenever I say a joke now, I always remember that there will be no Gyoumaru to say 'enough with the jokes' and 'stop it already!' No. But this is what happened

after yelled at you." Tetsu said flinching slightly. Ennaka pitied the fool. What was it like to lose a sibling? Much less a twin? A mirror image of yourself? Ennaka didn't feel these things. Her sibling had died before she was born. But she had a glimpse. Itachi had killed her whole family besides Sasuke.

"After you left. Gyou went off on me saying that I was too harsh. We argued for a while until I decided to think to myself for a bit; and left him while I went for a stroll. I'd never guess he'd go looking for you... but then again... I knew he would do something about the situation. It was hard for me to accept the fact that you felt so attached to the Sand village and those Genin. But I see now that they're like your family. I don't know what happened to you, but somehow, you still feel those bonds that you did way back when. I can't explain it. but, When I came back, And Gyou was gone, I had a hunch he went off looking for you or me, and decided he'd be back soon." Tetsu brought his knees to his chest and rest his chin on top. "That wasn't the case. By sunfall, I had became very worried and didn't notice Sukauto was still there in our shelter. I thought Gyou would never leave without his bird. So I went out looking by myself. When it got late, I came back and saw Sukauto, and boy did I feel stupid." Tetsu tried to smile. " I sent him out looking for you guys. And I knew at once when the bird-brain brought that letter Gyou wrote to me, that someting bad was going to happen. And when I found you guys like this... And my brother poisoned... I just didn't know what to do with myself!" Tetsu threw his arms up in exaggeration fasion. "And if Gyou doesn't make it through this... If he doesn't survive... I want to tell you his feelings..." Tetsu said between sobs.

Ennaka got up and put a hand on his shoulder. "Don't." She si ply said staring him in the face.

He looked up. tears were shining on his face. "Whaddy mean?" He asked with a sniff.

"Don't tell me until all seems hopeless. Don't tell me anything." She said her eyes soft. "I want to find out for myself. I'm very scared now. Almost as scared as I was way back when." She smiled, "Not everything was pleasent in Sunakagure. Believe me. Before that, it was even worse. and before that... horrifying." she said. Tetsu shuddered under her trembling hand.

"Willing to share with the class?" He joked.

"Not right now. I'm still... Recovering from thsoe events still..." She took her hand off and walked to the middle of the room. "Now, if you don't mind, I have a foster brother to help." She said. "Gaara has changed greatly from the last time we saw each other in Suna. He wasn't always like this. In fact, I'm not sure what happened." she said with a shrug.

"I understand." Tetsu sighed. 'Good luck and all.'" He said with exaggerated tone.

"yeah, I'm gonna need it." Ennaka said rolling her eyes. "He's so full of himself now. I'll bet he won't listen to a word say." Ennaka walked out of the room shuttign the door behind her. Gaara coudn't sleep thanks to his demon, but that worked for her. At least she wouldn't be interrupting him in anything. While she walked from hallway to hallway, room to room, her memories from Sunakagure haunted her...

" Gaara..."

"Yes, Nakki?" Gaara replied with an innocent smile.

"I... Need to tell you some things..." She said shuffling her feet.

"Go ahead, I don't mind." He said pulling his teddy bear closer to him, "I always liked stories."

"What I'm about to tell you is my past... Where I came from and all. How I got here... You must listen carefully, it's long." She said closing her eyes. Gaara sat crosslegged on the floor gazing up at her intently with his toys scattered around him. "My family was killed by a man named Itachi. And not just my mom dad, but my aunts, uncles, cousins, second cousins, everyone in my family." She said clenching her fists, "I have my eye, y'know. And He.. he wanted to use me for it. He found me... useful as a tool, a weapon. With that, he kidnapped me and trained me as his student. Since I was very young then, I didn't learn much but wits and endurance. he took me to a group. A group that captures bujii."

Gaara gulped resting his hand on his tummy. "You mean.. Like Ichibi?"

"Yes." Ennaka replied sullenly. "They capture Jinjuriki as well, and extract the demon. It's cruel. And I was forced to join. In that time, I grew to hate the ruler of the organization. We called him Leader." Ennaka growled. "I hope he dies in a puddle of his own blood at my feet." She hissed with vengeance sketched across her face. "I hate it when people use me like I'm a tool. Thats why I feel resentment against your father. Not only is he mean to you, Gaara, but I think when I'm older, he's going to use me." Gaara looked away, hugging his teddy. "I want to protect you from this group. You're my friend after all."

Gaara looked back at her and smiled, "You're my bestest friend ever, Nakki! Thanks!" He said gleefully.

"Yeah, you too. I don't care whats sealed inside of you. I'll always remember that day when you asked me my name and took me in. And that's why you'll always be my friend. no matter what!" she smiled wrapping her arms around him in a friendly hug.

By the time she had reached the room the sand ninja were staying in, she felt all choked up. No matter what, Gaara, no matter how twisted you've become, I'll never stop being your friend. She thought before twisting the door knob.

55 - Rejected!

Ennaka hesitantly pushed the door open and walked in, careful not to wake the sleeping Temari and Kankuro. The room didn't look much different than Tetsu's and hers. Same plain couch, two plain beds with white sheets. The same. Ennaka glanced around nervously, compelled by her will to help Gaara. She knew it was probably impossible, but she was ready to die before giving up on him. She had been taught by him, he had been taught by her. She wondered if her hate for Leader effected his hate for the world around him. Had she influenced revenge on him? Ennaka shook her head. That was crazy. She had to stop blaming herself. Glancing around the room again, she saw an open window with the tacky yellow curtains trying to escape out of it, held on by hooks. Ah-ha! Gaara always sat on the roof of his house looking at the moon at night, what made it different now? Ennaka peered out the opening, looking up. Yup, there he was sitting right above her with his white sash billowing in the cold night wind.

"It's hard to see the moon with all these trees, Gaara, what are you doing up there?" She asked with a smirk, feeling her confidence rise. Gaara glared down at her, unsurprised at her arrival. He turned his attention back to the sky. "... Listen, Gaara..." She tried to start her practice speech that she had made up on her way here. But before she started, Gaara disappeared in little grains of sand forming a few feet behind her.

"Would you just leave me alone already?" he hissed, not turning to her. Ennaka looked down at her feet biting her lip. This might be harder than she thought it would be... "What do you want?" he asked glancing her way. Ennaka shuffled her feet. She knew what she really wanted. So she mustered up the courage to say her thoughts.

"Gaara, there are many things I want. I want to know what happened after I left, I want to be able to have a humanly conversation like we could all those years ago. But most of all... I want... I want..." She tried to hold back her cracking voice, "I want to be forgiven." She squeezed her eyes shut, desperate to hold back the tears. "I want you to understand that I didn't leave because I was scared of you."

".. Forgiven? For what?" Gaara hissed turning his head her way.

"For not keeping my promise. I said I'd come back... And I didn't. Because I was scared of... The group I told you about. I thought they might've come to Suna and killed you. The member after you, is from your village. His name is... is..." Ennaka shuddered regretting that she was about to betray vital info on the Akatsuki members. "It's Sasori of the Red Sand. I thought he got you. And I was willing to bet your father would spill information on me. So I held back and refrained from returning. I'm sorry." She dipped her head down. Sasori had been pretty nice to her. But still, he was a criminal. And she knew he disagreed with what Itachi had been doing to her, and that's why she liked him so much.

Gaara narrowed his eyes, untouched by the news. "And what makes you think I'll forgive you? After the torture I endured while you were gone, doing what, may I ask? Being pampered in the Leaf village with friends and family. You got a teacher, teammates, friends, and reunited with your family. While I suffered."

"No... Gaara, you have it all wrong!" She wailed, not caring if she woke the others. "I was traveling around for months trying to find my way to a place, any place that would help me! I didn't come about the Leaf village until Lord knows when! But it was recently, I swear!" She bit her lip harder with a tear trickling down her cheek.

Gaara growled, "Forgiveness, Family, I feel none of these."

"You could if you listened to me! Why can't you see I'm trying to help you!? I don't care what sealed inside of you! I'm not scared of you! I'm worried for you! I haven't been able to sleep soundly after I left you, I kept thinking the worst! Can you not see the pain I'm in now?! Gaara, I want to be your friend, I always have been. Don't you remember how nice our childhood was?"

"Lies. All lies. I knew you were scared of me. Nobody cares for me. I'll tell you what happened after you left. The day after you left, My uncle, Yashamaru, you know him. He tried to murder me. And He told me that you ran from me, because of my power. You feared the Ichibi. my mother hated me, she died for me and hated me for it. Her will is in every drop and blood in my sand. And do you know what that will was? she named me a Self-Loving-Carnage, and wanted me to annihilate the sand village. She cursed them with my being, and I'm determined to keep her promise. She told me to love only myself and fight for only myself."

Ennaka gasped. Yashamaru had always been kind to Gaara and herself as well! What made him want to kill Gaara? She couldn't help but glance at the symbol above his left eye. Self loving carnage... No, that wasn't right. it couldn't be! "Gaara... Please... I want to be forgiven..."

"And you didn't keep your end of our bargain today." He smirked, " What about the Uchiha? I called you Nakki, so lets spill it, what's his weakness?"

Ennaka twitched and murmured to herself, hoping Sasuke would forgive her for this. "I will tell you his weakness... It's his hate for his brother, the man named Itachi. Remind him of how weak he is, and he'll submit to you." Ennaka said softly. Gaara stared into the abyss with malice in his eyes.

"Get out of here..." he hissed. Ennaka shuffled to the door and departed.

56 - Must Talk

It had been two days since her conversation with Gaara. She hadn't seen him since then. Instead of looking for him, Ennaka visited the still unconscious Gyoumaru with Tetsu. They asked the medics his condition almost constantly, driving them crazy. Their response as always negative, and his heart's beats were uneven. Ennaka had tried to make contact with his mind, but she never got a response. His mind seemed to try to grab onto her, but always slipped away. It was very depressing.

"Is there nothing that can help him?" Tetsu would ask persistently. The medical ninja's shook their heads and always responded, "its his fight now."

Ennaka was silent most of the time, cluting Gyoumaru's hand with her own. He had saved her from Orochimaru... And she relized that she never thanked him. Ennaka felt her lip tremble with emotion about to spill over. Why hadn't she thanked him? What made her forget that? Whyu was he like this? Gyoumaru didn't do anything to deserve this. If anything, she did. She left her best friend, ran away from her fears, was rude, never appreciated Pyro sensei's training. And now, she wondered, what had she missed? What little things of life had she not seen?

"Will he make it?" Ennaka asked one time. The medics replied as they did always, "It's his fight now. We've done everything we could."

"If I told you what kind of snake bite it was... Would you be able to do more for him?" She asked, knowing that she'd have to tell them about Orochimaru. The medics looked up at her and one folded their arms.

"Could be..." One said, "It depends... What kind of bite was it?" The medical ninja asked.

Ennaka bit her lip. This was going to make a riot. "He was bitten by... Orochimaru's tounge snake jutsu."

"O-Orochi...maru?" they stuttered sending murmurs through the room.

"Yeah, Orochimaru, the Sannin. He attacked me, and Gyou saved me, but got bitten in the process." She said fidgeting her feet. Tetsu looked over at her with concern.

"He didn't get the curse mark!"

"oh no, what will we do? should we tell Lord Hokage?"

"Could it really be Orochimaru?"

Whispers spread through the infirmery. Ennaka clasped her neck with a hand. She bet they were going to fuss over her next. Yay. She thought sarcasticly. What would be worse than having people pay so much attention to her? She could think of a few. one like, dressing her up. Blech, dresses were gross.

having her hair done too. That's evil, having people touch your hair and pulling on it. Ennaka shook her head, concentrate on Gyou... Concentrate.

"You! Let me see your neck!" One medic moved her hand from the wound. "There's no punchure marks, but no curse."

"Of course there's no curse. I have a seal that prevents curse marks." Ennaka said sourly, feeling her attitude return.

"Huh... Is that why you have the kanji on your arms?" Tetsu asked, propping himself on the wall.

"Yeah." Ennaka replied without looking over at him.

"Well, as long as your seal keeps at its job, you'll be fine. But now that we have this guy... I don't know what we'll do..." The medic said motioning his head to Gyoumaru. "Why don't you guys leave while we figure this out."

"Right." They agreed. Ennaka squeezed Gyoumaru's hand tighter and whispered to him, "Please, don't die." A tear rolled off her cheek and landed on his face. Ennaka hesitantly let go and exited the door with Tetsu.

"Does all seem hopeless now?" He asked.

"... I guess... I want to hear... Might as well tell me. I can't resist spoilers." Ennaka said staring at the ground.

"But does all seem hopeless?" Tetsu said stuffing his hands in his pockets.

"...No... Not all is lost quite yet." Ennaka said walking side by side with him. When she looked up, she saw Gaara just about to pass her. He didn't look at her, but she held her breath and stared as he walked by, worried that he might turn around and attack. The world seemed to go in slow-mo for her, but the moment stopped. And Ennaka was left frozen to her spot with Tetsu peering at her with worry. "I'm guessing your little talk a few days ago didn't go too well.."

"Nope, not really." She said shaking her head, "I can't get him to realize that he does have people that care about him. If Temari and Kankuro don't, then I do with my life." Ennaka said with a sigh, "He doesn't get it."

"I see." Tetsu said looking down. "I'm nervous actually."

Ennaka looked up at her teammate, "Really? about what?" She asked.

"This exam. The preliminaries... Everything about this exam is really ticking me off balance."

"Yeah..." Ennaka said. For the rest of the time being, they walked in silence. Not quite ready to call it a day, Ennaka halted behind Tetsu before they went into their room. "I want to talk to Temari real fast. Maybe pull a prank on Kankuro while I'm there. I want to see their side of the story." Ennaka said

cocking her head. "That's okay with you right?"

Testu smiled and nodded, "Whatever you need to do. Help Gaara, okay?" He said before slipping into the room and shutting the metal door. Ennaka sighed with relief and trotted down hallways. At least Tetsu understood her need to help Gaara. If she had to give up her life to make Gaara realize the beauty of the world, then she would. She'd drag him to Deidara if she had to and tell the guy to give Gaara an art tutorial introduction on how the world is a magical place and should be celebrated for the moment it lasted. No matter if it be second minute hours or days. He'd gone over this with her countless times. Sometimes to the point where she'd call in Sasori to set him straight on his perspective of art. Ennaka chuckled to herself at the thought of the two bickering like they always do. Ah, the old days.

She had been so lost in thought, that she ran into something. Looking up, she saw Kankuro looking down at her with disdain. "Not you!" he moaned.

"Yes me." she hissed.

"Watch where you're going squirt." He said ruffling her hair. Ennaka shook her head.

"Yeah, yeah, that's enough pleasantries. I need to talk with Temari. Do you know where she is?" She asked.

"She's in our room reading a magazine. What do you want to ask her?" Kankuro said politely with a shrug.

"What's with you? Are you feeling okay Kankuro? Last time I checked, you hated runts like me. Now you're helping me! Make up your mind, do you hate me or not?!" Ennaka smirked.

"I like you in a sisterly way. You do get on my nerves sometimes, that's certain. And I do hate runts like yourself."

Ennaka laughed, "Is that so? In a sisterly way, huh? Sorta like this:" Ennaka put on a sly grin, "Idiot says what!" She said so fast her words were impossible to understand.

"What?" Kankuro said unintelligently. Ennaka laughed and rushed past him, and it was then when he got the joke. "Gah! Why you little-!"

57 - Teasing Kankuro

"Get back here you little brat! I'll kill you!"

Ennaka looked over her shoulder to see Kankuro pursuing her. "*Oh great, Kankuro's chasing me... What joy...*" Ennaka thought sarcastically. Hey, while he was chasing her, she might as well tease him and mess with him a bit. She *had* told Tetsu she would do that. Ennaka folded her hands and clasped them in a hands sign. "Shadow Clone Jutsu!" She said. In a puff of smoke, an identical copy of herself appeared next to her.

"You gotta be kidding me!" She heard Kankuro moan. Ennaka looked back at him and stuck out her tongue playfully. This made him want to spill her guts more. "Why I outta! get back here you runt!"

"Make me!" She said mockingly in a little girl's voice.

As she ran away from him through the hallways lined with countless doors, one began to open and out stepped Anko, right as She whirled past her with her "brother" hot on her tail cursing and shouting.

"HEY!" Anko yelled after them. Ennaka kept running, but glanced back to see Anko catch up to Kankuro, pulling him with her.

