

SHONEN JUMP MANGA

Story & Art by

Masashi Kishimoto **volume**

6



岸本 齊史

Lately, all over the world, there has been an upswing in terrorist acts—attacks by armed groups and the taking of hostages—by the worst kind of criminals. In an effort to resolve these situations with as little bloodshed and fanfare as possible, nations all over the globe are increasingly turning toward special operations forces, armed with the latest technologies and finely honed skills, giving them superlative intelligence-gathering capabilities. Such operatives are truly the modern analog to the type of warriors who, in the past, were known as *ninja*!

—Masashi Kishimoto, 2000



Author/artist Masashi Kishimoto was born in 1974 in rural Okayama Prefecture, Japan. After spending time in art college, he won the Hop Step Award for new manga artists with his manga **Karakuri** ("Mechanism"). Kishimoto decided to base his next story on traditional Japanese culture. His first version of **Naruto**, drawn in 1997, was a one-shot story about fox spirits; his final version, which debuted in **Weekly Shonen Jump** in 1999, quickly became the most popular ninja manga in Japan.





NARUTO VOL. 6
The SHONEN JUMP Graphic Novel Edition

This graphic novel contains material that was originally published
in English in **SHONEN JUMP** #23-27.

STORY AND ART BY MASASHI KISHIMOTO

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PARENTAL ADVISORY
NARUTO is rated T for Teen and is recom-
mended for ages 13 and up. This volume
contains realistic & fantasy violence.





SHONEN JUMP GRAPHIC NOVEL



VOL. 6

THE FOREST OF DEATH

STORY AND ART BY

MASASHI KISHIMOTO



SAKURA サクラ

Smart and studious, Sakura is the brightest of Naruto's classmates, but she's constantly distracted by her crush on Sasuke. Her goal: to win Sasuke's heart!

NARUTO ナルト

When Naruto was born, a destructive fox spirit was imprisoned inside his body. Spurned by the older villagers, he's grown into an attention-seeking troublemaker. His goal: to become the village's next Hokage.

SASUKE サスケ

The top student in Naruto's class, Sasuke comes from the prestigious Uchiha clan. His goal: to get revenge on a mysterious person who wronged him in the past.





MITARASHI ANKO

みたらしアanko

The Second Chief Examination Officer, responsible for the portion of the exam that takes place in the Forest of Death! She's determined to cut down the number of teams by half before the next segment of the test is complete, and she seems to relish the thought of watching the students go down in flames.



ROCK LEE ロック・リー

Rock Lee, a devoted disciple of his teacher, Master Gai, is one of the most talented young shinobi around, and he's completely infatuated with Sakura.



THE SOUND NINJA (OTONIN) 音忍

Are these mysterious ninja roaming the forest in search of their second scroll, or something else entirely?



THE ASUMA CELL

Choji チョウジ

Ino いの

Shikamaru シカマル

Sakura's rival Ino and her team hope to steal their second scroll from the weakest team in the bunch—Naruto's!

THE STORY SO FAR...

Twelve years ago, a destructive nine-tailed fox spirit attacked the ninja village of Konohagakure. The Hokage, or village champion, defeated the fox by sealing its soul into the body of a baby boy. Now that boy, Uzumaki Naruto, has grown up to become a ninja-in-training, learning the art of ninjutsu with his classmates Sakura and Sasuke.

Astonishingly, Naruto and his team passed the written section of the Chūnin (Journeyman Ninja) Selection Exam, but they face new dangers in the exam's second portion, which is conducted in the Forest of Death! The object of the exercise is to reach the tower in the center of the forest with two scrolls in hand, and all three team members alive, before five days elapse. Each of the 26 teams is given only one scroll, and must steal the second scroll from another team using any means necessary!



NARUTO

VOL. 6

THE FOREST OF DEATH

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 Number 46:



The Password Is...











THIS PLACE IS CREEPING ME OUT!

I'M TELLING YOU, SAKURA, IT'S NO BIG DEAL.



DID YOU GUYS HEAR SOMEONE... SCREAM?

...!!



IF IT WERE SASUKE, ON THE OTHER HAND... HEH HEH HEH...

NOT IN FRONT OF ME, BOZO! I'M A LADY!

USE THE BUSHES!!!



...



...UHHH... I GOTTA TAKE A LEAK...



OH, MAN! WHAT A RELIEF! FEELIN' GOOD NOW!



I TOLD YOU, YOU'RE IN THE PRESENCE OF A LADY! DON'T BE VUL--

STIZZ!





S-SASUKE...
I APPRECIATE
THE CHIVALRY,
BUT THAT
WAS WAY OVER
THE TOP!

S
-
A
M



WHAT
THE--?!

!!



WHAT
HAVE
YOU
DONE
WITH
NARUTO?

UM.
WHAT?



SWIPE

WH-WHAT
WAS
THAT
FOR?!!



YOU'RE
EVEN
WORSE AT
DISGUISE
SPELLS
THAN THE
REAL
NARUTO.

AND YOU
FORGOT
THE CUT
THAT NARUTO
GOT FROM
THE PROCTOR
JUST BEFORE
THE EXAM.

YOU'RE
WEARING
YOUR
SHURIKEN
THROWING
STARS ON YOUR
LEFT THIGH.
NARUTO'S
RIGHT-
HANDED.

I'M
RIGHT
IN FRONT
OF YOU...
BLEEDING!

HELLO!















...WE CAN'T TRUST EACH OTHER BLINDLY!

REMEMBER THIS. IF WE GET SEPARATED AGAIN...

IT COULD END UP THE WAY THIS DID!



THAT WAY, WE'LL KNOW. NO MATTER WHO THEY LOOK LIKE OR HOW THEY SOUND, IF ONE OF US GETS THAT WRONG...

THE SAFEST THING IS FOR US TO HAVE A SECRET PASSWORD.

...THEY'RE AN ENEMY!



BUT WHAT CAN WE DO?



WHEN I ASK FOR IT, HERE'S WHAT YOU RESPOND...

IT'S A POEM CALLED "NINKI" - "NINJA OPPORTUNITY."



LISTEN VERY CAREFULLY. I'LL SAY IT ONLY ONCE!



"OUR ONLY CONCERN IS TO WATCH AND WAIT..."

WE THRIVE IN THE CHAOS OF THE ENEMY TIDE. QUIET SHINOBI DON'T NEED DENS TO HIDE.



YOU ARE SUCH A DUNCE. I'VE ALREADY GOT IT DOWN!

AND YOU EXPECT ME TO REMEMBER THAT... HOW?!



BINGO!

...

"...UNTIL THE ENEMY LOWERS THE GATE."



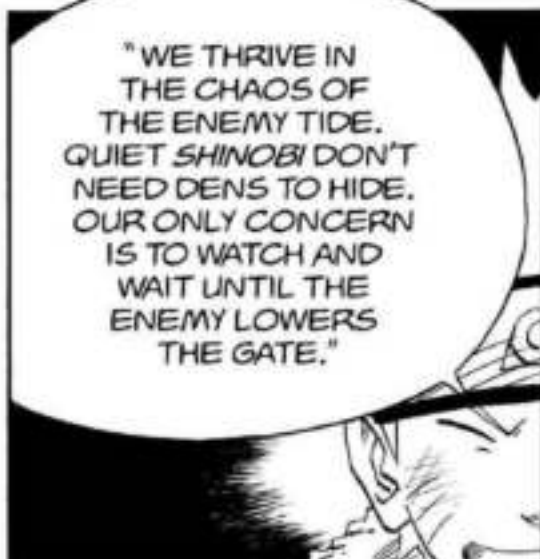
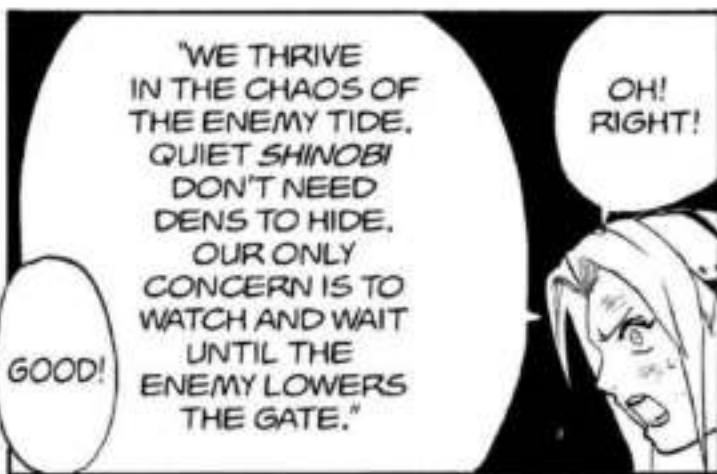
I'LL TAKE THE SCROLL.

