

# Naruto: Village of Doom's Last Hope

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Submitted: October 25, 2007

Updated: October 30, 2007

*A Naruto fic, with one of my fan chars in it. Enjoy!*

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# 1 - Mueingakure's Plight

SOME THINGS TO NOTE:

THIS TAKES PLACE A YEAR IN THE FUTURE. SO, PRE TIME-SKIP, ALTHOUGH THE CHARS MAY ACT AND DRESS LIKE THEY DID IN THE TIME SKIP.

I will place honorfics here and there, but will not use them steadily.

Some things about the story:

Meuingakure- the Village of Doom

Meuinkage- Naofumi Mikomi

Meuinkage's son- Tanomoshii Mikomi

Hanafunda Sumizome- Evil leader

Ukiyo Kainashi- henchmen

"Lord Meuinkage! Lord Meuinkage!"

Naofumi Mikomi looked up wearily. "Yes Nanake?" he said in a concered voice.

"We can't hold very long. Our supplies are very low, and our army is tiring. And...sir...your son...he's..."

The Meuinkage leapt up. "Is he..."

"Not dead sir. But gravely wounded..."

Meuinkage/Naofumi looked out across his land.

Meuingakure was a land cursed with horrible luck. It had been years since they'd had a bountiful harvest. Very few people lived past the age of fifty. The land had been war-ridden for years. Many Villages had attacked, and Meuingakure, because of it's bizarre luck, had no allies, save for maybe one. It was strange, in away. Meuingakure was actually a charming land, and had many good points. The land was very wealthy, however, and was a beautiful mountainous area, with lush green forest dotting it's landscape. The land had no winter, and 10 monthes of the year was summer. Years ago, a young Kakashi Hatake had come to their aid. He had just suffered the death of his squad and was taking time to sort things out. An attempt was made on the Meuinkage's life. Kakashi thwarted it, leading to a shaky alliance between Konohagakure and Meuingakure.

With that thought in his head, Lord Meuinkage summoned his messenger. "Hakido, it's imperative this message be delivered into the hands of Kakashi Hatake. Go, hurry, or our land will fall..."

## IN KONO HAGAKURE

"I'm bored. Bored. Really bored. So bored...bored bored bored bored bored bored bored bored bored bored bor"  
"Naruto, will you shut the hell up?!" Sakura finally shouted.

Ekyt looked over, rolling his good eye. They had been down this road a lot the past few days. Nothing but D-ranked missions for the them, and nothing for Ekyt. It WAS boring, but Ekyt knew better than to piss off Sakura by voicing it 300 times.

Kakashi stretched out on a rooftop, "Makeout Tactics" in hand. With a whoosh, there was a ninja in front of him.

"Hakido?" Kakashi asked. He hadn't seen the man in over ten years.

Hakido fell forward, a scroll rolling out of his hand. It was then Kakashi saw thirty kunai and shuriken sticking out his back. Hakido had completed his last mission.

Kakashi opened the scroll.

"I'd better gather my team up. And a couple others...Lee...and Ekyt. That should be enough. I don't want to have too many kids to watch, and this group should get along just fine..."

Kakashi explained the mission.

"We're going to be escorting wagons of supplies to Meuingakure. Once we arrive, we're to fight off an invasion."

"What Village is attacking?" Ekyt said in his strange mix of a whisper and a drawl voice that indicated he was thinking while speaking.

"Hakido didn't say, and the kunai didn't reveal anything. Just generic kunai."

"What's the climate?" Ekyt asked.

"Hot mostly, with some rain," Kakashi replied.

"What's the terrain like?" was Ekyt's last question. **Why am I asking? I'm not going on the mission...**  
Ekyt thought.

"Mountains and forests, with a few plains," Kakashi replied, glad someone was asking the questions.

"Hot, huh? Well, I guess I'd better break out the summer stuff then." Sakura said thoughtfully.

When she returned, she was indeed clothed for summer, earning Ekyt's attention big time (What, he's still a guy, no matter how respectful, lol)!

She had switched to a two-piece version of her normal outfit. This one left some of Sakura's stomach exposed, starting just under where her stomach met her chest, and ending just below her navel.

The bottom piece was a skirt, red with white trim, along with a shorter version of her regular pants.

Sakura struck a pose, meaning it as a joke.

"You like what you see Ekyt-kun?" she said in a sing-song voice to her friend, knowing full well how awkward it would be for him. She bent over, hands on her knees, a big smile on her face as she stifled girlish giggles.

"Hey, Sakura-chan, you look hot!" Naruto exclaimed.

THWACK!

"Pick your words more carefully!" Sakura shouted.

Lee was the next one to return. Short sleeves and shorts, but the same spandex and...leg warmers.

