

Opposites Attract

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A KakaAnko fanfic.

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1 - Did he do it?

It was a calm Friday evening. Kakashi was just about to relax on his day off when there was a knock on the door. He looked in the peephole and saw Anko standing there. She was holding a sleeping bag, clothes and a toothbrush. "Anko?" he inquired as he opened the door. "Sup," she said. "Look, my house was intruded and set on fire. Can I crash here with you?" Orochimaru, she thought. Kakashi was taken aback by the sudden statement and said "For how long?" "I dunno, about six to ten weeks." "Six to ten weeks?! What about the other Jonins?" Kakashi exclaimed. "All booked." replied Anko. "Look, it's okay. I can find somewhere else." Just as she turned around to leave, Kakashi said "No, it's okay. You can stay. It's just, I know how you can get, so try not to go wild, okay?" "Sweet! Thanks!" she beamed as she rushed in and got settled immediately. What have I done? thought Kakashi as he closed the door behind him.

2 - The next day

It was 10:00 p.m. Kakashi was watching a late-night special. When he realized the time, he turned off the TV and headed for the bedroom. When he went to sit down, however, something was already in the bed. AAAAAAAAAHHHHHH! he screamed and took out his kunai, ready to fight. But he soon realized that it was only Anko. Oh, Anko, please, don't scare me like that! Sorry, sounded the weak reply. Can I just sleep here? Suddenly, Kakashi remembered something. Hey, didn't you bring a sleeping bag? he asked. Anko was silent for a moment, and then said Yeah, about that- I spilled soy sauce all over it. You don't mind if I use your washing machine, too, right? Wha- Kakashi started to say, and then stopped himself. He was trying to be nice to Anko, but he was going to lose it if this continued! Fine, he stated. But for this night only. That's it. Got it? You have my word, pledged Anko, and she fell back asleep.

As he lay in bed that same night, Kakashi wondered if he had been a little harsh on Anko. She had just lost her home and was only asking for some help. Was that so hard to ask for? Still, she was becoming a little obnoxious. Not to mention a bit of a moocher. *I'll think about it in the morning*, he resolved to himself, and he fell asleep, too. But Anko was still awake. She could fake almost anything. *Maybe I'm being selfish*, she thought. *He's trying to help, and I'm just taking what I get without thanking him. Things have got to change.* She looked at him, or at least what she could see of him. It was way too dark. He had taken off his mask, and Anko really wanted to see what he looked like. But she just couldn't make it out in the darkness. She started to reach for his hand. But out of nowhere, he grabbed hers before she knew what was going on. Then he loosened his grip as if he had read her mind and was saying, *It's okay.* Content, she fell asleep for real this time. And so did Kakashi.

3 - Are you free?

The next morning Kakashi woke up and stretched. "Mmm- good morning, Ank-" he started to say, but stopped short. Anko wasn't in bed. He looked around. "Anko?" A voice came from the kitchen. "I'm right here." Kakashi put on his mask and headband, got up, and wandered into the kitchen. Something good was cooking. "Hey," Anko said. "I made ham and eggs. They might not taste that good, but I tried..." Kakashi stopped her before she could finish. "Is this some kind of trick?" he asked. "No," Anko replied with a chuckle. "You actually, made the effort, to get up, and make breakfast?" he continued. He didn't know if he was being told the truth, or what. "Yes," Anko said, not so sure what to say or do this time. "Look, you're right, my cooking sucks, let's just go somewhere for breakfast..." she said as she started to throw out the perfectly fine food she had broken her back all morning to cook. "No, no, it's fine. Just sit down. I want to talk to you." Kakashi insisted. Anko quickly got all the food back on the plate and sat down at the table.

Kakashi started off. "So, what happened at your house that made you come here?" he asked. He took a bite of the eggs, and he gagged. Trying not to let Anko see, he quietly deposited his food into his napkin and kept it under the table. (Sorry, I know he's wearing a mask, but I'm trying to make a story here. Let's just say he turned around and took off the mask.) "Well, I was sleeping, and then I smelled smoke. So I went into the living room and I saw someone next to the bonzai tree I had been growing." Orochimaru, Anko once again was thinking. She continued. "He apparently had something like matches and he set it on fire then knocked it over...." Her run-on sentence didn't give her time to stop and think. "Anko?" Kakashi said. "Anko, breath!!! Stop, stop, okay. Go on." After she calmed down, she started again. "Then the carpet was starting to catch on fire so I just ran out of there like the wind. Then I bought some stuff at the store and that's where I am now." She stopped and waited for more questions. "Did you see who set the tree on fire?" Kakashi inquired. "No," she answered bluntly. "But I have a guess." "Who?" he wanted to know. Anko looked out the window and answered, "I don't want to talk about it." They sat in silence for a while. Then Kakashi said "I hear there's a new Icha-Icha volume at the bookstore. Wanna check it out?" Anko thought about it, then said "Sure, why not?"

Sorry, I know it's kinda short but I'm on a serious time cramp so this is all I can do now. I'll try and make

the next chapter longer.

PLZ COMMENT!

4 - No,No,NO NOT HIM!

Before the two left the house, there was a call on the phone. Anko started, "What kind of idiot calls at nine in the mor-" then stopped mid-sentence and changed to a bright, cheery tone of "Hi, Guy!" Kakashi stopped short and signaled with his hands to hang up the phone immediately. "You want us to meet you at Ichiraku?" Anko repeated while Kakashi continued to signal her. NO, NO, NO! He was trying to communicate with her now. "Right this moment?" she continued to repeat. A smirk began to appear on her face. No! Kakashi said out loud this time. She continued. "Yes, I m repeating everything you say so he can hear. Kakashi looked at her with that expression that said, *you re pathetic*. Well, that s what Anko could make out from just his right eye. Yeah, we ll meet you there. And she hung up. Guess what? We re seeing Guy at Ichiraku. She informed Kakashi with a tone of voice similar to, *isn t that great?* Yeah, I think I heard. But we re going to the bookstore first. Kakashi said the last sentence with the same mocking tone. Well, Anko was starting up a debate now, I m hungry, and because I didn t have the breakfast, I want ramen. We re going to Ichiraku. And her voice sounded very final. But Kakashi continued. Since when do you make the rules? You promised we would go to the bookstore!

I did not!

I heard you.

You heard wrong.

Well, you *implied* a promise.

You are *such* a child.

Who has ramen for breakfast?

Guy s paying. Maybe you could thank him for once instead of think nothing but your rivalry with him.

We ll go to the bookstore after.

Kakashi paused for a moment, and then snapped back Well, I say how long we stay there. Five minutes.

Who died and made you king? I think Guy and I can make that decision for ourselves. And she walked out the door. Karachi followed her. Anko? Anko, get back here,-

After Kakashi finally caught up with her, because he had no idea she could walk so fast (or was it ninjutsu?) he realized too late he had been led to Ichiraku. A familiar, but unwelcome, voice said, Hey, you re late, but at least you made it! From behind the cloths flowing in the breeze. Anko walked into the restaurant and sat down. Kakashi walked in too and saw none other than Might Guy sitting next to her. Kakashi, how you doing? Life treating you good? Sit down, sit down! flashing his signature smile, which freaked Kakashi out a little bit. Kakashi walked towards him, and said threateningly, What do you want from my life? Let s just get this over with. Guy said, Whoa, calm down, I just wanted to treat you to something. And congratulate you.

Congratulate me on what?

Well, you know,- Guy gestured towards Anko.

What? Kakashi took the hint suddenly.

It s not what you think!

Oh, really? Guy smirked.

I don t like where this is going.

Guy s smile fell and he took on a serious front. Just sit down and have a good time. It s not every day I decide to do something like this for you.

Kakashi was surprised by this sudden change in attitude and sat down obediently. Then Guy then turned to Anko and started smiling again. Kakashi wasn t so surprised by this. Suddenly a voice said Oh, it s you! and Kakashi realized it was the shop owner s daughter. There were little hearts in her eyes.

Kakashi, unsure of how to react, said, Uh, hi? Kakashi didn t notice Anko glare at the girl, and didn t know why the girl just went back to work so scared and suddenly. Anko said So, what do you want? and looked at Kakashi.

I m fine, thanks.

Are you sure? Guy asked. Both he and Anko were thinking, *OFF WITH THE MASK*.

Then Kakashi said, You know, if you re thinking what I think you re thinking, let me just tell you that my squad tried it on me one time, and it didn t work. Both of their faces fell, and they went back to chit-chatting. After a few minutes, Anko said Well, we re going off to the bookstore. See you later, Guy. Thanks for the meal. Guy smiled and waved, and Kakashi and Anko walked out of Ichiraku. Kakashi looked at her, dumbfounded. The bookstore? But I thought& Anko stopped him short. It s amazing what a bowl of tonkotsu can do. We better go while I m still in the mood. Kakashi nodded and off to the bookstore they were.

Kakashi was turning the place upside down looking for the new Icha-Icha Paradise book that had just come out. Anko was in another section, and was reading an interesting magazine. Then she put it down and headed over to where Kakashi was. Hey, I m heading back to the house, so can I have the keys? Kakashi didn t know whether to trust her or not. He decided to give it a chance and see what would happen. As if reading his mind, Anko assured him, Don t worry, nothing s going to happen. I ll be at the house. He gave her the keys and continued looking. After a few minutes, he decided he needed to get some food and headed over to the grocery store. It was getting late, so he headed home. When he got to the door, he made an attempt to knock, which was difficult with his hands filled with groceries. He waited. No reply. He was starting to feel a mixture of worry and anger. Anko? He said loudly. Coming, came back her voice. But the door didn t open. He was starting to get impatient. He said her name again and the response coming back was Can I have 100 yen? He dropped the groceries and fumbled for the required money, and then he slipped it under the door and waited. Well? he asked, and her voice came back, Ninja must see through deception! Now Kakashi was really angry and his voice started to rise.

It s MY house! Don t make me perform Kochiyose no Jutsu!!! he threatened. He heard a laugh on the

other side of the door and it opened. Anko was standing right there and still laughing. Man, I got you good. Here s your money back. And she handed him the money she took. Then she helped him with the groceries and they both went to the living room. Although a bit cruel, Kakashi had to admit, it was a little funny.

5 - Just read it!! :) You'll like it!

As they were sitting on the couch, the TV was glowing against the darkness of the room. Nothing was on, and when Kakashi looked at the digital clock, he saw that it was already a quarter past eleven. "Whoa," he said out loud. "Anko, I'm hitting the bed. You coming?" There was no reply. He looked at her, and when the dots cleared from his eyes (that's what you get for staring for thirty minutes at the tv), he saw that she was already asleep. He got up and shook her. "Anko? Hello?" Then she abruptly woke and muttered, "Zzzz... huh, wha- what? Oh, hey," She yawned. Kakashi repeated his question. "Nah, my sleeping bag's clean now," she answered. "Okay," said Kakashi. "See ya in the morning." And he headed upstairs.

