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## ***Title: Darkest Night Hidden in The Leaf (6)***

The most critical thing in the countermeasures Nono developed for Kai is to position his clones in specific locations and assume what level of strength he wishes to display. The seven clones are hidden in the Uchiha Police Building, Konoha's Bunker, Hokage's Mansion, Hyuga Clan Compound, Senju Clan Compound, Uchiha Clan Compound, and the Hokage Office.

The one in Uchiha Police Building is tasked to keep Mikoto safe and stop things from getting disastrous if Onoki somehow vaporizes Hiruzen.

The clone in Konoha's Bunker is there to keep an eye on Biwako, Mukai, and the Hyuga Clan, communicate with Nono, and see if he can learn a few things about the Hyuga Clan or gain a Byakugan 'accidentally.' Biwako and Mukai somehow falling into cum-man's control is no news to him, but Kai still does not understand how this particular Jutsu works.

The Hokage's Mansion is a repository for Forbidden Jutsu. They are secretly stashed away, but Kai's clone is tagging Jiraiya. Tsunade and Orochimaru are aware of his sage mode, but not Jiraiya. Even if Kai is confident in his ability to hide his Sage Mode, he will still deactivate his senjutsu, or at least use it to enhance Jutsu like Orochimaru, when Jiraiya activates his Sage Mode. Sage Mode is always a wild factor in Kai's mind. He, like Orochimaru, accepts that Sage Modes from different Origins may have abilities he is not aware of. His Sage Mode stems from **[Sage Transformation]** and **[Shikkotsu Rock-Egg Sage Art]**. He does not boast Tsunade's ridiculous boost in her Sage Mode or Orochimaru's natural ability to transform the elements around her.

There are Jutsu for that, undoubtedly, but the factor here is the reflexive advantage to things. Jiraiya's Sage Mode should have specialties that Kai isn't aware of. So, this clone will tag Jiraiya and try to understand the man's Sage Mode if possible. After all, his clones have Sharingan, too. But the chances of Sharingan seeing through Senjutsu Chakra are as minuscule as Mitsuki's say in regards to calling Orochimaru a mommy or a daddy.

Leaving a clone in Hyuga Clan Compound is a no-brainer. Kai still wants to scan the property to confirm if they have a prominent hidden spot like the Naka Shrine for the Uchiha Compound.

Senju Clan Compound will be one of the critical locations to attack. And Kai didn't forget that the Cum-man especially left this place alone. The chances of the white menace snooping in this time of crisis are not zero.

The Uchiha Clan compound is the same as the Senju Clan Compound when it comes to being a target. They must be a target after leading a disastrous victory against Kumogakure in the Second Shinobi War. Besides, Kai is now aware that Sharingan, Magekyo Sharingan, and the

Rinnegan fall under the same evolutionary line. So, he has a pucky interest in the social aspect of the clan to understand how Nagato got Rinnegan as a replacement in his eye sockets.

Finally, the Hokage Office is manned by Shikudo, Inoshi, and Choku. Shikudo will oversee the Village's Forces through Telescope Jutsu and let Inoshi relay necessary orders for the Village's defense through his Telepathic Hiden. Choku is their muscles, in case an enemy reaches the Office, not to mention the three Anbu members hiding. Kai's clone will directly coordinate with Shikudo's plan one-sidedly and see what he can do to assist or gain.

The original Kai is with his team—Kushina, Minato, Tsume, and Kuromaru, settling near Konoha's perimeter where the mountainous meteor collapsed.

This is only the positioning. The other crucial aspect is determining what kind of strength he should reveal and to whom.

Kai has already revealed his ability to fly, and his Sage Transformation is wildly considered a Body Modification Jutsu. But if any Sharingan or Byakugan user looks at him, they will find irregularities. Not as in his Senjutsu, but the base difference between him and other *'human'* elites. Not only that, but Kai also led Hiruzen to believe his comprehensive skills were better than Tobirama, if not more, by mastering Minato's Jutsu at a glance when all he did was expend SP.

Hiruzen is already aware Kai can assassinate Kage-level individuals. In Kai's mind, that should be the highest Hiruzen should think of him for the time being until he completes the alliance between Uzu and Konoha. Then he will have Hiruzen's complete support, and all the skills he reveals later on will be met by support instead of fear.

There may be easier ways to become a Hokage, for instance, killing Hiruzen and taking the position with tyrannical strength. But Kai's never been greedy for a position of power. To him, becoming a Kage is all about that Harem and Skill Grind. A Kage can access a lot more things without sneaking around, and being a young bachelor as a Kage doesn't hurt his chance to... ehm, integrate Kekkei Genkai in the village.

All he will do, including gathering an impressive harem, is for Konoha!

His enthusiasm, however, is not shared with others as Tsume scratches Kuromaru's ear while grumbling, "Alpha, I don't think they survived."

The team is perched upon some branches as they observe the dust settle.

"They survived, dattebane," Kushina interjects with a frown as Kyubi supplants within her. *"It's that bitch. She is one of the easiest animals you'll ever meet. Chances are she also takes easy on her host."*

'Who is it then?' Kushina questions internally as Kyubi goes silent. Rolling her eyes frustratingly, Kushina looks at Kai and awaits their order.

"Hmm," Kai narrows his eyes before grinning, "We can't let our enemies regather themselves, Jinchuriki or not. But our superiors have their way of doing things. So, we wait for the dust to settle."

Minato cannot help but frown, feeling something amiss. His focus is stranded between Kai and the point of impact as he questions, "Kai-san? What of the Jinchuriki?"

"That's the thing. The moment the meteor crashed, the senbon needle that acted as a beacon for Hiraishin was destroyed. And indeed, we cannot let our enemies regather... but they are quick sons of bitches. They're already here."

"Where?" Tsume perks up alongside Kuromaru's bark.

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"Very good, Nii," Dodai pats dust off his clothes before patting the exhausted girl on the head as hundreds of Shinobi in Kumo's colors surround them while staring in Konoha's direction. The one-eyed man kneels on one knee to get to the girl's eye level and nods calmly. "Your performance and chakra control is splendid." As he says this, the Jinchuriki named Nii cannot help but glance at the youth with pale skin and brown hair. Compared to rest, he looks barely adequate for this invasion.

The firm squeeze of Dodai's hand on her shoulder brings her back as the man reminds her gently, "You should get back."

Nii nods calmly and performs a set of seals when Dodai steps away.

*'Reverse Summoning Jutsu.'*

She slams her thin hand on the cratered ground before disappearing into a plume of smoke.

"I don't get why you're even treating her like a human, Dodai-san," One of the younger Jonins questions casually, "She should be put to use. A Jinchuriki can achieve the same level of destruction as 10 Jonins going all out, at least!"

Dodai replies with a thin look, "If it's a Jinchuriki you're worried about, give it a second."

With that, Dodai forms tens of seals instantly as other Shinobi get a hint before gathering around him.

*'Lava Release: Rubber Build.'*

A beige material jets out from his hand and surrounds the entire group in a layer of nigh untearable defense.

“They’re here,” A middle-aged blonde whispers as he looks eastward.

“Let them,” Dodai responds calmly, inadvertently standing near the young brown-haired Jonin Nii looked at before leaving.

\*Boom\*

\*Boom\*

\*Boom\*

The group hears soft impacts against the rubber walls around them as the middle-aged blonde questions Dodai, “This was not part of the plan, Dodai-san.”

“It’s not part of the information relayed to the rest,” Dodai responds calmly and adds, “Now settle down. I will not entertain questions or suggestions. Once I disperse my Jutsu, you will attack the village as planned and try to survive until the given time frame. That will not be a problem, right, C?”

The middle-aged Blonde responds curtly, “No.”

A heavy silence descends within the box of rubber that shudders heavily under the impacts but does not let up at all.

Outside the box, a team of seven Anbu members attacks from all sides, using all methods like the explosive tags and elemental Jutsus!

Not far from them, a tiny frog with compound eyes jumps and settles on the crater’s edge. Its purplish back seems to blend with the shaded brown of the nearby tree’s trunk next to it as it observes the attack from a distance.

“Jiraiya-dono, it’s as you suspected, gero. They are holed in some rubbery substance, and no attack seems to pierce through the material, gero.” The toad sitting in the cool shade within the Barrier department informs Jiraiya as he looks at Inoichi and frowns. “Connect with your father. Ask him to recall those members now. And prepare to move out.”

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“Hmm?” Kai suddenly straightens his back as he almost holds himself from jumping ahead. His eyes trail to a spot in the sky, where he observes a wisp of sparkling electricity.

“Kyubi says that Nibi disappeared. They are without a Jinchuriki,” Kushina frowns as Kai remains tense.

“No, *wait!*” Kyubi’s surprised gasp rings within Kushina. “*I sense—*”

*\*Zip\**

***\*Crash\****

A massive pillar of light descends near the crater as booms of lightning and plasma heat raze everything within the surrounding, including the Anbu members, as skin melts alongside their clothes. Their bones char and turn into dust. The rubber box shakes violently and melts a little before stabilizing again.

***\*WHHHHEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE\****

“—*Hachibi.*”

A massive bull-faced, eight-limbed octopus shakes the forest with its roar... call, cheer, whatever! A mass of blue and red condenses into a ball of purplish chakra far more destructive than any simple attempts at mimicking a meteor as the one-and-a-half-horned beast points the attack in Konoha’s direction before letting loose!

“Still think they didn’t survive, dear Beta?” Kai questions cockily as the sphere of destruction wraps its surroundings and carves a curving trail in its wake as trees obliterate with a simple touch of the attack. His words poke Tsume in all the wrong ways. She may defer to Kai, but she hates the word Beta. Before she can retort, Kai signals them to move. They are supposed to act as the first temporary line of defense, and the team has already discussed the limits of their actions and the timeframe in which they are required to operate.

Minato, Kushina, Tsume, and Kuromaru disperse using **[Body Flicker]** while Kai moves quicker than the Bijudama to intercept it. After all, it’s either him defending the village or Kushina, and Kai simply refuses to let Kushina expose herself to destructive attacks if possible. She can surely handle these attacks, but why should she need to in Kai’s presence?

His figure throttles through the forested maze before standing directly in front of Bijudama. Even his hardened, rough skin crawls as he feels the chakra imbued in the attack—with Envy!

‘What is with these beasts of nature?!’ Kai rolls his eyes under his hilariously terrifying mask as he holds another one of his marked Senbons in his hands after forming a flurry of seals. ‘And these nine beasts are supposed to unseal a tenth one? Shit’s crazy! It should be stronger than other tailed-beasts, right? I want one!’