"Lee?" Linda asked carefully.

“Yes Linda?” he asked.

Linda kissed him on the cheek. Then gave him a light tap on the head.

“What the hell are you thinking? Leg warmers for summer?”

Kakashi looked the same, except for shorter sleeves on his black jumpsuit.

Ekyt just sat there.

“Hey, aren’t you coming?” Sakura called to him.

Ekyt looked surprised. “I’m invited?”

Kakashi held out the scroll for him to see. There was Ekyt’s name on the A-ranked mission. “Apparently so. We’re leaving as soon as you’re ready.”

Ekyt ran off, but returned almost instantly.

It was Sakura’s turn to stare, although it’s a safe bet Ekyt didn’t mean to create that effect.

He kept his black T-shirt and vest, although both were tighter on him. The material was designed to fend off heat and retain the cold air. That was why it was a little tighter on him.

His long black gi pants were exchanged for short black gi pants. He exchanged his head-covering hitai-ate for a regular headband, revealing bushy dark brown hair. He was still wearing his black gloves (fingers covered) with the metal plate on the backfist, although he had switched out his boots for black sneakers.

Naruto leaned close to Sakura. “Hey Sakura, don’t forget to blink and breathe,” he said with a chuckle.

“Shut up Naruto!” she replied furiously, though the pink appearing on her face belied her words.

After Naruto had changed (shorter version of his normal clothes, except an orange vest with a blue t-shirt under it), the five set off for Meuingakure.

The supply wagons were pulled by horses and proceeded on mountainous roads in a convoy. Kakashi took the lead, while Ekyt took the back. Sakura took the inside, while Lee patrolled the outside. For an hour or so, all was quiet.

Kakashi suddenly stopped the convoy. With two fingers, he pointed at Lee, and then pointed to the bushes at the top of the mountain.

“What is it sensei?” Sakura asked.

“Those bushes aren’t native to this area, and they shouldn’t be growing there...it could be nothing, but no point in”

“AMBUSH!!!” Lee shouted.

“Taking chances,” Kakashi finished.

“Ekyt, you help Lee! Sakura, you and I will guard the convoy!

“Kakashi-sensei, get the convoy moving! There are too many, we’ll be here too long! They’re just trying to detain us! Lee and I can handle it! We’ll catch up!” Ekyt shouted.

Kakashi and Sakura exchanged glances. Kakashi nodded.

“He’s right. Meuingakure needs this supplies, and they need it now.”

Sakura looked nervous, but nodded firmly.

Lee leapt over the bushes, his outstretched leg catching two of the ninja on the temple. A third fell prey to his flying hit. A fourth managed to grab Lee. The fourth let go when the butt end of Ekyt's kunai smashed down on his hand, then followed through and cracked him on the head. Lee threw one ninja over his shoulder and down the mountain.

"This is taking too long!" Ekyt weaved his hands together incredibly fast.

"Shadow clone jutsu!"

Three more Ekyt's popped up. They made hand signs with the real Ekyt.

"Fire Style: Dragon's Ember Jutsu, Clone Instigation Technique!" They shouted as one.

Three bursts of fire rained down on the enemies. Ekyt realized most of them were genin and academy students. Ekyt and Lee were both genin, but they had been trained better. All these ninja knew was how to swarm.

Except one.

"Rock Style: Pebble Rain Jutsu!" one of the enemy shouted.

Ekyt saw the rocks come down. On a whim, he shouted "kai!"

The rocks kept coming, so it wasn't a genjutsu.

"We need to stop this attack!" Lee called to Ekyt.

Lee dodged the falling rocks and used his Konoha Hurricane kick to put an end to threat. It became apparent that this was the commander, because once he was down for the count, all the others scrambled away, retreating higher up in the mountains.

Ekyt jogged over to Lee.

"D-don't hurt me!" The captured ninja pleaded.

Lee gave Ekyt a glance. Ekyt had trained under Ibikki Morino, and had learned some forms of mental torture. Although he always hated doing it, Ekyt decided some force was necessary.

"Then you'd better make your vocal cords work. I want to know why you ambushed us."

"My name is Ukiyo Kainashi, I'm from the Village Hidden in the Doom. That's all you'll get out of me, you reject!"

Ekyt calmly grabbed the man, using the pressure points under his jaw to cause a few moments of pain.

"That's not the question I asked. I don't want to have to use force on you. And insulting me isn't going to get you what you want...in fact, it might just make you...go to pieces..."

Ukiyo gulped.

"Um, what were your questions again, sirs?"

Ekyt and Lee grinned. "I thought so...just tell us everything..."

Sakura saw the Village. Her green eyes widened as she saw how beautiful it was.