There was a loud, annoying, beeping sound coming from somewhere. Suddenly Kakashi sat straight up in bed, and he recognized the sound as his alarm clock. He put his face in his hands and stayed there for a minute. Then he shut off the clock, and then Anko burst into his room. "GOOD MORNIN'!", she cried, thinking it would be funny to surprise him, but she mostly did it to see if she could catch him without his mask on. No such luck. The second she was in his room, he turned so his back was to her. "Aw, man!" She stomped her foot. "Geez," said Kakashi, now turned to her. The bedsheet was across his face, revealing only his eyes, him trying to keep the Sharingan closed. It was still open a little bit, though. "Okay," he said. "You can go downstairs. I'll get breakfast started in a minute." She continued to stand in the doorway. "What?" Kakashi inquired. "Uh-uh," she responded. "I wanna see what's always hiding under that mask!"

"GET OUT!!!!!"

"Okay, fine, sheesh!" she said as she closed the door. Kakashi made sure he heard steps going down the stairs before he changed. When he finally got downstairs, he heard the TV on. "Of course," he said to himself. When he got in the kitchen and opened the cupboard, there was a huge spider in it. "AAAUUUGGGGGHHHH!!!!!!!" he yelled as he backed into the table and stumbled over it. When the noise was done, he could hear Anko laughing hysterically in the living room. He looked over at her and saw that she was actually crying now and busting a gut. Meanwhile, his heart was thumping so loud he was sure she could hear it too. He looked at the calendar. It was nowhere near April, so of course he was wondering what was up. He got as close to the cabinet as he dared, but close enough to see the spider was fake. Anko was still cracking up. "Oh, my-Ahahahahaha! You looked so stup-stu-ahahaha!" Now Kakashi was infuriated, and after he picked up the imposter arachnid and threw it away, he stomped over to Anko.

6 - The rush

Later, when they both were ready to leave the house, Kakashi said, Hey, Anko, you wanna go by the dango shop? Anko beamed. Heck yeah! she replied in excitement. Kakashi smiled under his mask. But the second he opened the front door, he froze and fell to his knees, then he lay unconscious on the ground. Anko looked in horror at his body, laying there. As she pushed him to his side, she let out a gasp. There was a kunai lodged in his chest. She looked up to see who did it, but there wasn't anybody in sight. When she looked at him again, she noticed something different. As she took a closer look at his face, she realized that this was just a shadow clone. As it turned into a harmless log, someone behind her said, Gotcha! She whirled around and saw that it was Kakashi, standing there completely unharmed. And standing right behind him was Gai. Anko tried to yell at him, but all that came out was, Wha- what- but at the moment Kakashi turned to Gai and said, Thanks, man. Glad I could help. said Gai. As Gai disappeared, Kakashi looked at Anko and at her dumbfounded expression. Next time, think twice before putting a spider in my cabinet. said Kakashi. As he walked by her, she stood still in her place. He turned around and asked her, Well, are you coming or not? She nodded in silence and slowly walked after him.

They arrived at the dango shop. But before they walked in, Anko blurted out, What the HECK is your problem!?! It was one spider! Kakashi smirked and replied, I know. I just had to do it. And he waved the banners out of his face as he walked inside.

Anko bought her dango and walked out with Kakashi. But who else would come running along their way but Gai. He accidentally rammed into both of them, causing Anko to drop her dango. As she got up and stomped back inside to get more, Gai started apologizing. Whoa, sorry. Didn't see you there. Is she gonna get back at me twice as hard as you? Kakashi shrugged. Nah, he said. When Anko came back outside, she said in a low voice, So what do you want? I think I've seen enough of you for today. Gai gulped, then he stammered, I-I just won three-day hot springs tickets for four and was w-wondering if you two wanted to come. I invited Kurenai too. All of a sudden Anko's mood changed and she looked expectantly at Kakashi. Kakashi hesitated, because even though he had helped him out earlier & Gai, of all people? Well, he started, but then Anko interjected, Of course we will! while glaring at Kakashi, as

if to say, *Don't even think about refusing.* Gai smiled, and as he walked away, Kakashi sighed. There was nothing he could do now. At least both he and Kurenai would be keeping an eye on Gai and Anko.

WE'RE HERE! Anko yelled loudly as she and Kakashi came near the entrance. Gai and Kurenai were already standing there. Kurenai's stomach was almost perfectly round with the baby now. We've noticed, she said. They entered the lobby and signed the registration form. They were given their robes and then they started deciding who would room with whom. Rooms 243 and 244. What do you guys think? asked Kurenai. Anko said, I think I'll stick with Kakashi. Then it's settled then, replied Gai. Now who's hungry? Of course, muttered Kakashi. Gai glared at him. They all headed to the changing rooms first. When they came out, they started looking for the buffet. Gai just guessed they should just take the next left, and by luck he was correct. Then he and Anko took one look at the food selection and their mouths hung open in shock. Before Kakashi or Kurenai were aware of it, the other two were already picking out what they wanted. Kurenai calmly walked over while Kakashi followed her. Both Gai and Anko had already picked a table and started eating. They hardly noticed when Kakashi and Kurenai sat down. Kakashi didn't pick anything. Aren't you hungry? Anko asked between bites. Kakashi shook his head. You sure? Gai asked. I'm sure. Now please stop asking. I know what you're trying to do. Gai and Anko hung their heads in defeat, and then continued devouring the piles of food they had laid on their plates. And of course both of them headed for the desserts table shortly afterwards. When they had finished *that*, Gai asked, Now who wants to do karaoke? Kakashi just gave him a weird look and said, My god, no! Aw, come on! Don't be like that! said Anko. Then she whispered in his ear, Who knows how he'll screw the song? Kakashi smiled. She could be so cute at times.

7 - Can't think of a good chapter title...

When they entered the karaoke room, they decided Kurenai could start. She didn't do too badly-she managed to get an 85. Then it was Anko's turn. She did even better-90. Kakashi simply refused and that was the end of that. But when Gai went up, the machine gave him a 60. Kakashi remarked, One of my dogs did that and then it started foaming at the mouth. Of course, Gai wasn't happy with that and he grew even unhappier when both Kurenai and Anko failed to keep themselves from laughing. Then they all decided to call it a night. When they entered their rooms, both Anko and Kakashi hit the bed.

The next morning, while Kakashi was still asleep, Anko quietly got up and headed to the woman's bath. When she sat down she noticed someone already there in the mist. Hello? she called. Anko? called a familiar voice. Hey, Kurenai, said Anko as she could see the figure coming closer. Good morning. Kurenai wasn't wearing her make-up, but she was still very pretty without it. Anko sank a little lower into the refreshing water. She gradually began to feel more and more awake. Isn't this great? asked Kurenai, her eyes closed. Yeah, Anko answered. How did Gai win those tickets anyway? Anko asked. Umm, I think he won some sort of raffle, I'm not so sure, said Kurenai. They sat there in silence for awhile.

Kakashi woke up to sunlight streaming through the window. It seemed every time he woke up, Anko was nowhere in sight. He stretched and then thought it would probably be a good idea to head for the springs. Maybe the outdoor one. He needed some fresh air.

So how was Gai when you woke up? asked Anko. Augh, he was the reason I woke up. He was

snoring like a chainsaw. Anko chuckled. Then Kurenai said, Hey, you want to try the outdoor spring? Is it co-ed?

Yeah.

I don't know&

Aw, come on Anko! It's early. No one we know is going to be in there. Kurenai assured her. Well, okay. agreed Anko. They got up and headed for the door. But when they opened it, Anko was sent into a state of complete shock. Kakashi was already sitting there; a towel draped over the bottom half of his face. Anko yelped and quickly pulled Kurenai back into the woman's bath. As the door slammed shut, Kakashi instantly sat up, wondering what the noise he just heard was. What was that for?! demanded Kurenai.

Reflex action? Anko said sheepishly. Get back in there! said Kurenai. Bu-but, Kakashi& Anko trailed off, a little intimidated by Kurenai's outburst. Kurenai realized this and softened her tone. Look, there are some rocks that you can hide behind. If he catches you it's no big deal. Okay, Anko said quietly. As they snuck in, they realized that Kakashi was asleep again. *Perfect*, thought Anko.

When they all headed for lunch, Kakashi was still unaware that he and Anko had been in the same spring. But that was in the past. Now he and Kurenai were being mildly disgusted as Gai and Anko were eating like there was no tomorrow (although Gai, of course, was the less civilized of the two). Kakashi couldn't stand it anymore and left when they started on dessert. Kurenai was just starting to lose her appetite. When they were both finally full, Anko realized that Kakashi was gone. Gai really couldn't care less. So she asked Kurenai, who said, I think he went out to the back garden. Anko left to look for him.

Sure enough, there he was, sitting on the bench reading his Icha-Icha Violence book. Anko walked over and tried to get his attention, but all he did was mutter, Hey, and kept reading his book. Anko walked behind him to see what he was reading, and the second she saw what it was she looked away. Then she walked back around and sat down next to him. What did we do? she asked him. Nothing, I just don't like seeing anybody pig out. Or eat sweets. Or do a combination of the two. She smiled. Sorry. Then she said, What do you think of it here? I guess it's okay. I like the springs. Speaking of which, someone came into the outdoor spring this morning and then slammed the door shut. Freaked me out. Anko looked down and blushed. Kakashi saw this and then knew who had opened the door this morning, but he kept quiet. He also noted that she had a really cute profile, wondering why he hadn't realized this before. Is Gai done? he asked, changing the subject. Anko just nodded.

So, what? Do you wanna go back in?

She shrugged.

Well, I am. See ya.

And he got up and left Anko in the garden.

8 - The good part!

The last day at the springs was pretty uneventful. More sitting in the outdoor bath and watching TV in the rooms. Pretty soon they were packed up and out of there. They were back at the village at around eight-fifteen. Now this is the part where I decide the story just breezes through the next six weeks with A- and S-rank missions every now and then (sorry, just trying to save time). But in that period of time, Kakashi and Anko started spending a little time together and getting to know each other better, with Kakashi even putting his arm around her once, causing her to blush. Even after she moved back to her house, they continued to hang out together. They went to the jonin lounge on a few occasions, with Gai and Kurenai sometimes there already. Gai, of course, just couldn't resist making a joke out of them being together almost all the time. Annoying Kakashi to no end, it drove him to the point of saying Shut up, airhead. temporarily shocking Gai. But he got over it and continued to tease both of them while Kurenai looked on.

Occasionally, Anko would talk with Kurenai about how things were going between her and Kakashi while Kurenai listened. She felt she needed to confide in someone, and Kurenai seemed like a trustworthy candidate for the job.