\*Ssssssss\*

Cinnamon slithers out from under his sleeves. She takes one look at his mask before disappearing right where she came from.

Not paying attention to his unaging, cutest pet's antics, Kai cannot help but frown.

'This technique doesn't feel the same as before.'

Seals spread out like a web and physically bend again. But this time, they do not act like a flytrap that devours the attack. Instead, the barrier bends under the force of the attack before blinking out of existence, and this time blasting far behind the Hokage Mountain in Senju Clan's expansive property!

'The shockwaves should spook and encourage the Hyuga Clan to make a move~!' Kai grins under his mask as he feels the bell-sized soulful gaze of the oxen tailed-beast.

Glancing at the Jinchuriki, known to be the perfect of his kind, Kai starts looking elsewhere, seeing Inoshi relaying orders for intercepting the intruders, alongside Jiraiya leaving with his team to deal stall the Tailed-beast.

'I have less and less time... where are you?' Kai expands his senses further before nodding to himself.

'Found you!' Kai's body flickers away to locate the shinobi, who attracted his attention in the first place.

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'Remember, they are enemies. And more powerful than you, perhaps. Assume that and ambush the enemies with no quarters given. Tsume, you partner up with Kuromaru right from the beginning. Minato, you start from your most lethal strategy. And Kushina, nothing more than one tail.'

Kai's team recall his words. Others may have assumed that anything more than a cloak of one tail is challenging for Kushina to bear, but Kai simply did not want her showing off for no reason. Not until she can soundly beat a Kage if need be. Kai's intentions were transparent when he said these things before the assault began.

Their enemies may be more deceptive than themselves. And a good enemy is a dead one.

**[Human Beast Combination: Double-Headed Wolf]!**

\*Roooooaaaaarrrrr\*

A four-meter-tall double-headed pitch-black wolf erupts from a plume of smoke before biting a traveling Jonin on his head and legs. Both heads on the wolf jerk in the opposite direction, tearing the shinobi from his waist as his guts fly out, hanging around a nearby branch. The small team of enemy Shinobi instantly dodges the few flying strangely-shaped Kunai and wordlessly attacks the giant Inuzuka target when a crimson figure cleaves forward with her tanto. Her red hair bristles under the bubbling cloak of red chakra, vertical pupils surrounded by crimson irides, whiskers on her face, and uncharacteristically sharper canine under dark lips.

“A Jinchuri—” The man gasps as the chakra tail on Kushina’s back shoots forward. It cannot attack physically like chakra in her Kyubi Chakra Mode can, but Kushina has worked quite a few things with Kyubi.

‘Time to let them taste the product of their actions, dattebane!’

*‘Just this once because I stand to enjoy it.’* Kyubi snorts coldly.

The seemingly phaseless attack brings violent intentions upon the afflicted Shinobi, who is drawn away in a massive tide of pain and negative emotions—Kyubi’s Hatred.

The moment Jonin’s attention slips, Kushina’s tanto slides down the enemy’s blade as she beheads her opponent without losing a second! Down to the last two members of the team, the two Kumo-Shinobi flinch and decide to regroup elsewhere. But a kunai pierces their necks accompanied by a flash of yellow.

Tsume and Kuromaru’s fused bodies let out a low growl. Not intending to break their jutsu anytime soon, they wait for Minato or Kushina to lead them to another ambush. Their plan is simple.

Kushina will act as the Team’s sensor. The twin-headed monstrous black wolf is the theatrical deception that hides the innocent Kunai play from Minato, setting the stage for him to Hiraishin to his specially marked three-pronged Kunai and kill the opponent without giving them a breathing chance.

After all, Kai acted as a shining beacon to attract everyone’s attention. This will be the right moment to use their strengths... only things did not play out as they expected when Kushina felt a small team beelining their way instead.

“The next team has a sensor, dattebane, and they’re still coming here! Be careful!” Kushina adopts the role of second-in-command, which Kai presented to Minato... but things turned out this way. Her warning is well-received as the team of three prepares a few traps but finds themselves lacking a good repository of Genjutsu for the traps. When would a Fuin Nut, Kai Nut,

and Alpha Nut have the chance to practice Genjutsu? Their times are already utilized to their peak capabilities at the moment.

Shocking them further is their enemy's simple introduction, not of themselves but of the current Team Kai.

"Kushina Uzumaki, Minato Namikaze, Tsume Inuzuka, and her Ninken Kuromaru," claims the deceptively short man with narrow features as his bulging eyes stare past the simple traps and locate the trio hidden in their respective spots. This brunette clearly did not hear Kai's rule of being prim and proper Shinobi, which the Legacy Guardian rarely follows himself, but still! The Shinobi commands his three teammates just loud enough to let Minato and others hear him.

"Be careful of those marked Kunai. Dragon Sennin and Legacy Guardian Kai aren't the only ones capable of wielding Hiraishin."

It is clear that others must have heard something similar, so the man's team glares at their leader disapprovingly. They'd wished to take out Minato by surprise, but that's gone now.

Tsume is the first one to step out from behind a large boulder. Her sharp claws scratch the soft soil as their transformation's two heads let out a rumbling low grow from their throats. Her fierce red eyes stare at the enemy, body crouching in preparation to pounce like a well-oiled beast—but Tsume and Kuromaru are Shinobi—her figure blinks. Her enormous body zooms upon her enemy before dispersing into a vast plume of smoke the second the enemy leader performs something unnoticeable.

A clone.

Whose?

'An enemy with information is to be marked the most dangerous. Forget previous protocols in such scenarios and go all out if need be.' Kai's simple course of action resurfaces in Kushina's mind and assures her a great deal when her crimson-chakra-clad body bubbles with two additional tails. However, she is in complete control as a giant water dragon swallows the enemy from beneath their feet!

'Even without any natural water source?' The enemy Shinobi grit their teeth and employ their defenses as the mountainous coiling water dragon explodes with splashes of water evaporating into a cloud of thick mist covering a considerable section of the forest!

But...

'Where are they?' Kushina and Minato train their eyes as Tsume and Kuromaru train their ears and nostrils to locate the enemy.



No blood, no dismembered limbs—Nothing!

\*Sniff\*

Two nostrils of the dual-headed black wolves pick something simultaneously as they growl to attract Kushina's attention.

The right head voices out softly, "I smell blood surrounding us."

"Watch out!" Minato appears next to Tsume and holds his special Kunai that went haywire and flew to cut her neck on its own!

Kushina stares narrow-eyed and releases a pulse of chakra, noting that this isn't a Genjutsu, undoubtedly.

Yet, Minato, Tsume, and Kushina stare wide-eyed at the blonde youth's hand moving forward and driving the three-pronged Kunai in Tsume's neck, twisting it alongside for good measure.

\*Howl!\*

Tsume's pained howl shakes the nearby forest as Kushina flickers behind Minato and roughly pins him to the ground as she hisses, "You fucking idiot! Drop that Kunai! Now!"

Tens of clones explode into existence around Kushina as two of them hurriedly heal Tsume while the rest keep the situation in check only to realize... Minato cannot release the Kunai in his hand!

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**Alternate Title:** Positioning and Strength Check; Dodai Has Massive Future in the Rubber Business—100% Protection Guaranteed!; One Jinchuriki Leaves, The Other Arrives; A Flashy Entrance; The Soulful Eyes of Death Ox; Kai Only Had One Moment of Xianxia Enlightenment; The Junior Must Train MORE!; Kill 'EM; Both Sides are Shinobi, Both Sides are Deceptive; Hiraishin Known; Wait... Kai and Dragon Sennin Are Different Shinobi? \*Gasp!\*; Minato Needs That Beta Position; Getting Rid of The Competition; Bro or Hoe? The Confrontation of a Generation; Kushina is Clearly a Second-in-Command Type, Kai Must be Partial to That Yellow Flash Boot; First Hint of Yellow Flash; A Problematic Enemy; Going Three Tails; Tail Gangbang? A Weird Thought Indeed.

***Title: Darkest Night Hidden in The Leaf (7)***

\*Drrrrr\*

The bunkers within Mount Kage shake as some of the more jumpy civilians let loose scared yelps and cower in the darkness, fearing the predicted end to their lives! But it's not the Anbu members hiding in the dark that assure the men and women in various bunkers to keep calm. They merely appeared to apprehend any ill-minded men and women who wanted to find some gain in this moment of panic.

Hibi's byakugan fades into the darkness as he looks at other Hyuga members comprising the Elder Body of the Clan.

"The Anbu members are in their usual rotation. But I sense Hizashi and Hiashi, too. Hiashi is with Hon in the same room as Mukai, Hizashi, and his wife, Umi."

Hibi's words spread confusion within the group. The sudden explosion of Bijudama near Mount Kage sent Anbu members into a more active role which also meant that the Hyuga members could discuss things without fearing any lasting eavesdropping. Aside from confusion, the elders also felt relieved. At least, Hiashi is safe.

Since Mukai, Hiashi, and Hizashi cannot hide from Byakugan, they settle for something simple. But as Kai expected, the Hyuga Clan has one ironical tunnel vision despite their Byakugan as they begin discussing plans to settle their circumstances.

"Konoha is intent on destroying our foundational practices," one elder hisses softly.

"I think Hiruzen is upto something worse. Why else would he have all our civilians return? The entirety of the Hyuga Clan is in a single spot. Wiping us out never became easier!"

Hibi thinks silently with a tight frown. He once ran the Clan and knows how Konoha works.

His Byakugan works again as he looks through the floor he is standing on.

"We are hostage in a sense," Hibi begins with a grimace. "Hiruzen desires the Clan's strength to follow his command and my youngest, Hizashi, was too much of a fool to see who Hiruzen enslaved him with his naive ideals. We brand our loved ones with seals to save them the fate of being robbed of their strength!"

His words earn Hibi appreciative murmuring from the group of Elders as the former Patriarch of the Clan continues, "My father made a pact with Hashirama Senju at equal standing. As age

wreaks havoc in Hiruzen's mind, he forgets that we are not weak. If we are hostages to Konoha's schemes, the Hyuga Clan shall hold Konoha hostage through this rare opportunity!"

The Elders look at Hibi curiously as his wrinkles deepen with a shrewd expression on his face.

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Perfect Jinchuriki—B.

A man whose accomplishment is considered dangerous to the point that spies in Kumo sent the information to their respective Villages even if it meant exposing themselves—a truly high-priority case, a being that mastered his Tailed-Beast! The implications sent other Shinobi Villages and Daimyos scrambling for a short time. The next war should have started right then if Kumo arranged assaults on other nations. But they didn't.