"Kakashi-sensei, how is this place stricken with war? I mean, there's no sign of outside invasion, or anything..."

Kakashi had been wondering the same thing.

"I think we'd better find Lord Meukage. He can answer our questions."

"Forget it, you won't even get near him!" shouted one ninja.

Kakashi narrowed his eye.

"So, Ginlee, we've finally crossed paths again," Kakashi said, already lifting up his headband.

Ginlee was around 6 feet tall, and roughly forty years old. He was clothed in a black jumpsuit with an even darker sash around his waist. Around his head was a hitai-ate with a strange symbol through it. It

was a circle with a "D" in it, but it had a line through it. A Meuingakure missing-nin?

"It's been a while Kakashi. And this will be the last time we meet as well..." The man Sakura now knew as Ginlee drew a kunai.

"Sakura, take the convoy and go! Hurry, those supplies are essential! I'll handle Ginlee. We never DID finish that match...I'm looking forward to seeing if you've improved."

"I told you, you belligerent little idiots, I don't know anything else!" shouted Ukiyo, tugging at the ropes Lee and Ekyt had used to tie him up.

"I think he's told us enough Lee. We'd better report back to Kakashi-sensei," Ekyt said.

"I agree. But I do not like the idea of him getting away like this," Lee said, pointing to Ukiyo.

"Don't worry, I plan on incapacitating him for a while. I don't want any back-biters coming after us,"

Ekyt said as he calmly began to weave a sign for his favorite genjutsu.

"Demonic Illusion: Hell Viewing Technique!"

This genjutsu would keep Ukiyo busy for a while. As Ekyt and Lee walked away, he screamed, seeing visions of his worst nightmare coming true.

Ekyt looked at the ground. Lee put a taped hand on his friend's shoulder.

"Do not regret that Ekyt. He would have killed us and wiped his kunai clean before we had hit the ground. At least you are giving him a chance at life."

Ekyt nodded. "Thanks Lee-san, you're right." He paused, not even seeing the dust of the convoy.

"We'd better speed this up."

The two took off at top speed.

Sakura and the convoy safely reached Lord Meuinkage. From behind, Sakura heard the opening sounds of an attack. She turned to see two ninjas facing her. But they stopped their attack upon seeing the convoy.

"We are very sorry, we thought you were the enemy. We don't have much time, Lord Meuinkage is waiting for you at the...wait, where is the rest of your team?" The kunoichi asked. She looked to her partner. He shrugged his shoulders.

"They were ambushed," Sakura replied.

"Do they need help?"

Sakura shook her head, a smile forming on her face. "Those three are the best the Leaf Village has. They can handle it."

(Inner-Sakura: CHA! Tops among the Leafers! Kakashi-sensei, Lee-san, and Ekyt-kun, not to mention Sakura-chan! Here we come, enemies of Meuinkage!)

Lord Meuinkage looked up upon seeing Sakura.

"Are you the medic-nin?" he asked.

"Huh? Well, yes, I a"

"Please, please, save my son! He'll die without your help!"

Sakura looked at the boy in the bed. He looked very banged up physically. Mentally was Sakura's worry. The boy, roughly age 12, showed all the signs of trauma caused by genjutsu...

Naruto popped up, far behind the convoy. That had been Kakashi's plan. Naruto was, power-wise, the

strongest there. From his vantage point, Naruto could see troops gathering. 200 men at least, and more coming.

**So this is why I didn't go with the others...I wouldn't have seen this...good call sensei!**

NEXT TIME: SAKURA TRIES TO HEAL LORD MUEINKAGE'S SON, KAKASHI TAKES ON GINLEE, NARUTO VS. 200 MEN, AND EKYT AND LEE RACE BACK TO THE VILLAGE, JUST IN TIME FOR WAR!

## 2 - War's Path

“Alright, we’re ready to attack. Let’s”

“Hold in scumbags!” Came a familiar shout. The men turned, seeing the source. Most laughed with relief.

“It’s just a kid!” one called out.

Naruto’s eyes twitched. “Don’t underestimate me! I’m Naruto Uzumaki , and I’m gonna be the next Hokage of the Village Hidden in the Leaves! Believe it!”

“Yeah? You and what army?!” Came the reply.

“Me and this army! Multi Shadow Clone Jutsu!”

Two Hundred Naruto’s popped up, all sporting a grin.

“Transform!”

“Transform!”

“Transform!” (And so on)

“Ninja Harem Jutsu!”

Two hundred naked, grinning girl Naruto’s, all striking revealing poses and blowing kisses. All that came before the two hundred nose bleeds.

Ekyt and Lee were running top speed, with Ekyt lagging behind. Lee spotted Naruto and his problems. Once the shock of the naked girls wore off, the clones were starting to lose, and Naruto was going to run low on chakra soon.