One night, Anko was with Kakashi at Ichiraku. They finished up their meals and left. Then Kakashi spoke up and said Hey, I want to show you something. He started to walk in the direction of the village gates, into the Forest of Death. Feeling a little unsure, Anko followed him. They started to disappear into the thick brush surrounding them. It slowly started to get darker and darker as they advanced into the unknown territory. Anko could just barely make out Kakashi's silhouette in order to keep up with him. Soon she was led into a clearing. Fireflies were everywhere, lighting up the darkness. The moon was directly overhead and almost full, surrounded by thin clouds that curved around its circumference, making it look like a cathedral. Anko's mouth hung open in shock. Why did Kakashi bring her *here*? Then she heard Kakashi say, Anko, come over here. She looked in his direction and saw that he was referring to the tree. She slowly walked over and sat down next to him. Then she saw him take off his

hitai-ate. Wait, isn't that wasting chakra? she asked worriedly. Nah, it's not like I'm using it or anything, came his reply. So she took hers off too while letting her hair down. Then, looking at the fireflies, she asked him, Hey, dare me to catch one? He looked at her and said lazily, Oh, sure, why the heck not? So he watched Anko get up and wait for one to come near her. Then she closed her hands around it quickly and walked back towards him. She opened her hands just a crack so as not to let it get away but just enough to see it glow. Then she opened her hands all the way, and as it flew away to be with the others, Kakashi noticed how small and delicate her hands were. Made him want to hold them...

Anko sat back down next to Kakashi and looked up at the moon. She had never really seen it so large before. She sat like that until a cold breeze flew past her. She shivered, but before she got a chance to pull her arms inside her overcoat, she felt Kakashi put his arm around her again, this time pulling her close to his chest. Anko let out a small gasp. It felt so powerful and gentle at the same time. Hey, Anko? asked Kakashi. Anko looked up. Kakashi reached up to his face and brought down the mask. Then what Anko saw sent her into silence. He had a completely normal face; a nose and mouth just like everyone else. And it looked great. But from the mask line down, the scar got worse, a little wider and more jagged than the area around his Sharingan. It reached all the way down to the left side of his mouth. But that wasn't what Anko was concentrating on. Then Kakashi looked down at her and she looked down at the grass. He lifted her face up so that her eyes met his. Then he closed his eyes, leaned in...

...and kissed her.

Anko's head started spinning, and she looked away. Had he really just done what he had done? This and other questions were flying through her mind, and as she fell against his chest again, she started to feel drowsy...

9 - Here it comes!

Anko heard a voice calling her name. Anko? Anko! it continued to call. Anko woke up in a second and found herself looking at Kakashi. He smiled. Oh, she said softly. How long have I been asleep?

About fifteen minutes. replied Kakashi. Had it really? It felt a lot longer. Suddenly Anko realized that he was leaning in. She put two fingers on his lips.

What s wrong? he asked.

I just need to think, said Anko.

Aw, come on! We re like fire and ice. He started to lean in again.

And you know how much I love playing with fire.

Anko quickly replied, Did you know that when you play with fire you re gonna get burned?

Did you know that when you mix the two you get steam? he said coolly. Their lips made contact again. When he lifted his head, he asked her, So, do you wanna go back to the village? Anko said nothing but nodded shakily. Okay, Kakashi said. They put on their hitai-ates and walked back to the village gates. Soon they were in the heart of Konoha. Okay, bye! Anko said quickly as she dashed off in the direction of her house. Kakashi turned around and started walking in the opposite direction, tossing some stones around in his hand. Suddenly he realized out loud, Oh, wait, Kurenai s house is the same direction as Anko s from here. He smiled, dropped the stones and continued walking.

Kurenai heard a harsh knocking on her door. KURENAI? KURENAI!!!! came the frantic but familiar voice. Kurenai quickly got up and opened the door. Anko burst in like a maniac was at her heels. She struggled to break as Kurenai gave her a look that said, What? What is it? . CLOSE THE DOOR! screamed Anko. Kurenai obeyed. He did it, gasped Anko. He did it?! prodded Kurenai, knowing what it was. Anko nodded. Twice.

Twice?! Hang on, I ll make some tea. Anko, sit down! Kurenai said. As soon as they sat down, Anko started telling her about what happened.

What did you do after he kissed you? Kurenai interrupted her.

Anko hesitated. I-I fell asleep.

Anko!

Kurenai, I know! But his chest, it was so warm and inviting and, and& she let the sentence trail off.

Wow, Anko, you must be feeling lucky. Kurenai answered. Anko nodded, still thinking about sitting there as if she was reliving it. Kurenai sipped her tea and then immediately spat it out. What? asked

Anko worriedly. It's here! Kurenai said between breaths. Anko looked at her belly and knew what to do. She flung the gasping Kurenai's arm over her shoulder and made the tiger sign. Soon they were in front of the hospital doors. Anko ran in with Kurenai to the front desk and said to the nurse, This lady's having a baby! thinking that would be enough to explain the situation. It was for the nurse as she took Kurenai into a room. Anko sat down in the lobby, waiting. Suddenly her cell phone rang (cell phone, hah!). She picked it up and answered it.

Hello? she inquired. It was Gai. Oh, hey, she said tiredly.

Where are you? I'm right in front of your door and no one's here. Are you okay? Gai asked. Yeah, Anko replied. I'm at the hospital. Kurenai's having the baby.

Oh my god! I'll be right there. Do you want me to call Kakashi? All of a sudden Anko froze. Kakashi? Gai noticed the pause and said, I won't if you don't want me to.

No, you can tell him. Anko said. Alright, she heard Gai say. She heard a beep and shut off her phone. She waited. Then she heard a poof. She knew that they were here now. She turned around and saw Gai and Kakashi standing at the doors. Kakashi didn't have his headband on. She guessed he had gotten the news after he had gotten home. Kakashi walked over and sat down next to her. She offered him her headband. He took it, put it on and slanted it. Then there was silence. Gai realized this, and while making the effort to keep a straight face, he asked, So, did something happen? You two are awfully quiet.

NO! Anko blurted out without thinking. She calmed herself down and repeated. No. Kakashi shook his head. Gai let a smile creep onto his face. By the way Anko was blushing, he could tell they were *both* lying.

Time passed. Finally someone came out of the room Kurenai was in and told Kakashi and Anko (Gai had gotten thirsty and went to look for something to drink) that both Kurenai and the baby were fine. Anko looked relieved, Kakashi replied with Great, and when Gai came back and they told him what happened, his response was the same as Kakashi's.

This was certainly a night they wouldn't forget.

Oh, and earlier, everything they were saying about fire and ice, it was all wrong. After all, when you mix fire and ice...

... all you get is a puddle.

10 - The curse seal activates!

The next night Kakashi decided to do something special for Anko. He went over to her house, knocked on the door, and waited. The minute she opened the door, he dashed behind her and slipped her headband over her eyes so she couldn't see anything. Then he literally dragged her where he wanted her to be. He lifted her headband to its original position, sick of her screaming his name so all of Hidden Leaf could hear. She gasped and smiled. He had taken her to one of her favorite- and most expensive, might I add- restaurants. Kakashi couldn't shake the feeling that they were being watched. But he soon got it out of his thoughts. They got in and sat down at a table. She ordered a bottle of sake for them to share. Sake? Kakashi asked her, a hint of precaution in his voice. Oh, come on! We're not gonna go crazy! Trust me, she assured him. They waited for their orders, and when they finally got them, Anko dug in. She poured herself some sake instantly, and when she finished that, she was about to pour herself another cup when WHO ELSE would walk in but Gai and Kurenai. Kakashi almost choked on his miso. Anko held the bottle in midair, not quite tilted enough to let any wine escape. Gai raised an incredibly thick eyebrow (ah, good times). Well, what do we have here? Gai questioned, causing Kakashi to go Arrgh! and slam his head down on the table. Anko simply gave him a look. Then she turned to Kurenai and asked her, Hey, what about the baby? Kurenai answered with, Sakura's taking care of Muteki. She said she needed the money.

Anko automatically suggested, Godaime-sama take it all?

Yep.

Ah.

Kurenai and Gai sat not too far away from Kakashi and Anko, close enough to keep talking. Then when Anko made a joke about Gai's intelligence (I don't really feel like thinking of one right now) he furrowed his brow and countered with, What, you saying I'm not the sharpest tack in the box? Kakashi *had* to respond to that with, No, she's just saying you're a few noodles short of instant ramen. Gai became furious and said, Well, at least I don't hide behind a mask every day!

At least I don't cut my hair with a bowl.

Hm. Touche.

But everything stopped when Anko fell off of the seat and onto her knees. She started to throw up. Kakashi got down beside her. Anko, how much sake did you have- but he stopped short when he saw that she wasn't coughing up sake...

& she was coughing up blood.

Kakashi gawked. Her curse seal started to spread to her shoulder, her cheekbone, ...

Gai and Kurenai hovered over her but did nothing. They didn't know what to do. Suddenly Kakashi yelled at them, Gai! Go get Tsunade-sama and Neji! Kurenai, get Hinata, Sakura and Ino! Without stopping to ask why, Gai and Kurenai were out of the restaurant and started dashing around Konoha like crazy. Kakashi simply held Anko near him. Her breathing was getting heavier. He put his hand on her forehead, and tried to hold back the yelp from being practically burned. He tried to give her some water, but she ignored him. He felt he should be doing something, but what? After what seemed like forever, Gai and Kurenai came back with Tsunade, Sakura, Hinata, Ino and Neji. The chunin, jonin and Hokage looked at him, as if to say, What? Kakashi asked Neji and Hinata if it was possible to use their Byakugan and try to stop the chakra flowing from her seal. They gave it a shot. The effects seemed to subside for a moment, but then started again, this time, twice as strong. Anko was starting to develop a purple chakra aura. But Kakashi noticed that she was starting to wake up. She told him that she could stand up again. All eyes in the restaurant were now turned towards the group of shinobi. Suddenly there was a huge crash outside. All the ninja and a few courageous watchers wandered outside to investigate what the cause of the disturbance was. Before the dust could clear, all the shinobi heard a cold, emotionless voice that sent a shiver down their spines, especially Kakashi and Anko.

Ah, Anko. Kakashi. SO good to see you again. There was no doubt that the voice belonged to Orochimaru.

But when the smoke cleared, it was not Orochimaru they saw...

... it was Yakushi Kabuto.

11 - The fight

The shinobi stood in a circle around him, not letting him escape. Tsunade warned him, Back for more, huh? Let me warn you, Yakushi, you're about to face off against nine of Konoha's finest ninja. Suddenly there was a poof. Make that eleven. said a girl with two brown buns. Tenten and Rock Lee appeared. Poof. Thirteen. said Nara Shikamaru and Akimichi Choji.

Another poof. Fifteen! added Inuzuka Kiba and Aburame Shino as they showed up.

Seventeen! yelled Uzumaki Naruto as he stood at the head of the circle, Jiraiya smirking behind him. Kabuto eyed all of the students and former teachers as Tsunade asked him, Now where's Orochimaru? Are you still looking for me? I'm right here, Tsunade! Kabuto said in Orochimaru's snakelike voice. Everyone looked baffled, especially Tsunade. What was going on?

At that moment Kabuto shook his head and began speaking in his own voice. Surprised? You know who Orochimaru's next vessel is now. Tsunade looked completely shocked. Was it really...?

Kabuto, or Orochimaru, whoever it was, seemed to read her mind. Orochimaru's voice started up again. As he was speaking, Kabuto's pupils actually seemed to become slits. Yes, it is. And let me tell you, I haven't forgotten our last little encounter. Let's see you handle two-in-one! Tsunade gave him her world-famous death glare and questioned, Where's the Uchiha boy?