WE NEED A BETTER PASSWORD! HOW ABOUT "SWORDFISH"?



VERY GOOD. TIME TO PULL BACK AND REGROUP...









WELL
DONE!

HUH?



HEH



THAT'S
WHY I
CHOSE
THAT KIND
OF
PASSWORD...

I KNEW
YOU WERE
UNDERGROUND,
EAVESDROPPING
ON EVERYTHING
WE SAID.



WHAT
GAVE
ME
AWAY?



DOA
THIS
IS GOING
TO BE
MORE FUN
THAN I
THOUGHT!

I
SEE...

WATCH
AND
WAIT,
EH?



GOTCHA,
IMPOSTER!

...THE KIND
THE REAL
NARUTO
WOULD
NEVER
MANAGE TO
MEMORIZE.

MEET KISHIMOTO MASASHI'S ASSISTANTS - PART ONE

• ASSISTANT NO. 1: TAKAHASHI KAZUHIRO



PROFILE

* A NATIVE OF KYUSHU WITH A TASTE FOR GOOD SAKE AND RED BEAN BUNS, HE COMES FROM THE BEAUTIFUL CITY OF BEPPU, ALSO KNOWN AS HELL (BECAUSE OF THE SULFUROUS FUMES THAT BILLOW FROM ITS FAMOUS HOT SPRINGS).

- * LOVES TO EAT AND ALWAYS HAS HIS NOSE IN THE OFFICE REFRIGERATOR.
- * LOTS OF TREASURES ARE SLEEPING IN HIS CLOSET AT HOME.
- * HAS A TASTE FOR LEATHER AND WILD MOTORBIKE RIDES.
- * HE'S A SUB-ZERO SUPER-COOL BAD BOY WHO LIKES TO PLAY DUMB. HE WORKS AS MY BETA -- THE ARTIST WHO SPOTS THE SOLID BLACKS IN HAIR AND CLOTHING, LAYS DOWN THE HALF-TONES, AND COMPLETES THE BACKGROUND ART -- AND LIVES LIKE A CHIEF.



Number 47: Predator!!



OOH...

FWP



OHH...

MMPH...

OWW...



HUNH?

...!



I-I-T'S...

...
~I D D D D~
...



!!!

WHERE'D
SAKURA
AND
THAT
BONE-
HEAD
SASUKE
GO?

...

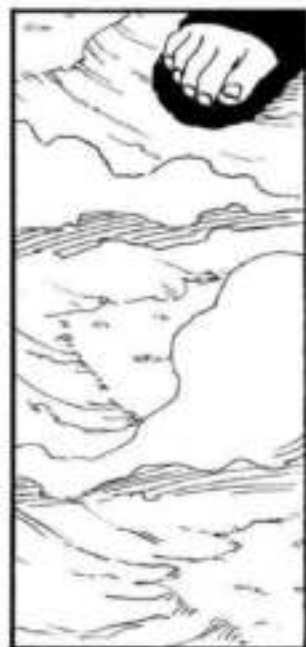
Number 47: Predator!!



...HUGE!!!







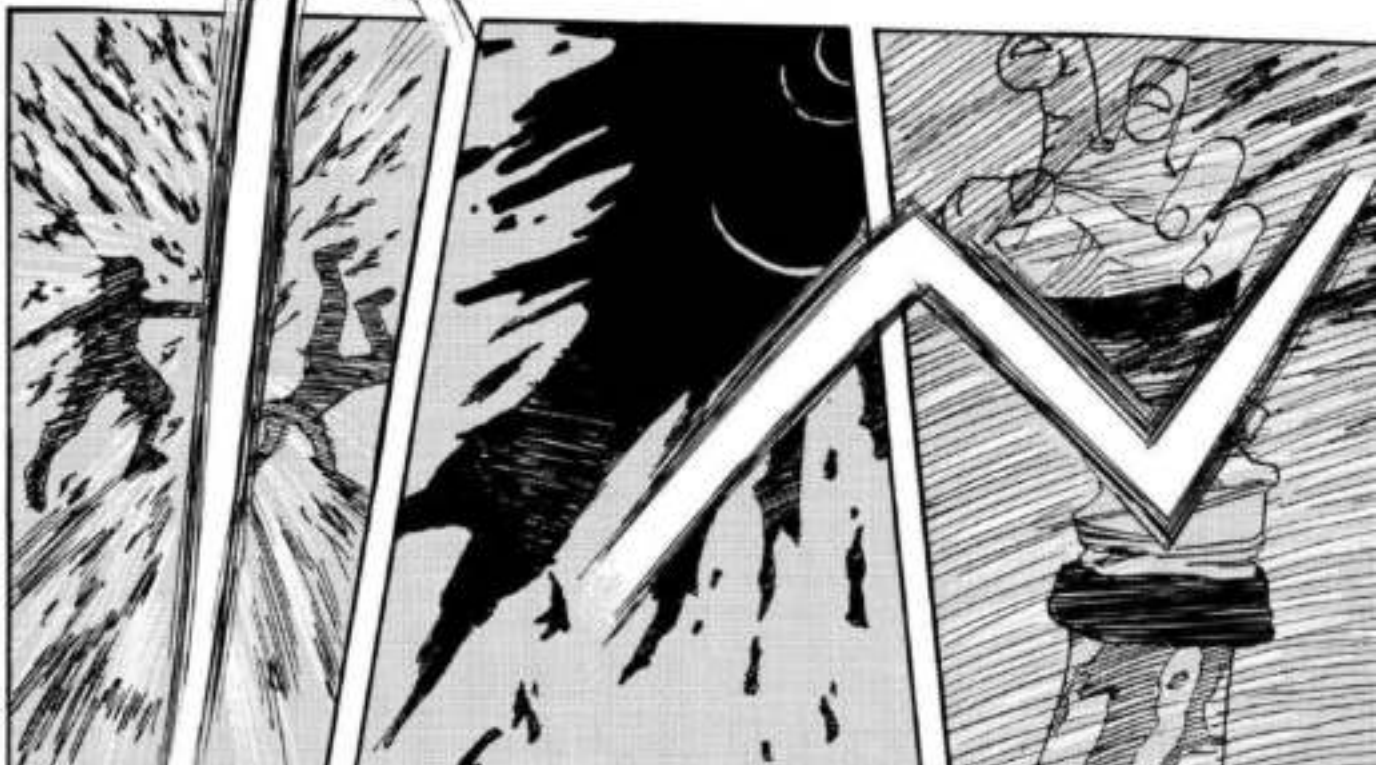
THIS SCROLL READS CHI, MEANING "EARTH."?







WE'LL
FIGHT
TO
THE
DEATH!