“Naruto needs help!”

“I’ll go Lee! It’s going to take some jutsus to get rid off 200 guys, and the supplies is more important. You could catch up before me!”

Lee nodded his agreement. One fist punch later, and the two Shinobi leapt off in opposite directions.

Ekyt sailed into two of the Doom ninja, knocking their heads together. He used their shoulders to push himself high in the air, over the other attacks. From his bird’s eye-view, he threw a series of kunai that struck his enemies in various places, nowhere vital. From below, a kunai with chain caught one leg, then the other. Two more enveloped his arms and yanked him to the ground hard.

Naruto objected to the rough treatment of his friend and tackled the four holding the offending weaponry. That gave Ekyt a minute to get free, which he used quickly. He decided he could use something like the kunai with chain. After weaving his hands together, he used a jutsu that would normally scare the life out of a Leaf Villager.

“Hidden Shadow Snake Hand Jutsu!” Four snakes shot out of Ekyt’s wrist, grabbing four enemies and pulling them in. Ekyt’s left fist and right leg met all four, sending them to the ground hard.

The jutsu Ekyt had used was a signature of Orochimaru’s. But it was useful, so Ekyt didn’t shy away from it like other Shinobi. Silently, he thanked the person who had taught it to him (Anko Mitarashi) as a weapon for the chunin exams.



"Naruto, this taking too long! Can you pull off a summoning?" Ekyt called over.

"You bet I can!" Naruto bit the end of his thumb until it bled, then jammed his hand onto the ground.

"Summoning Jutsu!"

Poof! A tadpole?

"That's not what I meant Naruto," Ekyt said, side-kicking an approaching ninja in the stomach.

"I KNOW! UGH! HOLD ON...OKAY! SUMMONING JUTSU!"

This time, the most enormous toad Ekyt had ever seen landed on the top of the mountain.

"Gamabunta?" Ekyt questioned, looking at the toad. He had read about the legendary toad, but reading and seeing were two very different things...

Sakura looked at the ill boy. He was lying in bed, a washcloth over his head. His fever had peaked at 107 degrees. He had multiple stab wounds.

"What happened to him?" Sakura asked, fighting back tears.

Lord Meuinkage sighed deeply.

"He insisted I send him in to battle. My own son...I felt awful, but I knew he was right. We have less than half our Shinobi left. Illness, war...claimed countless lives. So I sent my son out to battle..."

(What happened)

"Tanomoshii Mikomi, is it? The Mueinakage's son...how nice to meet you, at long last."

The words were spoken by a tall man in a black hooded robe, with a white sash around the waist tying it closed.

Tanomoshii, a brave boy, age 12, stared back into the blood red eyes of his captor.

"I am, and who the hell are you?" Tanomoshii spat, his chains rattling as he shook with anger. The young ninja was short and of a small build, with moderately long light brown hair falling over his eyes. He shook his mane out of his eyes so that he could continue his glare of death at his captor.

"Oh, my manners! I am Hanafunda Sumizome. You should know me Tanomoshii, I was guest in your father's house for years. I served as his right-hand man..."

"Then why? Why start a civil war? My father would have done anything for you! He counted you as a friend! Why did you betray him?!" Tanomoshii demanded.

Hanafunda grinned nastily and pointed to the back of his robe.

"Meuinkage? You're not the Meuinkage!" Tanomoshii thundered.

"Not yet, but I will be. When I kill your father, and the heir to his throne. I'm next in line, right after you. But I must use you to send a message to your father...brace yourself Tanomoshii, I want you to survive this, and it is going to hurt..."

Hanafunda made a series of handsigns. Tanomoshii recognized them.

"That's kinjutsu! You can't perform that!"

Hanafunda moved in closer. "FIVE PRONGED SEAL OF DOOM!"

Hanafunda jammed his hand against the boy's stomach. Tanomoshii screamed in agony. His screams continued as Hanafunda's hand actually entered his body. Feeling a sudden, sharp pain around his heart Tanomoshii passed out.

"Ukiyo, bring him to the Meuinkage, along with the message...I'll attach that, on second thought."

Hanafunda wrapped a message around a kunai, then jammed it violently into the boy's shoulder, making sure it stuck...

(End of "What Happened")

Sakura looked sadly at the boy. Even though she knew a lot, his chances of surviving were slim. She need a lot of power to undo the seal that was slowly killing the boy, only after the seal was broken could she perform the medical procedure. The only one she knew with enough power was Ekyt. His emotional chakra would do it. She hoped he was still alive and okay...

Lee rushed in.

"Lee-san! Perfect! Listen, I need Ekyt! I need his chakra to break this seal! Please, hurry!"