Oh, he's off having his own little adventures. He thinks I'm gone. He really thought that I could be gotten rid of that easily. But he'll learn soon enough. Now, who wants to try me first? He snickered. He was trying to jump right into the fight. You think you can win? THINK AGAIN! yelled Jiraiya. He started to dash right towards Kabuto. Kabuto made the Kage Bunshin no Jutsu sign and immediately had a clone for everyone to fight. There were tools being thrown everywhere, bomb patches exploding, failed jutsu left and right. Neji and Hinata had managed to team up and fight their clones together, as did Sakura with Ino, Tsunade with Jiraiya and Kakashi with Anko. Kiba was having a hard time avoiding Kabuto's attacks to give Akamaru a pill. He had already had one himself, but with Akamaru so far away, he couldn't figure out how to get close to him. His pill was already wearing off. Shino's bug attacks kept hitting, but every time they touched Kabuto, he would turn into a log. All Kabuto needed to do with Naruto was taunt him with the fact that he could never pass Sasuke, and Naruto would lose perspective and start blindly throwing punches, opening places for Kabuto to attack. Naruto would have done the Shadow Clone jutsu as well, but he was thinking if anything went wrong, it would be a huge waste of chakra. Ino and Sakura were carefully directing chakra to their attacks, but since Kabuto was a medic nin as well, he knew all of their techniques, including Tsunade's, who at the moment was trying to catch Kabuto off-guard so she or Jiraiya could attack. Neji couldn't keep Kabuto in his eight trigrams, and Kabuto was too fast for Hinata to hit. Shikamaru's Shadow Possession jutsu seemed to be the only one that had caught Kabuto, and Choji successfully got rid of the clone with the Human Boulder. The duo went to help the others. Kurenai and Gai were temporarily keeping Kabuto at bay so Kurenai could get in a genjutsu shot. It didn't work, but before Kabuto could react, Gai came in with a Leaf Whirlwind and vanquished their foe. Right next to them Lee and Tenten had teamed up with their tools and taijutsu, forcing the clone to retreat back to the real body. Kakashi and Anko were doing everything they could to stop Kabuto, Kakashi having activated the Mangekyou Sharingan. Anko's aura was now clearly visible. She was now twice as fast and powerful, but it was getting harder and harder to ignore the pain in her neck. Suddenly the clone snuck up behind Kakashi and ripped off the mask. He took a good look at Kakashi and replied, Is that something you're proud of? No wonder you always keep that mask on. Kabuto smirked. Kakashi's eyes narrowed. A few of the others looked over and finally saw Kakashi's

face, not that it mattered to Kakashi. All he was thinking at the moment was, *If I can just get in one Chidori...* Kakashi dashed/jumped back in the opposite direction of Kabuto and started making hand signs right as Kabuto swallowed a pill. Kabuto's hands started to glow blue with chakra while Kakashi's grew white with lightning. Then Kakashi started running towards Kabuto. He lifted his hand, ready to strike... but Kabuto struck first.

Right at Kakashi's heart.

The lightning started to fizzle away. Kakashi froze and fell down on the ground. SHANAROO! yelled Ino and Sakura right as they finished off the clone. Sakura turned around and saw Anko kneeled over Kakashi. Kakashi? Can you hear me? she asked, her voice starting to crack. Let me answer that for you. No, piped up Kabuto. There's no saving him. She looked up directly at Kabuto, stood up, and yelled, I am going to KILL YOU! She faced off against Kabuto as Sakura and Ino started to heal Kakashi. He was going to survive, at this rate.

A few minutes later Kakashi was back up and fighting along with everyone else. Anko looked incredibly relieved, but she didn't take her mind off her work. Kakashi tried for a second Chidori. It just missed Kabuto's shoulder. Kakashi would have to be careful now; he had only two Chidori left in him. He wasn't really sure if there was anything else that could beat Kabuto.

Nobody had noticed somebody else had joined the fight.

The Kabuto clones were disappearing one by one. Soon there was only the real Kabuto. Anko had ordered everyone else to let her and Kakashi handle this one. Still nobody was aware of their mystery guest.

The fighting continued. Kabuto seemed to be getting tired. Perfect.

But looks can be deceiving. At the last minute Kabuto had kicked Kakashi out of the way so that it was only him and Anko. He popped up behind her and swatted her away like a fly. But she got back up on her feet and ran towards Kabuto, her hand balled up into a fist. Kabuto braced himself. Almost no chakra left for a substitution jutsu...

But Anko had other plans. Instead of hitting him, she took out a kunai and shoved it in his chest. Everyone gasped at how easy it had been for her. It seemed that Kabuto had enough energy for one last attack. He took out a kunai as well and stabbed her in the same area. She dropped to her knees. And then Kabuto turned into a log. She was unconscious now, and the curse mark was receding. So long! everyone heard Kabuto say, and they looked up to the roofs of one of the buildings. He waved and vanished. Tsunade, Sakura and Ino gathered around Anko. Kakashi wobbled over, seeing them take her pulse, check her heartbeat and her breathing. Then Sakura slowly pulled out the kunai, and, without looking at Kakashi, told him, I'm sorry, Kakashi-sensei, but,...

...she s dead.

12 - Unmasked

Kakashi's eyes grew wide. He was silent for a moment. Wh-what? he asked quietly, but mostly everyone had gathered around him, so they heard. Kurenai started to tear up; Gai was starting to feel a little sorry for all the jokes he had made. Kakashi kneeled down next to her. He picked her up and held her. Her eyes were half-open, but he could see she was not dead... yet. She started to mutter, Well, at least he's gone. The sparkles in her eyes were fading. Kakashi, thank you. Good-bye. she finished. Then her eyes clouded over.

She was gone.

Kakashi was still. A minute passed. Then two.

And then he broke down. Many people were a little stunned. This was a side of Kakashi they had never seen before. He was *actually* crying. He had dug his head into her shoulder. No, Anko, come back! Come back, come back, come back... He continued to sob. So did many of the girls. Kurenai came over and put her hand on his shoulder, knowing what it was like to lose the person you loved. Gai looked down.

And then the mystery guest made herself known. Do you need any help? she asked as she stepped in front of everyone and next to the body. Sure, her hair had grown, and the symbol on her forehead was now inscribed with the Mist sign instead of Leaf. But she had the same red hair, the same markings on her face, the same green eyes. Kakashi looked up at her and stuttered, R-Rin?

She looked down without any emotion whatsoever. Then she managed to smile a little. This your girlfriend? she asked Kakashi without looking at him. He looked at Anko and shrugged. What did it matter? She was a great friend. He wanted her back.

Well, said Rin as she leaned down. Let's see what we can do. Tsunade looked at her, dumbfounded, and then yelled, Are you deaf? She dead! There's nothing we *can* do! Rin looked at the Godaime. And then she said what no one else had dared to before. I know you're one of the Sannin. But what authority do you pose over me, might I ask? Tsunade was shocked. And then she yelled back even more loudly than before. Uh, seeing as you are one of Konoha's former shinobi and I am the Hokage, I'd say, a lot! Rin was taken aback. Hokage? When did this happen? Then she realized her mistake and started apologizing. Oh, I'm so sorry! Please forgive me! she said as she bowed. Yeah right, like that was going to get Tsunade to forgive her! Luckily, Tsunade decided to play good cop today. Well, what exactly do you plan to do about this? Rin sat back up. Are you familiar with the Life Transfer Jutsu? Kakashi looked up. The same one that Chiyo used on Gaara? Tsunade nodded. Yes, she answered.

But you could just as well lose your life. she informed Rin. Rin said back, I'm aware of that. But if your students here are capable of it as well, then who's to say we can't all do it simultaneously? Tsunade nodded. But if you haven't noticed, my students here are not yet capable of this particular medical jutsu. It looks like it's just you and me.

Now, wait a minute, Tsunade-sama! I think Sakura and I know perfectly well how to perform this jutsu! interjected Ino. Tsunade didn't ask any more questions. All right, let's give it a shot.

13 - Deception

The four medic nin started the jutsu. Even though Sakura and Ino were doing fine and hadn't made a single mistake yet, being so young made the jutsu put a lot more stress on their bodies than Tsunade or Rin. Kakashi stayed right next to Anko the entire time, waiting for any movement or noise. Kurenai had to go check on Muteki because Sakura wasn't there at her house. Mostly everyone else had gone home except Hinata, Neji and Jiraiya. The time elapsed was only about ten minutes, but to everyone it felt like an hour. Then Tsunade put her hand up, signaling for the other three to stop. Ino, Sakura and Rin stood up. Kakashi stared at Anko. Then he saw her hand move. He held his breath. Then her eyes opened a little bit. She struggled to sit up and fell back down on the ground, almost hitting her head, but Kakashi caught her. Rin looked at Anko with a little bit of animosity in her eyes, although no one seemed to notice. Anko looked up at Kakashi and both smiled, relieved she was fine.

Kakashi stood in front of the memorial gravestone. He had just left the hospital with Anko who had said would meet him later, and was thinking about someone when he heard footsteps behind him. He calmly turned around and saw Rin standing there. Kakashi looked back down at the names engraved in the stone. Rin quietly walked up next to him and after a moment of silence, asked him, "It's Obito, isn't it?" Kakashi remained silent but nodded. Rin looked at the name Uchiha Obito on the gravestone and muttered, "Fifteen years. I know you miss him."

"I could have done something instead of stand there like an idiot." Kakashi replied in a low voice. Rin snapped back, "Kakashi, there was nothing you-we-could've done. Don't blame yourself." Kakashi responded with silence. Suddenly Rin's eyes gleamed. She asked Kakashi, "So, that girl you were with the other night. Who is she?" Kakashi froze. He tried to come up with an answer. "A friend," was the best he could come up with. Rin nodded. "*Just* a friend?" she prodded, accentuating *just*. "Mm-hmm." Kakashi said, starting to feel a little nervous. Rin stepped up to him. "So she won't mind if I do... this?" Rin lowered Kakashi's mask and kissed him. When she looked at him again, he seemed to be shocked. Then he looked down, Rin bringing his eyes back up to meet hers. "I don't think she liked that." Rin said, pointing in the direction opposite of Kakashi as she said the word, *she*. Kakashi kept looking at Rin. "Why was she pointing? *Why was she pointing?!*" Kakashi whirled around, and to his horror, saw Anko standing between the trees, her mouth opened in shock. Then Anko's eyes narrowed and she turned around and dashed back towards the village. Kakashi was about to leave too, when Rin grabbed his wrist and said, "Ah, who needs her?" She was pulling Kakashi back when he shook her wrist off his own and said, "What did you do that for?"

Rin started to look angry. "What, afraid your *friend* is gonna get jealous?"

"Will you shut up?!"

Kakashi, choose. It s either her or me.

Kakashi stood there in silence, amazed that the Rin who had been so gentle when they were a team had actually stooped down to this level over the years. Then he blurted out, Her.

Rin looked furious now. Excuse me?! she exclaimed.

You heard me. Kakashi snapped back.

Oh, no, she started. You do *not* turn me down like that. *NOBODY* turns me down like that!