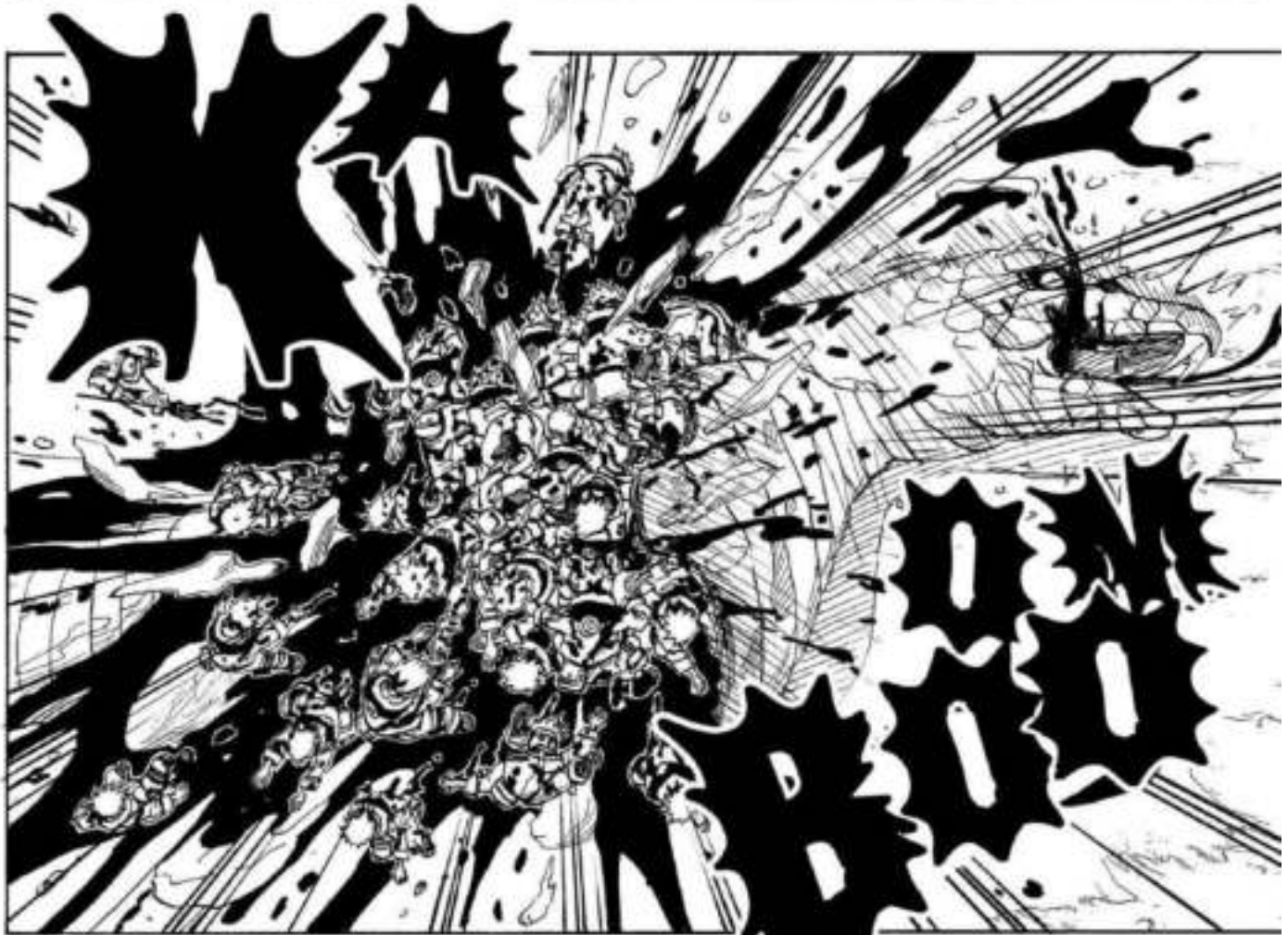


HEH... JUST AS I THOUGHT, THERE IS FAR MORE TO THIS ONE THAN TO THE COMMON PREY!

AMAZING! THE BOY STABBED HIMSELF SO THAT HE WOULD BE ABLE TO FOCUS ON THE PAIN AND BLOCK OUT FEAR AND ILLUSION!











YAAAAH!!
GET LOST!












 Number 48:

The Target Is...!!



SWEET!
NARUTO,
THAT
WAS
AWESOME!!



THIS
GUY
IS
WAY
OUT
OF
OUR
LEAGUE!!!



...NOW
WOULD BE
A GOOD
TIME TO
RUN FOR
YOUR LIFE!!!

NARUTO TO
THE RESCUE,
HUNH?
YOU'RE
COMPLETELY
PSYCHED
TO BE SAVING
THE DAY...
BUT...





Number 48:

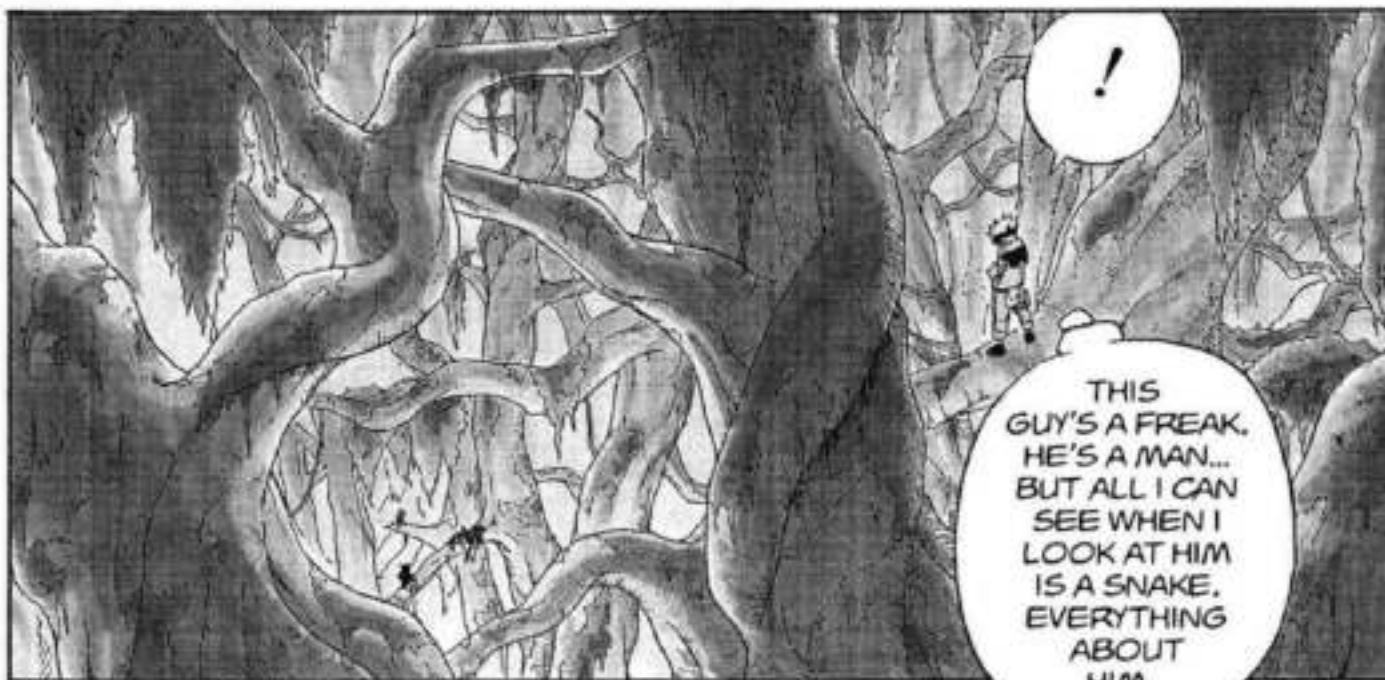
The Target Is...!!





...NARUTO.

HEH HEH...
MY
COMPLIMENTS
ON YOUR
STUNNING
DEFEAT
OF THE
GIANT
SNAKE...



!

THIS
GUY'S A FREAK.
HE'S A MAN...
BUT ALL I CAN
SEE WHEN I
LOOK AT HIM
IS A SNAKE.
EVERYTHING
ABOUT
HIM...



...HE'S MADE
THINGS
WORSE.
BUT I
THERE
MUST
BE
SOME
WAY TO...

EVERY
TIME I
EVER
TRIED
TO
RESCUE
US...