"Mountain Release: Mountain Barrage!" shouted Ginlee.

"Mountain Release: Mountain Barrage!" Kakashi replied, using his Sharingan to copy the technique.

"Body Replacement jutsu!" Kakashi called.

"Where'd you go?!"

Then he heard the sounds of birds chirping...

Ekyt and Naruto fended off the ninjas, forcing them to retreat. Lee ran up.

"Ekyt, Sakura needs you to break a seal."

"Lead the way," Ekyt told him.

"What about me?"

Ekyt and Lee looked at Naruto. "You'd better come with us. The invasion will be their next move, and we've got to stop it." Ekyt said finally.

All three broke toward the castle at a run.

Ekyt picked an emotion. Anger. He should have been a chunin. He was more skilled than anyone was willing to give him credit for. Gaara had destroyed his eye, Chakaro and Kayla had left, Linda hated his guts...

He felt the sensation of the emotional chakra well up in his chest. He put a hand to it. His hand burst into crackling transparent blue flames.

"BLUE FLAME CHAKRA: TRANSPARENT HAND SEAL REMOVAL JUTSU!" Ekyt called, jamming his transparent hand into the boy's chest, grabbing the heart, and removing the seal on it.

Immediately, the fever started to drop. The boy stirred, alive. Sakura smiled widely; the simple surgery she had to perform next wouldn't take long at all.

### 3 - Fire and Flames

CRACK! CRACK!

“Lord Meukage, the castle doors are buckling!”

Lord Meukage looked over at his son. “I have to share in the fate of my people. Tell him...I love him.”

Sakura nodded, tears welling up in her eyes.

“We’ve got to keep them out of this room, no matter what, or the kid is done for. Can we head them off?” Ekyt asked urgently.

Naruto looked down the hall. He brought his head back in immediately.

“We’d better seal the room, ‘cause those guys aren’t friendly!”

“I need all my chakra to do the surgery! Ekyt, that leaves you...”

Ekyt nodded, and weaved his hands together.

“Sly Mind Effect Technique!” he called out.

This genjutsu forced the targets to travel in circles. It wasn’t going to hold off the enemy for long. Ekyt hoped they didn’t need long.

“Ekyt, you should stay with Sakura. Naruto has the more powerful chakra, and I would be of no help.

Naruto, you and I will guard the door, while Ekyt guards Sakura and the Meukage’s son.” Lee rattled off in rapid-fire succession.

“Alright! Finally getting some action! I can’t wait! I’ll mangle these loser Doom ninjas!”

Naruto slid near Ekyt. “And Widdle Ekyt makes some time with Sakura-chan. How sweet!” he snickered.

Sakura thumped him on the head. “Naruto, shut up! This is no time for that!”

Kakashi leapt over Ginlee’s last pitiful attack. He drove the Lightning Blade/Chidori strike home in the man’s chest. Kakashi’s hand exited out the other side. He had killed Ginlee, one of the leaders of the rebellion against the Meukage.

“I’ve got to get back to my team, they’ll be swamped,” Kakashi muttered, using his version of the body flicker jutsu to cut the distance in half. He carried Ginlee’s corpse with him. Even though he hated the traitorous ninja, Kakashi felt he deserved a burial.

They had seen through the genjutsu.

“How much more time Sakura?” Ekyt ask, started to get concerned.

“Five minutes!”

“Good. Then you and him go hide. He’ll need someone to watch him.”

Sakura looked over at Ekyt. “I think I should stay here. You guys might need the help, and he shouldn’t be moved yet anyway.

**I’m through hiding on the sidelines! It’s time Sakura blossomed!**

“She is right Ekyt. Even you and Naruto cannot use your chakra forever, and my stamina will hold up for hours under normal circumstances. But an invasion I am not sure of.”

Ekyt ran a hand through his hair (Unconsciously, Sakura glanced at the motion). “Alright. I’m going to

end the genjutsu before I'm totally drained. They should be somewhat tired by now. Let's give 'em hell!"

Lord Meukage sent five rank genin flying, then turned around in time to elbow an approaching chunin. "Land of Doom: Controlled Aftershock!" he shouted. The ground began to shake, to twist and heave, knocking ten more ninja down for the count. Craters opened up below them and swallowed their bodies whole.

The battle continued this way for some time. Lord Meukage knew his time was up. He had a choice: Save himself or his Village. He did what any kage would have done.

"LAND OF DOOM'S SOUL RELEASE! SPIRIT BONFIRE!"

One hundred ninja screamed, clutching their chests. Their chakra was exiting their bodies, and their spirits were burning. Literally burning. They clutched at their chests in their dying moments, screaming about the fire inside them. They could do nothing to stop it.