"But Miss! I didn't do anything! It's her fault! I swear it!" Kankuro pleaded as The procter began dragging him away.

"Oh yeah? who's fault is it?" She asked raising an eyebrow.

"Ennaka!" he shouted struggling in her grasp.

"Ennaka? Ennaka who?" She quired, spinning him so that her faced her.

Kankuro opened his mouth o respond then shut it in thought. "I don't know... Um... Ennaka of the Desert?" He said using his own title. Hey, they did adopt her for a bit. But what was the real last name of her? Kankuro closed his eyes, and only one name came to his mind. "Actually, I think her name is... Ennaka Uchiha." Anko cocked her head suspiciously.

"Thats crazy! Only two uchiha's are in existance!" Anko sniffed.

"Really? Who?" Kankuro asked, definate that Ennaka was one of them. I mean really, she had the Sharingan.

"Sasuke and Itachi!" She said with a smirk. "Both are males. No female Uchiha is alive."

Kankuro smirked back at her. "*Jackpot.*" He thought. Itachi was who she had told them about. Killed her entire family, he did. "Well, I'd have to controdicit with that ma'am." Kankuro said with a shrug. "Nakki

always told us the story of how Itachi Uchiha killed her clan and kidnapped her. Says that he took her to an organization that captures buuji."

Anko's eyes narrowed in disbelief. "And what makes you think you know so much about the Uchiha?"

"Because, I told him about them."

The pair turned their heads swiftly to the now returning Ennaka. She walked up casually with her back stiff, eyes glaring.

"See? Tell her all about yourself Ennaka! There you have it! Ennaka Uchiha, in the flesh!" Kankuro said pointing at her. He thought her saw her flinch, but maybe his eyes were playing tricks.

"What are you talking about now Kankuro? My name is Ahihcu Ennaka. Did you not know that?" She hissed. Then she turned to Anko. "I'm sorry for this. We were just messing around. It won't happen again." Ennaka said dipping her head. Anko loosened her grip on Kankuro.

"... Alright. But remember... No running in the halls!" She let go of Kankuro making him drop to the ground and trotted baack into another room.

"Hey, why'd you do that?" Kankuro asked rubbing his head.

"Cause we're like family, and family sticks together. Even in tough situations." Ennaka said reaching her hand out offering him to grab it to help himself up. He grinned and took her hand standing up.

"Yeah. I know."

"No you don't." Ennaka said turning away from him.

"Excuse me?!" Kankuro said going up next to her as Ennaka began to walk away.

"If you knew how to stick together as a family, then you'd be trying to help Gaara." She hissed galring at the ground. Kankuro was taken aback, but knew what she said was true. "I know that you and probably Temari fear him to the point that you spoil him. And thats why he's like he is now."

"But if I don't do what he wants.. He'll kill me."

"Do you know why he's like how is now!? Do you know why we had such a great friendship!?" she shouted. "I'll tell you why! It's because I actually heed notice of him! I cared for him! And what did you guys do? Oh, stand on the other side of the world like rabbits hiding in the valley!" Ennaka mocked. "After I left, who was there to care for him? Who was there to tell him that they would be his friend forever and ever until the end of time?! I'll tell you! No one! And because of that, he thinks no one loves him! He thinks his existance is unnecessary! He has no dream in life!" Kankuro cringed as each icy word struck him like a blade. There was no blade or weapon that hurt more than her words. Ennaka clenched her fists as she walked on. "Couldn't you see his innocence when he was a child? Couldn't you see that all he wanted was a friend? Someone to talk to and share with? Why are you so oblivious to it? All of you feared him for something that was inside him. But that is not him. Gaara wasn't a cold blooded

murderer back then. He only wanted to be loved by a family. But what family was there to support his real needs? he didn't need toys. He didn't need *things*. Gaara wanted something no man or being could buy. Gaara wanted love and nurture." Ennaka ended her lecture and walked the rest of the way in silence with Kankuro following her in deep thoughts.

58 - Talking with Temari and Gang

Ennaka opened the door to the Sand ninja's room roughly, letting it slam into the wall. She walked in with her eyes tracing around the room. Kankuro slowly followed her in, not daring to walk in front of her, as if her gaze would cut him like a laser. He grimaced, remembering the painful lecture she had given him. Her words had cracked like a whip to his back. It wasn't his fault... right? Gaara had been perfectly happy with just Nakki. Nakki was content with just having Gaara as a friend. Or did she know more about Gaara's personal life than that of his real family? What had *they* missed? Things just fell apart when Ennaka left. Almost imidiantly. Gaara became more violent when Ennaka left. Temari and him had even grown apart slightly.

"Temari!" Ennaka shouted jolting him back to reality. Temari was so startled that she fell off the bed she had been laying on with the magazine she was reading flying across the room. "I have to talk to you, right here and right now, no ifs, ands or-"

"Shhhh!!!" Temari lept to her side and slammed her hand over Ennaka's mouth so that the rest of her sentence was muffled. Temari warned Ennaka with a hard stare, motioning her head to the open window. Ennaka nodded, with the expression on her face seeming begining to calm. Kankuro glanced over his older sister's shoulder and saw just a bit of Gaara's sandals dangling from above.

"What do you want?" Temari whispered.

"I want to talk, thats *what*." Ennaka said, her voice a little louder than that of Temari's. Temari flinched at her volume.

"Too loud, Ennaka! Gaara doesn't want to be disturbed!" She warned stepping away from the underling. "What do you want to talk about?"

"Gaara." Ennaka said flatly with her eyes narrowing. " I want to give you the speech I gave to 'doll boy' a few minutes ago. And if Gaara hears it, I won't care." She hissed. Kankuro wanted to slug her in the face for that.

"Puppets! They're *puppets*!!!" he growled. Though, he doubt anyone heard him.

Ennaka took in a breath and began reciting the speech she gave Kankuro. (What? Did you *really* think I was going to type all that again?) At every insult, Temari cringed and cower at her words, afraid of what would happen to come out Ennaka's mouth next. Ennaka stood erect, unfased by the comments she barked out. If Gaara heard her, the better. If he wouldn't listen to her directly, maybe he'd see that she was puttin' the hurtin' on others as well. Ennaka stared Temari down, onyx eye to teal. But then, Ennaka turned away and faced Kankuro. "Your uncle Yashamru... You do know that he tried to assainate Gaara, right?" The two looked at each other with questioning looks on their faces.

"Our father told us that Gaara got mad at Uncle and killed him.." Temari whispered gazing at the ground.

"Oh do you have it wrong, sister!" Ennaka hissed with a smirk. "Gaara did kill Yashamaru. But it was out of self defense. Your father ordered Yashamaru to kill Gaara, and he failed, only to be crushed by Gaara's overpowering sand." Ennaka said with her eyes gleaming hate. "Just think all those times your father has lied to you. What did he tell you when I left? That I went on vacation?" Ennaka said with a slight laugh. "I wish I went on vacation! I was living out in the wilderness going from village to village to learn about that organization I told you about!" Ennaka said furious. "How could your whole village ignore Gaara like that? How? Do you just see him for the monster inside of him? Does Shukaku scare you that much?" Ennaka hissed. "You cowards. Think about that." And in a huff, Ennaka walked over to the window where Gaara was. Or, had been. Ennaka looked all around, but saw no Gaara. The sill of the window was wet, yet the sky was clear as could be. No clouds. just stars of the night twinkling past the curtain of dusk. What was it? This substance wasn't rain, for sure. Then, an idea struck her! Had Gaara...? Ennaka shook her head and laughed at herself. For a minute there, she had thought Gaara had cried! What a stupid idea...

With that, Ennaka left the room and returned to her own to find Tetsu sound asleep in his bed. Ennaka sighed and rolled the curtains down, but didn't shut the window. Laying her weapons on the couch, including her belt pack and leg pack, Ennaka hopped into the bed, (which she thought felt like a pile of bricks), and thought proudly of herself. That speech she gave had to have knocked some sense into them. If not, what would? But her mind drifted off the topic and realized, that tomorrow was the last day for Genin to arrive and pass! She wondered if Sasuke passed. But then, Orochimaru had said something about him. What was it? While she thought of these matters, Ennaka drifted off to sleep.

59 - An Unlikely Visitor

Tetsu opened his eyes slowly. It was still night. Probably two in the morning for all he knew. Whatever, the time didn't matter. He had just had the most craziest dream. For some reason he had been dating Sakura, and all these birds were following them around. Sakura just made him do her shopping. It was so torturous. And then the birds had turned into a bunch of people he knew. One being Gaara. he came out of the crowd in some pajamas and killed Sakura with his sand. He himself had hugged Gaara and thanked him a million times over. Then Gaara got out a magic wand and presented him with a joke book.

Tetsu shook his head. Why was he telling his dream? Ah whatever. It wasn't as if someone was reading his life or anything. (*snickers*) Tetsu turned over in his bed and saw Ennaka's form falling and rising with breath. At least she hadn't gotten killed by Gaara if she ran into him. He didn't want to be a one man team!

A noise made him jerk his head to the window. the curtains were still, because there was no wind, and there was a lumpy shadow covering the expanse of the fabric. Tetsu let his eye waver around the shape. He couldn't identify any human attributes, but he knew it was too large to be of any animal he knew of. Tetsu shut his eyes, wondering if he was still in dreamland. nope, he pinched himself pretty hard, that was reality all right!

the shadow squirmed through the curtains stepping into the darkness of their room. Tetsu saw the shape of a human, but there was an odd lump on its back. Tetsu closed his eyes, pretending he was sleeping. Maybe that would make everything better. Oh who was he kidding! the suspense would drive him nuts. Tetsu opened his eyes once more to see the person come into the moonlight. And sure enough, standing there like your worst night mare was no other than... Gaara of the Desert.

A/N: Yeah, sorry it's short. but I need to get to bed. OMG! It's 11:11! make a wish!

60 - OMG! It's the Sand Man!

Gaara walked in between the gap of the two beds. He looked at each person carefully to make sure none of them were awake.

Tetsu closed his eyes, but just enough that he could have a rough idea of what was going on. Lord knows what Gaara would do if he knew he was awake still! This wasn't one of those wacky dreams when your enemy saves you from an unspeakable evil (like Sakura's shopping), and gives you a joke book. Nah, this was probably a situation of life or death, really. Tetsu was pretty sure Gaara wasn't the Sand Man tonight.

Gaara stared at Tetsu for a bit, then approached the 'slumbering' youth. He waved his hand in front of his face just to be sure. Tetsu didn't flinch, but felt grains of sand fall on his face from Gaara's armor. Heh, maybe he was the Sand Man! Tetsu bit his lip to contain his laughter. Gaara the Sand Man... Haha... Funny pun.

After confirming Tetsu was sleeping, Gaara made his way over to Ennaka and hesitantly put a hand on her shoulder and shook her gently. When she did not wake, He shook a little more violently. When that happened, Ennaka disappeared in a puff of bleach white smoke.

"Shadow Clone..." Gaara hissed under his breath, "Damnit, where is that girl?" he asked himself.

"I'd thought you'd come here." Gaara whirled around. Ennaka sat cross legged on the couch with her chin propped up on her hands. She wore a troubled face expression, her eyes set in in thought. "Why are you here?" She asked in monotone. "Nakki needs sleep, you know. Unlike you."

Gaara narrowed his eyes so that only jade slits remained, but then looked away. "I heard what you said to Temari and Kankuro."

"I know." She replied flatly. "Whats it to you? Would you like me to repeat it?" She said smirking.

"No, I'm good." He said looking back at her, "What I want to know is... Why?" Gaara crossed his arms over his chest. Ennaka peered at him. Something seemed different about him.

"Why? Why *what*?" Ennaka questioned him.

"Why everyting. Why did you come to our village, why did you steal from our markets? Why did the Kazekage capture you and cage you in with me? Why everthing." Gaara said twirling his hand though the air.

"Why? Why I did all those things? Why I'll sacrifice my own being for you, why I came to the point I am now, why all those things you asked, I'll tell you *why* in just one single word: coincedence. I came to Suna, by coincedance, I was captured by you father by coincedence, I was caged with you out of sheer coincedence. My whole life has been nothing *but* a coincedence!" Ennaka hissed. "But if you want to

hear how I came to Suna, and my journey there, I'll tell you. I'll tell you everything. I don't care what you think of me now, but way back when, I vowed to protect you. I vowed to be your friend. I vowed my life away to you! And I'm pretty determined to keep those vows at the cost of my life." Ennaka said hugging herself. "Because that is my nindo. My ninja way. I will protect those close to me no matter what."

"Impressive," Gaara said with two small claps. "You give out big words Nakki, I'll hand you that. But my existence is self centered. My goals are self centered, my life is based on me and the thousands of people I'll eventually kill. Those that oppose me will fall in blood." Gaara hissed with a hint of laughter. "You do amuse me with your life inspiring speeches, you really do..."

Ennaka gasped. She knew she wasn't talking to Gaara. No, Shukaku was speaking through Gaara! She was speaking to the Sand Spirit! maybe she could get him to knock some sense into Gaara. (Yeah right!)

"Ichibi Shukaku..." Ennaka hissed, "I see you've finally decided to speak for yourself."

"Heheheh... Ahahahahahaha! Your endless comedy always made me laugh, *girl*." Gaara's crazed voice echoed. "But you have become a threat to my host, you see. Gaara finally decided to doze off a bit, and here I am! Ready to party the night away!"

"What kinda spirit are you!?" Ennaka asked shaking her head, "Man, you are one funky demon."

"Funky, yes. Yes indeed!" Shukaku roared. "So tell me 'Nakki', what is this organization, you speak of? The one that captures creatures like myself?"

"Ah, ah, ah!" Ennaka smirked waving a finger, "I can't tell of these things. Little teammate ears are listening."

Tetsu felt his stomach flip. She knew he was awake!

"Would you like me to terminate?" Shukaku asked with the cork on Gaara's gourd shaking madly.

"No. We'll just talk about this outside." Ennaka grasped Gaara's arm and dragged him out the door.

Tetsu sighed. Ennaka was talking to a demon inside Gaara. Well, he might as well go back to sleep. And with that, Tetsu went back to the crazy dream of him and Sakura and all.

61 - Lets Get Funky, Funky!

Shukaku let the girl drag him outside in the cold night. He wish he could just kill her. But if he did, Gaara would have some words for him when they talked next. So to spare himself from Gaara's additude, he obeyed every word Ennaka said. Last time they talked, Gaara had been talking about her. He wasn't really paying attention to the host, 'cause he was just his host, nothing more. But he knew that in the old days, this girl had meant alot to Gaara. He never knew that someone so small was not afraid of his power. She had accepted Gaara without hesitation when he first talked to her. When they stopped right outside the castle doors, Shukaku began to speak through his host.

"So, what was it that you were going to tell me?"

Ennaka remained silent, studing Gaara's face. She narrowed her eyes and hissed. "I was going to tell you about Akatsuki. They capture demons like yourself and will use that harnessed power to create havoc across the Five Great Nations." Ennaka said. "I woould tell you in more detail but..." Ennaka shrugged, "You aren't Gaara."

"So?" Shukaku said annoyed. So what if he wasn't Gaara?

"So, I don't want to protect you. I want to protect Gaara. And the only one I'd open up fully to is Gaara." Ennaka said closing her eyes. " Oh and while I'm at it..." Ennaka cracked her knuckles.

"What are you going to do? Punch me? If you do, you'll only be hurting your friend here." Shukaku warned. In truth, if she did punch him, it would wake Gaara up and his control would be lost. It was hard enough to get his host to fall asleep!

"No, not punch." Ennaka replied rubbing her palms together. She then shot out slapping her now friction hot hands across his face. Shukaku roared as Gaara began to gain control over him. He felt himself returning to the core of Gaara's self, imprisoned within.

"Guh..." He mumbled rubbing his cheek. "Where am I?" Gaara asked in his chilled voice looking around.

"Did you have a nice nap, Gaara? Your demon is quite... Weird." Ennaka said with a smirk.

"What?"

"You fell asleep you dumb @\$\$. What were you thinking? You tryin' to kill us all?!" Ennaka shoutet softly. What would the proctors do if they knew they were out here?

Gaara glared at her, "I wouldn't be talking. you need sleep every night and I *can't* sleep at all. Wouldn't you think I would be just a little bit tired?"

Ennaka stood her ground, "You were fine the other years before, what makes it different now?"

"That was years ago! I haven't slept in two years! Don't you think I would be tired?! How would you like it if you couldn't sleep for two years?"

"I'd feel insane. But I don't have a demon to keep me running."