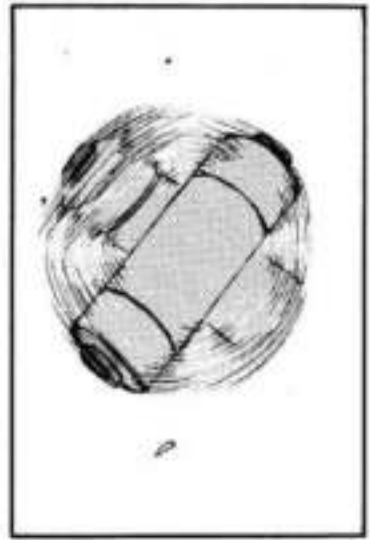
GAARR

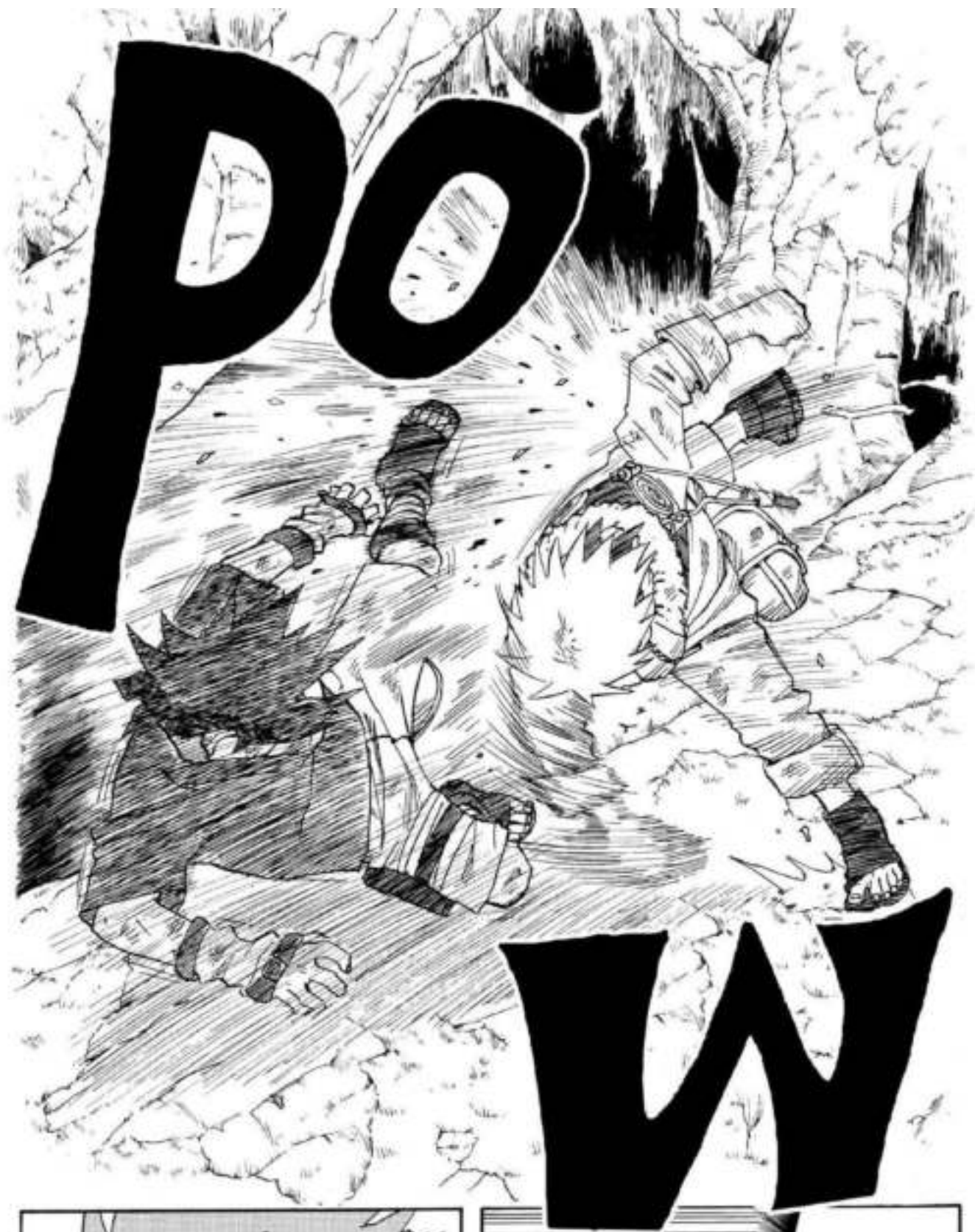
I'LL
BET
THAT
SNAKE
WAS
HIS!

SNAKEY!

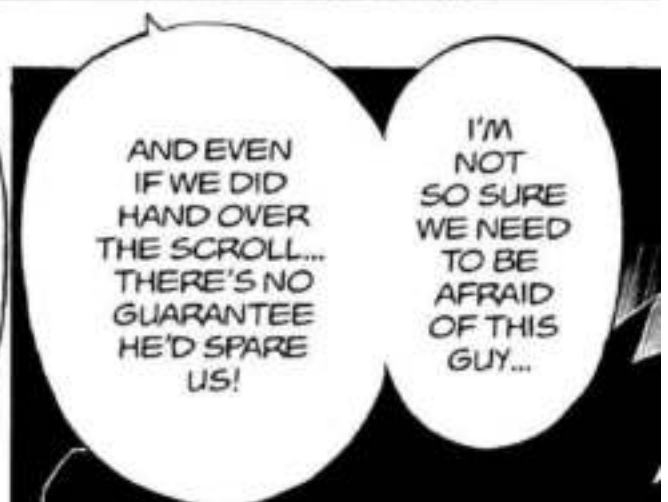






















EXCELLENT...
BUT LET'S
NOT TAKE
CHANCES.
EAT THE
BOY!
♡











NARUTO

MEET KISHIMOTO MASASHI'S ASSISTANTS
PART TWO
ASSISTANT NO. 2: KAZISA OSAMU



HAPPY FIRST ANNIVERSARY!

100.11.8

Kazisa

KAZISA

PROFILE

- * USUALLY WEARS GLASSES, BUT WHEN HE TAKES THEM OFF AND PUTS ON HIS CONTACTS HE BECOMES THE HANDSOME OFFICE HEARTTHROB. NO, REALLY!
- * HE FALLS ASLEEP WITH THE SPEED OF NOBITA FROM DORAEMON! IN ABOUT TWO SECONDS FLAT!
- * LOVES TO TRAVEL THE WORLD. HE'S BEEN TO PRAGUE AND CHINA.
- * PIERCES THOSE AROUND HIM WITH THE SHARPNESS OF HIS QUESTIONS.
- * IN AN ARGUMENT, HIS WORDS ARE AS MERCILESS AND COLD AS ICE!
- * ALWAYS THE FIRST ONE TO BUY THE LATEST TOYS...LIKE "THE CHALLENGER"! HE WORKS AS MY BETA--THE ARTIST WHO SPOTS THE SOLID BLACKS IN HAIR AND CLOTHING, LAYS DOWN THE HALF-TONES, COMPLETES THE BACKGROUND ART... AND IS A WHIZ AT SPEED LINES AND SPECIAL EFFECTS. HAS A WAY WITH PLANT LIFE...ON THE PAGE.





Number 49: Coward...!!



REPORT THIS TO LADY ANKO, WHO'S CONDUCTING THE SECOND EXAM!

YESSIR!

TAK



AND AS SOON AS I'M DONE WITH LUNCH, I'LL GET TO THE TOWER...

...SO I CAN GREET ANYONE WHO MANAGES TO PASS THIS TEST.

...THAN OSHIRUKO BEAN SOUP.

MMMM. NOTHING GOES BETTER WITH DANGO RICE DUMPLINGS...



TERRIBLE NEWS, LADY ANKO!!



AH... A COMPLETE KONOHA TREE-LEAF MARK!!



...IN LESS THAN A DAY.

THE GOOD ONES SHOULD BE DONE...



DEAD... AND VERY WEIRD.

PLEASE, COME SEE FOR YOURSELF!



DEAD BODIES?!



ALREADY? WHAT IS IT?

DEAD BODIES! THREE OF THEM...





BUT WHY WOULD HE MEDDLE IN THIS?

NO DOUBT ABOUT IT... I RECOGNIZE WHOSE TECHNIQUE WAS USED HERE!



BUT THAT MEANS HE'D ALREADY DONE SO WHEN...!!



SO... THIS IS THE FACE HE STOLE...



SHOW ME THE PHOTOS FROM THE DEAD SHINOBI'S I.D.

AT ONCE!!



I'M GOING AFTER THE IMPOSTERS!

ASK THAT HE DEPLOY TWO ADDITIONAL BLACK OPS TO THE FOREST OF DEATH AT ONCE!!



WHAT?!

THIS IS AWFUL!

YOU THREE! REPORT WHAT'S HAPPENED TO LORD HOKAGE!!





HEH HEH...
THE BRAT
OF NINE TAILS
IS STILL
ALIVE AND
KICKING!

Fwoop



THERE'S
THE PROOF.
THE SPELL
THAT SEALS
THE MONSTER
WITHIN APPEARS
ON YOUR SKIN
LIKE A
TATTOO.

FLIP

HOW
FASCINATING THAT,
WHEN HE IS
CONSUMED WITH RAGE,
HE LOSES HIMSELF...
AND A BIT OF THE
NINE-TAILED DEMON
FOX TRAPPED
WITHIN...

...COMES
THROUGH.
AN AMAZING
DEVELOP-
MENT!



SASUKE!
NARUTO
NEEDS
YOU!!

A
FIVE-
PRONGED
SPELL!!

SHU
UGK



THIS SCROLL READS TEN, MEANING "HEAVEN." 2









BUT
MAYBE I'M
THE ONE
WHO'S
BEEN THE
DUNCE
ALL THIS
TIME!

NARUTO...
SAKURA...!

I'VE
BEEN
LIVING
WITH THE
HOPE OF
ONE DAY
KILLING MY
OLDER
BROTHER.
I THOUGHT
IT WAS
THE MOST
IMPORTANT
THING...