What does perfection implies in matters of a Jinchuriki? What kind of power does such an existence boasts? B is the first to accomplish such a feat since the existence of Jinchuriki, and other Villages, including the Daimyo of the Land of Lightning, believe that Kumo cracked the code. But really, Kai found it a simple case of understanding.

Is it *THAT* hard to understand that enslaved monsters are unhappy? That they can be uncooperative?

Yes, it is hard for men and women thriving on the backs of enslaved in the world of Shinobi and aristocrats to understand this.

In some of their minds, it is a privilege to be someone special's slave.

Freedom? It is merely a luxury of the powerful.

Few others aside from Kai understand the reality of things unchecked by power, hatred, and love.

Dodai stares at the massive eight-tailed bovine monster with a fond smile before recalling the young girl who left the location after summoning everyone except Hachibi.

"Ow! Ya fool! That technique sucks ass, yeah! My body felt like it was on fire, and fire in my blood screamed—YEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE!"

The monstrous Tailed-Beast lets loose another roar as Dodai stares at burnt spots on Hachibi's body.

'Hmm, the Heavenly Transfer Jutsu is hard to bear even by the likes of a transformed Jinchuriki. But B is already healing.'

Dodai raises his voice, “Focus, B! The enemy who teleported your attack is the Dragon Sennin. He boasts he’s stronger than the Three Sannin who captured Lord Third’s son, and I’m starting to believe there’s some truth to his words!”

The giant body of the brownish monster flinches before he suddenly lashes out with one of his octopus tails.

Dodai calmly prepares a Jutsu of his own as the tail tears through a large chunk of the forest when the tip of Hachibi’s tail explodes, tearing open clumps of bloodied flesh.

**[Rasengun].**

Kai’s body zips on the long tail and dodges the furious slap of the beast’s wide hand only to target the one-eyed leader of the invasion with his hands clad in surgically sharp chakra! He already revoked his Sage Transformation when he felt Jiraiya move, but Kai was never weak without Sage Transformation.

An appropriate Rasengan is good enough to hurt a Tailed-Beast right where it’s supposed to—the tail. Meanwhile, he uses his go-to Jutsu whenever possible, **[Chakra Scalpel]**.

“Quite bold,” Dodai raises a small slate of rubbery material before it surprisingly expands and turns into bubbling Lava that tides over to Kai in an attempt to melt him.

“Dodai! That looks human, where’s the dragon? Ya, fool!” B growls, his mouth letting out a geyser of ink from his mouth that cuts Kai’s path.

\*Blink\*

Kai disappears quietly, reappearing on B’s already healing tail as he dispenses the Chakra Scalpel.

‘Hey, you asked for the Dragon,’ His grin grows wicked behind his mask as electricity sparkles in his hand.

**[Lightning Release— Body Pathway Derangement].**

“Hmm?” A curious grunt echoes from B’s mouth as his hand stops in its track while his third tail whips and smacks his head the next second!

\*Thwap\*

“Ow! Hachi, your tail is moving on its own! Friendship and loyalties tested, bonds forged, tails smacked over it all, yeah!”

*"It isn't me. It's the Jutsu. Change bodies. I will need some time to remove the chakra from the affected region since his chakra is moving with a mind of its own."* A deep grumble responds to B as the monstrous body of the Tailed-Beast blinks away with a blonde-haired, dark-skinned muscular youth with a pair of shades free falls from the height before landing on a branch and breaking past it to unsheathe his sword at once and cutting at Kai's hand aiming for his neck!

\*Crack\*

Kai's hand cuts the thin sword cleanly as the dark-skinned youth grins widely.

"Yer damn slow, ya fool!" Crimson chakra bubbles around him, and he evades Kai's attack the next second.

"And you're the first one to accuse me of being slow," Kai appears next to B the very next second, his hand barely stopped by a rubber whip coiling around his wrist.

"No, you don't," Dodai narrows his eyes, holding the other end of the whip.

Kai snorts as a powerful force tugs Dodai forward instead. Kai, meanwhile, jumps in a spiral to evade B wielding two swords to cut him from the waist.

\*Thud\*

A low grunt escapes Dodai's lips as breath escapes his lung with a resounding kick in the abdomen with his body smacked into B. Kai does not let up. Instead, he pulls Dodai back, only for the man to disperse his jutsu and fall face-first on the ground. A clone forms around the man to stop the flurry of Senbons with his body and turns into a 'Gooish' beige, rubber-like thing.

Kai only stops when the mass of chakra around B turns so dense that his skin peels off to reveal a red monster with four flailing tails behind him.

"Dragon enough for you?" Kai finally speaks as he unsheathes his sword. His humored tone through the hilarious octopus mask looks anything but comedic to the duo as Dodai catches his breath and stares at Kai with a hint of cautious murder.

Such an opponent must not remain with Konoha—Never.

The round white-eyed B snarls softly as his claws dig into the dirt. "Dodai, this isn't anything like what Mubai told us! That fool promised us an assassin, not a raging brawler or the next Suna Widower, yo!"

"Hmm, Kumo Widower?" Kai looks at his sword before looking at his opponents, "Sakumo wishes to keep up with me."

His figure blitzes forward and suddenly disappears. His sword drives through Dodai the next second as the rubber-wielding master of defense looks down with a shocked expression.

“Dodai!” B snarls and almost attacks when Kai snickers, “Are you going to kill the both of us? I don’t suppose you formed a connection with your Tailed-Beast with such a lack of compassion.”

B’s body stills as Dodai continues to stare at the sword through his abdomen.

“When... you kicked me, was that it?”

Kai looks at the man before tapping his head. Dodai loses consciousness. To be precise, Kai uses one of the two time-perception-altering Genjutsu in his arsenal.

### **[Hold of the Reaper].**

“So, you came to rescue A’s son, huh?” Kai pulls out his sword and presses his green-tinted chakra-clad hand on Dodai to provide rudimentary medical assistance under B’s anxious stare. “He’ll live.” He supplants to keep B stalling, “After all, he has value as a prisoner.”

“This isn’t some chat and greet!” B’s tail waves anxiously, “Hold him still, ya fool, don’t let Dodai bleed!”

“Is this a verbal tick like the Uzumakis?” Kai inquires calmly.

“No verbal tick compares to my musical talent! Yeah, my talent is not an ailment, yeah!”

*“B, I sense another team approaching us quickly. He’s a distraction.”* Hachibi’s voice snaps B out of his musings as the Jinchuriki attacks without another word, four tails extending swiftly to stab Kai, only for him to disappear with Dodai!

“And here I truly enjoyed conversing with you a bit. Hope you don’t die, bud. And... get a lyricist to rip off from.” Kai reappears on a faraway tree before disappearing as he leaves a simple statement.

“I dealt with the more technical one. I don’t think I can handle perfect jinchuriki just yet.” Kai lies through his teeth as another team flickers to existence near the spot he disappeared.

The leader of the team grins widely in response as his long, spiky white hair sways to the wind.

“Leave it to the Toad Sage of Mount Myoboku!” Jiraiya extends his hand forward with his palm stretched open as Shikamaru, Choza, and Inoichi stare at the snarling Jinchuriki.

*‘We are way out of our league, aren’t we?’*

They think at once as Jiraiya raises an eyebrow before landing on the ground. His stare turns intense as he forms a one-handed seal.

Orange pigment darkens around his eyes, his dark irides turn yellowish, and his hair seems to grow out further, but he is free of warts on his nose or his hands and feet enlarging.

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“Slow! Sloppy!” Onoki growls as his stone-armored fists smash down on the adamantine staff, pushing Hiruzen further into the ground as if a hammer nailing down an unrelenting nail! Hiruzen’s clones are the first to disperse, but their battle grows more intense by the second.

\*Zip\*

\*Flash\*

The pillar of light outside Konoha’s perimeter barely bothers Onoki and Hiruzen as the former scoffs, “That A and his obsession with researching every weird thing!”

“Better be a researcher than an old has-been who claims a product of research as a Kekkei Genkai!” Hiruzen grins suddenly. The staff explodes into a plume of smoke before the white-furred Enma grabs Hiruzen by his head.

### **[Adamantine Exchange Transformation].**

The summon wields a pitch-black, golden-handled blade that slices through the rock around Onoki’s fist, barely scraping the old dwarf’s wrists as he flies higher.

“Cheap tricks like this Jutsu are beneath you!” Onoki scoffs, “And Dust Release is the proud Kekkei Genkai of my lineage!”

“We disagree on both terms!” Enma grins brutishly, sniping the sword forward while forming simple seals.

### **[Sword Clone Jutsu].**

Onoki rolls his eyes as he sees hundred of swords flying in his direction before slapping his palm together.

Chakra converges in a short second and flies out the next while expanding wildly.

“Turn to dust!”

\*Poof\*\*Poof\*\*Poof\*\*Poof\*\*Poof\*\*Poof\*\*Poof\*\*Poof\*\*Poof\*\*Poof\*\*Poof\*\*Poof\*\*Poof\*\*Poof\*

Hundreds of popping sounds echo, accompanied by exploding smoke as the Dust Release disintegrates even the smoke!

Onoki frowns as he stares at Enma.

'Where did Hiruzen go?'

\*Bang\* The teleported Bijudama explodes as the shockwave barely reaches their spot of battle.

Onoki realizes belatedly that another staff hung from Enma's waist as the old man grits his teeth, "Stop fooling around, you damn monkey!"

"I think he is talking about you, Enma," the staff transforms into Hiruzen as he clears his throat.

"I'm a noble monkey. You're the only *'damn'* Monkey among us, Saru," Enma half-shrugs in response as Onoki narrows his eyes.

"That Dragon Sennin of yours won't be able to keep up with Hachibi's Jinchuriki. You just had to cause issues with the Hyuga Clan, did you not? If you only kept your sense of morality and greed in check, your village won't be in such a dire state."

Hiruzen takes a breather with a smile, "And what state would those be? Did Konoha lose a Jinchuriki by chance? And you think the mysterious benefactor feeding the rest of the Villages information is not providing Konoha similar knowledge? Let's be clear on one thing, Onoki. We are fighting someone else's battle willingly! Someone wants us to fight like this. Someone wants to hurt all villages. Even our Daimyos are happy to see that!"

"And that is supposed to unite us?" Onoki huffs a derisive snort followed by a chuckle. "Is that it? Common enemies? The ploy leading to Konoha's current circumstance is a simple one. But we, at the top, understand that a common enemy will never band us together. We are backstabbing croons blessed with powers that others, not even most Shinobi in our ranks, dare understand!"

As Onoki derides Hiruzen, the old dwarf's stubby hands form a single hand sign.