Lord Meukage sank to his knees. In front of him, a silvery whisp in his image grew in size. His soul was pouring out of his body. There was reason that the Land of Doom's Soul Release techniques were forbidden. The user died after performing them.

The technique was only half complete. The silvery whisp grew, nearly filling the enormous entrance hall in the castle. Lord Meukage's soul had fully exited his body now. The soul began to burn, instantly incinerating all who touched it.

Lord Meukage died with a smile on his face. He had taken one last vindictive swipe at the enemy.

"I want him."

In the midst of battle, one man pointed at Ekyt.

"And who the hell are you? And why do you want to fight me?" Ekyt called back, absently backhanding another grunt in the face.

"I've heard of your chakra. It seems we may share a similar jutsu. I can't have that!"

"And your name Captain Windbag?" Ekyt asked flatly.

"I am Hanafunda Sumizome. You and that annoying boy with the freaky eyelashes ("I will kill him!" Lee shouted. Naruto held him back while Lee struggled) defeated my right-hand man handily. He told me your genjutsu is to be feared. I want to see it first hand."

Ekyt stared back darkly, a work worthy of the old Sasuke.

"I suppose I should be flattered. And I'll fight you. But answer this: Why attack like this?"

Hanafunda let loose a dark chuckle. "Because, dear boy, power is meant to be obtained. It is in my blood to unite the Village of Doom to its neighbors, to stabilize its economy, and to bring it out of this depression."

"Are you saying that you somehow *created* all this bad luck?" Ekyt demanded.

"Immortal Soul: Hell's Nightmare!"

The attack struck Ekyt hard, forcing him to freeze up. He saw his life. The sacrifices he had made, the hatred he had felt. Never having a girlfriend, never dating, the mistrust. The pure anger at being bullied and threatened. Choosing his path...had he made the right choice?

Ekyt saw himself being stabbed, before he knew chakra.

He saw Chakaro turning on him.

He saw Gaara, destroying his eye.

The memory of Gaara grew in intensity, and it appeared all around him. He remembered wishing to feel pain, because feeling nothing in his eye was even worse. He had never felt so helpless, so useless. Everything seemed to turn to sand. Ekyt tried to stand up, but fell back to one knee.

**Alone...alone forever...why didn't you live more when you had the chance? Now you're going to die. You've never kissed a girl, you've never even dated! You're alone. Is THIS how you want to die? Do you WANT to die at all?**

Ekyt started to stand up.

Hanafunda looked mildly impressed. "Ukiyo wasn't lying. You ARE strong. (Ending the jutsu) Get up. I want to finish you. I want to see your skills."

Ekyt was still frozen.

Hanafunda raised an eyebrow. "Nothing? Well, I can convince you."

He walked over to Sakura and Tanomoshii. Sakura glared at him.

"Don't you dare touch Tanomoshii! I'll kill you myself!"

Ekyt's eyes snapped open. He sprang to his feet and rammed Hanafunda with his shoulder.

"Stay with her!" he shouted to Naruto and Lee. "THIS is beyond personal now!"

Ekyt threw a shuffle side-kick, faking it low, then landing it high on Hanafunda's chest. Hanafunda returned with a front kick, which Ekyt swept aside with his crescent kick. That forced Hanafunda to turn around. He attempted to boot Ekyt in the stomach, but missed as Ekyt parried the foot and threw a fist at Hanafunda, who just managed to duck, using the momentum for a leg sweep. Ekyt leapt over it, then landed HARD on Hanafunda's leg. The leg bent the wrong way at almost a 90 degree angle. However, Hanafunda's chakra allowed it to bend, preventing it from breaking. Ekyt shrugged that off and snapped at Hanafunda's shin. Hanafunda returned, catching Ekyt in the side, right on his ribs, with a roundhouse kick. Ekyt rolled with the blow, exposing his spine. As Hanafunda moved in for the kill, Ekyt's foot stuffed him right in the gut. As Ekyt turned around and leapt, so did Hanafunda. Their feet passed each other in the air, on their way to hitting both combatants in the chest. They sailed backward, then skidded. Upon landing, Ekyt used a Shadow Clone Jutsu. Three of them ran towards Hanafunda, who threw two shuriken, hoping to catch the real Ekyt. He tagged two of the three, both being clones.

"Gotcha!"

Hanafunda's third kunai struck the third Ekyt. But that one was a clone too!

"Where are you, you little snot? Is this hide and seek, or a duel?" Hanafunda called. He heard Ekyt behind him. He whipped around, aiming to tag the Leaf Villager with a punch that was meant to decapitate. He missed as Ekyt thrust an arm up in a block. That same arm came around and caught Hanafunda in the nose, making his eyes water. Next he tagged him under the chin, knocking him backward.