FWUP
FWUP
FWUP

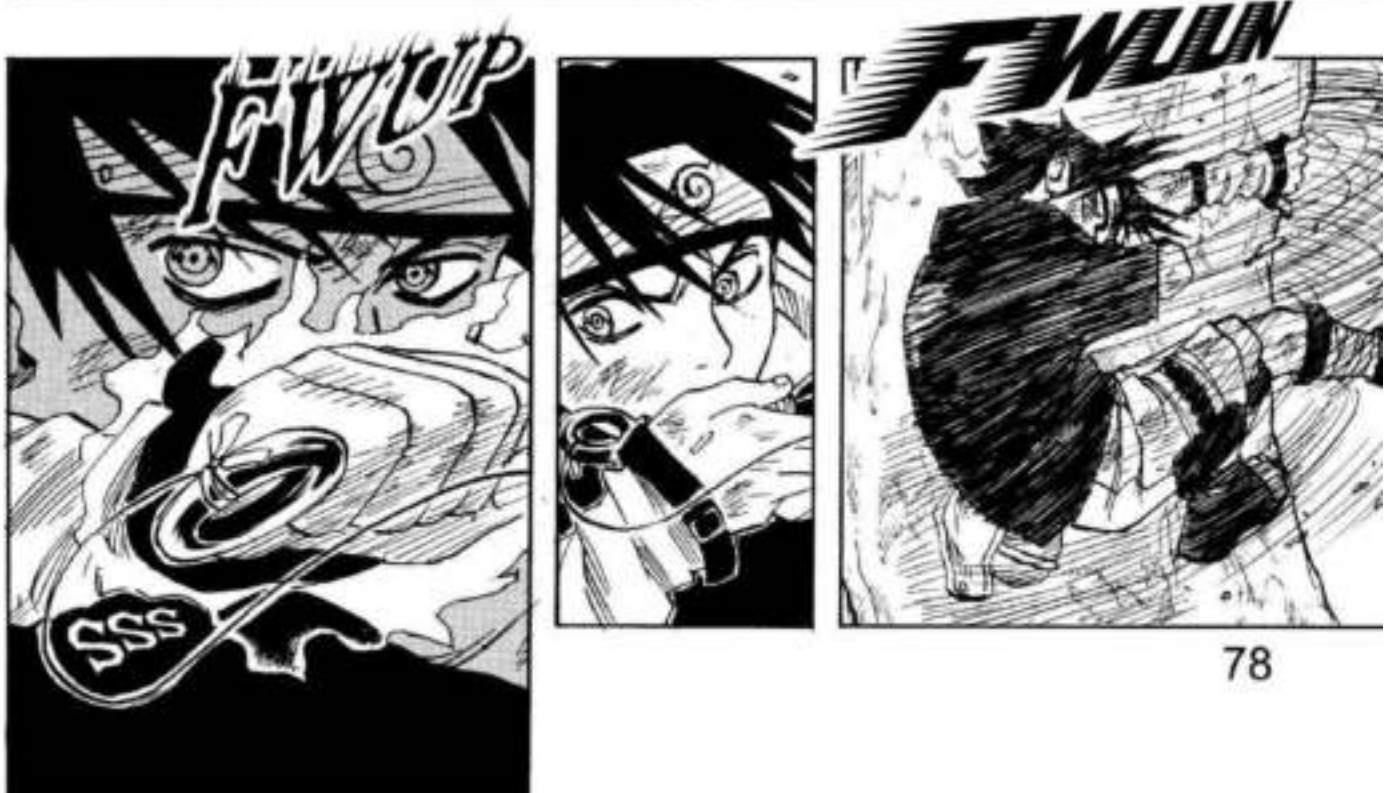
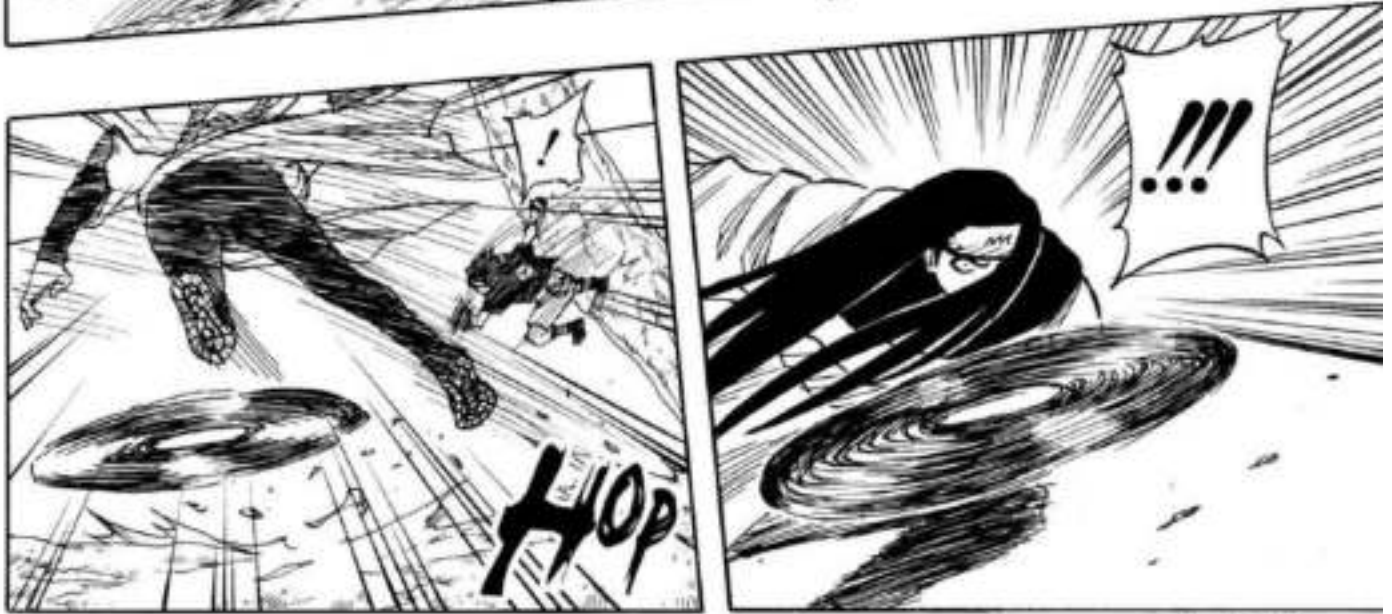
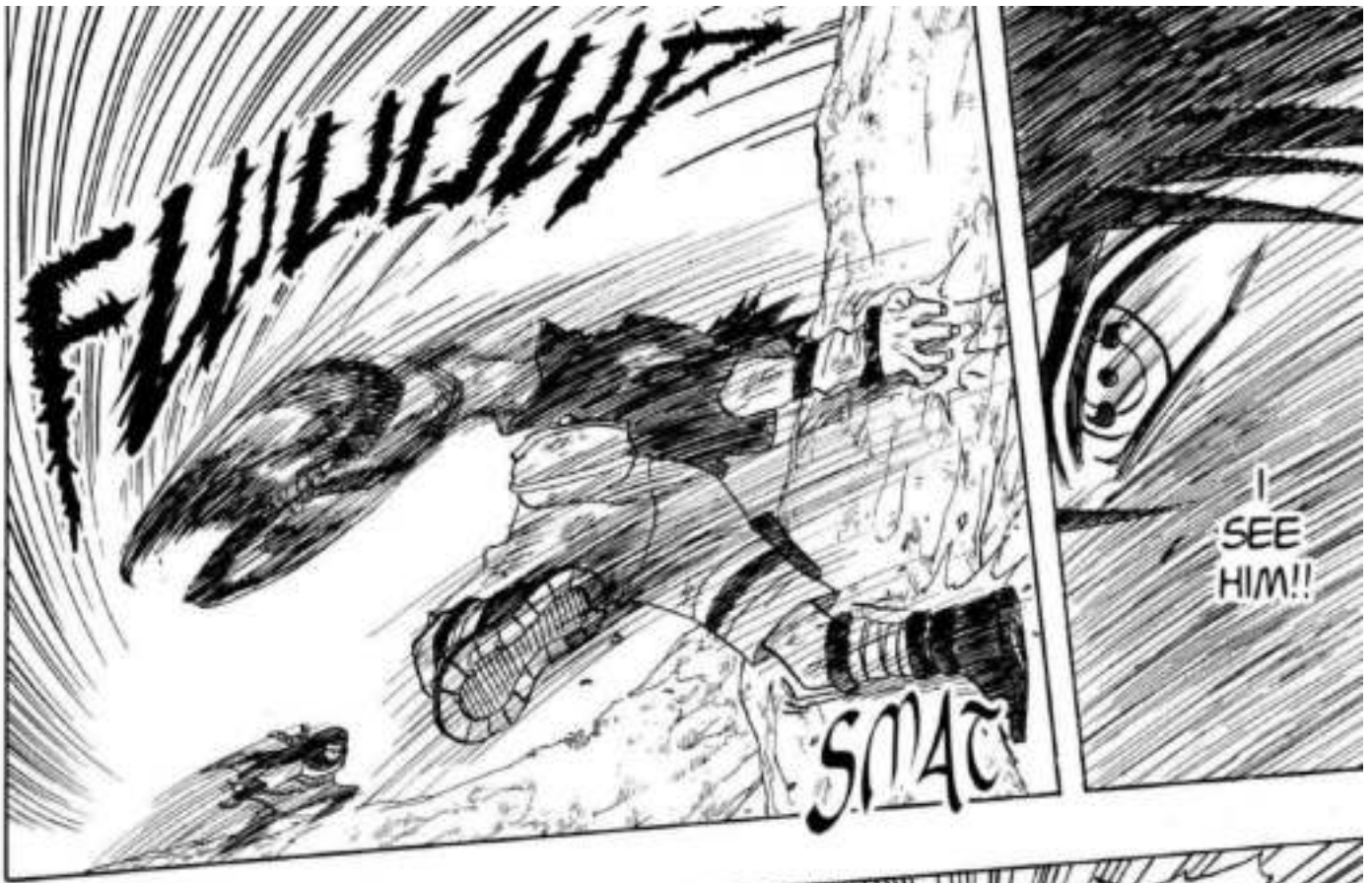
...BECAUSE
SOMEONE WHO
CAN'T EVEN STAND
UP AND DO WHAT
HAS TO BE DONE
AT A TIME LIKE THIS...
WOULDN'T STAND A
CHANCE IN A FIGHT
AGAINST... HIM!