"Let me repeat myself, Hiruzen Sarutobi. There is no scenario where Konoha can talk itself out of this situation. Madara Uchiha and Hashirama Senju did not talk, Tobirama even more so. Their dreams of unification only led to killers like us gathering in five different spots. Nothing has changed since their era."

"Change only takes place when—" Hiruzen frowns, only to be cut off by Onoki as a mass of chakra forms around him.



“I will drag Konoha to the same level as Iwa,” Onoki vows seriously. “You were the strongest Village.”

“Unfortunately, you’re wrong,” Hiruzen grunts a sigh. “Had you let the younger generation prosper instead of solely focusing on building a degrading whirlpool of slavery, your village would truly amount to something.”

Enma quietly transforms into another staff as Sarutobi weaves more seals and creates an expansive summoning seal.

### **[Summoning Jutsu: Monkey King’s Parade]!**

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The militaristic Kumo has several specialized teams of Shinobi collectively falling under the umbrella of Alphabetical leadership. A, the Raikage, leads all other teams and other alphabetized shinobi. B is a role saved for A’s partner.

The current Raikage was once a ‘B,’ but that term has a different meaning since the rise of Jinchuriki as the Third Raikage saw it fit to bestow the title of the Second Strongest of Kumo to the Tailed-Beast of the village. The current B is partnered with A’s son since Blue B, the previous jinchuriki, lost his life when he lost control of Hachibi. Next in line is C.

Code ‘C’ belongs to the most skilled sensor of Kumo in a given generation. The sensing aspect of Ninjutsu is not only related to sensing chakra. One of the simplest examples is Kai and Kushina’s (in her Kyubi Chakra Mode) ability to discern emotions through Chakra. The basic knowledge of Chakra indicates its formation from the combination of the spiritual and physical aspects of the body, so sensing chakra means sensing a particular facet of the body and the mind.

Technically, Yamanaka Clan’s telepathy falls under the umbrella of Sensory Skills. The Yin Eye formed by Tsunade’s parents is similar, too.

C is similarly skilled in some interesting Jutsu. There is a reason why he is leading a team of elites to locate A’s son and not Dodai.

His team consists of Kumo’s two recognized elites and three renowned Jonins. C’s team is near the Uchiha Police Building, where the middle-aged, fair-skinned blonde observes a vial of blood changing color under the effects of his chakra. The color tints pale yellow before returning to its crimson shade.

“Lightest yellow... it means Lord Raikage’s son isn’t here,” One of the elites sigh. They expected this much. Konoha’s preparation definitely involved the relocation of many significant prisoners, and A’s son may just make the top of the list.

“Information regarding Konoha stopped right after the imprisonment of Raikage’s son. Konoha likely has some manner of understanding of how this mysterious informant works. But Lord Third and Dodai noted some possible Konoha personnel that might help us get Lord A’s son.”

C’s words confuse others as one of the Jonins voices out hesitatingly, “We aren’t unwilling to face Tsunade Senju. But that would be a pointless sacrifice.”

“It would be pointless,” C adopts a calm expression. “We are not meant to die fruitlessly at the hands of the Sannin.”

“We are just as elite as them,” spoke the second red-haired elite of the group.

“Maybe,” C sighs. “We all have our missions. Unlike others tasked with raising organized havoc, our mission is to capture Nawaki Senju.”

As C admits, the sounds of clashes among different Shinobi fill Konoha’s perimeter as Kumo did not stink of sending out some of their more capable shinobi. It’s already a substantial investment from Kumo’s side as A does not cultivate slave-oriented armies of Shinobi like Iwagakure. But the multiple specialized teams also mean that Kumo’s combat effectiveness was matched only by assassination-focused Kiri.

“So... we have to leave others the second any of you capture Nawaki, as planned,” C repeats, especially for the red-haired elite with a dubious origin, who snorts and flexes his arm to give C the finger quietly.

“What of that weird fellow who joined in last?” The first elite, a dark-skinned slated-grey-haired man, questions while scratching his full beard. “Haven’t seen that fellow. Do you know something about him?”

“Just that he is to follow Dodai’s instructions and target whoever Dodai deems troublesome. So, I guess he is to counter Konoha’s jinchuriki.”

“A pure-blood, eh?” The redhead scoffs under his breath as the team of six promptly disappears when C stops speaking and forms a gesture to show which direction they will be traveling in, having already found their target.

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**Alternate Title:** A Hostage Situation; Playing With Fire; Precise Dragon; Sticking to the Basics for Maximum Potency; When a Tail Rebels; Rubber V Teleportation; Kai’s Got no Chill; Compassion is a Weakness on the Battlefield; Strongarming Dodai; Willingly Retreating; The Toad Sage Arrives; Out of Depth; A Handsome Sage; Adamantine vs Rock; Words Fail in War; Everyone Before Talk no Jutsu’s Invention—Murder; Monkey King’s Parade; Damn

Monkeys!—Frieze is Onoki's Fan; Dwarf V Monkey; Turn to Dust! \*Chad Hiruzen who bagged Biwako\* No.; Blood Sensing is Some Xianxia Shit; True Target; Half-Blood Elite; ABC; When Alphabets are More Murderous

***Title: Darkest Night Hidden in The Leaf (8)***

The thing about Jinchuriki is that their Tailed-Beasts experience similar changes as the host. For instance, Shadow Clone Jutsu doesn't only separate Kushina's chakra to form life, but also Kyubi inside her. And unlike Kushina, the divided Kyubi can sense each other just well enough to realize where the real threat lay about the opponent they are facing right now. But Kyubi would despise herself for assisting Kushina more than she already has. If the dumb slut dies despite wielding her chakra, then death it is. Or so she dreamt. But a defensive circle of tens of Uzumaki clones is a problem for true-blue elites, much less favored Jonins.

*'If only I were limited to the five nature transformations.'* The brunette Kumo Shinobi observes Kushina and others as Tsume and Kuromaru disperse their transformation to become smaller targets once healed. His team of three shinobi awaits his command with irritation visible in their gazes.

'We have limited time, but my objective is to hold the Jinchuriki to the best of my ability,' the shinobi muses as he forms a hand seal.

"Wha—" Minato's pinned body struggles against Kushina, who calmly looks around despite the blonde's arm starting to bleed from a wound that wasn't present a second ago.

"Can you speak, dattebane?" Kushina frowns as she assesses the wide-eyed Minato, who tries to shake his head only to find his entire body not under his control!

"I smell blood," Tsume warns as she looks around, not referring to Minato's bleeding arm that refuses to stop despite Kushina attempting to heal him.

'A Kekkei Genkai?' Kushina makes the only educated guess for everything weird in the world of Shinobi and snarks at her clones, "Only one-tailed mode!"

"DATTEBANE!"

All the clones issue verbal ticks as a bubbling cloak of dark orange chakra wraps them in the form of two fox ears and a long tail before they disperse with a flicker of their bodies.

"Agh!" Tsume gasps as she holds her neck, blood squirting out from her previous wound, while the gash on Minato's arm widens!

\*Awwooo\*

Kuromaru whimpers in worry as he stands protectively near Tsume, who is on her knees, releasing raspy, choked breaths.

'The fuck!' Wee-bit of panic finally sets in Kushina as she feels memories of three of her clones returning a second later.

'Two Jonins, Lightning and Water release. No, another experience package. The third Jonin wields kunai and shurikens more proficiently than elemental jutsus.'

Kushina's explicit order of one-tailed-chakra mode remains for her clones alone. Her eyes briefly reveal her hesitation to use her full power, but it's either the exposure of her skills or the lives of her teammates. Fully aware a *'simpler'* Shinobi would forsake their teammate's life, on the other hand, someone like Kai would find a way to turn the situation his way no matter what, Kushina licks her dry lips as wisps of orange-yellow chakra coat her hands instead of the green Iryo-Nin Chakra.

'Why not a third option, dattebane? All Kekkei Genkais are an expression of chakra. Just gotta override it anndddddd,' She draws mentally as the pure chakra of Kyubi goodness seeps into Minato's and Tsume's bodies before reflexively purging any chakra with hostile intentions—Fully utilizing Kyubi's sensory skill of observing negative emotions.

Minato's and Tsume's bodies stop struggling, their expressions soothe, and their breathing eases as they look at Kushina gratefully.

'Nailed it,' Kushina grins as seven more clones disperse from the enemy's attack, four of which are impaled by sharp shards of blood from a bloody vortex caging a relatively small perimeter around them.

"It's a Kekkei Genkai to control blood, I think. But my clones didn't even get close to the user and only got close to the moving Jonins."

Minato and Tsume straighten up as the blonde musters, "I can try—"

"No, leave the Kekkei Genkai to me," Kushina asserts, "You two need to stall the remaining Jonins with my clones. I'll finish it quickly, promise!"

"Sure!" Tsume agrees readily with a confident smile, but Minato doesn't look so sure. They were struggling a moment ago, after all!

"We can stall... but keep this to yourself." Minato hands Kushina one of his special kunai as he gestures to her with their coded signals—*Signal me if you get the chance to use it.*

Kushina nods and pockets the kunai into the pouch strapped on her waist.

\*Ruff\*

\*Poof\*

Tsume and Kuromaru transform into a dual-headed crimson-eyed, pitch-black beast of a canine once again as Minato disperses alongside her and follows the direction of the water-style Jonin.

Kushina narrows her eyes as her violet pupils transition to foxy crimson ones. Since a part of Kyubi's chakra belongs to her, she could use it according to her wishes, something she realized tens of seconds ago when she isolated part of said chakra to heal her teammates. If that's possible, then adopting Kyubi's senses should be possible, too.

*"Hmph, you are finally using your head for something useful instead of bobbing it while on your knees,"* Kyubi's rough snarl rumbles in Kushina's mind as she jets toward her enemy with a roll of her eyes. 'Is it really the time, dattebane?!'

*"When are you humans NOT in conflict? I see no reason to speak at your whimsy schedule."*

'Now isn't the time to bicker!'

*"I'll speak as I wish!"*

'Then do it quietly!'

*"My voice isn't leaking to the outside world."*

"Shut up, you bitch!" Kushina snaps out loud as she stops briefly.

When Kushina takes the momentary silence as her victory, she hears a husky snicker, *"Let's see how well you battle someone with a dojutsu for controlling blood as I irritate you!"*

But Kushina has trained under Kai to look beyond illusions! The redhead scoffs with a smile.

'You could have shared that information without acting like a total bitch!'

*"Shut up!"* Kyubi was never so loud, not even when melting beside her moans.