All Kakashi said back was, I already did.

Rin cracked. She started to run towards him, her fist held next to her waist. Then she shot it out to hit Kakashi...

and he caught it without even trying. He slowly twisted it until she was down on her knees and crying in pain. Kakashi let go of her hand and said quietly, Now excuse me, but I have to go fix something.

And with that he dashed off.

14 - The Confession

Anko! ANKO! yelled Kakashi as he raced through the busy streets of Konoha, looking for the purple-haired girl in question. Man, luck was definitely *not* on his side today. He had checked the dango shop, her house, he had even checked Ichiraku. She wasn't anywhere. All he wanted to say to her was, *I'm sorry. She kissed me; I don't know what Rin was thinking.* But apparently Anko wasn't going to show up just because Kakashi wanted her to. He just wanted to clear things up, and he would.
As soon as he found Anko!

Anko was becoming hysterical. And he didn't even do anything about it! He was just standing there like the huge, back-stabbing baka he is! Kurenai was trying to squeeze in a word between Anko's fit. Anko, calm down. I'm sure he has a reason- Like what, Kurenai? What good reason could he possibly have? This is Hatake Kakashi we're talking about! The worst excuse maker ever! Still trying to be the voice of reason, Kurenai gently assured her, Anko, give him a chance. Maybe it's not his fault.

MAYBE IT IS!!!!!!

Suddenly they heard the baby crying. Anko clapped her hand over her mouth. Kurenai stood up and walked into the hallway. Anko, please be a little more quiet. I'll be back in a second. She walked into the baby's room and while trying to get Muteki to fall asleep, Anko headed out the front door. She walked beside the shops, trying to get her mind off of what she just saw. But she couldn't. Why? Was it something Anko did? Was he just tired of her? It took Anko a few seconds to realize that she had stopped walking and the dark spot on the ground was getting larger. She let it grow. She leaned against the side of the shop she was currently near. Then she heard someone say, Anko? She feared the worst. She slowly lifted her head, only to see that it was Kakashi. She quickly looked up to see what exact store she had stopped by.

The bookshop.

Duh.

Kakashi turned towards her, and at that second she ran. She didn't know where, just anywhere that Kakashi didn't happen to be at the moment.

Man, she's fast, thought Kakashi as he dashed after her. Soon the two of them had gone from running to dashing roof-to-roof. Just keeping her in his sight was becoming a challenge for Kakashi. *This isn't getting me anywhere,* he realized, and then he got an idea. He created a shadow clone to make her think she was still being followed, and then wandered off the route he was taking and headed northwest. He kept jumping until he was sure he was ahead of Anko. Suddenly he turned right and she crashed into him. The clone disappeared. He wrapped her arms around her so she couldn't escape. They were standing in the middle of a huge crowd that kept rushing by them. Anko thrashed around while Kakashi told her to calm down, even though it was useless for both of them.

LET GO OF ME! she screamed. Yeah, and what's that gonna get me? A good knee in the crotch? Kakashi answered back.

You'll find out!

Anko, stop it! Let me talk!

She stopped flailing. Kakashi took a deep breath and spoke. Anko, what you saw back there wasn't what you thought it was.

So you *weren't* kissing Rin?

... Okay, it *is* what you thought it was. He saw Anko roll her eyes. But, wait, that's not what I wanted to say. Anko, do you think I would go ahead and do something like that to you on such short notice?

Anko stayed silent.

Anko, when they told me you were dead the other night, do you know what I did? I cried. Yes, I cried. If anything ever happened to you, I would never be able to forgive myself. If one other person I was close to had their name written on that gravestone, I would have lost it. I don't want that to happen ever again. She remained quiet. Kakashi noticed her blink rapidly to hold back tears. She looked up and said,

Really?

He nodded. She tackled him and soon they were in each other's arms. Anko was sobbing now, but was smiling as well.

Oh, wait until Gai heard about this!

And, uh, that's it for the main story! Thank you for all the comments, gaaralover1, homestarrunner and finalfantasy!

This is the story I put the most effort in. That's not a common thing for me O_o XD.

This is not the end, however! I will most likely be writing short omakes in addition to this. Once again, arigato!

15 - *Omake 1

**** OMAKE ICHI****

*bonus #1

Anko and Kakashi sat in the lounge, doing... pretty much nothing. Nothing but reading Icha-Icha and eating Pocky. Anko looked down into the box and saw only one stick left. Then she smirked and said, Hey, you want the last piece?

What flavor is it? asked Kakashi without even looking up from the book. She popped the stick a third of the way into her mouth and answered, You'll have to find out yourself. Kakashi looked up and smiled. He leaned over while pulling down the mask and took a bite out of it, then another, and then their lips touched. Mmm, Mitarashi and Anko flavored*, my favorite. He went back to kissing her. Then the door burst open and Gai ran in. Kakashi and Anko screamed and turned around. Kakashi looked at Gai with his mask back on and yelled, WHAT IS IT?!?!

Gai smiled with the ping to boot, then said, I thought that a game of Go would be a nice opportunity for us to even the score. Whaddaya say, eternal rival?

Geez, muttered Kakashi under his breath. Fine. They sat down and began the game, Kakashi black, Gai white. They played and in the end, after counting territory, discovered Kakashi had won by six and a half points, counting Gai's komi**. Now it's fifty-fifty. Good-bye! and Kakashi shoved Gai out the door.

But this is a public lounge! You can't throw me out- pleaded Gai as Kakashi slammed the door with a WHAM!

Facts

*Here Kakashi is making a reference to Anko's name, stating that both the first and last names are ingredients in her favorite food, dango.

** In Go, black always goes first. To make up for this, white is given five and a half points at the beginning of the game.

Just thought I might include those two little thingies. Sayonara!

16 - *Omake 2

****OMAKE NI****

*bonus #2

Hey, guys! I m back from the Land of Rocks! blurted Fujimi* as she walked into Ichiraku. Let me tell you, the springs there are *fantastic!* Sakura looked up from her bowl of itadakimasu**. Hi! she said. Naruto nodded in Fujimi s direction while continuing to eat his own tonkotsu**. So, do you guys want to do anything? Sakura thought for a second, and then suggested, How about we go to the beach? (At this point I m just assuming there s a beach in Konoha. I m writing a story, people!) I guess, Fujimi replied. Is there anyone you guys wanna invite?

Naruto thought about who might want to come. He said, Do you think Kakashi-senpai and his girlfriend wanna come?

Girlfriend? Whoa, hold up. Kakashi s got a *girlfriend?*

Yeah. Mitarashi-san, explained Sakura. Fujimi raised her eyebrows and said, Well, this is new. I guess opposites attract.

(: P Duh!) If there s anyone else you wanna bring, go ahead. See you at five. And with that Fujimi left.

Notes

*Fujimi is my OC. You can read more about her in my other fanfic, *The New Girl*.

**Types of ramen.

All right, let s see who you guys brought. Fujimi said as she looked at the large group of ninja that Naruto and Sakura invited. Fujimi s face fell as she spotted Gai. She didn t exactly hate him, but, well, she didn t place him as one of the top ten coolest dudes around. Same with Lee. Gai noticed this and flashed his signature smile at her. Fujimi merely rolled her eyes and looked away. Everyone was ready. Most of the boys were looking with open mouths at Fujimi in her bathing suit. Especially Kiba. His eyes were bugging out. Unfortunately, none of the boys had the nerve to go up and talk to her because of the fact she was hanging out with Naruto. Fujimi looked over at Gai lie on the towel. Watch this, she told Naruto as she smiled. She snuck over to the sleeping Gai, and making sure he was asleep, she pulled the towel out from under him. He did a complete flip in mid-air before he fell face down in the sand. He spat it out and looked up at her with menacing eyes. She didn t notice because she was laughing her head off. Suddenly Gai realized how hot the sand was.

AAAUUUGGGHHH! he screamed as he jumped around, causing Fujimi to laugh even harder. He grabbed the towel and put it under his feet immediately. You are so dead, you little brat! Gai yelled. Really? Prove it! said back Fujimi as she took Gai s sandaru and threw them ten feet away. She then

ran in the opposite direction. Gai's mouth hung open and he yelled, LEE! a few times before his student realized he was being called. By that time Fujimi and Naruto had run all the way over to Kakashi and Anko and were dying laughing. Even Kakashi couldn't hold it in any longer and started laughing with the other three, watching the scared Lee go over and retrieve Gai's sandaru for him.

And that's bonus 2. Sayonara!

17 - *Omake 3

****OMAKE SAN****

*bonus #3

Anko wobbled towards Tsunade's office on her almost broken leg. She was bruised and battered all over. She felt as if her heart and lungs had switched tasks, and only with perfect timing could she breathe properly, or for that matter, even at all.

But she had to tell Tsunade the news.

-----FLASHBACK-----

Anko heard something on top of the Hokage's mountain. Turning around and looking up, she saw a figure with silver hair tied back facing the opposite direction. *Why would anyone be standing up there?* Anko wondered. She decided to take a closer look.

When she had reached the top of the monument, she gasped. Kabuto was standing behind one of the many men surrounding a circle with scrolls in their mouths. He looked to his side and spotted Anko.

Well, look who we have here. A surprise guest. Kabuto smiled but talked with fake enthusiasm. He started to walk towards Anko.

But unfortunately this party is reservations only.

Anko leered at him. Tell me what's going on and I'll report you to Tsunade without hurting anyone. Kabuto's voice changed into Orochimaru's. That's a nice offer, but why don't you act like the good little girl you are and go buy yourself some sweets?

Anko's eyes narrowed. I'm warning you, she threatened him, her voice rising. Her curse mark throbbed, but she did her best to ignore it as Kabuto walked closer. Go on, leave this to the mature ninjas. he taunted her. What Orochimaru didn't know was that she wasn't the little kid who had left him years ago. She cursed at him in her head for giving her the curse mark, for taking her away from the village, her home...

What are they doing here? she gestured to the men with the scrolls. Oh, did you forget operation destroy Konoha? I've come back to keep it going. Anko had had enough. She started to run towards Kabuto as he braced himself. But instead she rushed past him and continued on towards the circle. Seeing the kanji written around it, she wondered if smudging at least one would stop the snakes from being summoned. Unfortunately one of the men tripped her at the last second and she fell face first in the dirt. She lifted her head and saw that she had created a bunch of blurred strokes in the ground. *Score!* her smile seemed to say. Kabuto frowned. Then he picked her up by her collar and started landing blows on her. To the face, the torso...

Anko lay facedown. When she lifted her head again, she could see out of one eye that Kabuto and the other shinobi had vanished. She struggled to pick herself up and began the long walk back down.

-----END FLASHBACK-----

Anko wondered how absolutely no one could have seen anything going on on top of the mountain.

Idiots, she muttered under her breath as she continued to limp. She didn't have the energy to simply make a hand sign and transport herself to Tsunade. She looked at the ground, since it seemed equally useful as seeing out of only one black eye. She could feel people staring at her as she dragged herself by. Anko? she heard someone say. She recognized the voice as Gai's. Oh thank the lord, she said. Gai continued.