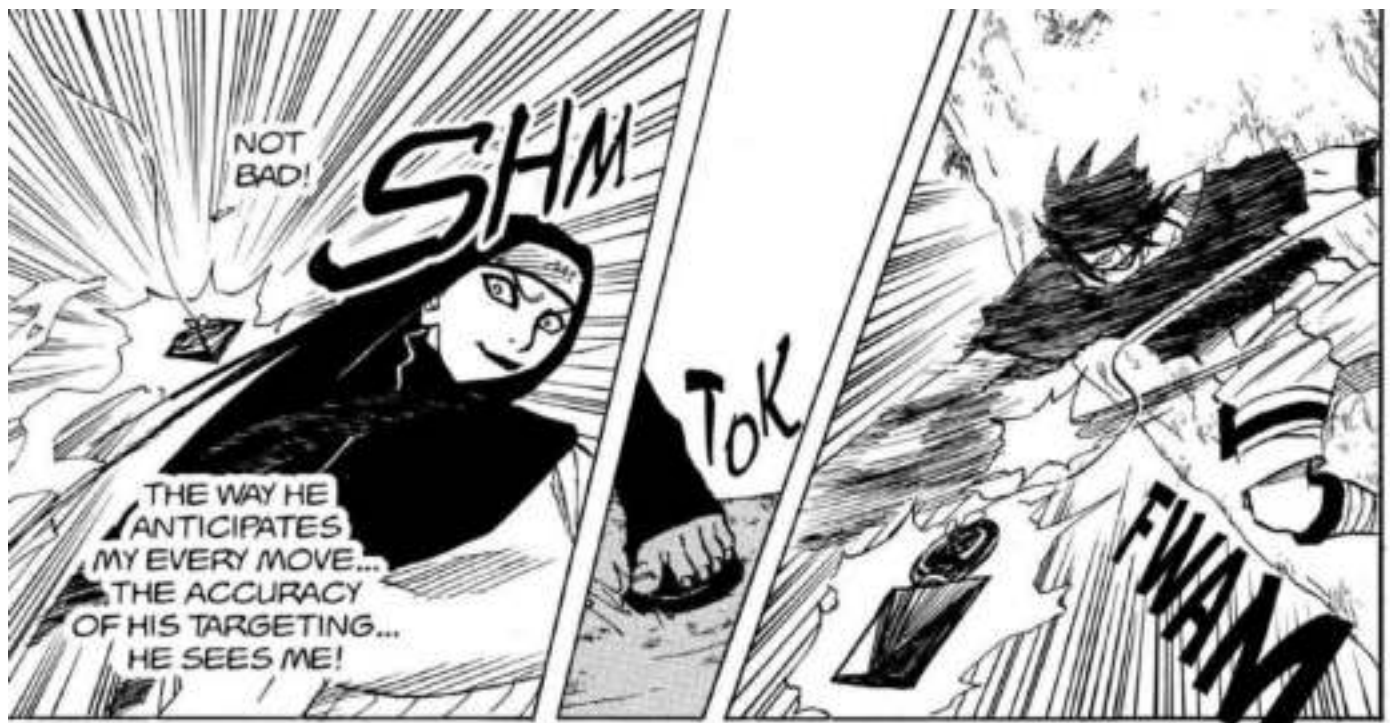
HOP



KLIA

THUNK
VUNHUP
THUNK
THUNK
THUNK





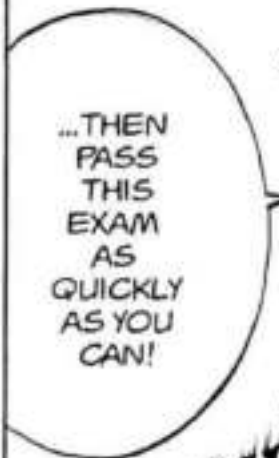




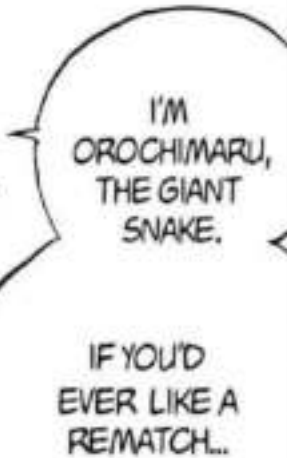




OH!!



...THEN
PASS
THIS
EXAM
AS
QUICKLY
AS YOU
CAN!



I'M
OROCHIMARU,
THE GIANT
SNAKE.

IF YOU'D
EVER LIKE A
REMATCH..

SIZZLE



PERHAPS
NOT...
BUT
WISHING
WON'T
CHASE
ME
AWAY.



WE
NEVER
WANT
TO
SEE
YOUR
FACE
AGAIN!

WH-WHAT
ARE
YOU
BABBLING
ON
ABOUT?!

I'LL SEE
YOU AGAIN,
IF YOU MANAGE
TO DEFEAT
THE THREE
OTONIN SOUND
NINJA WHO
ANSWER
TO ME.



Z ZUNG



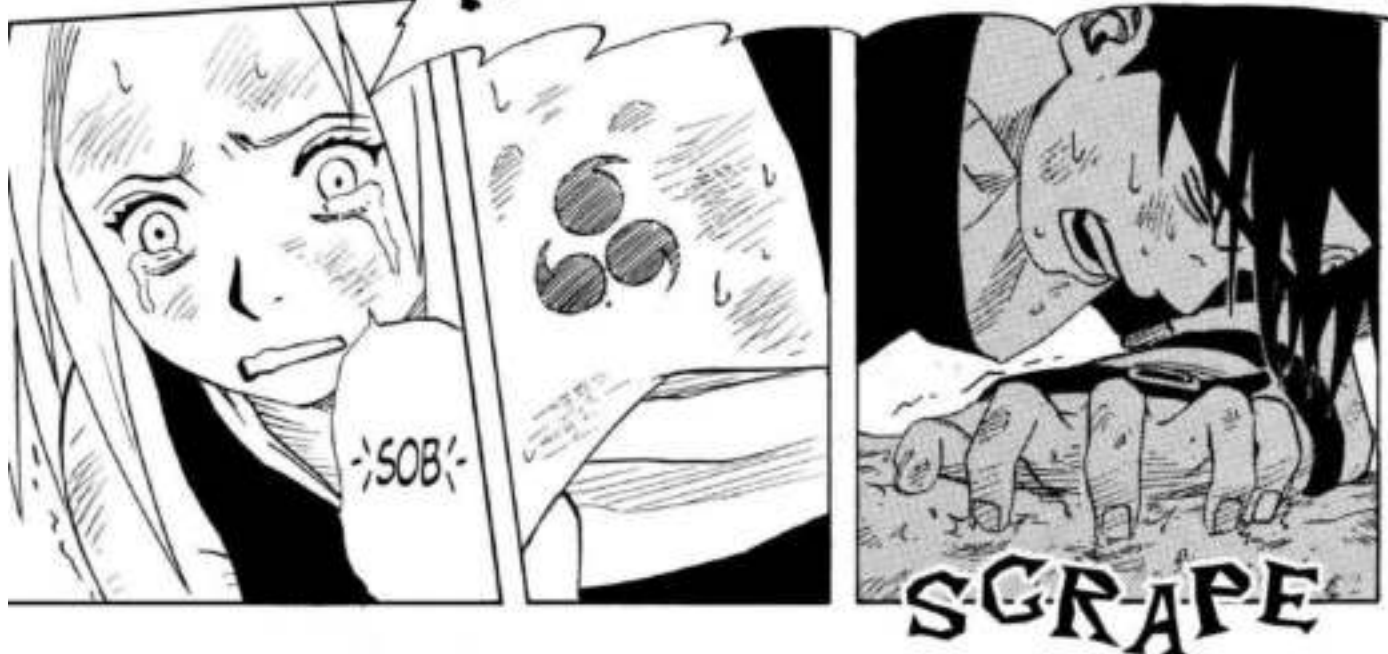




 Number 50: I've Got to...!!