The redhead snickers as three of her clones form a team around her as they reach the edge of the thin bloody vortex controlled by a slim, bulging-eyed, dark-haired youth whose wiry frame stands straight on a nearby branch. Now that Kushina is aware her enemy possesses an unknown Dojutsu, she takes no risk by staring at the enemy directly. Instead, one of her clones disperses willingly after observing the enemy: Bright-red sclera, blood-red irides, and horizontally set, rectangular white pupils similar to a chakra toad.

'What's it called?' Kushina questions Kyubi, who refuses to answer, making the redhead roll her eyes internally and unsheathe her tanto alongside her clones.

While she did not meet the enemy's gaze since a second's distraction from a possible dojutsu-charged genjutsu can be fatal, she does utilize Kyubi's chakra to sharpen her senses to the point she dodges her clones' blades suddenly flying out of their grip and driving through the spot where she stood a fraction of a second ago.

Kushina's mind buzzes as she pulls out the scroll fluidly within that very second to seal the sharp items on her body.

"A sharp mind unbecoming an Uzumaki," the hoarse voice snarks, "Or are purebreds more intelligent than lab rats?"

Kushina fails to respond as she uses the time to weave seals, filling her mouth with a burst of water.

### **[Water Release: Water Severing Waves]!**

A jet of water capable of cutting through thick metal walls bifurcates the enemy, who explodes in a splatter of blood before reforming in front of her eyes.

'Eh?' Kushina's eyes widen momentarily as she rouses raw Kyubi chakra to enter two-tails mode. But she also bolsters her speed using the Kyubi mode's chakra to flicker beside the enemy and suddenly zap past him! Her clones seem to understand her motives as they use wind and water release at once to engage the enemy. Kushina herself forms another set of seals and uses a jutsu taken from Kai's repository.

### **[Water Release: Freeze Wave]!**

The thin perimeter of the bloody vortex stops flowing fluidly and turns into a thin wall of ice in a few seconds with the amount of chakra used in the Jutsu. Three more of her clones are destroyed by now—two to save Tsume and one against the Dojutsu user. However, she has no mind to create more clones.

'It's Iron, right?' Kushina deduces the enemy's ability.

In reality, she would have considered the Dojutsu to have a telekinesis-like ability if not for the fact that the enemy controls blood, too, from within the body. So the enemy's Jutsu should have something in common with her weapons and blood—

\*Spurt\*

Blood gushes from Kushina's orifices as she covers her mouth and enters a coughing fit. But she doesn't stop countering the enemy despite the pain since she has suffered beatings worse than this.

Her bubbling cloak of chakra bolsters with more chakra as she enters the three-tails state to rid the hostile chakra in her body.

'It's like—' Kushina's eyes widen as her injuries heal rapidly. She turns around to finally face the grinning man who clenches his fist and destroys the two clones floating in front of him as if possessed by ghosts.

'—Genjutsu.' Her thought completes as she bounces from one spot to another like a startled rabbit and staves off the enemy's chakra acting like Genjutsu to get meager control of her blood.

"Oh?" The Kumo shinobi lets out a curious noise, his skin thinning visibly as pulsating veins mapping his body become visible. The shards of icy blood coalesce in front of him in an instant and melt to form a massive jutsu.

---

Minato and Tsume split with other clones since they are to stall three jonins and not one. Tsume settles for the water-release Kumo Jonin. Her large bestial form instantly spirals midair to form a drilling fang that attacks the enemy at sight, with three redheaded shadow clones supporting her in one-tail mode.

### **[Super Fang Wolf Fang]!**

The giant drill tears through nearby trees with ease as the dark-skinned Jonin suddenly forms an activation seal, causing the nearby explosive tags to explode, only for two of Kushina's clones to be present at the point of impact before Tsume is affected.

'Tsk!' The Jonin clicks his tongue as he jumps backward to distance himself from the Inuzuka drill. Yet, as the Jutsu impacts the ground, Tsume suddenly drills underground and forms a deep tunnel instead of revealing herself.

'A mole technique?' Jonin's eyelids jump in surprise, 'Then she must have a designated point of exposure no matter how deep she digs.' He takes to the top of the tree, aiming at the last of Kushina's clones with several shurikens.

Kushina's crimson eyes study her enemy as she deflects the shurikens with a disastrous blow of chakra instead of physical attacks to keep her hands free.

'Tsume did say she has a plan,' the clone narrows her eyes and shucks two exploding kunais at the enemy to force him further away. 'But how is she planning to stall a Jonin? Could she be thinking of just being an underground threat? Now, that's not how the mole Jutsu works. Her sharp senses wouldn't work underground, and the enemy probably knows it. So, if she stays



underground—’ The clone’s quick thoughts falter as her eyes widen at the spike of strange chakra underground.

*\*Crackle\**

*\*Boooooommmmm\**

A rust-furred humanoid figure tears out from the ground with three growling wolf-heads, black sclera, yellow irides, vertical bestial pupils, and a hybrid body of man and beast. The figure is astonishingly fast to the point this monster surpasses Kushina’s current sense in her one-tail mode and has the enemy Jonin’s head in her hand within a fraction of a second.

*\*Poof\**

A plume of smoke covers the werewolf-like demonic figure as the enemy Jonin’s head rolls away. Kushina comes to be and hurriedly catches two unconscious figures—a shuddering and vomiting Tsume and a Three-Headed rust-furred Kuromaru, whose heads start wilting like a flower as chakra recedes from his body in the form of burning marks that converge in the center of his forehead.

‘What the hell was that?’ Kushina blinks internally.

---

Hiraishin alone does not determine one’s reaction time and speed, something Minato displays with his skilled usage of the troublesome jutsu—troublesome for his enemies. Instead of Kushina supporting him, like in Tsume’s case, Minato adopts the opposite route of supporting Kushina’s clones instead. Shadow Clones can disperse with a single attack, something the enemy Jonin is aware of, but Minato’s kunai spread apart makes it a lot more difficult for the opponent to deal with the opponent.

Alone, Minato may not have necessarily trumped against the enemy, but that is only due to his moderate raw capabilities save for his speed and reaction time. Everything else about Minato is trained to the point of Jonin-class ability, including his practice of Fire Nature Transformation, leading him to develop his incomplete **[Taiyogan]**.

So, Minato brings the expertise, and Kushina’s clones bring in the muscle necessary to stall the enemy, if not deal with him.

The enemy’s hand seals are cut short at once as Minato’s figure flickers beside him, causing him to repel Minato’s kunai and further drop his blade in concern of his sword getting marked by Hiraishin Seal.

*\*Pssssshhhhhhh\**

Kushina spits a thin pressurized jet of water at the point where the Kumo Jonin is expected to land, only for a water clone to form under him to act as a platform for the enemy to dodge the attack.

“Keep at it,” one of the clones scoffs. “He’ll run out of chakra quickly, dattebane!” She raises her voice to discourage the enemy from further resistance. However, Minato’s figure suddenly flashes beside this clone as he disappears with her the next second—

\*BOOOMMMMM\*

A loud explosion rocks the surroundings, forcing other clones to return beside Minato, who noticed the arrival of the second Jonin on time.

“Skilled in swords, water, and wind release jutsu. A few surprising concentrated blows of chakra, too,” The third amber-eyed Jonin stares at the team while helping his teammate up.

“What about the rest of the clones?” Questions the slightly weary shinobi.

“They are dealt with. I sensed Sui’s death, but the enemy’s not any better. We deal with the boy and the clones before assisting Nosuke against the Jinchuriki,” responds the weapons specialist.

“That chakra... what clan are you from?” Kushina suddenly snarls as she notes some familiarity in the unique chakra signature of the shinobi.

“Oh, me?” The Jonin shrugs calmly while keeping his hawk-like gaze on Minato the entire time, “I’m born in a lab, really. You live with the Senjus, right? You must have guessed it already.”

“You asshole!” Kushina snarls.

“Hey, I didn’t ask to be born as a test for Senju’s compatibility with others. Rikudo knows I’m extracted for my use in the dullest manner back home,” The enemy drawls in a lazy tone.

“Besides, that’s how the villages work, right? I’m sure Konoha has already extracted samples of Raikage’s son in hopes of better shinobi.”

“Kushina-san, is he...?” Minato connects the dots as the clone chews her lips in frustration.

“A Senju, dattebane.”

“We don’t have last names,” the shinobi chuckles and scratches his brown hair.

One of Kushina’s clones suddenly turns around to throw several shurikens at the gallery of shuriken flying in their direction, revealing the enemy’s clone behind them.

“Nothing against you guys. It’s a conflict of interest, really. So, the least I can do is drop my name. You know, if you die, you’ll know who killed you. If I die, you’ll know whom you killed. It’s Shizan.”

As one of Kushina’s clones moves to deal with the enemy clone, the remaining three members stare at Shizan and the second Jonin seriously.

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**Alternate Title:** Naruto’s Bloodbender; Kushina Uses Her Head the Right Way, Kyubi Approves; Later Kushina Uses Head Again, Kai Approves; Chakra Theory Expands!; Limited Beast; Not Going All Out; Understanding the Enemy; Certified Tsundere Kyubi Moment; Kyubi Opens Up; Applications of Genjutsu in Ninjutsu and Dojutsu; Blood and Weapon; Not Faltering Even Once; Tsume: I have a plan. Kushina: What plan? Tsume: I’ll be a FURRY!; Konoha’s New Furry; Senjutsu used for Furry; Tsume Uses her Juciy Upgrade; Make Beta Great Again; Making her Alpha Proud; Minato’s a Flashing Menace... Wait, That Came Out Wrong; Lab Rats; Senju of Kumo; Future BBC in Konoha? Big Black Controversy

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A/N: I admit when I wrote the part about A’s DNA being extracted, I thought of all the true Naruto stuff. You know, the true manga where Naruto is merely a genjutsu and Raikage runs supreme? Yeah... maybe we should have had a good story about Kumo instead of Boruto. Also, I do think the Third Raikage wouldn’t let such a Dojutsu get to waste. As for those who may have forgotten, I wrote some hints related to Kumo’s extensive research in breeding other clans in their village when Hanzo faced the Sannin and spoke about how he would get a few Uzumaki to make use of for Amegakure. I just thought this conflict may be a good way to introduce such concepts that I would have liked in OG Naruto, cementing the need for seals for Uchiha, Hyuga, and other clans thriving on good genes instead of Might Duy-level grind.

***Title: Darkest Night Hidden in The Leaf (9)***

“Looks pretty desolate without people, eh?” Nawaki smiles at Kakashi, both of them stationed within the Senju Compound. Everyone is evacuated from the area, revealing that the expected threat to Konoha is no laughing matter. The next Senju successor also realizes why Tsunade took a more significant part of the recent month to brutalize him to the inch of his life daily.