"Are you classifying me?" Gaara hissed. Ennaka jerked her head back with a little shock in her eyes.

"N-no. I'm just saying the truth. Without a demon to provide you with extra energy, yo-"

"I would be able to sleep! Thats what!" Gaara shouted. " You people are all the same. Putting us in our own little catagory and saying we're not human!"

"You're human, I know that. You have feelings as well as all the rest of us; I know that too." Ennaka said resting her hands on her waist, "But you falling asleep could destroy us all! You're lucky Shukaku likes me!"

Gaara felt Shukaku urging to talk to him again. Man, for once he wished that rat would shut up for a bit and leave him to himself. but when he rejected his conversation, an overwleming pain clogged his thoughts from anything but begging for Shukaku's mercy.

"God damn it Ichibi! What do you want?!"

"I want you to tell your little friend that I don't like her."

"That's what this was all about!?"

"No, not just that, but to tell her to stop trying to eavse drop on our conversation like's she's trying to do now!"

Gaara opened his eyes and saw Ennaka using that wretched eye again. "Would you stop it already? Ichibi isn't happy with you and your tricks."

"It's not tricks, its conicedence." Ennaka murmured.

"Oh shut up already with you and conicedence! I've heard it too many times."

"Really now? Well, if Sleeping Beauty is all done snoozing, Nakki's gonna' stop playing 'Save the World from Gaara's Mistakes' and high-tail it bed."

"Wasn't my fault."

"Yeah, yeah, whatever. Stop making excuses. Just don't fall asleep, and I'll be happy. 'Cause now I can sleep."

"Someone woke up on the wrong side of the bed." Gaara whispered to himself.

"What was that?" Ennaka questioned, turning back to him as she made her way back to her room.

"Nothing." Gaara said shrugging innocently. *Note to self: Never wake up Nakki when she hasn't had her sleep.* Gaara made a mental note, then returned to his own room.

62 - The Few Who Can Beat Sasuke

Ennaka went to check on Gyoumaru first thing. She hoped Gaara wasn't mad at her for what she said last night. Maybe he would understand that she had been... cranky and restless without her normal sleep. It wasn't that it was her fault of course... Gaara shouldn't have fallen asleep. but she really couldn't blame him. Who wouldn't be tired after two years of not sleeping? government says that if you haven't slept in three days, that your clinicly insane. (Not a joke!) ... Well... Gaara was clinicly insane! Ennaka shook her head. No! Gaara was perfectly normal like the rest of them! He wasn't some really deranged kid like Naruto! Okay, so maybe Naruto wasn't deranged, but you get my point!

Ennaka looked down at Gyoumaru. he was still unconcious. Out for five days like this... He must be in some pretty bad shape. The medics had told her that they did the most they could do for him and warned everyone in the village about Orochimaru. Enaka had thanked them and left, unable to stay longer. She had to see if Naruto's squad made it!

Running down the steps, and through the door, Ennaka pushed her way into the large gathering room. There was a statue of arms begining at the elbows and made the basic ram hand sign. The most popular hand sign ninjas used. On each side of the room, there was two stair cases. One to the left and one to the right which led up to an area which you would watch. But of course they never think of putting chairs to sit in. On the wall to the left, there was a big black screen. She wondered what that was for.

Many Genin were here conversing amongst themselves. She felt her body tense at the amount of people. There were so many! She noticed Kiba, Hinata and Shino gathered together along with Ino-pig, Shikamaru and Chouji. Ennaka made her way over to them decided she should see if they saw Sasuke. Ino was the first to notice her presence.

"Well, well well, if it isn't the cheif of Sasuke's fan club!" Ino taunted with her arms crossed.

"Hello, Pig. I see you haven't gotten any smarter. Your Dumb Blonde Syndrome must be getting worst!" Ennaka gasped in act. Kiba could help but laugh while Akamaru wagged his tail.

"Ahahaha! You're probably right Ennaka!" He barked.

"Ooh! You've done it now!" Ino said with her nostrils flaring, "Get over here and fight!"

"Tsk, tsk." Ennaka said smirking, "I would, but I know that I would probably beat you in one hit. So why bother?"

"You little- Who do you think you are!?" Ino blasted standing on her toes to get higher than Ennaka.

"I think I'm Sasuke's superior. That's who I think I am." Ennaka said messing with her nails.

"Sasuke's superior?! What makes you think you're better than Sasuke?!" Ino roared.

"Well, I know his weakness, I know a few people like me that could crush him, and I'm older than him, and on top of that, I'm related to him."

"People like who could beat him-" Ino started to retored then ceased her rabid fangirl rage in confusement, "Wait... Did you just say you were related to Sasuke?"

The kids looked at Ennaka questionly. Ennaka looked around sheepishly. "What? You guys couldn't tell? I mean seriously, we both have Sharingans.... Isn't it kinda obvious?" Ennaka said with a shrug.

"... I- I think Ennaka's telling the t-truth..." Hinata said softly.

"Of course I'm telling the truth." Ennaka mumbled.

"So... Who are these people that you think can beat Uchiha?" A new voice chimed in. The kids spun around and saw Neji, Rock Lee and Tenten walk in to join their conversation.

"Neji! I have a fight to pick with you! I declare a rematch!!! You little snake, two headed rat, weasel-" Ennaka began to carry on her insults trying to run up to the kid and punch him. But Kiba and Shikamaru held her by her arms so that she got no where.

"Hi Ennaka." Tenten greeted. Ennaka stopped her babbling and turned her head to the girl. "Oh. Hey Tenten." She said politely, "Whats up, Lee?" She added.

"I'm fine thank you." Lee said bowing his head.

"Well that's good." Ennaka said curtly before returning to her babbling on with Neji and crap.

"Oh, would you shut up all ready?" Neji moaned, "Just tell me who you think can beat Sasuke."

"Why would you want to know!?" Ennaka spat struggling to get her arms free.

"Becuase I'm curious."

"Curiosity kiled the cat, Neji. You still willing to know?"

"... Uh, yeah."

"First off, Lee could probably finish off Sasuke, which means Neji, you could too. Along with Shikamaru's wits, and my awesomeness, we could beat Sasuke too. But the one person I know would instantly kill Sasuke if paired up agaisnt him would be that young man over there!" Ennaka said motioning her head to the distant Gaara. The Genin looked over to the Sand ninja while Kiba, Hinata and Shino gulped.

"Scary, ain't he?" Ennaka boasted, "He's my buddy."

"Your.. Buddy?" Kiba asked with his eyes streching wide. "How could you be buddies with that guy?!"

"We go waaayy back." Ennaka said dragging her words. "Doubt he cares now." She mumbled softly.

Hinata gazed nervously at Neji twiddling her fingers. Neji paid no heed to her. Ennaka noticed but kept her mouth shut.

"So, Neji, when you wanna have that rematch!?" Ennaka suddenly shot out in the middle of the group's silence.

Neji glared down at her, "If you're lucky, maybe you'll get paired against me in the third round." Neji hissed before walking away with the rest of his squad following him.

"I hate him so much." Ennaka hissed.

"Yeah, like we haven't noticed." Shikamaru said slackening his grip on her arm. Kiba did the same.

"Well, I'm gonna find Tetsu now. If by any unfortunate chance Gaara decides to talk to yo, tell him I said 'hi!'" Ennaka said waving to them. The group shrugged and returned to chatting.

63 - Woot! Preliminaries!

Tetsu stood shaking his head in an annoyed matter. "Gyou's gonna kill me..." he whispered.

"Hey Tetsu. Why's Gyou gonna kill you?" Ennaka said sliding to a stop as she ran over to him.

"um... About that..." Tetsu said rubbing the back of his head, "I don't know where Sukauto is..."

Ennaka stared at him blankly, "Where was the last time you saw him?"

"the um... uh..." Tetsu stuttered messing with his fingers, "The Forest of Death..."

"... We left Sukauto in the Forest of Death?" Ennaka said simply to reassure that she heard correctly.

"I think so...." Tetsu said with an unhumored laugh, "I'm gonna die!!!" he moaned.

"Oh stop worrying. Sukauto's smart, he's probably out on top of the roof." Ennaka said patting the boy's back, "We have time. It's not like Gyou's gonna kill ya when he's unconscious."

"Yeah, I guess you're right..." Tetsu said shakily, "I hope this last exam isn't long..."

"Me too, buddy, me too." Ennaka agreed. "Oh, hey, there's Sasuke!" Ennaka suddenly pipped. Deserting Tetsu at his place in the middle of the room, Ennaka made her way over to Naruto. Sasuke didn't seem to look like he was in a talking mood.

"Naruto! You finally joined us mortals!" Ennaka called smirking, "What's up homedawg?" They smacked each other's hands in some kind of friendship code then shouted together at once when they finished, "RAMEN!" Naruto laughed while Sakura stared at them unamused.

"You gotta be kidding me..." She moaned slapping her own face, "Now they have a secret hand shake!"

"Heheh! You better believe it!" Naruto chimed. Ennaka giggled then looked over at Sasuke.

"What's with Emo boy?" She asked scratching her chin, "Did someone forget to take their happy pill this morning?" She cooed. Sasuke swung his head in her direction and glared at her. In that time period, Ennaka noticed a mark on his neck. It looked like three swirlily marks near two puncture wounds. Ennaka felt her cursed seal begin to get on her nerves again in it's itching rage.

Ennaka tilted her neck to show off her own puncture wounds to him, but before she did, Sasuke turned away because Sakura had been trying to talk to him. Ennaka growled to herself expressing her annoyance. Obviously Orochimaru had cursed Sasuke. What luck...

Teams began to line up orderly in rows of three. Tetsu pushed his way through the sea of Genin to reach his partner. Ennaka smiled, greeting him, then grabbed his wrist and drug him over next to

Gaara's team. Temari glanced over at them waving her fingers. Ennaka nodded curtly while Gaara stared straight ahead ignoring her existence. Ennaka slumped her shoulders. Oh what she would do to have him back...

The Third Hokage stepped up and began to talk about crap that Ennaka didn't really listen to. I mean really, he was old. Who wants to listen to an old guy? Ennaka just stretched her body warming up knowing what was coming up next. There were too many kids left. They needed to get rid of some and narrow the number down. And the traditional way they did it was to go one-on-one with others in combat. The winner went to the final rounds. Ennaka cracked her knuckles. If that was so, she hoped she could fight Neji. That would just make her day.

"Why would we want to leave when we came so far!?" Naruto's hyper voice rang through the large room. Ennaka jerked her head up to see that the new proctor of the third exam was asking people if they wanted to surrender and leave.

"Because these matches are one-on-one. And there are likely chances that some of you might get killed." the proctor said.

A sole hand rose among the Genin. Ennaka looked at the guy. Then her eyes widened. No! That couldn't be Kabuto! Kabuto was Sasori's spy for Orochimaru! Ennaka had met him once or twice. His team was on the left of her, right next to her actually!

"K-Kabuto!?" She stuttered in a whisper. He glanced over at her and furrowed his brow questionally. "It's me! Ennaka! Remember me?" She said itching her arms. Kabuto's eyes brightened.

"Oh yes, I remember. Itachi's little shadow..." Kabuto sneered. Ennaka felt her mouth twitch. Sometimes Kabuto really got on her nerves. But why was he here? He wasn't a Konoha ninja, last time she looked. Why was he here? Did he know about Orochimaru? Had Sasori sent him? She was just about to ask, but then he turned his back to her and exited stopping to exchange a word with one of his teammates. When he past Naruto and the rest of Team Seven, he glaced at them quickly and gave a fake smile. Ennaka narrowed her eyes. The little rat...

"First, we'll select a name at random using this computer." A man said with the bags under his eyes said. It was really grossing her out. he coughed a bit as the computer began to roll in the names quickly. Someone stopped it, and the match landed on Sasuke and some other guy that Ennaka noticed to be on Kabuto's team. Ennaka glanced at Sasuke nervously. Could he battle with that mark?

"Please move up to these balconies to watch the match." The man instructed. Ennaka leaned to Tetsu and whispered, "I'm going with Temari and the others. Is that okay?" Tetsu nodded solemnly and followed Naruto up the other flight of stairs while Ennaka refrained behind Kankuro. The closer she was to Gaara, the less nervous she felt.

Before she went up the stairs. She saw Sasuke passing her. Grabbing his sleeve, Ennaka pulled him to her and spun him around so that he was looking her in the eye. "Whatever you do, do NOT use that curse mark, got it? Trust me, I have it too." Sasuke smirked but then looked at her confused. "How did you know?"

"I pay attention. Now get over there and kick that guys @\$ and bring your cousin some good reputation, would you?" Ennaka said before pushing him into the middle of the room. She climbed up the stairs and took her place between Temari and Gaara. Things were about to heat up in the Chunin exams...

64 - Sasuke Vs. That Other Guy

Gaara didn't seem to care that she was standing next to him. Which made Ennaka sad. Temari glanced over at them occasionally with a worried look saying with her eyes, "Be careful." Ennaka shot her a glare which she withered under, then returned her attention on Sasuke and that other dude.

"You can do it Sasuke!" She heard Sakura and Ino scream. Ennaka rolled her eyes. What fangirls.

Tetsu was standing next to Naruto and Lee, watching the battle below that was about to start.

He better not use that mark or I'll rip his arms off and give them to Gaara. Ennaka thought narrowing her eyes at him, the underling he was.

"Why must you be where ever we are?!" Kankuro moaned at her. Ennaka glanced over at him, then walked over and glared so that fear was all that was left on his face.

"What was that?" She hissed.

"Uh.. uh, nothing! Nothing at all!" He said shakily.

"That's what I thought, but just to be sure..." Ennaka snarled and crammed her foot on top of his as hard as she could.

"YEOWCH!" He yelped grabbing his foot and hopping around, "Mommy!!! Er, Uncle! ... Wait... they're both dead..." Kankuro said softly.

"Damn straight." Ennaka said returning to her place just in time to see the match begin. Sasuke wasn't doing to well... He was pretty beat up from his travels here and the Curse Mark wasn't proving to help. just a burden in battle. The other guy wasn't exactly good, well, compared to herself and Gaara, he would be no match of course. She glanced over at her "friend." He seemed very intent and dissapointed.

"What's the matter Gaara-sama?" She asked. Even though she knew the answer.

"... I was expecting a better fight from him." Gaara hissed softly.

"Tch, that's Sasuke for ya. He's nothing special to sniff at." Ennaka said with a shrug. Then, a little softly she added, "If he was so special, why didn't Itachi take him to Akatsuki instead of me?"

"Hn." Gaara said, hearing her whisper.

"So, Temari..." Ennaka started, not wanting to diturb Gaara anymore, "How's Suna been?"

"Shh! I'm trying to watch!" She said gazing intently down at the battle. Ennaka slumped her shoulders. Why was Sasuke so special? She was awesomer than him. Hell, she had a "magical eye!" They should

be paying attention to her, not the other Uchiha rat. She nodded to herself, Yep, Sasuke was a rat and Itachi was a weasel. How fitting.. She's a lizard. Ennaka wanted to ask Temari something, but Sasuke's battle seemed to interest them more, so Ennaka let them be and watched with them.

Sasuke began to kick some serious @\$\$. He kicked the guy into the air and began beating him senseless! Ennaka smiled and thought to herself. *Just as I would expect from my relative...*

"Go, Sasuke! Go! Tell that lowlife what Uchiha's all about!" Ennaka cheered as he delivered the severing blow to the opponent's stomach with a powerful kick he called "Lion's Barage". His opponent was dragged off in a stretcher, but soon after, Sasuke swooned and toppled to the ground. Ennaka gasped and flung herself over the rail along with other sensei's, including Kakashi.

"Is he alright? Sasuke?" She asked as medics rushed over to check his pulse.

"He's fine lass, go back to the stands." One of the medics told her.

"Excuse, me, this is my cousin! I need a more reassuring answer than 'fine'! Is he alright?" she repeated.

"It's okay Ennaka. He's just tired." Kakashi said picking up his student.

"That's better. Thank you, Kakashi sensei." She said before returning to the Sand Sibs.

"What the hell!?! You leave us for two seconds and- oh... uh..." Kankuro began to say before Ennaka raised her fist threateningly.

"Is Sasuke okay?" Temari asked.

"Yeah, he's just tired." Ennaka replied, then asked, "Hey, Nii-chan, What animal do I look like to you?"

Temari blinked. Nii-chan? That was calling her adored sister. Yet, Ennaka wasn't her sister. "Huh?"

"Must I spell it out for you?" Ennaka said with a smirk, "What animal comes to mind when you look at me?" She said separating her words with pauses.