Hanafunda got up slowly, wiping his bloody and broken nose.

"You're just a genin! How can you be a better fighter than me?!" Hanafunda demanded/snarled.

"Because I'm following my Shinobi way. I'm defending something truly important to me, as lame as it sounds. I would die for these people without a second thought."

Hanafunda opened his mouth, but Ekyt cut him off.

"Shut your damn mouth and listen up junior! You might learn something! You wanted to see my second chakra?! Make your move, and I'll make sure you FEEL the chakra's power, first hand!"

Lee and Naruto formed a wall in front of Sakura. She looked over their shoulders. Her patient would be

waking up in a few minutes. The LAST thing his system needed to see was a death.

Kakashi cursed slightly as he saw the hundreds dead. **I hope I'm not too late...**

Ekyt put his hand toward his chest. When he showed it, it was surrounded by a crackling blue flame. He ran forward, his hand trailing behind him.

Sakura was suddenly hit with a memory of Sasuke's chidori. It saddened her. She wanted to cry, but stiffened her face. It was someone's life at stake. Sasuke was alive, at least.

"So the famed Transparent Hand Chakra is real? One good turn deserves another. I'll show you MY special ability!"

"Transparent Hand Chakra: Swallow Strike Finality Jutsu!"

Ekyt threw a punch, easily dodged by Hanafunda. But Hanafunda couldn't dodge the backhand that hit him under the chin.

As the strike landed, Hanafunda struck down. His hand hit Ekyt's chest, right over the heart.

"FIVE PRONGED SEAL OF DOOM!" Hanafunda shouted.

Then the pain hit him. Ekyt's raw emotions....Hanafunda fell to the cold stone floor, vomiting violently. His skin turned red; almost every blood cell was ready to burst. His brain was sending messages to the wrong places. Hanafunda WANTED to die, ANYTHING to end the pain. His shaking hand felt for his kunai pouch.

In one motion, Hanafunda slit his own throat and threw the kunai at Ekyt.

"I'll see you in hell kid!" he shouted, before his cut jugular ended his life.

Ekyt's heart started to slow down.

"D-d-damnit." Ekyt could barely talk and breathe already. He coughed. "Did the strike land?" he asked, folding to his knees. He grasped his chest in pain. Grabbing it was a worthless effort.

Sakura was sobbing too hard to answer.

"Yes Ekyt. You did it." Lee told him, trying to force a smile.

"Believe it," Naruto added, without his usual emotion.

Ekyt tried to force a smile. "Oh, good," he managed. He fell forward, clutching his chest with his left hand, his right hand outstretched.

His heart had been sealed.

Kakashi burst into the room. He saw Hanafunda's corpse on the floor, then saw Ekyt with the kunai sticking out of him. **Is he dead? Wait...what's that? Could it be?**

Kakashi looked closer. Ekyt's Blue Flame chakra was still visible in his hand.

"Sakura, Ekyt's chakra is still flowing. His chakra needs to be channeled. You have the best control. I know you've never used someone else's chakra before, but you can unseal his heart's actions."

"I'll do it!" Sakura said instantly.

"Sakura...it's going to hurt."

"I don't care! He just saved my life, and I can't even imagine the pain he was in! I can handle a little bit of it! Tell me how to do it!"

Kakashi smiled behind his mask at her bravery.

“You need to go into his subconscious and talk it out of death, using his emotional chakra.. Then, your two chakras will bond temporarily. That’s when the pain will hit. But it will only last a few seconds. All you need to do is to use the standard “Seal Removal” jutsu.”

Sakura nodded, scared, but not backing down. She placed her hands on Ekyt’s temples.

(Subconscious)

“So this is how it ends?”

Ekyt was wearing a black trenchcoat that fell below his knees, and black gloves. The rest of him was covered in black clothing.

“I...it was worth it. But I wonder if we won...not that I can do anything about it now. I guess it’s time to let go of life.”

Ekyt made a series of hand signs. He needed to use all twelve, plus four only revealed to you at death.

Sakura landed in the subconscious, a completely black room, as big as a warehouse. The floor was a crimson red, as though it were painted with blood. Sakura looked around this and saw Ekyt in the middle.

“Oh no...I have to stop him!” She sprinted towards him.

“Rat...dog...horse...that’s all twelve. Now the other four...crane...chicken...dragon again...and”

“No! Don’t finish that!”

Ekyt paused. There were a set of hands over his.

Sakura stared Ekyt in the eyes. “You aren’t dead Ekyt,” she said softly.

“He sealed my heart. I’m going to die, if I’m not dead already.” Ekyt’s words came out as harsh..

“Damn it, you listen to me!” She grabbed Ekyt by his collar. “I am NOT going to let you finish those hand signs. I know how your mind works Ekyt! I’m not a medic-nin for no reason! You’ve got a LOT to live for.”