What the-

I'll explain later. I need you to get me to Tsunade. Anko cut in. Gai caught her as she almost fell to the ground. She soon found herself standing in front of Tsunade's desk. She looked at the Godaime, and immediately started telling her what happened. After Tsunade listened, she nodded and said, So he's trying again... Yes, responded the exhausted Anko. All I'm saying is, we should put out a watch party.

Agreed. I will do so at once. But now we need to figure out what to do with you. Anko looked down.

Come with me. Tsunade stood up and walked out of the office. Anko tried turning around, but felt Gai carry her after Tsunade. Anko felt herself being laid down in a hospital bed. No, really, I'll be fine. It's nothing, she pleaded, sitting back up, only to be pushed down by Tsunade. You're not fooling anyone. Stay here. Tsunade pulled a mask over Anko's mouth and nose and waited for Anko to fall asleep. It turned out the Hokage was going to be standing there for a while. Where's Kakashi? Gai asked her.

Land of clouds. He's going with several other jonin to deliver a scroll concerning international trade issues. He should be back by tomorrow. she replied, still looking at Anko. We'll tell him then.

No, Anko muttered. I don't want him worrying. I mean, yeah, tell him about Kabuto, but don't say anything about me. were her last words before she drifted off to sleep. Gai looked at Tsunade, waiting to be told what to do. Don't tell him, Tsunade finally decided. The quickest she can recover is in one day, worst case scenario, a week. Keep your mouth shut. Tsunade walked out the door, Gai taking one last look at Anko before following her.

18 - *Omake 4

****OMAKE SHI****

*bonus #4

Gai was sitting at Ichiraku and slurping noodles when he heard someone enter the restaurant. Hey, Gai, he heard Kurenai's voice say. Gai looked down but replied, Hn.

Kurenai noticed the frown on his face and asked, Is something wrong? Gai thought about Anko.

Tsunade had told him not to tell Kakashi, specifically. She didn't say anything about Kurenai...

Um, I was just thinking about Anko, he said meekly.

Why?

Well, I wanted to see how she's doing in the hospital...

HOSPITAL?!?!? WHAT FOR?!?!? Kurenai screamed. Gai clapped his hand over her mouth and scolded her, Shut up! Do you want all of Konoha to know?

Does Kakashi know about this?

No, not yet. Anko didn't want him worrying. Besides, he won't be back from Land of Clouds until tomorrow. I'm gonna go check on her.

Well, I'm coming with you. Kurenai informed him.

Fine.

Gai and Kurenai looked down at Anko's bed. Then someone opened the door behind them, and when they turned around they saw Tsunade and Shizune holding Tonton. Tsunade eyed Kurenai. What's she doing here? she asked quietly. Um, I kinda told her... Gai mumbled, hoping Tsunade wouldn't kill him right then and there. Tsunade nodded and told him, Follow me. I don't want to wake her up. Soon all four of them were in Tsunade's office. Tsunade quickly turned around, grabbed Gai's throat with both hands, and started shaking him furiously while yelling, I GAVE YOU SPECIFIC ORDERS NOT TO TELL ANYONE! DO YOU KNOW WHAT I DO TO NINJA WITH BIG MOUTHS? DO YOU?!?!? Gai shook his head while gasping for air and it took all of Kurenai and Shizune's combined efforts to pry her off of him. Tonton watched from a safe distance. As Gai caught his breath, he told Tsunade, You told me not to tell *Kakashi!*

YOU KNOW WHAT I MEANT WHEN I SAID KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT !!!

Lady Tsunade, Shizune said with a pleading tone in her voice. Please calm down. Gai-san has a point.

Tsunade gave Gai the evil eye. Don't tell anyone else. Not Sakura, not Jiraiya, not Naruto, *no one*. Do you understand me?

Gai nodded. And if anyone asks, Tsunade stopped him as he turned around, although she was talking to Kurenai too, She got in a fight with a rogue ninja in a mission to Sea country. Got it? Gai nodded again and walked out with Kurenai.

Anko was out of the hospital the next morning. She was pretty much okay, if you don't count the fact that her right leg was in a cast and that she was walking on crutches. As she was walking along with Kurenai, they ran into Fujimi. Kurenai sweat-dropped. Fujimi raised her eyebrows, and then lifted her hand as if to say, *I won't ask*. You know, she started. I saw Kakashi at the movies. If you don't want him to see you, I would just go home. With that Fujimi turned around and left. God, did she know *everything*? So Anko and Kurenai did just that.

And that's #4. I just wanted to point out, has anyone noticed that Shizune looks just a teeny-tiny bit like Anko? I mean, they act like complete opposites. Just saying.

19 - *Omake 5

****OMAKE GO****

*bonus #5

Well, let's try this, Anko suggested to Kurenai as she stood up. They were thinking of ways to disguise Anko's broken leg so as not to draw attention. Anko made a hand sign and the cast seemingly disappeared off her leg. But when she started walking she nearly collapsed and Kurenai had to catch her. I guess the Sea country's excuse is all we've got, Kurenai mumbled.

Please, God, don't let Kakashi see me like this, Anko begged in her mind. They stepped out of Kurenai's apartment and walked right into whom else but Kakashi. Really, fate is a wondrous thing, isn't it? Very questionable at the same time. Well, back to the story.

Kakashi's visible eye grew wide at Anko's cast. What happened? he asked calmly, though it was obvious he was restraining himself from yelling. Kurenai walked backwards into her house and silently locked Kakashi and Anko out. Anko looked at the door and yelled, Yeah, shows how supportive you are! She turned back to Kakashi. Rogue ninja from Sea country, she falsely explained while thinking, *nuff said.* Kakashi closed his eyes, sighed, looked down at the ground and said Anko...

What now? she thought.

Kakashi looked back up and continued. I know you're lying.

Anko decided to come clean. Well, if you want to know, it was Kabuto. Kakashi winced at the name. Anko could hear him curse Kabuto under his breath. See? This is exactly why I didn't want to tell you. You were gonna get all, Kabuto! You sonofa- she tried to find the right words without cursing, Konoha medical doctor, she finished unsurely. She could sense Kakashi smiling at her little pun. He didn't say anything for awhile. Then he spoke up, Does it hurt?

Kinda, Anko replied.

Well, if you need anything, you can tell me. he assured her. Now that that's done, wait till Kurenai finds out that we know she was listening in the whole time! He smiled and then pointed up at her second story window, causing Kurenai to gasp and quickly shut the curtains.

Anko smiled.

Sorry if the ending wasn't that great. I just really needed to wrap it up, cause I've got a great idea for the next bonus. Thanks for reading! Sayonara!

20 - *Omake 6

****OMAKE ROKU****

*bonus #6

I m soooo freakin bored out of my mind, Fujimi complained while lying on Sakura s couch. Sakura had invited her, Naruto and Sai over for no particular reason other than she needed something to do, because Fujimi had pretty much just voiced everyone s inner thoughts. I got it! Sai suddenly exclaimed. How about a camping trip? Fujimi looked at him like he had a screw loose, then softened her expression. You know, even coming from king of morons over here, that doesn t sound like a bad idea, she remarked. Sai gave her the ha-ha-that s-so-funny-I-forgot-to-laugh look and then glanced over to Naruto and Sakura to hear their opinions. There s nothing to do, Sakura reminded him. Naruto decided, Fine, camping trip it is. Forest of Death. Four o clock.

Almost everyone from the beach trip had showed up except Kurenai, who had to take care of Muteki. Fujimi loved Naruto like a brother, but at this point she grabbed him by the collar and pulled him close to her face. Did I tell you to invite half of Konoha this time?

Well, what am I supposed to do? Tell em to go home? Fujimi dropped him. Naruto brushed himself off.

Tell me you brought tents and sleeping bags and I ll let you pass, Fujimi said with a deadpan expression, trying to do her best impersonation of a border guard. Everybody nodded.

Good.

Everyone started hiking. At some point Gai started humming which annoyed Fujimi to no end, driving her to yell, SHUT UP!!!! Kakashi smirked.

Finally everyone agreed that they had hiked far enough. When they finished setting up camp, Fujimi sent Sai and Neji to fetch wood for a fire. Why do we have to- Neji started, but Fujimi gave him a look that said, *Hey, if you know what s good for you, I say jump and you say how high?*

So off for firewood they went. They came back with a decent amount. Night had fallen, and some kids were in their tents or sitting around the campfire. Fujimi had the foresight to send Neji back to get huge logs for benches, but she decided to give him a break and she split them in half herself. The logs were arranged in a not-too-large-not-too-small circle surrounding the fire, the tents a few feet south. Anko and Kakashi were wrapped together in a blanket and were sitting on the edge of the circle so that their backs were to the tents. Oooohhh, Ino and Sakura jokingly commented as they came to sit down. Anko was lucky that the dim lighting of the fire wasn t enough to reveal her blush. Hey, who wants to hear some scary stories? Kiba yelled out to anyone who would listen. That s sounds corny, Fujimi told him, although she sat down with a few other kids who had come over to hear something entertaining. Kiba told a few tales, and was ending his current one.

-and all they found left the next morning was the kunai she had left there to prove to them she had

looking at his sensei in shock, and Naruto just laughed it off. All three sat back down as soon as Kakashi said, Well, I m turning in. G night. He walked back to the tents and everyone else did the same.

Early the next morning the group arrived back at the village. The sun wasn t quite up yet, just laying on the horizon.

As the group entered the gates, they didn t notice the red eyes watching them from the bushes.

Thanks for listening!

21 - *Omake 7

****OMAKE SICH****

*bonus #7

Anko ran through torrential downpour to get to her apartment. It was one of those weeks where the world seemed to be playing with her for sole entertainment, and the rain was coming down like there was no tomorrow. She was sure that her apartment was only a block away now and she checked her pockets for her keys. She kept looking.

And looking.

And looking.

She soon realized that she must have left them back at the cafe and was on the verge of screaming. Instead she muttered various curses under her breath and sat down on the nearest store's doorstep, wet, cold and tired. She put her face in her hands and cried. No one would even be able to tell the difference if it wasn't for her deep sobbing and shaking. When she looked up, she saw a pair of jonin sandaru in front of her. She lifted her head up and met Kakashi's gaze. Holding an umbrella, the completely dry Hatake looked at her quizzically. It wasn't a common sight to see Mitarashi Anko crying.

I don't wanna talk now, she muttered, looking down as she stood up and gained her composure.

Kakashi remained silent. Why? he inquired.

I'm having a bad day.

What happened?