"Oh, uh..." Temari put a finger to her mouth and looked at her, "A... black and white wolf with violet eyes. Why?" She said.

"Oh, I was just thinking... If Itachi's a weasel, and Sasuke's a rat... Then what does that make me?"

"It's not like you to disregard your family, Ennaka." Baki said, who had been behind them the whole time.

"Yeah... But lately, I've just.. Been thinking how much Sasuke looks like his brother.. It gets me angry... Naki's angry.. Naki's very angry..." She hissed as she watched Kakashi carry Sasuke away.

"tch, whatever." Kankuro mumbled. "I think you look more like a mole."

"Excuse me?" Ennaka asked him raising an eyebrow, "Would you like to repeat that?"

"Nope." Kankuro said crossing his arms.

"Shut up, all of you." Gaara hissed. They all became quiet as the computer began racing names across the screen. it stopped and landed on Shino and a guy named Zaku.

"Oh boy.. It's Shino... This will be quite.. weird." Ennaka said as Shino took his place on the battlegrounds.

Another boy jumped down. His arms were bandged up in slings.

"Heh, that's kinda unfair." temari said looknig down at the pair, "His arms are broken."

"Oh well, it makes it all the more interesting." Ennaka said with a shrug.

65 - Akatsuki Matters And A New Mission For Kemuri

"Whaaaaaaaat..!?" Was all Kemuri could say when Ibiki Morino mentioned his theory. "I'm sorry, but are you saying that my student is an... An... Akatsuki infiltrator?"

Ibiki shook his head solemnly, "There's no other explanation, is there? Ennaka knows alot about these people, even the ones from other countries. She knows them all. Even Orochimaru's there."

"Orochimaru!? Listen Ibiki, I know my student, and I would've figured out all ready if she was an infiltrator." The man slammed his hands on one of the desks, "And Ennaka would never do such a thing! Her best friend, that Gaara kid, *is* a Jinjuriki! What makes you think she would betray him?!" Kemuri shouted.

Ibiki remained untainted by this news and remained monotoned, "The Sand Ninja's power... Of Shukaku, are deadly... He's ruthless that is for sure. Bloodthirsty if I may put it that way." He paused, "What if Ennaka thinks of him as a threat? A danger to society? I'm sure the Akatsuki have the power to brainwash her into thinking that."

"No! No, no, no, no, NO!!" Kemuri said biting his lip. "Never! She hates people that try to use her. She goes literally insane! I saw this when we went to Suna! She *hates* the Kazekage! She wants to kill him and paint his blood on her fingers! I'll bet on my life that's what she wants to do!"

"And Gaara is the Kazekage's son. Wouldn't it be sweet revenge to kill that son?" Ibiki asked raising an eyebrow.

"Never... She'd never do that to Gaara. She'll try with all of her heart to try and change Gaara. She ended up in the hospital for it. I swear, that girl will go to great lengths for that kid. She'll do *anything*... *Anything*." He said slamming his fist on the desk.

"Would you like to see the picture she drew?" Ibiki asked taking out her test amongst the other papers.

"Let me see it." Kemuri gulped, extending his hand. The man with the scarred face handed it to him. Kemuri looked at the back and let his eyes gaze at the wanted criminals from near and far. Itachi Uchiha, terrorist bomber of The Stone village: Deidara, Kisame Hoshigaki, a missing-nin from the Mist Village, Sasori of the Red Sand, a Waterfall ninja: Kakuzu, they were all there. The rest were unknown to him. But he did see one of them, that had a Rain ninja headplate with a line scratched through it, a traditional Akatsuki trademark. He had peircings all over his face, and near him, there was a line drawn out that pointed to a name. And that name, was the one she kept reciteing in their adventures in Suna: Pain. Pain, that one Rain Ninja that she kept threatening, Pain, the goal of her kill, Pain, the reason for her hate of rain. Pain... Pain... Pain... It rang through his head, showing him memories of Ennaka in her blood-thirsty state. Her eyes clouded with her hate. Hachuu by her side eating dead corpses. Kemuri shuddered and thrust the paper back to Ibiki, "I can't handle it," He said placing his hand on his forehead, "It's too much to bear."

"Very well." Ibiki took the paper and put it back into its place with the rest of the papers, "We're going to tell Lord Hokage at once, and then take her in for questioning. Is that clear, Kemuri Kaen?"

"I don't think we should interrupt the Chunin Exams for this matter. And while I'm at it, I guess I should tell you what the Kazekage said when we went there," Kemuri said bringing his voice down to a whisper. Ibiki looked at him, his eyes burrowing through his spirits. "The Kazekage wants Ennaka back in the Sand Village after the Chunin Exams. For what reason? I'm not too sure. I just know that Ennaka has lived there for a period of time, and the Kazekage declares her his own Ninja. He says that her rightful place is in Suna. I told him to complain to the Hokage, but I haven't heard any word from him either." Kemuri said, his eyes drifting. "I don't want to stop teaching her... I like it actually. She's almost like family. And I really don't like accepting the fact that she might... Be an Akatsuki subornate. But if it's true..."

"We'll try everything we can for her. And you know who was good with bringing back memories and erasing them, don't you?"

"Please don't mention her." Kemuri pleaded, "It breaks my heart."

"We all know how much you loved her. I'm pretty sure you believe she's still alive."

"That's a very unlikely case. But I do believe Kitty is alive." Kemuri replied with his eyes watering.

"Ennaka reminds me of her personality." Ibiki said with a slight smile, "Very, very loud."

Kemuri met his eyes with Ibiki's, his own eyes leaking tears, "Yeah.. That's why I like having her around. Ennaka even settled in Kitei's house. That really surprised me. Man, I hope she's alright... I'd be broken if they really found out she died. But I really do think Kitei is somewhere safe. Maybe she will come back one day..."

"Well, either that, or you're going to have to look for her." Ibiki smirked and placed a rugged hand on the young man's shoulder, "Just between you and me... Your next mission will be to find Kitei. And if you succeed... Either bring her back, or find her status and figure a way to contact her. Along with that, we're going to use Kitty's herbs and medicine to use on Ennaka so she'll reveal her past entirely and how she met up with these thugs." Ibiki said tapping the papers. "I'm betting Itachi brought her there... But we'll still need to know how she got to Suna. And something tells me she won't give up her personal life without a fight. So to spare the world, we're going to take a shortcut and let her have a wiff of Kitty's jutsu. How does that sound?" Ibiki asked.

Kemuri was dumbfounded. Him? Out to find his beloved friend? And have a chance to figure out who Ennaka really is?! How could he refuse!?!? "I'll do it!" He exclaimed jumping out of his chair so fast that it made it tip over. "I'll search all the Five Great Nations if I have to! Anything for Kitty-kun!" He said with his eyes sparking with determination.

"You'll leave after the Chunin Exams." Ibiki said going back to monotone, "Until then, focus on your team. You might want to get your @\$ down there, the matches have already started."

"Yes! You're right!" Kemuri said walking out of the room, "Tell whoever assigned this mission that I said

'Thanks!' a gazillion times!" Kemuri closed the door and rushed down to the arena. Two kids were already starting to fight. He recognized Shino and the other kid was a Sound Ninja. He caught sight of Tetsu on the right stands and began climbing the stairs to him. But... Where was Ennaka?

"Kemuri-sensei!" Tetsu called rushing over to him, "Where have you been?!"

"Upstairs talking." Kemuri said, trying to contain his excitement and worry, "Where's Gyou and Ennaka?" He asked looking down the balcony.

At the mention of Gyoumaru's name, Tetsu became quiet. "Gyou's... In the infirmary... possibly.." He couldn't get out the rest of the words. They were stuck in the back of his mouth, unable to present themselves.

"Possibly what?" Kemuri asked with wide eyes. It was not Tetsu who answered, but Kureni. A new Jounin and sensei of Kiba, Hinata and Shino. "He might die." She said walking up to them.

"WHAT!?" Kemuri shouted, not really caring if everyone heard him. Eyes turned and locked on the man, and Kemuri began sweating under all the attention, "What do you mean he's dying!? He's not even my student!" Kemuri said pulling on his hair in frustration, "What would Kaiyou say?!"

"Kemuri, calm down!" Asuma called, "I'm sure Gyoumaru will pull through. He's a strong kid. He'll live."

"I hope you guys are right..." Kemuri groaned, "Anyway, where's Ennaka?"

"Take a wild guess, hot shot." Kureni snapped pointing over to the other side where Ennaka was, in her place next to Gaara and Temari. She was staring at them timidly.

"I should've known she'd be with them..." Kemuri said. There was a long pause, then he asked with a sigh. "Hey, Tetsu?"

"Yes sensei?" Tetsu replied.

"Do you think... Ennaka likes it here in Konoha? Or do you think she'd be happier in Suna with Gaara and Temari and Kankuro?"

"Well... As far as I'm concerned and that I know, " Tetsu began, "Ennaka is fond of them. And she considers them more of her family than she considers Sasuke." Tetsu slumped his shoulders and began to say in a small voice, "But what she wants the most is Gaara. He was her only real friend, as what she's told me. And he wasn't always a cold-hearted killer. Ennaka is very determined to get that old Gaara back... Even if it kills her. As for Temari, I've heard her call Temari 'Nii-chan' before. So she sees Temari in a sisterly view. As for Kankuro... I'm not too sure she likes him very much..."

"I do like Kankuro to a degree... It's just he's... like an annoying brother. It's siblingly love." They heard Ennaka's voice echo in their heads. "And To answer your question, Pyro sensei, I love it in Konoha. I don't want to go back to Suna with the Kazekage. But if he were to suddenly die, (at my feet of course) I'd love to go back to Suna with Gaara. But right now, Gaara doesn't seem to want anything to do with me. I'd rather just live in Konoha and try to convince Gaara to change to the point I won't have to worry

about him and his safety..."

"Isn't that what his sand stuff is for?" Tetsu asked.

"... Shukaku won't always be there for him. I don't trust that raccoon for two seconds flat. His sand isn't all high and mighty like it seems to be. There are weaknesses that... 'people' can get through. I know them." Ennaka replied, emphasizing the word "people".

Honestly, Kemuri was so happy, he felt like bouncing off the wall in firey aura! He felt like a rocket! Ennaka *wanted* to stay here! She *wanted* to stay in Konoha with them! Bah, Ibiki and his 'Ennaka's in the Akatsuki" crap! Ennaka would never work for Itachi! Never, ever, never! Ennaka was his first student. His only student. And he wasn't about to lose her anytime soon! He my only be in an early age of twenty-one, but losing Ennaka made him feel like he was fifty! He'd have to start taking youth lessons from Gai if that happened! And Kemuri, really, REALLY didn't want that at all!

66 - Sasori's Confession

Itachi stared at his leader unblinkingly, to let him know that he was not afraid of his wrath. Kisame stood next to him, his overly large sword slung on his back.

Leader had called them for a meeting of four. A chat between Leader, his partner, Itachi and Kisame as well. That was all who would attend. But plans change. Sasori demanded he be part of the meeting, causing Deidara to join in too. Why Sasori had been so stern over this matter confused them so. Why did he care? Did it matter? She wasn't his family.

"We all know why we're here..." Leader scoffed. "But before we begin, Sasori, tell me why you're here."

Sasori glanced at Deidara and Itachi before hissing, "This is a little girl we're handling. Not a machine. I've become close to her over the years she was here. I know..." He stopped abruptly and changed the subject, "She isn't to be taken lightly."

"Is there something you're not telling us, Sasori?" Kisame asked with a smirk, "I liked the little twerp too, y'know."

"How could you guys like that little brat? I'd rather kill her." Deidara sniffed.

"Shut up." Pain's partner, Konan, growled, "I liked her too. But that's not the point. Sasori, there's something you're not telling us. Spit it out."

"Yes, do tell." Pain hissed.

Sasori looked around nervously, looking at everyone's eyes turn on him. Why did he have to go and open his big fat mouth? He should've been mute and neutral. "I... I..."

"C'mon Danna, say it already! You don't like to keep people waiting." Deidara ordered.

"I know where she is." He said quickly. Pain blinked in confusion and looked at everyone. Eyes began asking him questions before words came out of their mouths. "There! I said it! Happy!?" He replied to their astonished faces.

"And why did you not tell us this before?" Konan asked.

"I don't want her to- No... that's not right... I don't know. She's a little girl... And she shouldn't live a murderer's life. I know that past. The one where you're left all alone to the point you start to hear things. You start to see things. You start to do things you wouldn't normally do, waiting for something to happen. Using her... I think it's wrong. She's sensitive to usage. She's aware and starting to catch on to what we're doing and plotting." Sasori gulped, hoping his little speech wouldn't arouse more questions.

"Where is she?" Pain asked sternly, "And how do you know her whereabouts?"

"She might not be there anymore... But my knowledge tells me that she is in Sunagakure. How I know these things I wish not to tell, if that is alright with you, Leader." Sasori explained, ducking his head in embarrassment.

"Very well. So she's in the Sand village. Well, Konoha is hosting the Chuunin Exams this year. And seeing that Ennaka is of a pedigree similar to that of Itachi, she's most likely to be there. And we all know who else is there, don't you, Kisame and Itachi?"

"... Yes..." Itachi grumbled, "The Nine-Tailed Demon-Fox. Naruto Uzumaki."

"Just don't be suprised if he's missing an arm or leg." Kisame said with a laugh, waving his sword through the air.

"Don't be too hasty, Kisame." Konan warned, "We want that kid alive."

"Yeah, yeah. I know the drill." Kisame assured her.

"Good. And Itachi, while you're there... Bring Ennaka back here. That eye is to be an expirament for me. I want to know the extent of it's power. And get it before Orochimaru does. In the meantime, I'll have Zetsu scout ahead." Pain said, his Rinnagan eyes flashing behind him, "Zetsu, come here."

"Coming," He said, walking over to them slowly. He had the appearance of a venus-fly trap. hHlf of his face with black, with a pupiless glowly yellow eye, while the other side white bleach-white. His green hair clashing with the red clouds on his cloak. "What is it?" He asked, towering over Pain.

"Go and spy in on Konoha. Find Ennaka, make sure she doesn't leave Konoha. Sounds simple, is simple." Pain ordered.

"Whatever. I'll leave now. No use in waiting." He said, the two voices of both sides of his face mingling together eerily, Zetsu began to walk out of the exit of their base. "And if she's dead?" He asked, turning back to the group.

"... Bring her body to me. That eye is very handy. And no, you may not eat her."

"Fine, have it your way..." Zetsu sighed. "I don't see why Sasori can't send his little spy out instead..."

"My *'little spy'* is spying on Orochimaru at the moment." Sasori hissed at the plant-man.

"Whatever." Zetsu said tunnling into the ground, "I do all the work around here... Go here, go there, Zetsu... Bastards.."

When Zetsu had left them, Pain addressed them again, "We also need more Akatsuki members. Find people, introduce our organization. If they prove worthy enough, drag them here to me. Kakzuzu killed his partner the other week, and he needs a replacement."

"Ugh, not again..." Deidara groaned. "How many of his partners has he killed?!"

"All of them." Sasori replied. "Now shut up, Deidara, before I decide to kill you!"

"Yes Master Sasori..." Deidara grumbled.

"Stop arguing, and get out of here. You are all dismissed." Pain hissed.

They all left, and when Sasori and Deidara were alone in where ever they were, Deidara dared to ask, "So, Danna, how *did* you know Ennaka was in Suna?"

"... I'll tell you if you swear not to tell anyone." Sasori growled.

"I swear, I swear." Deidara said pounding his chest with a fist.

"... Alright... If you must know... I sent her there." Sasori hesitantly said, staring at the ground.

"YOU WHAT?!" Deidara shouted in suprise.

"I sent her there... I helped Ennaka flee. She asked me where to go.. And I told her of my Grandma Chiyo, in my birthplace. I told her to go to the Land of Winds to the Village Hidden in the Sand. I just pray that she got there safely... and that no harm befell her."

"Why?! Why did you let her escape!?" Deidara asked softly, "Everyone was frantic to find her! Was our whole search party a wasteful effort?!"

"Yeah, pretty much." Sasori said simply. " I just led you through a pointless maze of circles to waste time and to give up hope."

"Konan was especially worried!"

"... I know... Ennaka has told me Konan started to take the role of her mother. She even treated Konan like a she would to her mother."

"Mother, huh? Heheh, poor Konan and Pain. If that's true, how did she veiw you and me?" Deidara asked, begining to sculpt somethinhg from clay.