IF IT REALLY IS YOU, THEN WE'LL END THIS. RIGHT HERE. RIGHT NOW.

NOT THAT IT MATTERS...



TAK
TAK



AND I'M GOING TO KILL YOU, EVEN IF IT COSTS ME MY LIFE!

AND IF I CAN'T MANAGE THAT, THEN...



TAK
TAK

BECAUSE YOU'VE BECOME A BINGO BOOK, LEVEL 5 THREAT-- THE WORST KIND OF SECURITY RISK.



...WHAT I LEARNED FROM YOU...!



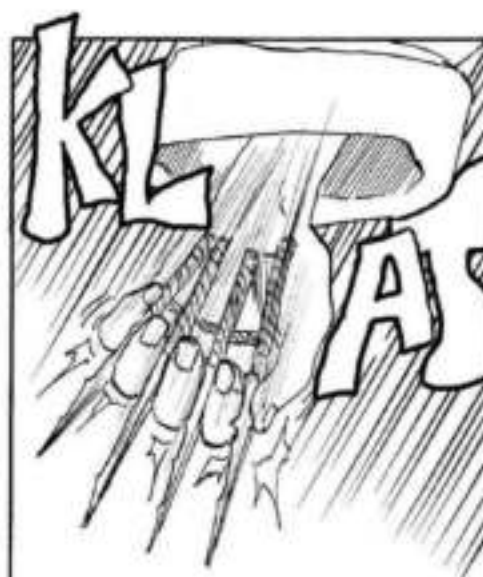
SHHH

IT'S MY DUTY. IT'S WHAT I LEARNED FROM MY GREATEST TEACHER EVER..

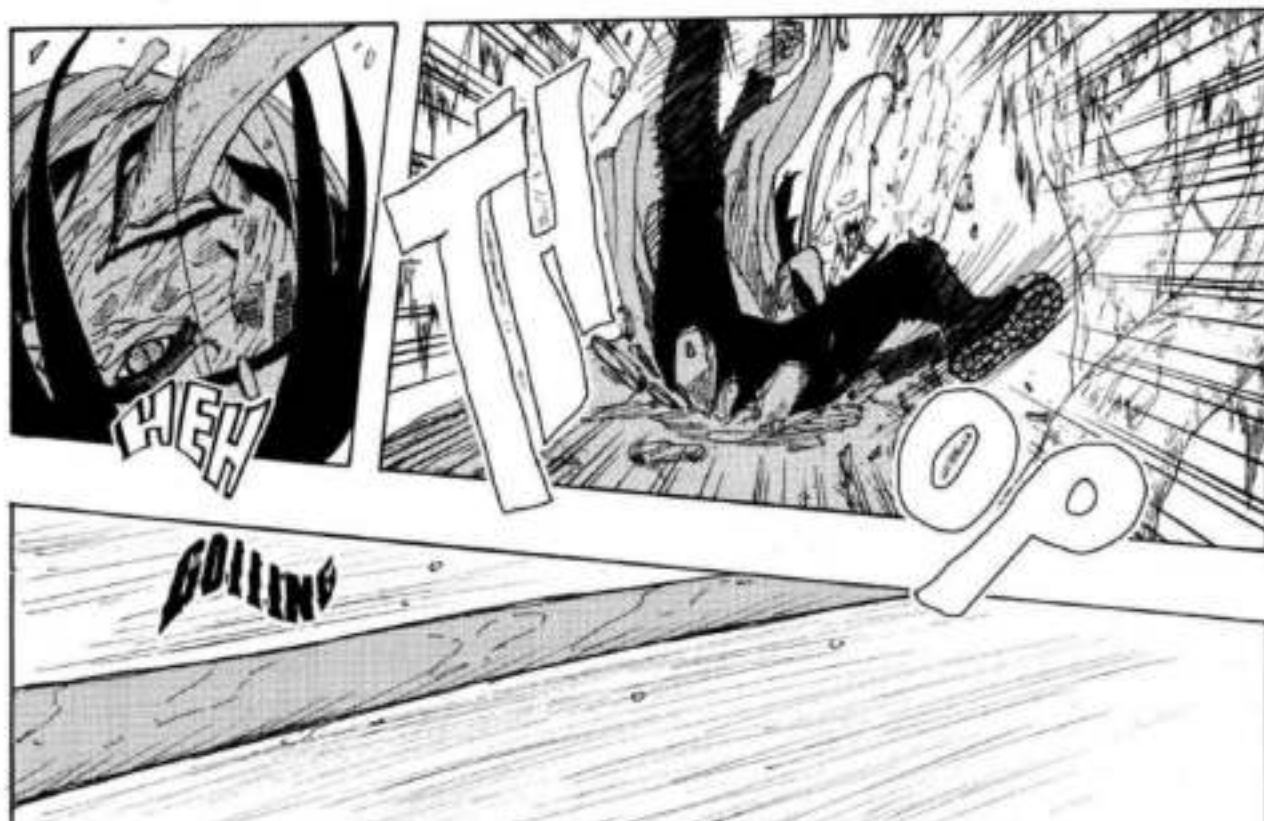


TUMP

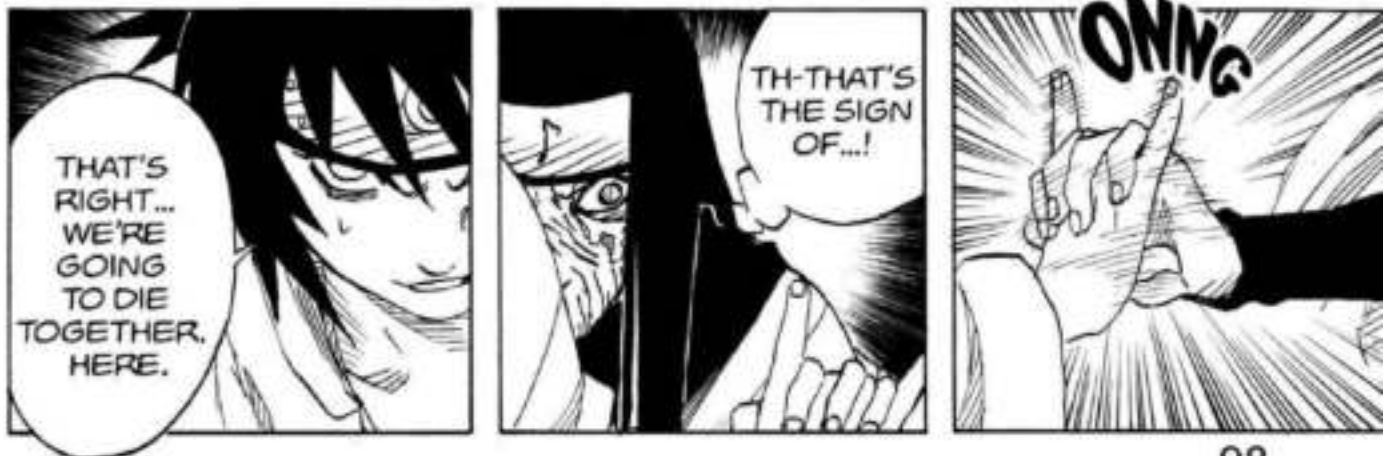
...AT LEAST I'LL SLOW YOU DOWN UNTIL THE BLACK OPS TEAMS CAN GET HERE.













BUT THAT'S A DOPPEL-GANGER...



NINJA TECHNIQUE-- "TWIN SNAKES KILL EACH OTHER"!

YOU MEAN TO COMMIT SUICIDE? HOW PRECIOUS!



SINCE, FOR THE TIME BEING, IT APPEARS YOU HAVE BECOME ONE OF THIS VILLAGE'S JONIN NINJA ELITE...



WHY ARE YOU HERE? WHY NOW?!

WHY?



YOU MUSTN'T JUST...

...SQUANDER EVERY SECRET I TAUGHT YOU.



...ONE MIGHT ALMOST SUSPECT YOU'RE NOT GLAD TO SEE ME!

FOR OLD TIMES' SAKE, OF COURSE, MY DEAREST ANKO! BUT FROM YOUR COLD REACTION...



MY TARGETS ARE ANY NINJA OF THE VILLAGE WHO DISPLAY EXTRA-ORDINARY ABILITIES.