As quickly as Anko had regained control, she lost it again. I said I didn't want to tell you! Leave me alone! As she turned to her side and ran, she stepped in some chewed gum, causing her to yell something so worth censoring I can't write it here. Kakashi closed his eyes patiently. Then he opened them and reached out to Anko's shoulder, only to have it swatted away like a fly. He walked up to her and tried again, then sensed her tense up. Before she could attack him out of frustration, he grabbed her wrist right as she was about to land a blow on him and run. Anko pulled and pulled, trying to shake him loose so she could have another shot at him, but he held on firmly. She noticed that she could still hear the sound of the rain, but it wasn't hitting her anymore. When she opened her eyes, Kakashi had positioned the umbrella over the both of themselves. At that moment he let go and Anko turned around, her back to him. But she stayed where she was. She didn't walk out into the rain. She couldn't bear to. Even her overcoat couldn't keep her warm now, what with it being soaked as badly as the rest of her. Anko bit her bottom lip and trembled like a six-year old afraid of thunder. Well? Are you gonna go? she heard Kakashi ask behind her. She nodded but stayed put. Suddenly she felt warmth next to her. Kakashi's arm slipped around her waist and he pulled Anko close so that he could rest his head on her shoulder. She started to feel like she was on the verge of sleeping standing up, lulled by the combined effects of his soft breathing echoing in her ear and the gentler rain that still didn't look like it would be letting up soon. But it was enough.

For now.

*When the sun shines, we ll shine together
told you i'll be here forever
said i'll always be a friend
took an oath i'ma stick it out till the end
now that it's raining more than ever
know that we'll still have each other
you can stand under my umbrella
you can stand under my umbrella*

under my umbrella

under my umbrella

under my umbrella

*It's raining
ooh baby it's raining
baby come into me
come into me
it's raining
oh baby it's raining...*

I just was in the mood to write something where he could make a move like that on her. I also thought that would be the perfect song, so...

Meh, it ll do for now. plz comment!

Umbrella (c) Rihanna

22 - *Omake 8

****OMAKE HACHI****

*bonus #8

Mmmmmm.... aren t we feeling naughty, tonight? Anko stated while giggling, referring to the fact that Kakashi had started nibbling at her ear. Sitting in the darkness of his house, the two of them had gotten bored....again.

Hey, I ve got something for you. Kakashi said. He reached into his pocket and pulled out a silver bracelet with tiny heart charms distributed evenly around it. She held out her wrist so he could put it on.

Aw, I love it! Thanks, Anko squealed. He smiled. Then Kakashi could hear his stomach growl. He went back to his original position on the couch and asked, So, where do you want to go?

I m in the mood for sushi, Anko said, already imagining the taste of shrimp tempura.

How about soba*? Kakashi suggested.

Sushi.

Soba.

Sushi!

Soba!

Sushi!

Soba!

Fine. Rock-paper-scissors. Anko dictated, already holding her fist out, the charms jingling as they clanked next to each other.

You re kidding, right? I ve got Sharingan!

Ah, that may be true, but are you brave enough to use it? Anko replied. Kakashi merely shrugged and held his fist out. After they had shaken their fists, Anko came up with paper, Kakashi scissors. Anko sighed. Alright, it s settled....

Thank you. Kakashi nodded.

We re having sushi! Anko smiled and walked out the door. Kakashi was still nodding, and then realizing what Anko had said, went Huh? Turns out, she was already halfway down the block. Kakashi s shoulders drooped. *Well, sushi won t be that bad, right?* he thought as he jogged after her.

*Similar to ramen, but served cold.

Now, did that kill you? Anko gloated. Kakashi shrugged. The sushi hadn t been *that* horrible. Still, he said. I guess I should have seen that coming, you being the way you are. Anko kept smiling, but now it was obvious it was fake. The way I *am*? she inquired. Kakashi stopped in his tracks. Oh, boy, now she was gonna start with all that junk. Maybe he should have just kept his mouth shut...

Anko waited for an answer, tapping her foot. Kakashi started. Well, uh, you know, you re tricky. You

know, being Orochima- At that moment he knew he had said too much and brought up a sensitive subject to Anko. Orochimaru s what? she muttered dangerously under her breath, her eyes narrowed. Kakashi stayed silent.

Orochimaru s what? Anko repeated. It was obvious she was trying not to strangle him right then and there. The list of things she expected him to say ran on; *lapdog, subordinate, servant...*
...assistant... Kakashi mumbled.

Anko went berserk. Assistant?!? she shrieked. You know damn well that I was anything *but* his assistant! Kakashi was trembling now, but he didn't back down. You're one to talk! He gave you a goodbye present and you still have it!

Anko's retort was lost. Her hand slowly reached up to cover her curse mark. Kakashi calmed down.

Anko, I...I didn't mean... He walked toward her, but she took a step back. Kakashi looked at the ground. Maybe...we need to... take a break for a while, he suggested. Anko nodded. Yeah, she agreed. And with that she vanished, leaving Kakashi to his own thoughts.

WHAT?!? Kurenai screamed. HOW COULD YOU DO THAT?!?

Kurenai, shut up! Anko silenced her. Besides, Anko continued, we're just taking some time off.

Then why is that bracelet still on? Kurenai asked. Anko glanced down at it and protested, I guess I forgot to take it off. No big deal. Kurenai looked at her suspiciously. Anko, that's what he *wants* you to think. Soon this little vacation is gonna become permanent.

Anko looked at her friend like she had a screw loose. Okay, you are looking *way* too into this.

But Anko, you two were practically *made* for each other! Go back to his house and make up *now!* Anko shrugged. I will,

She thought for a moment.

Eventually.

Ah, so you broke up with Psycho-Woman? Naruto inquired. Team Seven had taken a break for the day. Why? Sakura asked. You were doing so well!

Both Naruto and Sakura looked expectantly at Sai. What? It's not my business, and for the record, I don't care. Sakura rolled her eyes.

Suddenly Kakashi turned around and deflected a kunai coming right at him. He was soon being chased through the trees by a clone of Naruto's. Not bad, he congratulated the imposter. The next branch Kakashi stepped on, however, was apparently dead and gave in under his weight. He fell to the ground and screamed in agony. A moment later Sakura and Sai were at his side, Naruto catching up.

Kakashi-sensei, are you okay? Sakura asked worriedly.

Yeah, but I think I broke my Anko... I-I mean ankle! Too late- he was already receiving raised eyebrows.

Just fix it! he barked angrily at Sakura, who shrugged and got to work.

Anko stared at the bracelet as she walked along. *Dammit*, she thought. *I broke up with him three days ago. So why do I keep thinking of him?* She stuffed her hands in her pockets, as if hiding the bracelet would make her feel better.

Then she sensed a presence nearby. She masked her chakra and made an attempt to sneak up on the person. Actually, she already knew who it was.

Kabuto. Again.

Anko didn't waste any time thinking about how he could have slipped past all the search parties that were looking for him all over Konoha. He *was* part Orochimaru, now.

It didn't matter to her. She sprung on her prey immediately. Unfortunately, Kabuto turned around and caught her.

Ah, Anko! Just the person we wanted to see, Kabuto said with a false smile. Anko could already feel her disgust for him coming back. What do you want? she demanded. Kabuto's mouth twitched on one side before he switched to Orochimaru mode. Kabuto and I have agreed that you might be worth something after all. Which is why we've decided you can come with us, and be spared from this worthless village. Gain some dignity. Respect.

Yeah, right! Anko spat out the words like they were something foul. You never showed me any respect, what makes you think I'll just go ahead and believe you now?!? Kabuto put his arms behind his back and started walking towards her, as if he was just strolling by, admiring the scenery.

You don't want to? Fine. Stay. Die. And see how well you do with that ridiculous copy-cat. Anko's shoulders hunched.

But just remember, Orochimaru started again.

You were never meant for love. He vanished. Anko stood there, with his words ringing in her head no matter how hard she tried to get them out.

You were never meant for love....

Well, there you go! I'll write more soon, but I'm kind of preoccupied with my Naruto: New York story and I've been trying to upload a new comic but the upload page won't load now because my computer's glitching on almost every area of FAC!

steam rises from head

Hope you liked it!

23 - The End

****OMAKE KU****

*bonus #9

Kakashi sat in his living room listening to his radio. Sakura had been able to heal his leg pretty well, but she still recommended that he stay home until it fully healed, which he didn't like because the tree hadn't been *that* tall. Still, he figured it was better to stay in the house for a couple of days instead of in the hospital with a leg that would take even longer to heal.

Soon the song on the radio changed.

You're way too beautiful, girl,

that's why it'll never wor-

He quickly changed it.

You can leave it in a box,

I don't care, just drop it off-

Kssssh

Yeah, I'm so sick of love songs-

Kssssshhhhh

You got me suicidal-

AARRRRRRGGGHHHHHH! he yelled in frustration, proceeding to beat the life out of the radio and throw it out the second story window, not bothering to look where it landed. Then he heard a knock on the front door. Grumbling under his breath, he wobbled over on his crutches to open it. Standing there was Gai, holding the radio that now looked like it had been run over by a sixteen-wheeler.

Isn't this the radio I gave you for your birthday? he inquired, raising an eyebrow.

Kakashi sighed. He didn't remember *anything* Gai gave him for his birthday, due to the fact that he usually shoved it in the attic and no one was to hear from it ever again. Kakashi made a somewhat guttural Frankenstein noise and walked back into his living room. Since he wasn't exactly turned away, Gai walked in and shut the door behind him. As Kakashi plopped down on the couch and rested his crutches beside him, Gai asked, "Is there something wrong?" No, Kakashi said tiredly, which to Gai of course meant something was wrong. "You miss her, don't you?" "Maybe." "Yeah you do." "I said *maybe*." "I heard that suicidal song playing when you threw it out the window." "Dammit, now it's stuck in my head! Thanks a lot!" "You're welcome." Kakashi glared at Gai. "Fine, I'll get going. See ya." Gai walked toward the door, waiting for Kakashi to possibly call him back. When he didn't, Gai opened the door and left.

Sakura watched Anko happily chew on her precious dango. It had been a full week since the... incident... happened, and Anko seemed to be doing fine. The other kunoichi were getting worried that she was going to stay like this for, well, they didn't know *how* long. After weighing the consequences silently in her mind, Sakura walked up to Anko's side, the latter not noticing her at all. "Hey, Sakura," Anko said without looking up from her feast. "Okay, so she could have been a little more inconspicuous." "Hi, Anko-san. Uh, I was just wondering, are you still hanging out with Kakashi-sensei?" "Yeah." "Like, as friends, or..." "Bingo." Sakura was silent, but Anko didn't seem to care. Finally Sakura couldn't take it anymore and blurted out, "Aw, come on! Why'd you break up with him?" Anko was shocked enough to stare at Sakura for a few seconds, then finished up her dango. As she wiped her hands, she nonchalantly commented, "Sakura, we're just taking some time off." "But what if you don't get back together?" Anko shrugged. "Anko, Sakura sounded desperate, why are you acting like this?" Anko looked down. "I guess I'm not cut out to be in a real relationship." Silence. Anko looked up and saw Sakura's mouth hanging open. Sakura started up again in a low voice. "Who told you that?" Anko was quiet. "Who told you that?" Sakura repeated. "If it was Jiraiya, or Tsunade, or,...!!! Naruto! I'll kill him if he told you..." "Kabuto."

A long pause. Who?

Anko repeated the dreaded name that seemed to hang in the air for an impossibly long amount of time. Sakura continued to gawk. Then she lost it.

How could you not have told anybody that?!? You know that we re searching all over Konoha for him! He was right there! You could have done something! And why didn t you report this to Tsunade?! Anko, you are...

Shut up.