"You, she saw you as a pet." Sasori laughed, remembering the times ennaka had pulled pranks on his partner. "And as for me... She began to see me as the older brother she never knew. And she even called me accidently by his name..."

"Oh, really? What name would that be?"

Sasori glanced at his partner, then lied, "I don't remember... I don't remember."

"Flees your memories, does it? Well, some things do just escape our minds..." At this comment, he let his bird creation flap away a good distance before, "Katsu!" it exploded in array of sparkling light. "I say we just forget about her. She's a waste of time."

"You're just jealous that she can draw better than you at her young age." Sasori said with amusement.
"But I know you have your own ties with her. Every Akatsuki member does. She even started to call you senpai." Sasori reminded him.

"Yeah, true. But I still say that my art is better!"

"You can't do crap with paint!" Sasori retorted.

"You can't do crap with clay!"

And the two began their daily argument as they always begin it. Drifting their thoughts away from the girl who hated Leader with the passion of the hot stars of space.

67 - Shino Vs. Zaku

The crowd watch nervously in anticipation for the match to begin. Even so, Ennaka wasn't focused on the events below as the match began and Shino mumbled, "Isn't this kinda unfair? I mean, I'm fighting a guy with no arms."

"What, you afraid to fight me?!" Zaku exclaimed, swinging his slinged arms around.

"No, that's not it..." Shino said calmly, tapping his cheek. A swam of bugs suddenly crawled out of three holes on each side of his mouth. And he raised his sleeve to send out even more. They created a black mass on his arms, scattering through he air like flies.

"Ew! That's gross!" Temari said grimacing, "There's bugs coming out of him!"

"I think I'm gonna be sick..." Kankuro groaned, holding his head.

On the other side of the arena, Rock Lee and Neji stood, holding on to the railing, transfixed on the match below.

"Are there bugs inside him, Neji?" Lee asked, not looking at his rival.

Neji, replied, "Let me see... Byakugan!" Veins pulse into his eyes, and he looked at Shino intently. He saw his bone structure and covering the whole skeleton were bugs. Lots and lots of bugs. "They're living inside him alright! He has holes in him where the escape!" Neji told the underling.

"Gross!" TenTen moaned sticking out her tounge.

Everyone gave their opinions on how nasty they thought it was, and the battle raged on. Zaku was now surrounded with an army of bugs, and Shino was explaining what he would do.

"If you attack the bugs, I'll attack you. If you attack me, my bugs will attack and eat you. Watcha gonna' do?"

Zaku looked around nervously looking from the bugs to Shino. He sighed, then he began to force his arms out of the sling. They twitched and were unstable, not used to being moved in such an ingured state. People began to look around suprised. Zaku held out each arm, one facing Shino, the other facing the bugs. "I can still use my arms!" They noticed that in each palm there was a small hole. "With my hands, I can make ultra sonic sound waves! You stand no chance!" And as Zaku said this, Shino moved swiftly and quickly. So fast that Zaku didn't know what hit him. In an insant, Shino was behind the boy's back, with his little army of bugs trailing around him.

Zaku growled, then released the engergy in his arms. (I don't know what happens!!!! @.@) But, nothing came. there was no attack, only this eerie silence before, BOOM! Zaku was sent crashing to the floor with smalll holes in his arms.

"While you chated on, I put bugs inside of your arms. They cloged up you sound, making the pressure squeeze out through your arms." Shino said softly.

"Shino wins." The proctor said. Shino left he stage and joined his team while the medical Ninjas carried Zaku out on a stretcher.

Everyone was silent as Shino walked past them all. No one spole to him, or congratulated him. They were all too stunned to do anything.

"That... Was creepy." Kankuro commented.

"... Ew." Was all Temari had to say.

"That's Shino for ya!" Ennaka sighed tiredly, "I hope it's my match soon. Or else I just might sleep through the whole thing."

"Who do you want to fight?" Baki asked her.

"I would like to kick the crap outta Neji to show that @\$\$-tard who's top dog around here!" Ennaka hissed, "That guy really gets on my nerves. What about you Temari, Kankuro? Who would you like to fight?" She asked, turning her head to them.

"I don't know. someone who isn't hard, yet not too easy." Temari replied thoughtfully.

"I don't care, as long as I get to hurt something." Kankuro growled.

"Who knows, you might fight me, Kankuro." Ennaka laughed, "I'll kick your @\$\$ in two seconds flat!"

"You would not!" Kankuro argued.

"Would to!" Ennaka returned.

Just then, the computer began to roll names again. Everyone fell silent and watched as the names began to slow, until it landed on Kankuro and some other guy that Ennaka remembered to be on Kabuto's "Team".

"HA! I don't have to fight you!" Kankuro roared at her in laughter.

" What, were you scared that you would have to?" Ennaka sneered.

"No!" Kankuro shouted, "But watch me kick @\$\$!" He swung down and landed squarely on the battlefeild. The other person did too and the proctor looked at them both before saying, "Let the match begin!"

68 - Kankuro Vs. Stretchy Dude

The other kid faced Kankuro wearing the same purple uniform that each team member seemed to wear. Ennaka smirked as Kankuro got ready to begin. And then, she thought a smug thing to say.

"Don't break a nail Kankuro! It might just kill you!" She shouted down to him. He turned and glared at her then replied grudgingly, "Yeah, and I'll laugh when you pass out before your match begins!"

"Better watch out Doll Boy! I might decide to come down there and beat you up myself!" She growled.

"I'd like to see you try!" He hissed.

"And, let the match begin." Hayate, (coughy dude) said.

Kankuro turned to his opponent instantly forgetting Ennaka's rude remarks and decided, if he could show her how strong he was, then maybe she'd show a bit more respect for him. She knew he couldn't stand little brats like herself. Smirking, he said to the guy, "Let me do you a favor and end this battle quickly..."

"You can't end it if I end it first!" The boy shouted before charging at Kankuro. He was caught off guard at the sudden assault and in a flash, the other guy had him in a fix. Somehow, his arms had twisted and turned in an inhuman way, grasping Kankuro in a headlock. He had dropped the sack where he kept his puppets to the ground, and grasped his hands on the attacker's arm. "You talk big for such a rat! All I have to do right now is tighten my grip to break your neck and you'll be dead." The man hissed. In the background, he heard Ennaka laughing.

"Is that all? That was pathetic! I breathed and it was over!" She said. But there was something different about her voice this time, "I expected more from you, Kankuro."

Kankuro blinked in surprise. In her own little way, she was urging him to go on. She was encouraging him! Maybe not in the nicest way, but, still... And he knew that he wasn't at his limit. His show hadn't even begun!

"You can talk all you want, worm, I ain't givin' up."

"This is your last chance, rat. Give up or die!"

"Over my dead body!" Kankuro growled.

There was a crack, and everyone grew silent. His head went limp, and the opponent muttered, "Oops, looks like I lost my temper, oh well."

"D-did... Did he break his neck?" Naruto asked with wonder.

There was murmuring. Ennaka was breathing heavily wondering if that was all from the big shot, Kankuro. Was that it? No... Kankuro wouldn't let himself be beaten so easily... would he?

"Heheh..." There was a faint whisper from below. Kabuto's teammate gasped, "What?!"

Kankuro's face began to peel away, making little shards of the paint and sand fall to the ground. The head made a three-hundred and sixty degree turn so that he was face-to-face with his opponet, "It's my turn now!" He said smugly.

The wrappings on his case began to move, and black-gloved hands appeared, struggling out of the case. They flew off, and out jumped Kankuro, alive and well. The other him, tore off the clothes to reveal his puppet Crow, who was tightly grabbing the other guy.

"You were careless." Kankuro commented, moving his fingers in an array of patterns. The puppet began to tighten it's grip. With it's several arms connecting in a circle. The guy screamed in agony, "Ah! I give up! I give up, I give up!!!!"

"Too late. I'll break everything but your neck." Kakuro said with a grin. he spun around and clenched his hands into fists, as the invisable chakra flow directed the puppet to make a a loud crack as he let go of the stretchy dude. He lay limp on the floor without a stir, and the Medical Ninjas rushed over.

"Kankuro wins." Hayate proclaimed.

Kankuro smiled and went back up to Ennaka. Who crossed her arms and wore a frown, "You just lucked out..." She growled. Then she smirked, "And I'm glad you did. One day... I want to fight you..." She said thoughtfully, "That was a pretty neat trick. At first, I thought he really broke your neck."

"Did you really underestimate me and think I couldn't handle such a whimp?" Kankuro asked giving her "the eye".

"Yeah. Actually, yes. Yes I did." She smiled.

"Why you little brat! I gonna sio crush you when this is over!"

"I don't think so. I'll crush you first before you even touch me!"

"Will not!"

"Will too!"

"Nuh-uh!"

"Ya-huh!"

Temari groaned as they began sticking their tounge at each other trying to out do each other in a battle of insults. She swore she saw an electric current pass between their eyes. Man, sometimes, they could be so immature. But Ennaka was still a kid, that really didn't matter. But Kankuro? ... Oh wait,

Kankuro was only three. She forgot about that. Well, he acted as if he was three...

Ennaka was so involved with teasing Kankuro, she didn't look to see who was fighting next as the next fighters took the stage. When she did realize that the next match was about to begin, she asked frantically, "What the next match?! Who's in the next round, who, who, who!?"

"Sakura Haruno, and Ino Yamanaka..." Temari said with a sigh.

"Oh... That's depressing. Y'know what, this match is going to suck, so I'm going to leave and take a break until the next match..." Ennaka declared, "Anyone want to come with me?"

"Nah, I'm good. I don't want to catch your stupid." Kankuro mumbled.

"I'd rather watch the cat-fight." Temari said with a smirk, "Watching two dogs go at each other might be entertaining!"

"Gaara? What about you?" Ennaka asked.

Gaara remained silent. Ennaka growled to herself and entered his mind, forcing her way past his conscious barrier. *"Gaara, you wanna come or not?"*

"Does it look like I'm in the mood?"

"Meh, that's kinda hard to tell since you're the most unemotional person I've ever met."

".... I'm not sure if that was a compliment or not, but to answer your question.... NO!"

Ennaka covered her ears as it was a loud remark. *"Okay, okay! You don't have to yell... I'm right here."*

"Exactly. Now get out of my head before I tear off your limbs, dip them in gizzard and beef tongue, and roast them over a bonk fire and make you watch me feed it to Kankuro."

"That actually might be fun to watch if it wasn't my limbs..."

"GET OUT!" Gaara roared.

"Going!!!" Ennaka squealed and left. She told the person guarding the exit where she was going, and made her way up to the infirmary where she saw Sasuke, Zaku, the stretchy dude and Gyoumaru. She first stopped by Sasuke who seemed to be awake, and panting.

"Hey there, Sasuke." She said, with her Itachi meter going under control.

"What do you want?" He asked rudely.

"I thought you would be glad to have some company from your family while you healed. But if I told you that, I would be lying, and lying is against the code of the Bible."

"Bible-shmible." Sasuke muttered, "Well, if you're not here for me, why are you here?"

"I'm here to see my teammate and to check on his welfare."

"Tch. Why do you care about him so much? If I were you, I think of him as a nuisance." Sasuke said looking away.

"Well, not only did he save my life, he could teach me things. Things that could possibly help us achieve our goal."

"You have my attention." Sasuke commented swinging his head back in Ennaka's direction.

"The only way we can beat Itachi is if we work together. And frankly, you aren't very good with teamwork. Gyou and Tetsu are twins and their whole attack pattern relies on teamwork. If we can learn from them... We might take a step closer to getting to Itachi. Besides, we're just kids. There's nothing we can do about it now except train."

"You may be right. But when that time comes... I want to end the killing blow."

"Fine. You may. But when it is my turn to kill my most hated, I shall end his life."

"Oh? Who is this 'most hated'?"

"... Pein." Ennaka spat.

"Pain?" Sasuke questioned.

"Yes, he controls Itachi in his own little way."

"Then I will help you with that as well."

"Good. It will be sweet revenge for us both. I wish I could say I wanted to eliminate the whole organization he runs... But..."

"But what?" Sasuke questioned.

"It's nothing..." Ennaka assured. But in reality, she wished she could bring out what she was going to say. But she couldn't. They could arrest her for the information she held so close to her like a mother to child.

"I could never bring myself to hurt Sasori, Konan... Possibly Kisame and Deidara, but never Sasori and Konan. After what they've done for me... I'd never hurt them. But it was in the way of killing Pein... I just might have to. God forbid that day ever come... God forbid." Ennaka thought deeply. It was true. She could never bring herself to hurt them. She had grown too attached to them. She knew it would tear her in two if she was forced to fight them. And what really made her skin crawl was that Sasori was the one who was to capture Gaara's demon. She made a promise to Gaara that she would protect them from

those people at the cost of her life. She had already broke a promise to him. She wasn't about break anotehr one!

69 - He Lives!

After her little chat with Sasuke, Ennaka made her way over to Gyoumaru who was breathing heavily, with sweat sliding down his face. His blue headwrap had been removed, and without it, he looked exactly like his brother. A white washcloth was applied to his forehead to keep his temperature under control.

Ennaka sighed and sat on the side of his bed, resting her chin on her fists. Why couldn't he just wake up? This was scaring her more than anything. They had been through a lot. Fighting the Rain Ninja, breaking the dam, traveling back to Suna, saving Hachuu, traveling back, taking the first half of the Chunin Exam. It seemed hard to let him go if he was going.

Something grabbed her arm and a voice shouted to her surprise, "Gotcha!" She jumped in surprise with a squeal.

Spinning her head to the body connected to the hand, she saw Gyoumaru, eyes still shut, with a smirk drawn across his face. She blinked for a few moments to make sure she was seeing things correctly. But all became clear when Gyoumaru opened his eyes still wearing his grin. "I thought I'd never get to do that!"

"... G-Gyou... Maru? You're... Okay?" She stuttered, trying to take all of this in at once.

"Of course I'm okay!" He laughed, "That pervert wasn't going to kill me with a small sting like that!"

Ennaka rolled her eyes then frowned in annoyance. Looking down at him she asked, "How long have you been awake?"

"Eh, a couple hours." He said.

"That means you were awake when I was talking to Sasuke, right?"

"Uh-huh."

Ennaka nodded and became silent for a moment before turning and hitting him on the head.

"Owch! What was that for!?" He asked rubbing his head.

"That was for scaring me." She said then hit him again, "That was for worrying me to death!"

"Sorry!" He groaned.

"Too late for apology!" Ennaka sniffed.

"... What about forgiveness?" Gyoumaru asked.

"You're starting to catch Tetsu's funny... Yes, I forgive you." Ennaka sighed. "Now that you're awake, can you take part in the rest of the Chunin Exams?"

"Nope. The doctors say I have to stay in the hospital. Even after this. They would transport me now, but with Orochimaru's gang on the loose, they wouldn't dare." Gyoumaru explained.

"Tetsu's gonna be happy you're awake. I can't wait to tell him." Ennaka said.

"Hey, did your round go okay?" he asked her.

"What do you mean my round? Oh! You mean for the Third Task! I haven't gotten to my round yet." She replied.

"Huh. Well, I wish you luck when it does happen."

"Thanks." Ennaka smiled then got up off the bed and said, "Well, I'm gonna go back down. Don't die on us, ya' hear?"

"I won't." Gyoumaru giggled.

"Good. At least I can relax. Standing next to Gaara makes me nervous already!"

"You're standing next to Gaara? Why?" He asked.

".... When we were much younger... I made a promise to him. I told him I was going to come back to Suna and protect him... I wish I could say I kept that promise."

"You... Feel pretty bad about that... Don't you?" Gyoumaru commented.

"No, I happy about it." Ennaka said sarcasticly. "Anyway, After I left him... I feared to return out of my phobia of my past. When our paths did cross again, he was different. I don't what happened to him. But I'm determined to get him back to his old self."

"Well... Good luck."

"Yeah, see ya."

"Bye."

And wwith that, Ennaka returned down to the arena just intime to see Sakura and Ino punch each other, knocking both of them out.

70 - An Unknown Plot

Ennaka cocked her head with confusement. Sakura and Ino were actually *fighting*?! That was a first! Usually those two were major wusses who would cry over a broken nail. Ennaka rolled her eyes; That punch wasn't even that hard, yet they fell unconscious. Weaklings!!!! As Kankuro would say.

Ennaka clambered up the right staircase where Pyro sensei and Tetsu were standing. She greeted them with a curt nod, as Sakura and Ino were taken to safety by their sensei's. Ennaka gripped the rusty hand rail, taking her place next to Tetsu, saying cheerfully, "Y'know, Tetsu, Gyoumaru's awake." He turned to her, atonished, and blinked for a couple seconds before Pyro sensei asked, "Excuse me?"