‘She must have known it,’ Nawaki narrows his eyes as he leans against the cylindrical tank on a rooftop with a masked Kakashi a few skips away, maintaining his silence. ‘Is it the Hyuga Affair? It isn’t a coincidence that the village evacuated the civilians on the same day of the meeting. Does the Hyuga Clan harbor traitors?’

He thinks little about it before dropping the issue altogether.

Since Tsunade is leading defense within the village, she isn’t utilizing teams of three to carry out her task. After all, shinobi must spread in various spots within Konoha and in moderate numbers to deal with or stall the enemies. Putting strangers in teams for missions isn’t really an issue as long as the administration decides on one leader. This time, however, Tsunade is the team leader of a significantly large group of shinobi and Anbu members.

Tsunade herself isn’t in the Senju Compound. She’s stationed herself near the Hospital to carry out emergency medical operations if need be upon essential personnel.

“Hmm?”

Nawaki and Kakashi look at the sky at almost the same time. Their senses screech at the back of their minds in a sharp alarm.

“Oh,” Nawaki blinks at the sight of the hurtling mountain before regaining his calmness.

“What kind of reaction is that?” Kakashi finally questions as the young Chunin’s lips wobble under his black mask.

“I’ve trained all I can,” Nawaki scoffs with a bitter smirk. “So, instead of panicking and leaving our stations, we might as well figure out a way to survive if Konoha doesn’t already have a plan for it.”

“Ground Mole Jutsu?” Kakashi ventures an idea.

“The impact would likely tear us underground.” Nawaki shakes his head. “Hmm, summoning a flying beast. That could work. The summoner can handle the shockwaves with a well-timed Fuiton.”

“Do you have such a summon?” Kakashi questions.

“Oh, nah,” Nawaki shrugs. “I don’t have any summons yet. I thought of snakes when Orochi-sensei taught me, but his summon barely listened to him.”

“So... we die?” Kakashi blanks out. He didn’t plan for death after such a peaceful conversation as a mass of land hurls in Konoha’s direction.

“Maybe Kushina can get a bijudama in,” Nawaki crosses his arms, “Let’s wait. I don’t believe Konoha will fall in the initial attack. It would be a shame to my Grandfather’s name.”

Kakashi regains his silence as the duo watches the meteor getting devoured by lotus-like converging strings of seals, warping it out of Konoha. And not long after, they feel the trembling phase through them as another Bijudama explodes far behind Mount Kage.

And that’s when shit hits the fan.

Several tens of, if not close to mid-hundreds, chakra signatures infiltrate the village, setting the highest of alarms as the battle starts from one corner of Konoha before expanding to other regions!

Nawaki and Kakashi get moving, too, as the battle reaches the gates of the Senju Compound.

\*Shiing\*

Kakashi slashes away multiple shurikens and engages a teen chunin on the roof of a toy store, while Nawaki’s attack is startlingly vicious after his relentless training. He sees no reason to match the enemy’s strength and instead breaks the Kumo Shinobi’s sword with his chakra-enhanced one!

“Wha—?!” The Kumo shinobi’s eyes widen as Nawaki uses a well-placed Chakra-enhanced impact like Tsunade, his fist driving through the enemy’s chainmail and bursting through his heart. Pulling his fist the next second, Nawaki lets out a soft snarl as he grabs the fidgeting enemy at death’s door before chugging it to the sky instead of another Kumo shinobi facing Konoha’s colors.

\*Boooommmmm\*

The corpse explodes aloud, striking momentary fear in other Konoha shinobi who are a step too late in killing their enemies. The Konoha shinobi instantly put some distance themselves from the enemy.

Kakashi meanwhile cleaves through his opponent in time and tosses the corpse high in the sky.

But—

\*Splatter\*

—the corpse lands on the ground with a wet splatter instead of exploding.

Yet this simple deceit does not deter the Konoha chunins and jonins.

“Kill them and toss ‘em high!” Nawaki shouts an impromptu order as the battle regains its initial ferocity!

Fierce clashes of metal and jutsus rage the rooftops of the Senju Compound as thin alleys are an inconvenience to Konoha and Kumo shinobi all the same in such a fast-paced all-out conflict. Bodies from both side fall, and sometimes they explode!

Nawaki chooses to wield his chakra sword by channeling his wind-release chakra and using his chakra-enhanced taijutsu to deal with enemies and their Jutsu. But Genjutsu is always an issue. This aspect of chakra never fails to devour a fraction of the target's second, making their bodies sluggish for just a breath to create a sly window of opportunity!

Nawaki faces just that.

His sword comes in contact with a blindingly fast lightning-enhanced blade, but the lightning-release chakra falters in the wake of Nawaki's wind-release chakra. It does not matter, however.

The youth's expression blanks out for a second, and a team of five flickers around him at speeds no worse than elites!

Nawaki breaks the Genjutsu within that second, but his eyes briefly widen as seals are planted on him from five different directions, sealing his chakra and effectively paralyzing him in the spot!

“We got—” The short-haired redhead smirks when he turns around to grab a tiny figure by his neck. “You retarded punk!” The enemy slams Kakashi into the ground, his grip only a breath from breaking Kakashi's neck as his body explodes in a plume of smoke, revealing a shattered plank of wood!

C narrows his eyes as his team finds themselves surrounded by a squad of varied canine ninkens.

“Oh, Kakashi-kun,” drawls the brown-furred pug with Konoha's forehead protector on his head as he sprawls on the young chunin's head, “They look mighty dangerous.”

The other ninkens of various sizes and breeds growl at the surrounded enemy at once, their bodies crouching in a fierce position—ready to pounce.

“They are,” Kakashi narrows his eyes, observing the hulking redhead before looking at the middle-aged blonde, holding a small pot—with a ‘Seal’ tag planted on its surface—in his hand, ready to seal Nawaki in a second.

“Kakashi Hatake,” The blonde blinks and looks at the occupied shinobi by surging Kumo numbers targeting Senju Compound. The three Shinobi, other than the redhead, the supposed team leader, and the slated grey-haired dark-skinned shinobi, attack Kakashi and his summons the moment C targets their obstruction. The blonde shinobi seals Nawaki the next second inside the bronze pot.

\*Ruff\*

\*Woof\*

Loud barks fill the already noisy battlefield as the ninkens fare less than sufficiently against three Jonins working with extraordinary coordination. Kakashi can only move based on his summon—Pakkun’s—enhanced senses and directions.

But that is not to say that his ninkens are dead.

‘I just need to stall—’ Kakashi belatedly realizes the remaining three have retreated from the battlefield long ago!

Nawaki is gone!

---

Mikoto huffs in exhaustion as she sharply swipes her chokuto mid-air to clean the layer of blood on her blade and sheathes it while her Sharingan-enhanced sensory skills take stock of her surroundings.

\*Sniff\*

She ignores the stifled sniff of wet nostrils and calmly crouches near a bleeding police chunin, an Inuzuka Clansman, she notes.

“Please-” the man gasps, a nasty, non-fatal gash on his face profusely bleeding as Mikoto presses her healing hands near his waist. “Please, not me!” He snarls, “My Nin- save her!”

“Your Ninken is dead,” Mikoto informs, suppressing every bit of compassion and empathy in her voice. It’s not compassion that will douse her patient’s outburst but a shower of cold words. Knowing Inuzuka Clansmen through Tsume, Mikoto understands how much a Ninken means to their shinobi partner. But conflicts of this scale rarely spare others’ feelings.

The Inuzuka’s lone eye widens in despair before he silently plants his head back on the ground, his voice leaking briefly, “Don’t save me.”

“You may slice your neck with your kunai later if you’re still up for it,” Mikoto keeps it short, recognizing the man as one of the more prominent braggarts wanting to make things difficult for her after Mikoto had her initial team suspended for not following orders. That event wasn’t anything permanent. It was more like a calm pond on the surface, finally enduring ripples from the stone Mikoto acted as.

The shinobi stares at Mikoto for a short while before closing his eyes, “Can you... bring Alolo to me? I can’t feel my legs.”

Mikoto calmly nods and gently picks up the nearby beige-furred Ninken’s badly torn corpse without an ounce of disgust before bringing it near the paralyzed shinobi and moving on to heal someone else. She is only dealing with emergency treatment because she can, but these Shinobi will have to bear proper treatments in the hospital later on.

The numbers of Konoha survivors are high without a doubt, as there are other surviving Medical-Nins in Mikoto’s known as Tsunade’s disciples helping others out, and Mikoto returns to her only teammate after a minute or two.

She stands behind Kiri, who notices her presence and rubs his nose and eyes with the back of his arm before sealing the bodies of their other two teammates.

“They had no right saving me,” Kiri sullenly mutters as he recalls with his head hanging low how Jozu and his wife saved him before a sneak attack from one of the two kumo Jonins almost ended him.

“It was their job to help out, right?” Mikoto looks at others starting to seal their Clansmen’s corpses to be processed later. Most of them, like the Uchihas, will be burned to ashes alongside their eyes.

“No, it was my job as their leader to lead them!” Kiri snaps his head back in Mikoto’s direction with a furious glare, his sharingan actively rotating as he glowers, “What kind of leader lets his follower die?!”

“The better question is,” Mikoto’s emotions leak a tiny bit, “What kind of leader is saved by his followers in the thick of it.” A smile graces her face, a stunningly sad one. “A good leader.”



Kiri's lips wobble, his nose prickling again, but he refuses to accept things as they are, "Of course, you would say that! You and Fugaku are trying to make me into your pawn!" He lashes out at the younger woman, "Stop trying to work me! Alright?!" His outburst attracts others' attention as they work with their heads lowered, as some of the surviving Uchiha members know Kiri and Mikoto all too well.

"If possible, I would have tried saving you three, too," Mikoto admits softly and adds, "But things are far from over. I cannot let you wallow in your anger and sadness. We all will have our time to mourn later."

Kiri grits his jaws as he quietly stands and pockets the scroll, "Save me? What a joke," he hisses. "You only care about your political agendas. I can't believe I... I looked up to you."

He stares at Mikoto harshly, who returns a quiet gaze.

"You will have time to mourn later," Mikoto conceals her emotions with a sharp intent as she turns around, "As will I. Now, follow me. We are going to assist in other points of the battle."

Kiri takes in a deep breath and clenches his fist as he follows after Mikoto silently.

---

To Kai's credit, despite not showing himself, he has tried helping on various battlefields by smacking the enemies at the back of their heads, low-ranked Genjutsu to stall the enemies for a second or two, and even throwing the enemies off-balance using cheap trips like tripping them mid-battle. These tricks might be cheap, but these tricks have been supremely beneficial in the hands of his miniature wood clones.

Again, however, this is the conflict between the best of the two villages.