“I did my job.” Ekyt muttered darkly.

“If you finish those hand signs, then you’re going to die with guilt, because I’ll make them right along with you! I mean it! I’ve never lost a patient, and I’ll die before you if you try it!”

Sakura wasn’t sure where all this was coming from. But it worked.

“Sakura...just be careful. My emotional chakra...it’s caused by a particularly strong emotion...the last one I felt was “Anger” and that one hurts...it...it really hurts,” Ekyt choked out.

Sakura gently wrapped her arms around him.

“I’m a big girl, I can do it. But you’ve got to trust me. Give me your right hand.”

Ekyt did as he was told.

“Make the signs with me. I need to fuse our chakras for this to work.”

Tiger...horse...boar...monkey...snake...tiger...dragon

Each hand made half a sign. The two combined made the full sign.

Sakura woke up, in the real world again. She rolled over from her position on the floor and grabbed Ekyt’s right hand. The Blue Flame chakra leapt into her hand. Immediately, tears formed on her face.

**How does he do this? I-I feel like this could split me in half. I’ve got to do this quick!**

“FIVE PRONGED SEAL RELEASE!” Sakura shouted, jamming her hand onto Ekyt’s chest. It sunk in.

Sakura could feel his heart. It was down to one beat every five seconds. She squeezed it. Immediately, the heart rate picked up.

LATER

“Ekyl-kun! How are you feeling?!” Sakura asked.

(In the background, Lee is watching. Naruto is sneaking up behind him)

“I’ll live. Listen, Sakura-chan, thank you for not letting me quit. It really means a lot to me.”

“Just doing my job!” She said brightly, although they both knew it was a blatant lie.

(Naruto snickered silently. “Sexy Jutsu!” he whispered. POOF! Naruto was a beautiful naked girl. He crept up behind Lee silently. Kakashi observed, wondering where Naruto was going with this)

“Oh Leee-eeeeee!” Naruto (in girl form) cooed.

Lee turned around. Big mistake. His eyes widened and his mouth dropped open. Then the nosebleed hit.

Sakura had her back to them. Ekyl vaguely noticed something was going on. He was too busy listening to Sakura tell him about what happened to pay full attention.

Lee rocketed backward, hitting Sakura. Sakura stumbled into Ekyl, who managed to catch her.

Naruto saw the situation and his mouth dropped open. **Sakura’s gonna kill me!**

Kakashi smiled briefly, but continued to read his book. **Sakura will either kill them both or...no, she’s too sweet for that. Besides, there might be something there after all...**

Lee blushed and apologized. Then he saw what had happened. He backed off, readying himself to get punched.

Ekyl and Sakura’s lips had met. Ekyl had caught her, so it had turned into an impromptu embrace. And the summer clothing added to the effect.

To everyone’s surprise, notable Sakura’s, she just went with it. **Cha! Could be worse! I could’ve fallen into Naruto!**

While Sakura closed her eyes and appeared to be somewhat comfortable, Ekyl’s eyes were wide open. **What the hell? How do I handle this one? One wrong move and this kunoichi will kill me!**

Even though it was just a soft, brushing kiss, it lasted longer than most first kisses. And this was most certainly a first for both of them. Ekyl’s first instinct was to apologize and beg for his life (Kunoichi could be temperamental. Like the time he had accidentally walked into the hot spring when the girls were using it. He had been called the “Pervy Samurai” for weeks!). But he suppressed that instinct. Sakura’s beautiful green eyes had someone conveyed the message “It’s okay.”

Sakura opened her eyes slowly and smiled. “That,” she said, “Is the first time Naruto has done something useful.” (HEY! Naruto shouted. Kakashi clamped a hand over his mouth. “Let’s not ruin the moment, knucklehead.”)



“Thanks again.” They said in unison. Sakura giggled, then kissed a blushing Ekyt on the cheek.

## THE AFTERMATH

The war had been won. The Third Meuinkage had perished, but his son was well, and was ready to take the title of the Fourth Meuinkage.

“Tanomoshii Mikomi, we officially declare you the Fourth Meuinkage!” The elders of the village announced. The crowd cheered.

“Thank you to Kakashi and his Leaf Village team for saving our Village. The Doom Village humbly honors them, and prays for their safety.”

The crowd cheered again. The war had been won.

Back to life as usual. Except, it seemed, Sakura and Ekyt now had the world’s worst-kept secret: They had a crush on each other. One even they weren’t aware of. Funny how some dreams come true...

NOTE: THIS IS NON-CANONICAL TO THE PLOT OF “NARUTO: JINSEI NANAKOROBİ, YA’OKİ”!