"Gyou's alive, awake, and well on the way to recovery." Ennaka repeated, grinning.

"Ya' mean, the little squirt's not gonna die? Kaiyou's not gonna kill me?! WOHHOOO!!!" Kemuri shouted, his whole voice echoing around the arena. People began to stare blankly at him, growling their disapproval of his noise. "I can't believe it!" He continued, "I'll be able to go home to tell Kaiyou that his lil' sports aren't dead! Oh I knew I wasn't gonna die!"

"Sensei, He's still not able to do the rest of the Exam." Ennaka proclaimed the bad news. Tetsu sighed in disappointment and gazed at the ground, "He's going to be okay though. At least rejoice that he's alive." Ennaka told them.

"Oh I'm rejoicing all right! YIPPEEE!!!" Kemuri began to dance in circles, ignoring Kakashi's glares of protest.

Ennaka stared at him, appalled to call him her sensei, then said, "Yeah, now that I've been the angel that's delivered the Good News, I'm gonna go back to Nii-san- I mean Temari."

"Whatever, man." Tetsu snorted. "Just don't get in trouble, ya' hear?"

"What are you now, my mother?" Ennaka replied, "I know how to deal with Gaara, don't worry about it." she said rolling her eyes.

"You know better than we do." Tetsu commented.

Ennaka left the conversation at that and descended down the staircase to the other side, in just enough time to see the names rolling on the computer again. As she past the sensei of the Sound Ninja, Ennaka couldn't help but stare at him for a few moments. Something about him just tweaked her memory. And it hit her. "Orochimaru..." She hissed with rage, resisting the urge to fling herself into battle. "I thought I saw the last of you in the Forest of Death..." she said quietly.

"... You're of the clever sort, aren't we?" He replied, bearing a grin only Orochimaru could give, "You really are Itachi's little shadow."

"I am not Itachi's little shadow!" Ennaka roared, but not loudly. "Why does everyone say that?! What about me makes me 'Itachi's little shadow', hm?!"

"You definantly don't have his temperment. What happened to the quiet little Ennaka I used to know? The one who tormented from the shadows? I've heard many a nicknames for you, you know. Would you like to hear the one Sasori gave you?" Orochimaru said with amusement in his voice.

Ennaka's face softened at the mention of Sasori's name. He really was the only one who understood her hate for Pain and Itachi. Narrowing her eyes to slits, Ennaka hissed, "What did Sasori-senpai call me?"

"The Tormentor." Orochimaru chuckled, "He never stopped talking about you and your hate for Akatsuki. I understand you have the same goal as Sasuke-kun, is that correct?"

"Mind your own buisness, Snake Man." Ennaka retorted, "My goals are of a different perspective than that of Sasuke's."

Orochimaru glared at her for a moment, then said, "If it is of your intrests not to serve me, then mark my words. Your family name will be diminished to nothingness. Sasuke will be mine in a matter of terms." Orochimaru said coolly, "You will either pity your kin and come to me, or he will hunt you down and kill you under my command. This time, there will be no Itachi, or Sasori to protect you."

"In your dreams. Sasuke will never join you." Ennaka grunted. "I don't know why your here, or what your planning... But whatever it is, I'll find a way to stop it. But now, I believe I'll enjoy the rest of the Chunin Exams." Ennaka left, not waiting for his reply and returned to Temari and Gaara. She ignored and passed Kankuro without a comment.

"Who were you talking too?" Temari asked.

"Eh, some weirdo who thinks he's all that." Ennaka shrugged.

Then, the computer stopped on two names: Temari vs. TenTen. They gazed at the screen for a moment, before Ennaka looked at her Sisterly model. "Looks like I'm up!" Temari smirked. Ennaka watched her jump down to the battle feild, still wearing her threatening smile.

"If there's one thing for sure about Temari, she really knows how to intimidate her foes!" Kankuro murmured.

71 - Nii-san Vs. Need more Screen Time

Ennaka watched Temari smirk threateningly at TenTen. Indeed, Temari did know how to make her opponents feel tiny. That gaze she gave... it made her shiver. Soon, she would see her Nii-san in action. What technique had she learned since Ennaka's departure? She couldn't even start to imagine. Temari had always been a good fighter with a sharp tongue. She could talk her enemies till they felt smaller than an ant, crumbling under her murderous eyes.

She better win... Ennaka thought, *It'll be a pleasure to see her move up to Chunin. But am I ready?* Ennaka gritted her teeth. She wondered if she actually was ready... And what about the poison Orochimaru gave her? Was that going to effect her? Who was she going to face anyway? And when?!

"And... Let the match begin." Hayate said with a small cough. He stepped back to get out of the girls' way.

"GO TENTEN!" Lee screamed, "YOU CAN DO IT TENTEN, SEND THAT GIRL BACK HOME ON A STRETCHER!"

"You have the power of youth with you!" Gai exclaimed in unison with his pupil's obnoxious shouting. Naruto covered his ears and glared at them while Shikamaru just yawned.

TenTen stood there looking at the distance between her and Temari. She leapt back a few paces and measured her distance again. Temari frowned in disappointment. She was expecting a fight right away! But instead, this girl was taking her sweet, little, old time. She seemed to want her to strike first, Temari grinned and crossed her arms, "I'm not going to attack first if that's what you want."

TenTen narrowed her eyes and took her stance. Hayate looked at both of them confused and said hesitantly, "What's the matter? I said you could begin."

Just then, TenTen jumped into the air and threw four mini shuriken at Temari. There wasn't time to see what happened. Ennaka had blinked and she saw that the weapons had landed a few feet away from the older girl who continued to smile, "You missed. Is your aim that terrible? Or are you just so nervous it messed up your shot?"

"Heh, you can always count on Temari to put on a good show." Kankuro said.

"Hmph, big deal..." Gaara grumbled.

Ennaka looked at them back to the match, hiding her own comments.

"Man this is embarrassing..." Shikamaru said with a yawn, "Sand wins again."

"Huh?! What are you talking about? The match just started!" Naruto protested.

"It's obvious. The match is over." Shikamaru said.

"Oh yeah?! Well what makes you so smart, huh? Why don't explain it to me?" Naruto retorted.

"Nah, It'll be too troublesome. If you can't see it I won't waste my breath." Shikamaru said not turning to the hyper blonde.

"Shikamaru's right, y'know. This match is over." Chouji said.

TenTen looked at her shocked and moved her gaze to the shuriken. *How could I miss?! She asked herself in frustration. She's trying to get me to feel unsure of myself...* TenTen observed. *What do I do? Hm... Looks like I'll have to use "that" move.* She confirmed. Reaching her hand into her hip pack, she grabbed a small, colorful scroll. She ran in a circle around Temari then unlatched the scroll, jumping into the air, spinning the parchment around her. Puffs of bleach white smoke appeared as the scroll began to summon multiple sharp metal objects. TenTen gripped them and hurtled them at Temari who, by this time, had gotten out her huge fan. As the weapons were heading toward her, she opened it a little to reveal one purple circle design on it. She swung it at the approaching objects, and their paths scattered. TenTen's target had, again, missed.

This isn't working! She thought in panic, *nothing I do is effective!*

"Take a good look. This is the first moon. There's two more like it. When you see all three moons," Temari explained, "you'll know that you've lost the match." She said, wiping her grin off, replacing it with a serious face who was about to get down to business.

TenTen growled to herself in frustration and confusion. This girl wasn't messing around. But she seemed so relaxed, it made her skin crawl!

TenTen saw no other option. It was time to use her best move. She was saving it for the real matches, but she saw no other way to defeat her opponent. Once again, TenTen reached into her pack and pulled out two scrolls. Placing one on either side of her, she began to move her hand in hand signs. "Rising Twin Dragons!" TenTen exclaimed. A huge blast of Summoning smoke appeared, buffeting Temari and everyone else. More weapons appeared and TenTen thrust them once more to Temari. Temari grunted and opened her fan a bit more to show the two moons. She swung the massive fan and a strong wind blew the objects in all different directions... Again. Temari grunted in disappointment. TenTen gasped. All three of these "moons" were present. Temari smirked and swung the fan around her. In a moment's notice... She vanished.

TenTen descended to the ground in confusion. Where did she go? Looking around frantically, TenTen heard a voice call out from behind her, "Over here!" Turning around, she saw Temari gliding through the air above her on her fan... All three moons exposed. Temari glided over to her original spot gracefully, then faced TenTen. She held her smirk, with TenTen too confused to think.

"Ninja art! Wind Scythe Jutsu!" Temari shouted as she swung her fan. TenTen was trapped in the gale, unable to react in time.

"TenTen!" Lee shouted.

"She put up a good fight..." Neji said solemnly, "But she'll never escape from that wind. Temari's chakra is controlling the wind. It's over."

TenTen's mouth was open in a soundless cry, as the wind began to slice into her body, making cuts appear on her body. The gale subsided and TenTen began to fall. Temari held out her now closed fan, and TenTen landed backfirst on it.

"... Woah... That girl's pretty ruthless..." Naruto said slowly.

"Humph... That wasn't much of a match. Pretty boring." Temari sighed.

Hayate stepped forward, "Winner of the fifth match, Temari."

72 - Sleepy Bells! Shika Vs. Kin!

"Wow Nii-san! You were amazing!" Ennaka said as Temari came back up to her spot, " I don't know what Baki-sensei taught you, but man, that was great!"

"It wasn't that hard." Temari boasted, "All she did was throw weapons at me and I threw them right back at her."

"You have a pretty good strategy. Mines pretty random. I see what I need and I use it." Ennaka muttered, feeling inferior to the Sand Ninjas. "All I do is summon, stab, dodge."

"We'll see how well your randomness goes when it's your match." Baki said with a smirk.

"Depends who I'm fighting..." Ennaka said, glaring at Neji. "If it's Neji, I won't hold back and you'll see me at the extent of my powers."

"Well, I'm confident you'll lose!" Kankuro said.

"If I lose, it'll be because I'm fighting Gaara! I bet I can take on whoever I'm put up against; besides *him*." Ennaka hissed pointing at her "friend".

"Tch, whatever." Kankuro grumbled.

The names began rolling on the screen again. Ennaka felt sweat bad down her forehead. Was she next? The names slowed until they came on a stop on Shikamaru Nara and some Sound ninja named Kin, or something like that. Ennaka slumped her shoulders in dissatisfaction. When was it going to be her turn!? Any more of this and she might decide not to fight at all!

"Next match. Shikamaru Nara Vs. Tsuchi Kin." Hayate proclaimed.

Shikamaru jumped down and said lazily, "Me, huh? Whatever."

"You can do it Shikamaru! Don't lose! Show us you're a man!" Ino shouted, for she and Sakura had been awake for some time now.

"Yeah, yeah..." He yawned.

"Beat the other guy up with a six-teen hit combo!" She kept ranting, to Shika's displeasure. Ennaka could see why he didn't like women.

Ino's gotten more energetic... Chouji thought, glancing at his teammate in annoyance. Though his face portrayed no such feelings.

From next to her, Ennaka saw one of the Sound Ninja get ready to fight. She had really long, dark

brown hair that was tied in a purple bow near the end. Ennaka thought it looked retarded to have a bow in your hair. Gross. One of her teammates murmured to her, "He uses the Shadows... Be wary of the shadows."

She smirked and closed her eyes in amusement, "I won't fall for that stupid technique." Kin jumped over the rail to face her opponet. Ennaka glared at the Sound Ninja in suspition. What were they up to? And how did they know about Shikamaru's only stradegey? Furrowing her brow, Ennaka decided it'd be best if she found out and learned a bit more about these Sound Ninja...

"I'll be back." She hissed to her Sand Ninja buddies. They looked at her confused, but didn't protest as she began to inch her way nearer to the Sound Ninja. In the background she heard Ino shouting encouraginy to Shikamaru. He didn't look too thrilled.

"Sixth match, Shikamaru vs. Kin." The proctor repeated, "Begin!"

"I'll end it quickly." Kin snickered.

"This..." Shikamri began but was interrupted by Kin.

"You can only use one thing like an idiot?"

Shikamaru glared at her then exclaimed, "Shut up!" He returned to his calm position and said, "Shadow Possesion Jutsu!"

"As long as I see the direction of which your technique is going, I have nothing to fear." Kin replied with a side jump, throwing two needle-like objects called senbons, at Shikamaru. Both had a bell tied on the end of it. Shikamaru ducked and let the needles soar over his head, planting themselves on the opposite wall behind him.

"Bells?" He murmured. "Heh! That sure is a classic trick." He said standing up. "Next, you're going to throw a senbon with a bell and one without a bell at the same time. If I react to the one with he bell, I won't notice the silent senbon. Right?"

"You talk too much!" Kin said charging, and throwing another two senbons.

Shikamru dodged them all, not moving from his spot. But suddenly, a faint ringing hit is ears. The bells had rung, but something wasn'r right about the sound. It made his head feel fuzzy. "What?!" he asked confused, "Behind?!" He looked behind at the two senbons puntcuring the wall. They began to quiver, ringing their high-pitched ring. At closer inspection, Shika noticed a faint string, tied to both, leading straight to Kin's hand. She tugs on them, still wearing her smirk of pleasure.

"Aw man!" Shika maoned as Kin threw a few senbons at him. Two hit his shoulder. Shikamaru skidded back from the inpact, tripping over himself, landing to the ground.

"Shikamaru!" Ino exclaimed.

"He got hit directly." Naruto obsevered.

"No, look closely!" Sakura corrected him.

Shika staggered to stand and plucked the needles out of his skin, "I dodged a fatal hit." He said. "Now it's my turn!"

"I won't let you." Kin said, still clutching the strings. She tugged them once more, and their ringing filled his ears.

"W-whats going on!?" He asked himself aloud. he collapsed to his knees, feeling her trick begin it's magic.

Kin laughed and hissed, "Those who listen to the sound of the bells becaome like that. The sound from this special bell works it's way through the eardrum up to the brain. Soon, you'll start illusioning things."

"Hey!" Ennaka growled, "I'm the only one here allowed to use illusions! Plagerist!"

Kin had heard her, and turned her head to see who was shouting, "Keep your mouth shut brat. I'm explaining something important!"

"Less explaining, more fighting!" Ennaka shouted down to her. This kid was really pissing her off.

Shikamaru tried to cover his ears to stop the sound, but it was to no avail. Once that sound reached his ears, it stayed there. He looked up, Kin began to multiply into twenty copies. Of course nobody else saw that.

"Tch, you Sound Ninja are so cheap." Ennaka said loud enough for the other Sound Ninja to hear. He glared at her and said threateningly, "Say that to my face, punk!"

"Fine. You Sound Ninja are cheapos." She repeated, this time facing him, glaring at him defiantly. "There, I said it again, whatcha gonna' do about it, hm?"

"Why you little dog! I should kill you right now!"

"Maybe you should. But let me warn you, I'm famous 'round these parts. I've earned so many titles, it'll know your ears off listening to 'em all!"

"You little brat! You talk too much! And why are you hanging out with these Sand Ninja, anyway?! Your headband clearly states that you're a Konoha Ninja! Shouldn't you be over there with them, or are you too disgraced and embarressed about all the weaklings in your village?" He hissed.

"No, that's not it." Ennaka replied thoughtfully, " I... owe a debt to them. In anycase, It's none of your buisness!"

He growled, and stared at her for a few more moments before narrowing his eyes and turning away from her.

"You can't move at all!" Kin laughed, her voice echoing around the room. You don't even know where to stretch your own shadow!" She smirked and held up her hand which held three needles. "Now, I'll tenderize you slowly."

"She's underestimating me..." Shika said to himself, clenching his teeth.

Kin smiled and threw her senbons. Shikamaru held up his arms to block the attack from his face. They gave him sharp pain, sending chills through his body. "Now, I'll throw five. And after that, seven!" Kin sneered. "Soon, You'll look like a hedgehog!" Shikamaru glared at her, holding his hand on his shoulder. "You deceitful wench!" He called to her. "You said you would end the match quickly!"

"I see you're not a fan of my slow and painful method..." She sighed, "Then I'll finish you off with this." She held up her hand once more to show three more senbons. "It's the end!" Kin smirked, but suddenly, her smile faded and was replaced by confusion. "What? I can't move my arm!"

Ennaka laughed and turned to Kin's teammate (which she learned his name to be Dosu), "What was that about my village being weaklings? I've known Shika for a while and it's just like him to pull off a trick like this! Your little buddy stands no chance against that kid! Even I have fallen victim to his technique!"