While Kai doubts Kumo went as far as exhausting their Jonins and elites in this attack, they certainly did not sting on their quantity and quality.

Raising Shinobi is an expensive affair despite the Shinobi Villages specializing in this line of business. And this is saying a lot since Hiruzen consented to some early graduations from the academy with the intent of older Shinobi passing on their skills as soon as possible—The Third Hokage's fears realized today.

Kai couldn't risk getting caught while continuing his shenanigans, so he watches Nawaki getting captured, but the idea of informing Tsunade isn't lost on him. And that's what he does. After all, Tsunade is capable of forming five wood clones, too. She is more than capable of dealing with the enemies and handling the Hospital by herself.

What Kai cannot do, however, is witness his father-in-law getting killed by an assassin, whose ingenuity Kai has to appreciate. After all, Mikoto will be too busy taking care of Sarachi and consoling Kyo to give him the time of her day. Well, maybe there's also the fact that the assassination of his father-in-law is too personal to ignore. This situation cannot be compared to his future brother-in-law's captivity—apples and oranges right there.

Not to mention Yata is the only one with whom Kai shared his **[Heavenly Blessing-Earthly Restriction]** Seal.

So, Yata simply cannot die. But in light of keeping things close to his chest, Kai cannot stick around after blocking this attack, not if he understands the assassin's true identity.

Kai's clone instantly activates the same Jutsu the enemy, finding his speed equal to the assassin as lightning zaps around his miniature form, blazing past the bounds of common sense and acting as a small bullet that strikes the man's temple only to find the power in his body lacking compared to the enemy's raw stats... and that's saying something!

---

**[Summoning Jutsu: Monkey King's Parade]!**

\*Poof\*

\*Poof\*

\*Poof\*

\*Poof\*

Plumes of smoke burst from hundreds of spots around the forest as several giggling, laughing, capping, and hooting monkey summons appear around Onoki in the woods above the Konoha Prison, not far from the raging battle between the Konoha Police and Kumo Shinobi.

The sight of all the monkey summons wearing Konoha forehead protectors made Onoki's gaze stern.

It's no secret that summons don't usually share allegiance to one specific Shinobi Village unless it's cases like Takigakure housing their summons within their perimeters. But some animal clans not found in the land of Five Elements pledge their allegiance to one Shinobi Village. Hiruzen's monkey summons is a prominent example of it. This clan only pledged its allegiance to Konoha once Hiruzen adopted the role of Hokage, and the Sarutobi Clan has been an ancient patron of the Monkey Clan.

But the Sarutobi Clan isn't the only clan with such ties to the Animal Kingdoms originating from unknown, nigh-legendary locations like the undiscovered Shikkotsu Forest.

### **[Summoning Jutsu: Stinger's Choice]!**

Onoki summons hundreds of hornets, wasps, and bees as small as full-fledged dogs to as large as two-storied houses! The loud noise of buzzing bees and screeching monkeys instantly fills the section of the woods, but before Hiruzen and Onoki command an attack, their bodies still, and their heads whip in the same direction towards the spot where police members are battling Kumo shinobi.

*'That chakra!'* Onoki and Hiruzen reveal gloomy looks before Hiruzen hisses, "Let's end it here!"

Onoki chuckles darkly, more furious than ever. After all, he now realizes how *THAT* Kage made a fool out of him.

"No," Onoki waves his hand, "Just as well! I'll deal with the two of you today and ruin Konoha for good!"

The swarm of bugs instantly display their stingers and zip into their enemies while Enma's rough snarl echoes, "Get'em!"

"Houuuuuuuuuu!"

All the monkeys roar simultaneously and transform into various adamantite weapons as the nearby monkey hold their brethren and wield them, sometimes exchanging spots by turning into weapons themselves and letting the previous members wield them instead!

Meanwhile, the bugs use toxic gas, venomous spits, obviously dangerous stingers, and sharp steel-like wings!

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Fugaku's kunai stabs through the enemy's skull and tears out from the back of the corpse's head, lightning still dancing around the metal, only to hit a well-timed shuriken that ricochets the kunai into another unsuspecting shinobi's throat.

The corpses of enemies and allies carpet the region around the police building. It's a horrible scene of carnage with blood splattered on destroyed walls, busted stores, and torn streets; Smoke rise from various spots after several attacks. The battle rages even now, and Fugaku can understand why Kumogakure would focus on the Uchihis.

The clan of crimson-eyed killers had cost Kumo a pretty dime in the last war: A threat Kumo won't sideline.

But one thing is clear to Fugaku as he evades another jutsu only to complete his hand-seals and let out a current of blue lightning shaped into a coiling serpent zapping past his enemy and leaving a charred corpse in its wake—An Uchiha is taking out three of the enemies of their level, at least!

And this number is for Chunins with one tomoe sharingan. There have only been four deaths in the case of Uchihas with fully-awakened Sharingan, and teammates of the fallen Uchiha promptly seal the corpses in fear of Sharingan falling into the wrong hands.

Yata is not far from Fugaku, his skillful swordplay striking fear in the hearts of the surviving elites—elites employed to target the Uchiha Patriarch specifically. But Fugaku can notice more.

He notices wisps of purplish chakra materializing around Yata like a phantom and disappearing that very second to disrupt the enemy's attacks, leading to a chain of trouble if Yata blocks or dodges using conventional means.

Fugaku turns to look at the other side as he finishes the enemy on his side, sensing Mikoto's chakra making its way in their direction to help, he assumes.

'She's already dealt with enemies on her side? Impressive speed—'

Fugaku's eyes widen as he feels a sense of death dancing over his head. His breathing turns sluggish momentarily as he hears the tiniest crackle of lightning whizzing past his ear. The thin arc of blue lightning is admittedly faster than the sound projected from the strange Jutsu, colliding with a phenomenally enormous beast of lightning suddenly transforming from one of the supposed corpses.

\*Thuck\*

The dull echo booms as a heart-chilling shockwave spreads from the collision, turning the pool of blood and gore into a massive tide of death as every other shinobi distance themselves from the region, including Yata, whom the immense concentration of chakra was aiming for.

\*Piiter\*

\*Piiter\*

\*Piiter\*

Chunks of gore and droplets of blood rain down on everyone in a bloody drizzle as a hunk of a man stands in the middle of the enemies and allies alike, surrounded by a crackling coat of blue chakra and lightning—a rather shocked look on his otherwise stony features.

Yata gulps quietly. The tinge of fear in his heart is quickly suppressed as he takes this chance to attack his nearest enemy, but the area in front of him shifts suddenly, and his blade breaks against the arm of the dark-skinned, lightning-coated beast.

“Still not fast enough,” Yata groans under his breath, his body already distancing from the enemy. And to his fortune, the enemy doesn’t give chase. Instead, he looks around as if trying to locate someone.

‘The user of that smaller attack,’ Fugaku realizes immediately and takes stock of his surroundings, too, not minding a few chunks of flesh in his hair.

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**Alternate Title:** Capture the Senju; Kakashi With His Dawgs; Informing Tsunade; The Senju Countdown Begins; Losses on Both Sides; A Good Leader is Saved By The Followers; A Bad One Encounter Mutiny; Ninken’s Death; Mikoto’s Petty Grudges Fade Overtime; Coldness Beyond Compassion; The Loving Clan’s Fury; Animal Kingdoms Collide; The Third Kage; Kai Avoiding Magekyo Bad End for Mikoto; Yata is Important... for Reasons; A Scene of Massacre; Logistics on this is Going to go Ballistics!; Fear-Evoking Elite; Yata Doesn’t Play Fair; Helping Out Where One Can; Lightning Mode; Stopping a Beast; True Hard-Skinned Emerges!

## ***Title: Darkest Night Hidden in The Leaf (10)***

A/N: I would like to shed light on a mistake before we begin. Kai has mastered other genjutsu from the Senju Clan—Infinity Darkness (Once used against Hiashi), Mind Reader (staple Konoha T&I technique), The Hold of Reaper (a time-deluding genjutsu similar to Tsukuyomi), and Nightmare Realm (Tobirama's Version of Tsukuyomi.) But I forgot to add these genjutsus to the list of techniques and subsequently failed to add them in Kai's training when he created the Senjutsu Variation of these techniques. So, I will adjust the SP behind the scenes and write with the simple assumption that he's mastered the Senjutsu variants.

But I do apologize for my weak memory.

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Dodai's importance is not lost on his enemies, even if he isn't one of Kumo's coded shinobi. He answers only to the Third Raikage as his confidant, or in Tsunade's terms, the Third Raikage's Paper Bitch. Every leader of great importance has one, or in Hiruzen's case, should have one.

The invasion's leader opens his lone eye dazedly. He feels his body suspended midair by the enemy—a masked one. But that enemy is not present here, not in this grey world of white sky and black soil. All Dodai's lone eye can see is a bizarre creature that shifts from a phantom-like phase to a material one.

A white ceremonial kimono drapes the specter of a demonic visage, whose arms extend horizontally, his palms folding on the sleeves of his kimono. Two red horns pierce through the specter's long, white, shaggy hair, and their purple skin folds into multiple wrinkles around his mouth as they bite on an unsheathed tanto.

"A genjutsu," Dodai whispers, rousing his chakra to find himself remaining stuck in this ethereal space. As if crucified, Dodai's body mimics the specter and remains midair with his arms splayed open horizontally.

As experienced as he is, Dodai comes to a simple but chilling realization.

'A temporal perception-altering genjutsu,' His expression hardens.

The weakest Genjutsu of this kind takes time to set. Why? Because the medium needed to enter the target's system is very rare. Such Jutsu starts with the Rank of A.

'But knocking out the target makes things simple. No,' Dodai remembers the Dragon Sennin driving his blade through his body before putting him in the Genjutsu... with a tap of his finger!

'How?'

Dodai struggles a bit. Only specialists with Dojutsu should claim such proficiency in Genjutsu.

But the truth is simple.

Kai's affinity with Yin nature release has reached the point of Kekkei Genkai, where he can emulate feats of a Sharingan without possessing a Sharingan. Or a Byakugan, for that matter.

The few difference between Kai's regular eyes and a Sharingan are the Mangekyo-Rinnegan Genetics and the ability to sense chakra in colors.

But the revelation that the Dragon Sennin is well-versed in such heights in Genjutsu does not stop Dodai from using everything in his means to escape this prison.

Yet, the chilling eyes of the specter in front of the captured shinobi do not make things easier.

Kai did not have the mind to *'play'* with his opponent. He lied to B, too. Dodai's value as a prisoner will not save his life. Kai sentenced Dodai to death the moment he used **[The Hold of Reaper]**.