A startled silence. Anger stirred up inside Sakura. Afraid she might tear the whole dango house down, Sakura walked out into the street. She couldn t believe Anko didn t tell anybody this crucial information. How she was keeping to herself, how she was...

Believing Kabuto. Letting him take control of how she chose to fell in love, or loving at all. Didn t she see that she wasn t Orochimaru s student anymore? She could make her own decisions.

But she was playing right into his hands. For what reason Sakura had no idea. But she needed to help-or possibly stop- Anko.

Before it was too late.

For Anko.

And Konoha.

No crutches. No limp. Kakashi was fine now. Unfortunately, no one could see him as he walked along the deserted streets of Hidden Leaf. Ah, well; it felt so good to be using his legs again.

Then he heard a rustle. Figuring it was just the wind and trees, he walked around a corner.

Only to see two black cloaks with red clouds.

Itachi and Kisame.

Kakashi glared at them, though it did him little good. I m not letting you near Naruto, he said in what he hoped was a menacing tone.

Kisame grabbed his sword, but was stopped short by Itachi. Raising his hand, he gave the signal for Kisame to hold fire. Kisame. We are not here to cause a distraction. Itachi paused and contemplated.

Kill him quickly.

As Kisame grinned, he pulled the incredibly hefty sword from its hilt and steadied it in front of himself, ready to attack.

Kakashi struck first. He came at Kisame while lifting his headband, revealing his Sharingan.

Too slow. Kisame knocked Kakashi out of the way with Samehada, and Kakashi could feel half of his chakra already being drained. Kakashi crashed into the brick wall behind him. Kisame cringed at the sound. He now knew that even though his partner didn t show it, Itachi was furious at him for creating a

loud noise that someone could ve heard.

Kakashi fell to the ground. There was no point fighting. He was going to die here and now.

Exactly what Itachi was thinking. Taking matters into his own hands, in a flash he was holding Kakashi up by his throat. Gasping for air, Kakashi flailed around wildly, trying to get a shot at Itachi.

Let him go. All three shinobi turned to the voice.

That came from a certain purple-haired kunoichi.

Anko narrowed her eyes at the Uchiha that was strangling Kakashi. She started running at him, avoiding Kisame s sword.

Itachi knocked her away. Are you here to save this? he asked gesturing toward the half-conscious Kakashi.

Are you proud to be associated with *this*? This worthless... He started to bang Kakashi s head against the wall, Anko flinching every time.

Bang

Little...

Bang

Piece...

Bang

Of crap?

Anko, furious now, ran at Itachi again, and was knocked away once more.

Hidden Leaf has grown more pathetic than I thought. He threw Kakashi away like a piece of trash, letting him slide on the dirt. Anko struggled to lift herself up and move, but she felt something hard come down on her back. She screamed as Samehada started draining what little energy she had left. As she looked up, she could see Itachi kicking the defenseless Kakashi in the stomach, back, and chest.

That should keep them quiet for awhile. Kisame, let s go. The rogue ninja vanished.

Anko crawled over to Kakashi. She sat up straight and put his head in her lap. His eyes stared off into space as she asked him, Kakashi, can you hear me?

Nothing.

Can you hear me?

Nn...

...Come on, let s get you to the hospital. She started to get up, but exhaustion overtook her and she fell on her back, Kakashi s head still on her torso, and all they could do was sit there.

And wait-- hope-- for someone to find them.

Anko woke up in darkness. Remembering where she was, she shook herself to wake Kakashi up. She didn't feel anything. Fearing the worst, she looked at her waist and found the silver haired ninja was gone. Catching her second wind, she immediately sat straight up and looked around. She was still in the same alleyway; if he had woken up, he would have taken her with him, wouldn't he? Anko's heart started racing. All of a sudden, someone appeared in front of her. It was Shizune.

Oh, good, you're awake, she said. Anko started to stand when Genma appeared. Don't get up, he commanded. Anko gave him a look that said *Where is he?*

Hospital. Same as you, soon. Sit down! he barked. Anko collapsed, and was then transported by Shizune and Genma.

Gai looked at the jonin sharing the room. He asked Tsunade standing right next to him, Will they be up eventually?

Broken ribs, zero chakra, punctured lungs and other organs, concussions. I don't think they'll be hopping around anytime soon.

...

He was going easy on them.

.....will they live?

It was Tsunade's turn to stay silent.

The color drained from Gai's face. Their chests were moving, but just barely. And Gai also knew that if only one of them didn't make it, the other would be a wreck. The situation was like a double-edged sword.

Can't you do anything? he asked the pigtailed blonde.

I can try, but no guarantees.

Gai left the room. He wasn't about to cry right there; no, he saved moments like that for Lee, and Lee only.

Tsunade's head pounded with thoughts. Now she had to send out watch parties for Kabumaru and Itachi. If she didn't, Hidden Leaf would fall in a single day. If she did, she was risking the lives of innocent ninja; ninja that had friends and family that cared for them so very much.

And then there were these two. Two of Konoha's strongest- no, possibly *the* strongest- shinobi, on the brink of taking a permanent vacation to the hereafter. *Come on, what would Sarutobi sensei do?* she asked herself. The problem was, she could see him having the exact same amount of difficulty she was having.

Tsunade cursed while leaving the room, turning off the lights on the jonin.

When Gai looked up he saw Anko standing at a corner of the hallway. Eyes as wide as saucers, he went over to ask what in the world she was doing when he noticed Tsunade was talking to her. Tsunade's eyes questioning his reason for being there, he immediately bowed and said, Oh, forgive me, Godaime-sama.

Tsunade waved her hand in dismissal. At that moment Anko turned around. Whatever Tsunade had told her wasn't good news; it had made Anko cry. As she sniffled and looked at Gai with red eyes, he asked, Anko? What are you doing out of bed? She managed to smile a little and replied, You think a little beating like that can keep me down? Tsunade nodded in agreement. It seems I over-estimated the damage. Gai lit up. So how's Kakashi? At the sound of the name, both kunoichi looked down, Anko starting to breathe heavily and fight back tears. This was not good. Whatever Itachi did, it didn't exactly help; he'll be out for I don't know how long. How was this bad news? Every shinobi had to stay in the hospital for an extended amount of time every once in a while. Unless...
Tsu-tsu-?
Tsukooyomi. (sp?) Tsunade finished the sentence for Gai, who cringed at the name of the technique. And we don't know whether he'll be fine physically or mentally. Or even at all. That did it; Anko was sobbing now. Gai hesitated to put his arm around her. If these were Kakashi's last few hours (or minutes), Gai didn't think he'd want to be the last one to touch his girlfriend, ex or not. I-it's all my-my f-fault, Anko continued to cry. Tsunade walked away; she didn't handle comforting well. No it's not, Anko-san! He's been through this before, he'll survive! I know it! Gai yelled, being shushed by one of the passing nurses. Sorry, he whispered meekly. T-thank you, Anko said shakily, brushing a loose strand of hair from her face. The she vanished in a puff of smoke.

HOW COULD YOU?!?! Gai and Kurenai answered sharply, not caring that they were yelling at the Hokage. I've made up my mind. But he's still weak! He'll be killed! ENOUGH! Tsunade screamed. The three of them were in her office. Tsunade had discussed with them that she was sending out a group of ninja to find Sasuke and bring them back, consisting mainly of teams 7, 8 and 10*. And her decision to force Kakashi on the mission was the cause of this disagreement (a MAJOR understatement). If he gets out soon enough, he'll have no choice. But that's not fair! Who'll even the score with me when he's gone? Gai asked, receiving a chakra-packed punch from Kurenai in the shoulder. As he fell to his knees in pain, Kurenai continued to talk. You can't send him out like that. He'll be dead in less than an hour! That's a risk we'll have to take. Tsunade said with a final tone as she shoed them out of her office.

I know what you're thinking. @\$! YOU, TSUNADE!
Relax, keep reading.

Anko visited Kakashi every day, even if she had to sneak in after visiting hours were over. She was surprised he hadn't become afraid of the hospital (or had he?) Occasionally, she would place a small kiss on his forehead before she left, hoping that there weren't cameras in the room. But when she came back for the sixth time, she saw Gai was already there. At that moment Gai told her the plans Tsunade had for Kakashi.

As Anko's eyes grew wide, she tried to scream, but no sound came out. When she tried again, all that came out was, *Why?*

Gai shook his head, as if to say, *I wish I knew myself.*

At that moment, Anko didn't care; she leaned over and softly kissed Kakashi on his forehead again, feeling Gai's hand on her shoulder.

The next day Anko came back to the room to find Kakashi awake, sitting with his arms hanging over his knees. Both startled for a second, Anko ran at him and threw her arms around him, causing him to breathe in sharply at the pain.

Oh no! I'm sorry! I'm sorry! I'm sorry!.. she apologized quickly. No, really, it's okay, Kakashi tried to console her.

Anko, he started with *that* tone. The tone that meant either:

A.) A guy was breaking up with you, or

B.) There was other bad news.

Anko realized that it couldn't be A, so she froze.

Do you know where I have to go tomorrow? he asked, not to find out, but to see if she knew.

Then it hit her. Gai had told her the date of the mission; tomorrow. She didn't know whether to nod or not, and at this Kakashi realized that she was aware of what was going on.

---FLASHBACK---

Kakashi opened his eyes, finding himself in a hospital room.

Good, you're awake. said a voice. Kakashi sat straight up and found Tsunade at his side. He started rubbing the sleep out of his eyes when Tsunade said, You're leaving tomorrow.

What?

You're looking for Sasuke.

Tsunade, normally I wouldn't refuse, but...

No questions. Goodbye. With that she left the room.

----END FLASHBACK----

Anko looked down. How dare Tsunade force him to do something that he didn't (or couldn't) do? Looking at Kakashi, Anko asked, Can you even walk?

Somewhat.

She started to sniff. I can't do anything about it, Anko. Kakashi reminded her. And at that she started crying.

All right, let's go! Naruto shouted energetically as the group stood at the gate. Not yet, Naruto. Kakashi sensei isn't even here! Sakura forcefully explained to him.

The lazy bum, Inner Sakura thought about Kakashi.

Anko stood a distance behind them. Kakashi hadn't shown up yet, late as usual.

Suddenly she felt a tug on her sleeve. Turning around, she found Kakashi in a large brown cloak. Well? What are you waiting for? Go catch up. she told him.

Wait, he said. He pulled his mask down and placed his lips on hers. When they separated, she took a look at his face. His perfect face, that she prayed she would see again.

Will you come back in one piece? she asked him, begged him really.

He nodded. Of course.

Anko wrapped her arms around him, wishing she didn't have to let go, but knowing she had to. She released him and looked up, watching him smile under the mask.

So...

I'll come back. I promise.

...Thank you.

Kakashi started walking toward the group, met by friendly cries of, Where were you? We've been waiting! God, even Shikamaru shows up on time! , Anko knowing that she would be greeting him with a long-anticipated,

Welcome home.

Wow, long chapter.

That's it! Thank you all so much for reading! Oh, I wish it wasn't over, but I had a fun time with this story. I just loved it. Long-live KakaAnko!

See ya!