Dosu looked from her to Kin, gaping in confusion.

Shikamaru sighed and stood up saying, "my Shadow possession Jutsu finally succeeded."

"What are you talking about, you didn't cast any Shadow Jutsu!" Kin exclaimed

Shikamaru sneered and said, "You still don't see it? Just as you assumed, stupid. There's no string that can cast a shadow at that height." He explained as Kin glanced at her useless weapon. "I just stretched and shrunk my shadow." Shikamaru proclaimed as the Shadow began to expand so that it was a thick black blotch on the ground.

"but what are you going to do with it?" Kin asked, "How can you win with this?" She asked, confident he didn't have a plan.

"Just watch, would ya'?" Shikamaru said with a yawn. He reached into his pack and drew out a mini shuriken. Kin gasped and stared at him, "Are you stupid? If you attack me like that, you'll get hurt too!"

"I know." Shikamaru said, still smiling, getting ready to throw his weapon.

"You're not planning to..." Kin protested.

"We're going to stab each other with our shuriken now. How long will we last?" he said throwing the item.

"You're insane!" Kin screeched as she mirrored his action.

The objects hurtle past each other and everyone seemed held in suspense. Then, at the last minute, Shikamaru ducked to avoid it. Kin sighed in relief and thought, *Okay, he was just bluffing. I'll duck too!* But just as she thought that, she ducked and hit her head on the wall behind her, rendering Kin

unconscious.

Shikamaru laughed, "A good ninja would study the landscape before they fought! I just had to keep her attention on me and not the wall inches behind her head!"

"Winner of the match, Shikamaru Nara." Hayate said, coughing a little.

"Way to go Shikamaru!" Ino cheered.

Ennaka closed her eyes and smiled to herself. At least all the the Sound Ninja had lost their matches between Konoha. Zaku lost against Sasuke, and now Kin lost against Shika. All that was left... Ennaka turned her head to Dosu who was still dumbfounded over her loss. *Dosu*. She thought. *If we can win against Dosu... Orochimaru might think twice before messing with Konoha.*

Shikamaru left the match and returned to his team, while the computer began pairing the next Genin. Ennaka sighed and leaned on the wall, closing her eyes. She knew she wasn't going to be going for a while. So why not take a nap? If Gaara were to fight next, she knew that the outcome would be his opponent's death. If Tetsu was next, she might watch...

What was this feeling she had? The feeling where everyone's watching you? Ennaka opened her eyes slightly. Oh... That's why. Every eye was fixed on her. She looked at the computer screen and gasped. Written on it was: Ennaka Vs. Tetsu.

73 - Huh, Wait... What?!

Ennaka looked at everyone. even Gaara seemed to be intrigued with the situation. *But... that can't happen. We're on the same team!* Ennaka thought, glancing at the Hokage to see if he would agree with her thoughts. He just looked at her with a serious expression and nodded.

"Lord Hokage, you can't do that! They're on the same team!" Anko protested.

"Actually, they're not." The old man said, "We have not proven that Kaiyou's dead, therefore making the Kyougi's a seprate team from Ennaka. She's still eligable to fight him."

"I still say this is wrong... But you're the judge here and I won't complain."

"Next match...." Hayate called, "Ennaka Vs. Tetsu. Take your places."

Ennaka glanced around then slowly jumped over the rail. Tetsu did the same, a bit more slowly. They stood facing each other, both with regret in their eyes. *I never wanted this...* Ennaka whined within herself. She bit her lip, nervous and worried. But she knew that she had to fight if she wanted to be a Chunin.

Her stradeegy came quickly to her and she relaxed her shoulders, confident her plan would work.

"Begin." The procter said, steping back.

Tetsu took a fighter's stance, but before any of them attacked, Ennaka sighed and said, "Hey, Tetsu, lets shake hands and make this a fair fight." she offered, sticking out her hand. Tetsu glanced at her hesitantly, watching her hand as if he never saw it before. Looking back at her face, he gave her a half smile and put his hand in hers.

Ennaka's eyes flickered to mischeivous and she gripped his hand tightly. Before Tetsu could figure out what she was going to do, Ennaka tensed her arm and pulled him off the ground, flipping him over her head. As he was coming down to the ground, she struck out with her foot into his back. She was hoping she got his head, to make him unconscious, but she missed her mark.

"Why you little double crossing wrym!" Tetsu hissed as he staggered up from the ground.

"A good Ninja has trust for his or her teammates. You trusted me." Ennaka smirked, "And your faith in me almost got you to lose conscious. You're lucky I missed."

"Alright, you got me that time. I shouldn't take your title lightly. The Deceptionist.... Heh, suits you." Tetsu growled in amusement. 'but no more games! Ninja art, Chameleon Shadow Jutsu!" He cried. Suddenly, Tetsu's body began to fade until he was virtually invisible. Ennaka looked around puzzeled, then said aloud, "You idiot. You forgot one little detail about me! Sharingan!" Ennaka shouted. Both of her eyes became red with the black designs etching in her iris. Scanning the area, she saw the faint outline of

Tetsu to her left. Ennaka bit her thumb and created multiple hand signs before she placed her palm to the ground, "Summoning!"

There was a puff and near her was a small black spirit with several eyes covering its body. She made her eyes go normal and summoned another spirit. It was small and on its stomach was a sad face. The spirit moaned and folded its tiny arms and sat on the ground. Ennaka felt the summoning spirit generating more chakra for her.

Her blood itched. Something was coming.... Ennaka looked at the black spirit with many eyes and followed its gaze to behind her. Spinning around, Ennaka folded her hands again and breathed out several tongues of flames. They flew all around, scorching whatever they touched. There was a yelp and Ennaka saw Tetsu get singed by the fire. But in that moment, he vanished in a puff of smoke, replaced by a rock.

"Ugh... Substitution." Ennaka grumbled. Where did that kid go? She thought glancing around.

"Boo!" she heard a voice call from behind. Turning, she saw Tetsu charging at her. As he got nearer, he lifted his fist and slugged her in the gut. The sudden attack had startled her greatly. So much, that her body felt like it was on fire! As she was hit, her spirits vanished, for she had lost control. Why was he doing this? All this energy was being concentrated in this one spot... Her neck. Ennaka skidded to the ground and stayed there twitching.

"Is that all? C'mon Ennaka I know you can do better." Tetsu taunted.

A growl erupted in her throat... And she felt her rage boil to the brink of spilling. Why did she feel like this?! What was going on!? Glancing at the Sand Ninjas, she saw Kankuro smiling confidently, thinking that she had lost, and Temari was glaring down at her with disapproval. Gaara was even looking more unentertained than usual.

Suddenly, she felt her seal go wild and burn her skin. She shuddered and staggered to her feet, not knowing what was happening. The only thing she knew, was that she was mad, and wanted to spill blood.

Her skin began to change color until she was shaded in a dark maroon. Her hair began to change its shade to silver, and her nails began to extend an inch. Spikes poked out on the back of her hands and three more thrust out on her forehead. Extra skin on her arms and ankles began to harden until she had fins, harder than iron, protruding from her forearms and ankles. She blinked until her eyes agusted to slitted pupils and yellow eyes. She opened her mouth and roared, flashing her fangs.

Tetsu took a step back, not knowing what was happening. Ennaka wiped the blood from her mouth and placed her palm on the ground once more to summon the Three Lizard Samurai Trio. They growled and snapped, saliva dripping from their mouths.

"... Get him." Ennaka hissed. They squealed in glee, and charged at Tetsu. But before they reached him, he faded again. Disappearing into the shadows. "They will smell you out." Ennaka growled, ignoring everyone who looked at her with disdain. Ennaka fell on all fours and barked/hissed while her lizards glanced around the arena.

"What is going on?!" Kakashi asked along with other sensei's. "Kemuri, what is that technique?!" Asuma asked.

But all Kemuri could do was shake his head in disbelief and confusement, muttering, "What is she doing!?"

"What the-?" Kankuro gasped as Ennaka blocked a shuriken thrown by Tetsu. It bounced off her fins with a CLANK! and didn't even dent the surface.

"Oh my God.... What is that?!" Temari said looking down, her eyes blinking in shock.

"... Hn. Nakki's not herself." Gaara hissed. "Something is terribly wrong with her."

74 - Dragon Girl

Gyoumaru sighed as he sat in the bed with blank white sheets. Sitting here was so boring knowing what action was going on below him. Suddenly, one of the medics came in the room, carrying a T.V. Gyoumaru stared in confusement as he began to set it up on a counter right in front of the patients. Sasuke stirred from his sleep to figure out what all the noise was.

"Whats all this about?" Sasuke muttered.

The medical Ninja did not reply, but kept at his work until he turned on the machine to show a battle taking place. Finally, he turned to them and smiled, "Lord Hokage asked me to set up a moniter for you guys so you could watch the matches."

"Who's fighting now?" Sasuke asked, glancing to Gyou.

The Ninja was slow to respond and gazed at the ground sheepishly, "Ennaka and Tetsu..." He murmured.

"What?!" Gyoumaru blasted, "But- but-" He began to stutter, but his babbling was cut off by the medic, "I know what you're thinking... and acutaully, until we figure out if your sensei'd alive, you guys are considered seprate teams."

Gyoumaru slumped back against his pillow, unable to take his eyes off the screen. Ennaka had pulled a fast move on Tetsu, flinging him in the air and kicking his back. It would be just like her to trick him like that. Then, Tetsu was using his Chameleon Shadow Jutsu. That's when things began to stir...

Ennaka seemed to be going nuts! She had this look in her eyes that made him remember someone... But who? Instead f looking at the battle, Gyoumaru began to glance at the background. He had a pretty good veiw of the Sound Ninja and the Sand Ninjas as well.... Gyoumaru stared at the Sand Ninjas for moments... Why? Who did Ennaka's eyes remind him of?

.... Gaara! It was Gaara's eyes that had the same murderous rage that Ennaka had. Gyoumaru looked at Sasuke, who was intent on the battle. "Sasuke..." He began, "Ennaka, what do you know about her past?"

"... Not alot." Sasuke replied confidently, "I only know that she, like me, is one of the sole survivors of Uchiha... I've never met her until I graduated from the Academy..."

"Huh, not in your childhood or anything?" Gyoumaru questioned.

"No."

The Seeker sighed in defeat and returned his eyes to the T.V. screen. What was going on there?! Ennaka was like, transforming or something! She began to grow fins, horns, spikes along her spine and

everything! Gyoumaru almost lept out of his skin... That was the form she was in when he saved her from Orochimaru!

"Someone's gotta stop her!" Gyoumaru shouted, "Thats... Not exactly a good thing!"

"What?" Sasuke asked, not really suprised about the form, "What's wrong with her?"

"... It's a result of what orochimaru did to her! She's in great pain right now, and if she keeps it up, she's gonna kill everyone there!" Gyoumaru gasped. "We need to stop the battle!"

* * *

After a while of having the Samurai trio attack Tetsu, and miserably failing to hurt him, Ennaka let them retreat. She'll have to summon someting else... or try a different approach... What if she did "that cursed move".... The one that she had learned along her travels that she swore not to use again...? Hmph, it was worth it. And it was bond to win the match.

Focusing her chakra evenly around her entire body, Ennaka focused on the form she wished to take... "... Transformation Jutsu...." She hissed.

From above, she heard Kankuro mutter, "What's a tranformation going to help her do?"

There was a huge blinding smoke, making everyone sputter and cough. When it cleared, where Ennaka once stood, was a huge lizard. It was as big as a tiger! On it's back, they noticed wings folded neatly on it's sides. The bownish scales complimented the even darker brown shades along the spine, which was alined with small, spikes, the color of ivory. Bone horns poked out of it's head and deadly sharp teeth showed themselves as the beast let out a deafening roar. Frills were placed on it's snout, neck and along parts of the back.

"Oh, God... Is that a-?" Temari began to say.

"It's a Dragon...." Gaara rasped like two stones grinding on each other.

The dragon snorted with plumes of smoke escaping it's nostrils. It gave a hiss, snarling and flicking out it's tounge. "You can't hide anymore..." It growled. They found it hard to believe that Ennaka had actually transformed into a dragon... But she had. "My eyes are sharp, had my hearing is increased... and if my senses fail, I'll just huff and puff and burn the whole place down."

It's yellow eyes flickered with rage and the beast raised it's slender neck, swinging it's small head around to find sight of the dissapearing Tetsu. Suddenly, Ennaka lunged her neck forward and grabbed something. Tetsu's trick faded and he was dangling by his hood, trapped in the monster's grasp.

"Aw, c'mon Ennaka... Aren't you taking this a little to harshly?!" Tetsu asked, strugling to get free.

She ignored him and sat on her haunches, grabbing the boy with her forearms. She glared at him from slitted pupils and thrusted him in the air. He grunted as gravity began to pull him back to the ground. At that point, Ennaka spread her new leathery wings and flew up in the air, catching him with her back legs.

She tossed him around again, this time slapping him in the back with her whip-like tail, sending him crashing to the ground. She dove towards him, and inhaled, feeling her lungs swell with fire, and exhaled the inferno upon Tetsu.

He jumped out of the way and unlatched his leg pack to grab a few mini shuriken. He threw them at her, and they pierced her wings, making her flying clumsy and awkward. "Stupid kid!" she roared. She descended quickly, hissing in total madness.

Tetsu jumped on her back and held on for dear life as she began to buck and bellow in protest. While she focused on throwing him off, Tetsu stealthily put on a paper bomb tag. He finally lost his grip and fell off her back, almost being slapped by her tail. He saw the bomb light, and before they knew it, KA-BOOM! The tag exploded.

Ennaka roared and grunted in pain as there was a sharp sting from the explosion. Finally, she veered around and lunged at her attacker, ready to cleave him in two!

"That's enough!"

She froze, just in time to see a hand inches in front of her snout. Kemuri stood there glaring at her in disgust, and saw Tetsu quivering in fear behind him. She blinked in confusion and her tail twitched in anticipation. Ennaka arched her neck back, and bared her fangs threateningly.

"Ennaka, look at yourself! What are you doing?!" Kemuri scolded, "What are you trying to do, kill him?!"

She gave a savage hiss before her eyes softened in realization. There was a silence before she returned to her normal appearance. "W-what have...?" she said softly, "What happened?"

"Stop! Everyone freeze!" Anko ordered. She jumped down and approached Ennaka, and grabbed her arm. "You... What happened when you saw Orochimaru?!"

Ennaka narrowed her eyes and said, "He bit me."

Anko sniffed, "That's what I feared."

"It has no effect on me." Ennaka bragged, "I have a special seal that prevents Orochimaru from giving me any curse. Or any snake's poison!"

"By the will of Kemuri Kaen," Hayate said, stepping in between Kemuri and Ennaka, "who stepped in for Tetsu, the winner is Ennaka."

75 - What Have I Done?

Ennaka stood there immobilized and panting. She looked at her hands. They were dirty and bruised. From what, she did not know. She shook her head slowly as if to try to fit everything together. Where was she? What happened?

Anko still had her firm in her grasp, her eyes narrowed in anger and confusion.

"What... Have I done?" She whispered softly to herself. What *had* she done?! The only thing she remembered was kicking Tetsu in the back. Everything else was a blur of pain.

The frightened girl looked up at the sand Sibs. They seemed... Concerned. Even Gaara had this different look in his eyes. Was it disgust? Interest? Ambition? She couldn't tell. But something had happened during the match. Her eyes grazed to the Sound Ninja. Orochimaru peered with bloodthirsty eyes down at her, clearly impressed with what she had done and shown. Dosu was staring at her, shaking his head slowly from side to side, blinking as if to make sure what he saw was real.

"What happened?!" Ennaka said hoarsely, "Somebody tell me what's going on!"

"Come with me," Anko ordered, "We have... Questions for you." She hissed with her brown eyes narrowing to slits.

Ennaka was shoved along, surrounded by other Konoha shinobi. It made her feel very uncomfortable with these many people guarding her. Where they thinking she was going to make a run for it? Pssh, then they were dead wrong. She didn't even know what they were going to do with her! Somebody really had to tell her what she had done!

"Okay, go in here." Anko said, pushing her in a room. There was a desk and two chairs. Ennaka stood in the bare room. Without much color, it seemed.... Dead. Ennaka hugged herself, surprised by how cold it was. The stone tiled floor seemed to glare at her threateningly.

"... We've been waiting for you." Voices exclaimed behind her. She jumped in surprise and turned to see many people walking in the room. One of them was Pyro Sensei. Another was Ibiki, and Anko was hanging right outside the door.