This genjutsu is remarkable as it shares Senju and Uzumaki heritage. Tobirama developed this Genjutsu after the Senju Clan bonded with the Uzumaki Clan. He learned about the existence of the Shinigami after this alliance, forming an image of the Shinigami that Dodai witnessed to signify the death of anyone who's fallen into this jutsu.

As Dodai suspects, the activation of this Genjutsu is problematic. Instead of luring the five senses, a Shinobi must be at death's door to activate the Jutsu. Technically, to use this Genjutsu, the target must lose a certain amount of blood and vitality.

What Dodai cannot imagine, however, is that this Genjutsu poisons the mind of the target through the user's chakra. The image of the Shinigami signifies the death of the target. The mind will deteriorate at a quick pace, bringing a peaceful demise to the target due to the time difference in their senses.

Since Kai wants the information to stay with him, he needs Dodai dead. And more than respectful of the Shinobi, no less of an elite than Sakumo, Kai restricts all the trash-talk and continues to operate on the cursed seal on Dodai's mind.

He has returned to his empty laboratory.

Tsunade has cleared out and stored every important and incriminating thing in their labs, including Danzo's mindless body, so it's only Kai, Dodai, and two wood clones—one already

stationed in the Senju Compound and the other one arriving from the Uchiha Police's side shortly after stopping Raikage in his tracks.

"Fuck, what's that bastard's skin made out of?" Kai's clone hisses, and others understand what he means. After all, Kai's clones boast similar raw attributes except chakra reserves, so being unable to dent the Third Raikage, let alone hurt him, in their Lightning Cloak mildly surprised them.

"That's not a natural body, no doubt about it," Kai responds to himself and chuckles, "But we'll find out now, won't we? One will use the **[Mind Reader]**, and the other two will help bypass the cursed seal without activating it. I'm thinking of pinning the blame for Dodai's death on this poison."

Kai empties a vial of the green liquid into Dodai's mouth before looking at his clones, "Let's get started. We have four minutes. Dodai, the Rubber Defense, should have quite a few things we can learn. I'll try and ask for his body after T&I is done with him to hand him off for Bounty."

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C and the other five Jonins observe ahead with stern expressions before the leader of the team demands.

"You understand how this works. Hand over Raikage's son if you want this," He holds the small earthen pot close to his chest and matches her amber hues with his stony blue ones.

The end of Tsunade's green haori sways and whips as a nearby explosion's tremors pass through their spot. Her eyes take stock of other shinobi around C—A red-haired, dark-skinned man with a surprisingly familiar sense of chakra, another grey-haired elite with the kanji of *'lightning'* printed on his right shoulder, and three more jonins. Her eyes soon fall on the pot Nawaki's sealed in before she questions.

"Did he put up a good fight?" Her sharp voice cuts through the sound of battles around them as C narrows his eyes.

"Not against us."

"Sounds about right," Tsunade crosses her arms and cocks her head sideways, "Your Raikage's son was hot shit to others, too, but folded in a single attack."

C's brows twitch while the red-haired elite snarls, "It's a waste of our time. Let's get on with it!"

"I'm surprised you didn't end your words with some *'datte'* verbal tick. Maybe it's the air in Kumo that breeds different Uzumaki. I'll see what Konoha can do with your Raikage's lineage."



Her words freeze others briefly.

It's at this point C's expression changes, and he looks around himself.

The world itself starts melting like burnt wax, including his skin. The pot in his hand turns into a puddle of liquid, his vision darkening with his eyeballs melting, and his teeth turning into putrid sludge that slides down his throat and splashes out on his exposed ribcage!

But it's not just C that's experiencing all this.

It's his entire team.

"Huff," The clone in front of the shuddering team sighs as she looks beyond them to see a Tsunade with verdant-green straight marks crisscrossed on her face. Her amber pupils flicker yellow-gold as she bends over to pick the pot that has Nawaki sealed.

"Thank you," Tsunade smiles at a tiny Katsuyu, who shared her chakra to weave her Senjutsu-charged Genjutsu.

"It's my pleasure, Lady Tsunade," Katsuyu chimes gently and worries, "But your idea of ambushing them with Wood Release was too rash."

"I think my wood release is already known to whoever's been spying on us. After all, I felt a sneaky gaze when dealing with Raikage's son."

"Still," Katsuyu fusses while sticking close to Tsunade as she recedes her Sage Mode, finding her transition to and from Senjutsu easier the more she uses it.

"Besides, the other Shinobi villages want Nawaki and me either dead or used to create what they call pure Senjus, numbnuts the lot of them. Using Wood Release to save Nawaki wouldn't even be a risk, but probably affirmation of their nightmares."

Tsunade moves from the location without looking at her wood clone. She's already working with five wood clones and feels she is ready for her sixth one, her compatibility with the wood release being higher than Kai's, probably due to her heritage. Or maybe it simply irks Tsunade that she can't even be better than Kai in one thing her grandfather lords over the continent, so she truly gives her all in her training of Sage Mode and Wood Release.

Her clone, meanwhile, safely seals the enemies, including the grey-haired man, with the briefest amount of Senjutsu in his lightning kanji over his right shoulder.

'Kumo's really going nuts with their research. Makes me feel ashamed I still can't crack open Fukushu's secret,' she recalls the cheerful *'Head'* of the Jashinism Community.

A literal head.

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*'Listen, Jiraiya. I don't know why, and I'm too busy to care, but you've forced yourself to learn the Sage Mode. It's nothing as dangerous as my condition, where Senjutsu Chakra becomes a disease, so no. I don't think you'll grow tits. But if your Sage Mode has a problem, then there is a cure. There is always a cure. We have some time on our hands before Sensei thinks we'll get attacked, right? Let's start with the basics. Enter your sage mode. I will observe your body's reactions.'*

Jiraiya reminisces about the rough few weeks he suffered under Orochimaru's regime. While he cannot say he has mastered his Sage Mode, he admits that his condition has gotten exponentially better.

His white hair grows thicker and longer. Deep-red pigments cover the area of his toad-like eyes, but he doesn't suffer any other change aside from that.

*'Remember how you used a summoning jutsu without a summon? Your survival was a shock to us all. But I believe it did not leave you without consequences. Even a reverse-summoning jutsu must have a set location before you can summon yourself away, but you didn't. After my recent research on one of the subjects from Kumo, I don't need a Byakugan to notice some issues with your tenketsu. Four of your eight gates, to be exact. Now, I'll be trying my new jutsu. Prepare to open up to your buddy—meet Slick. My scalpel.'*

Jiraiya's body experiences phantom pain as he stares at the snarling four-tailed beast with glowing, torch-like white eyes.

And somehow, he doesn't look as intimidating as a thin scalpel in the pale hands of whom Jiraiya considered his best buddy.

Not anymore.

*She's a bitch, and he knows better.*

"How do you want to deal with this, Jiraiya-san?" Shikaku questions with a frown as Jiraiya half-shrugs, "You three were supposed to assist me with dealing with any of the Jinchuriki's support. Of course, when I'm out of chakra, I'd need your help."

He claps his hands together, crouching slightly with a strained smirk, "Something tells me that I can't compete with a Jinchuriki in terms of Chakra reserves."

Shikaku frowns and musters, "I have a better plan."

“Get on with it, then. You have eight minutes,” Jiraiya replies smugly, more than happy to lie about how long he can maintain his Sage Mode.

It’s actually 10 minutes! Twice his last record!

But he cannot admit that in front of his enemy, right?

Shikaku nods nonetheless and gestures to the rest of the team to follow him.

One of B’s tails flicks at Shikaku and the rest when Jiraiya’s man snakes ahead to bind B’s crimson body and fling him aside with absurd strength, shocking the silent and enraged Jinchuriki of Kumo!

“I’m your opponent, kid,” Jiraiya saunters ahead, his wooden sandals clacking on the hard ground of the forest as the one-and-a-half-horned Jinchuriki suddenly cries out, “B, you can go all out now. I’ve dealt with the Lightning Jutsu from before.”

“Hmm?” Jiraiya evades the stabbing tails before grabbing one of them and snarling softly under his breath, “I don’t know much about being a perfect Jinchuriki.” As he throws B over his shoulder, only for the Jinchuriki to balance himself on a tree as Jiraiya exhales explosively, “But the last Jinchuriki I met was more dangerous than you can ever imagine!”

He jumps, leaving a visible shockwave in his physical actions before stepping on something invisible and avoiding B’s sudden miniature Bijudama.

While Jiraiya steps on another tree, a massive force impacts B right in his face, sending him flying through dozen of trees!

‘We’re being made fool of, ya’ fool! Gotta save Dodai and my rep, yeah!’ B inwardly scowls as he hears Hachibi’s voice.

“Careful, B. I have some memories of Senjutsu from two memorable men. I won’t go into detail now, but your opponent can attack you from a distance using formless energy beyond Chakra. And his physical strength will undoubtedly be a threat to our massive body if we go into the second mode of our tailed-beast form.”

B stills before his monstrous head start bobbing to a tune only he can hear in his mind.

“A great enemy has to be an exciting one. Gonna blow our steam together, partner. Let’s show Konoha the might of eight. When you’re ready, say with me!”

**“WHEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE!”**

Two voices let loose a massive call simultaneously before a pressure of chakra raises a gust of wind while Jiraiya clicks his tongue.

'I should stop boasting. This guy can be as dangerous as Su... which reminds me, why can't our Jinchuriki do all these amazing things?'

He senses Shikaku and others moving in a particular direction before working his jaw, 'But I should be sufficient with some of the Jutsu I managed to learn... Minato's really something... inspiring Kai and me to master the Jutsus he invented.

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**Alternate Title:** The Genjutsu of Death; Dodai's End; The Shinigami's Stare; Tobirama Continues to be Unhinged; Kai is Uchiha's Unwarranted Cousin; Gangbanging Dodai's Mind—Probably Nono; Poisoning Dodai; Slipping Past Seals, Finding Secrets; The Short, Uneventful Rescue Mission; Tsunade Goes All-Out; Katsuyu's Hesitation Away from Confirming the World's Nightmare; Katsuyu's Melty-Melty Magica Genjutsu; Katsuyu's the Real Waifu; Slug Supremacy; Storing More Captives; Nawaki Evades Bad End; The Real Sage; Jiraiya's New Best Friend; Jiraiya Can't Grow Tits? Who Decided That? \*Transformation Jutsu Poof\*; Orochimaru's a Bitch; Doing Heavy Lifting; Hachibi's Memory; Senjutsu Nightmare; Boastful Jiraiya; Minato and Katsuyu Competing for the Role of Best Waifu... \*Cinnamon in Distance\* Amateurs