"What do you want?" She asked coldly.

"We want only your time." Ibiki said, sitting on the desk.

"My time? For what? What's this all about?!" Ennaka asked.

"We need answers from you. Your battle today proved that we need these answers now." Kemuri grunted. Ennaka could tell he was resentful about the matter. Waves of uncertainty clouded her mind as her eye instinctively began to react to the emotions around her. "What do you want from me?!" she

asked loudly, feeling her mind drift to Gaara's conscious. He wouldn't like it but...

"Tell us," Ibiki asked, fishing something from his trench coat, "Who are these people?"

The man held out a sheet of paper. Ennaka took it and reconized it as the test from the First Test. She gulped and flipped it over seeing the sketch she drew of Akatsuki. "I drew a picture on the back of my test, so what?" Ennaka grunted, knowing what they wanted.

"What is it now?" Gaara finally responded in an agitated voice.

"I need reassurance. I find you the most conforting somehow." Ennaka snapped.

"You called me here for this?! You're such a pain."

"Yeah, well, your no picnic either, Gaara." Ennaka retorted sternly, *" Just listen to me... Just this once, okay?"*

"Fine. What do you want?"

"You know that organization I told you about?"

"Yeah."

"They're inquiring me about them. I have... "friends" there I don't want them to find. Yet, they want answers. What should I do?!"

"Don't know don't care." Gaara hissed and withdrew from her mind.

Ennaka mumbled to herself in annoyance. Of course Gaara wouldn't help her! Had she been drunk when she thought of that dumb idea?!

"Ennaka, answer him, please." Kemuri begged.

The girl jerked awake and looked around. "What? What was the question?!" She asked desprately.

"Who is this?" Ibiki said sternly, pointing at Pain.

"... Pain." Ennaka said with a glare.

"Pain? Who's Pain?" Kemuri asked in anticipation.

"... That guy." Ennaka said pointing to the picture. "I call him Pain."

"Okay, whose's this?" ibiki asked, pointing to Deidara.

Ennaka sighed and cocked her head, smiling, "That would be a heshe."

"A what?" Anko asked, leaning against the door.

"A he/she. Heshe."

"ugh, this isn't getting anywhere!" Ibiki growled in frustration, "Lets just get down to the point! How do you know these people?! HOW do you know Akatsuki!?!"

"I ain't tellin'." Ennaka scoffed, crossing her arms.

"Why you little spoiled brat!!" Ibiki hissed, slamming his fist on the table, "Why are you being so stubborn!?!"

"Do you think I'm an idiot?" Ennaka asked with a smirk, "Itachi didn't train me to spill every little secret I knew."

"Itachi!? Why do you even care about him!? He KILLED YOUR FAMILY!" Ibiki roared.

"So what? of course I hate him for it, but I'm also grateful. At least he spared me and offered me refuge." Ennaka said, not looking at the man with a billion scars on his face. " Not only that but he trained me along with others."

"OTHERS LIKE WHO!?!?!?" Ibiki yelled.

"Akatsuki." Ennaka said simply with a shrug. "Who else did you think?"

"Oh Dear Lord help me!" Kemuri pleaded quietly.

"Are you a spy for them?" Ibiki asked.

"No."

Do you have any contact with them at all whatsoever?"

"Nuh-uh."

"Are you an infiltrator?"

"NO!" Ennaka snarled.

"How can we be sure?!" Anko asked, curling her lips in a scowl.

"There are two demons close to me. Closer to me than anyone has been to me before. If I were to have been with Akatsuki... Don't you think I would've called them over here and they would be here by now; killing everybody?" Ennaka said staring at them with a raised eyebrow.

"She kinda has a point..." Anko muttered.

"True..." Ibiki growled.

Kemuri slumped back in his seat relieved. *Well, all that's left is Kitei's herbs and jutsu.* He thought with a smile.

76 - HAHA! They Can't Find Me!

I'm so clever. Ennaka thought to herself, *Not only did I fools those noobs, but I got to watch Naruto and Kiba's match! Teehee, copying Tetsu's jutsu came in handy! Maybe that kid's hiding skills aren't that bad!* She smirked to herself and trotted around the Sand Ninja.

Before Anko could lay a hand on her, she had made a clone and dissapeared int othe shadows with Tetsu's Chameleon technique. They had dragged the clone with them for questioning about Akatsuki. Of course she had been able to speak for her clone and all, but then again, Gaara didn't know she was right behind him, yet he didn't want to help her at all. Why was that guy so stubborn?

Naruto's match had been quite a show! Kiba had went too soft on Naruto and underestimated the orange Ninja. Then Naruto had beaten Kiba to a pulp, pulling a nice trick by tranforming into Akamaru so Kiba was confused as to which one was which. He ended up hitting the wrong one, injuring his precious dog. Naruto kicked him around a bit until Kiba couldn't go on.

Ennaka couldn't supress her happiness. When this was over they'd have to get some ramen and celebrate! For once, Naruto had been a hardcore, serious fighter instead of a major goofball!

"Hey, Naruto! We're going out for ramen later, okay?!" She shouted down to him. He looked around to see who had called to him, but soon, he gave up and returned to his teammates.

Baki looked over at her location frowning. She gulped and slipped out of his gaze, so he was staring at the air. Hey, it as'n't like she wasn't going tocongragulate Naruto! She had to!

She sneaked over next to Gaara and put her elbows on the hand rail. She wondered who would be next...

Gaara glanced her way then averted his gaze in front of him, "Nakki, you can come out of that stupid hiding trick." He rasped.

Ennaka looked over at him and stuck out her tounge, "I don't wanna." she said softly, "I'm perfectly content with staying invisable, thanks."

"Hn." Gaara sniffed, tilting his chin up slightly. "Your disguise is useless,"

"Tch, think what you want Gaara, as long as the Hokage doesn't know I'm here the better." Ennaka said to him with her voice on the brink of rage.

"I bet evryone know's you're here anyway." Gaara grumbled.

"I wonder where Nakka is." Kankuro asked looking at the entrance doors, "She's been gone for a while..."

"I stand corrected." Gaara sighed.

Ennaka smiled to herself and thanked Kankuro silently for his stupidity. Nakka had been the nickname Kankuro and Temari had called her since she only accepted Gaara to call her Nakki. She wondered how many nicknames she had. She was already famous in the Sand Village for her deception skills and mind talking powers. So much, that some of them feared her and came up with ridiculous rumors about her. Saying that she could make people go crazy by screwing with their minds. Those idiots.

Kiba was carried out on a stretcher. But on his way out, he passed Hinata, and whispered, "If you fight that Neji guy, forfeit, okay?" He said before they went their separate ways. Hinata shuddered nervously and bit her lip. Ennaka saw her and suddenly felt sorry for the girl. She couldn't figure out why, though. Sighing loudly she slumped her shoulders and rested her chin on her elbows.

"What are you fussing about now?' Gaara asked, glaring at her.

"Nothing." Ennaka assured, "It's nothing..."

Why was she feeling a sudden longing to see Sasori? And her brother... He was dead. Ennaka shuddered and found herself contradicting that theory. She had this nagging suspicion that he was alive... And survived that horrible war. She looked at the Hokage and looked at the people around him. Those were Konoha Ninja... But what was she? Ennaka felt her insides burn as she thought. Where did her loyalties lie? She tried to say Konoha, but in her head and heart, she felt herself say, *liar*.

77 - NEJI MUST DIE!!!

Ennaka watched the names roll on the computer screen by them. She was no longer nervous or excited with anticipation, but was only washed in relief and confusion. Why did she favor the Sand Village over Konoha? Was it because of Gaara? No... Deep inside her she knew it was not her beloved friend. Then... What? What was it that drove her to risk her life for the Sand?

"*Sasori...*" Ennaka gasped in thought. "*It's... him. Why!? Why did I have to become friends with an S-ranked criminal?!*" Ennaka groaned to herself, clutching her head in distress. Gaara didn't notice, and right now, she didn't really care. "*I have to talk to Kabuto... He works for him...*"

Just then, the computer stopped on the names: Neji Hyuga VS. Hinata Hyuga

Ennaka stared across the room in shock and galled at Neji, her eyes boiling over in total rage. "NEJI YOU LITTLE SLUT! GET OVER HERE AND FIGHT!" Ennaka screeched as he jumped down. Hinata timidly joined, ignoring Ennaka's screams. "KNOCK HIS @\$\$ OUT HINATA! HE DESERVES IT, THE LITTLE COLD-HEARTED BASTARD!" She screamed harder, just realizing that she had blown her cover completely.

"Nice one." Gaara grunted.

"Whoa! Ennaka, when'd you get here?!" Kankuro asked, stepping back.

"I used my mind powers, Kankuro. I'm magical!" Ennaka said, waving her hand through the air as she reappeared in front of them.

"Ack! It's a witch! Burn her!" Kankuro shrieked.

"Oh, haha. Very funny." Ennaka growled. She turned back to the fight that was about to begin, an everlasting flame of her rage directed solely for Neji. Temari and Kankuro practically had to hold her down so she wouldn't go running down to attack Neji! "That two-headed, double-crossing little fucking bastard with his @\$\$ tongue and his shooty attitude!" Ennaka grumbled, as she gave way to Temari and Kankuro's strength. She wished she was Hinata. Just so she could beat the snot out of Neji.

A/N: Once again, I'm sorry it's short, but I must have icecream! I haven't eaten in 4eva!!! SO BLAME MY UPSET STOMACH AND IT'S HUNGRYNESS!!!

78 - Hm... Poke!

"Neji Vs. Hinata... Begin!"

Ennaka felt her eye twitch. She just wanted to go down there and beat some sense into that guy! Kankuro and Temari hadn't let go of her arms, while Baki was just sighing in irritation. Gaara... Was just being Gaara.

"HI ENNAKA!" Naruto shouted from the other side.

"Oh, hi Naruto," Ennaka said glancing at him. "Hm, keep cheering on Hinata." She instructed.

"Seriously, Nakka," Kankuro snarled, "If you're going to pull a vanishing act, let me know first! You scared me to death!"

"To death?" Ennaka smirked, turning her head to him.

"Okay, maybe not to death, but you know what I mean!"

"Aw, darn," Ennaka let her face fall in disappointment.

The match was actually pretty boring. All they did was poke each other and jab each other with their little fingers. It was *dodge, poke, poke* some more, *dodge, Byakugan, dodge, poke*. It never ended!!!

"You have to admit, that Neji guy's pretty good." Kankuro mumbled as Hinata went flying across the room.

"No! Never compliment Neji!" Ennaka hissed, "Not in my face that is!"

"You're just jealous!" Kankuro sneered, "You just know, deep inside, that he has more skill and talent than you!"

"Man, you wish I thought that." Ennaka sighed with anger.

"Or do you secretly 'like' him?" Temari joined in the bickering of Ennaka.

"EW! NO! ARE YOU TWO CRAZY?!"

"Great job, Temari, you're making her volume level go up again!" Kankuro moaned.

"Shut up the lot of you!" Baki ordered. Ennaka curled her lip threateningly. She wasn't liking them holding her hostage. They all became silent until Temari leaned to Ennaka's ear and said smugly, "Well, do you have a crush? C'mon, you can tell sissy..."

"No! I do not!" Ennaka retorted, "And even if I did, what would make you think I would tell you?"

"Ooh, am I getting on my little sis's sensitive side? Hit a nerve?" Temari cooed, "And don't say that you like Sasuke! He may be relatively cute, but then again, he's your relative!"

"No! I almost loath him! Sure he's family and all, but still. He seems to be falling towards..." She carried off in a slight sigh.

"Stop!" Hayate's comanded voice shrilled. Ennaka jerked her head away from Temari down to the battle. Neji was locked in by a bunch of sensei's including Kakashi and Gai. Kurenai was kneeling by an unconscious Hinata, with blood dribbling down the young girl's mouth. Ennaka felt her churring fear of blood whell up slightly. She hadn't felt it in a while, but it was still there. "No..." She gasped, "No! LET ME GO!" She struggled in vain as she tried to run down there. Naruto and Lee were also down there, gaping at Hinata's injuries. She wasn't in the best conditions. "I SAID LET ME GO!" Ennaka unlatched herself from Kankuro and Temari, jumping down by Hinata, "She didn't deserve this."

"Urgghh!!" Naruto clenched his fists in rage, "Neji..." He hissed. Crouching by a puddle of Hinata's blood, he placed his palm in it, "Hinata," Rising up slowly he gripped the blood as if it was the only thing keeping Hinata alive, "I vow to win!" Naruto flashed a glare at Neji who was blankly staring at Naruto.

Ennaka let a growl cough itself out of her, and her hands kneeled into the air. "Naruto..." She said with her knees shaking. The blood on the ground... The memory of Itachi in her room with the blood began to make her feel sick, "Neji... You'll pay for this..."

"Hm, seems that I'm getting on everyone's bad side." Neji said with no expression change. His lips curled in a disgusting smile, "Then I guess I'll just have to crush you both until you know your place."

"In your dreams!" Ennaka felt her insides flip, "You aren't going to beat me that easily!"

"Well, I have to admit, your little trick today seemed pretty powerful." Neji kept his smug smile, "But I think I can handle it!"

"Guhnn," Ennaka couldn't take it anymore. The blood... The memories... She clutched her stomach as the medics carried Hinata out.

"Oh, no!" Temari gasped, landing next to Ennaka, "She's going to lose it..." The girl pulled Ennaka away from everyone, "Ennaka, close your eyes and think of something besides blood!" Temari almost screeched.

"I...It..Achi..." Ennaka's arms shook madly, "Sa...s...o...ri..." Her eyes flashed as she remembered him. She sighed comfortably, "Hmm..." She gave a faint smile, "Yup... Neji, you're going down!" Ennaka flicked her wrist hearing the musical "pop". Neji didn't seem to hear, which didn't bother Ennaka.

"Come on, Nakka, let's get back to our stands. They still have to clean up the place." Temari whispered in her ear. Ennaka nodded numbly, following her sisterly image without question.

...The next match, would rattle her heart senseless, and the overwhelming fear of blood would be too much for her to handle...

79 - Gaara Vs. Rock Lee

The names rolled onto the computer screen. Gaara watched it intently, but before it even decided on the names, he formed a hand seal and disappeared in a whirlwind of sand, to Ennaka's surprise. She held up her arm to her face to shield her eyes from the grains. When he reformed at the arena, he glared at the screen. "Come on already," was written all across his face. Ennaka gulped. What would he do if his turn wasn't up? She gripped the guard rail, unable to think the worst. And the only people left to face were... She looked around. Chouji, who was cowering in a squatting position, hiding behind the rails, cowered away from the soon to be battle. She thought he looked like he was in prison awaiting the death penalty. Next was Rock Lee, who was telling Gai that he'd waited so long all ready, he wouldn't care if he was last. Ennaka shook her head. Lee was an oddball. (Sort of like a certain terrorist bomber that she knew...) And then there was the Sound guy. Dosu? Yeah, him. She smirked, looking over at his lone form. His sensei had vanished somewhere. And his teammates? Pfft, they were history in the infirmary. She sneered at him, hissing teasingly, "If you're next, can I have all your life savings?" Dosu turned his head and glared at her, "What makes you so confident that your little Sand buddy will win this fight?" "Cause he's never lost a battle." She cooed innocently, twirling her ponytail on a finger. Dosu tossed his head and turned away, "Tch. Whatever." Ennaka shook her head and looked up at the screen to see the names come to a halt. After reading the first name, she exhaled, relieved. It was Gaara. But the next name was Rock Lee! She blinked. Gaara and Lee?! Now that was an odd pairing. But if that meant... Ennaka widened her eyes and reached out with her eye to Rock Lee. "Lee! Listen to me! Forfeit the match! You can't win against Gaara, he'll kill you!" But Lee was so excited that he didn't hear her. Instead, he jumped down and entered his fighting pose and smiled, "I'm happy to face you this early." "Tch." Was the only response Gaara gave before the cork on his gourd snapped off. Lee caught it as it hurtled towards him. "Why are you so anxious?" He asked, letting the cap drop to the ground. The sand spilled out like a waterfall, encircling Gaara in a circle pattern. The red-head didn't respond, but only stared unblinkingly at the shinobi in front of him now. "Gaara Vs. Rock Lee..." Hayate proclaimed, swinging his hand down. "Begin!" (A/N: Okay, yeah, it's short, don't stone me! I just wanted to get the battle part in another chapter to hold the suspense. DON'T HURT ME! >.< That and I got a small case of writers block. ^_^ Rainbowfox... Don't. Say. Ennathin. D:<)