HEAVENS, NO! I LACK THE HUBRIS-- AND THE PROPER NUMBER OF SUBORDINATES-- TO ATTEMPT ANYTHING OF THAT MAGNITUDE!



OOOH...

WHAT IS IT? AN ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT? ARE YOU AFTER LORD HOKAGE?



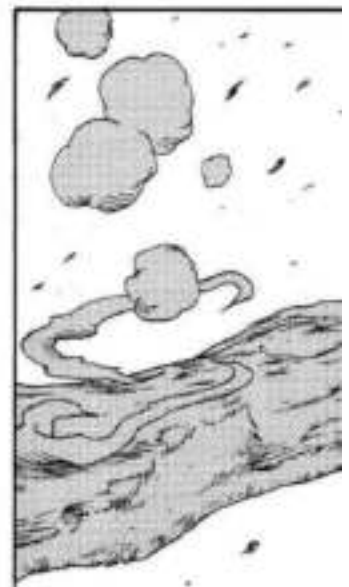
OHH!

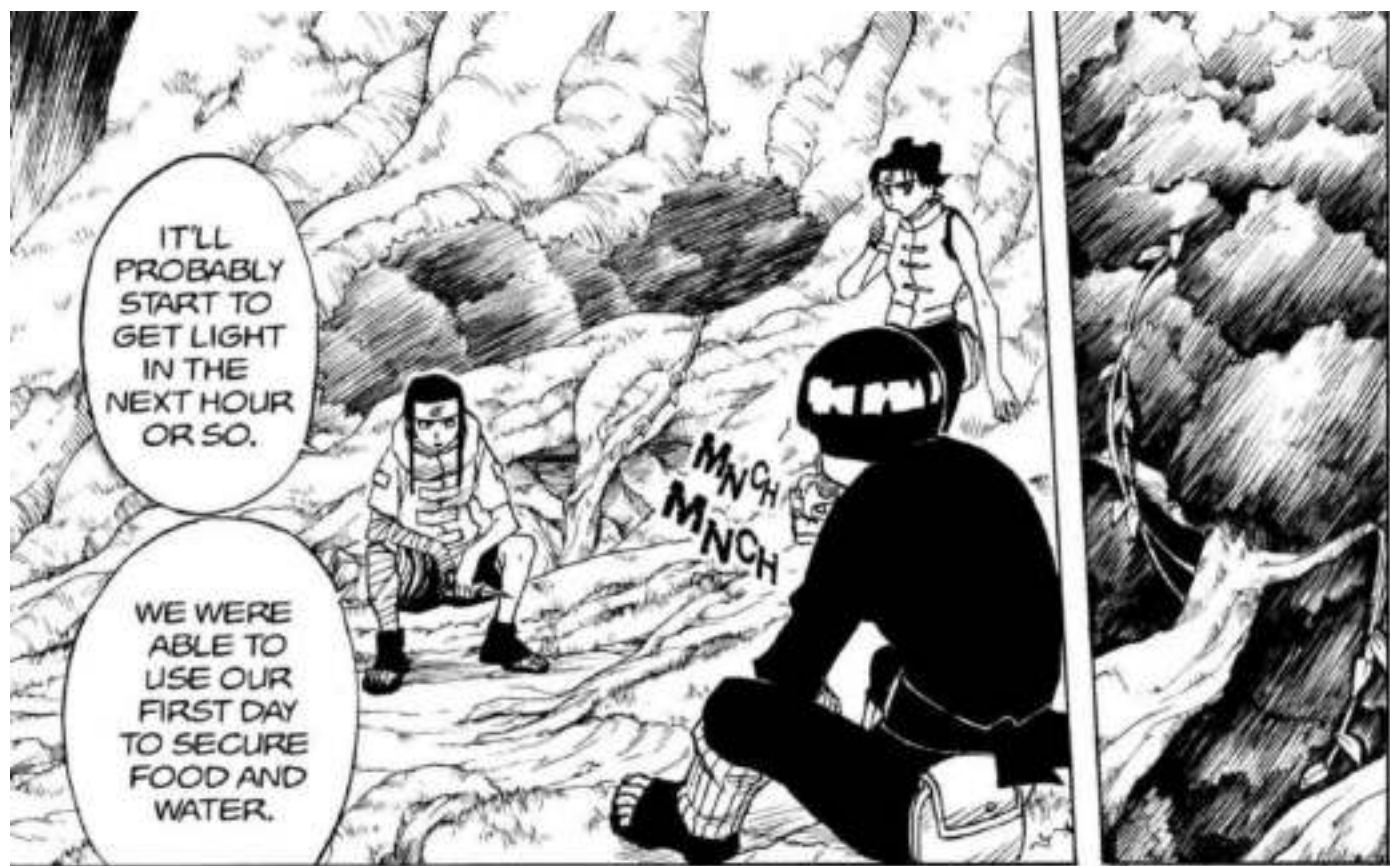
IN FACT, I JUST LEFT MY MARK AS A LITTLE PARTING GIFT...

UHH...

UHH...











MEET KISHIMOTO MASASHI'S ASSISTANTS--PART THREE
ASSISTANT NO. 3: IKEMOTO MIKIO

S.C.O.T. No. 3



CONGRATULATIONS
ON YOUR FIRST
ANNIVERSARY!
PLEASE KEEP
WORKING HARD...
BUT WITHOUT RUINING
YOUR HEALTH IN
THE PROCESS!

00.11.8

池本幹雄
(IKEMOTO MIKIO)

PROFILE

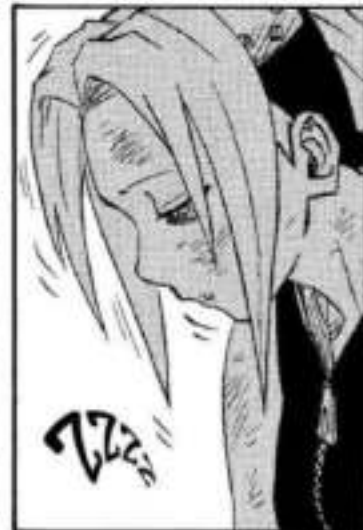
- * LIKES SNACK STICKS AND COOKIES, AND EATS NATTŌ BEAN PASTE EVERY DAY.
- * ADORES COFFEE. AT THE OFFICE, HE'S THE ONE WHO POURS.
- * MASTER TINKERER.
- * SHARP DRESSER.
- * TALLEST ONE IN THE OFFICE.
- * YOUNGEST ONE IN THE OFFICE. } WE'RE SICK WITH ENVY!

WORKS AS A "MOB," DRAWING CROWDS AND BACKGROUND FIGURES, ADDING THE WHITE TO SPEED LINES, HIGHLIGHTS, AND CHARACTERS' EYES, AND WHITING OUT ANY ART THAT GOES OUT OF THE PANEL AND INTO THE GUTTER, AS WELL AS PUTTING STARS IN THE NIGHT SKY, AND ADDING IN HALF-TONES.



 Number 57:

Beauty Is the Beast!!





IT'S
ALREADY
DAWN?!

OH!



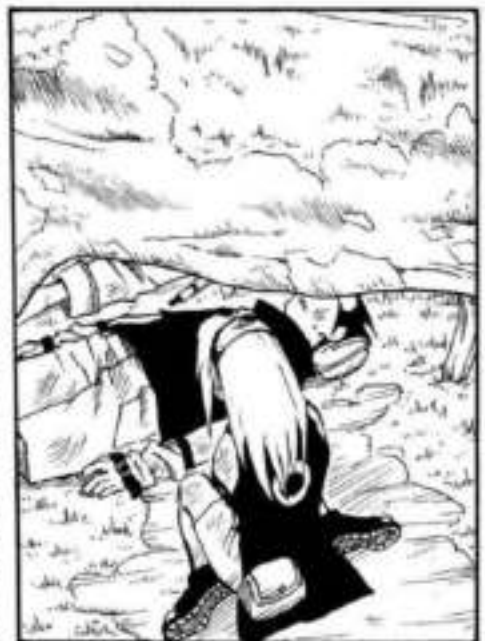
I
CAN'T
LET
MYSELF
SLEEP...



KLAT



HUH?!



TAP



LUB DUB



LUB DUB



RATTLE
RATTLE



LUB DUB





SHE'S
PRETTY
TIGHTLY
WOUND.

I
WONDER
IF SHE
NOTICED
THE LETTER
BOMB WE
STUCK
ON THE
SQUIRREL!

THAT'S
NOT
IT...

NO...



SO...

WHAT
ARE
WE
WAITING
FOR?



...WE'LL
HAVE
TO GET
CLOSER
TO FIND
OUT.

...?

WHAT
THEN,
DOSU?
WHAT'S
GOING
ON?



HOP
HOP
HOP





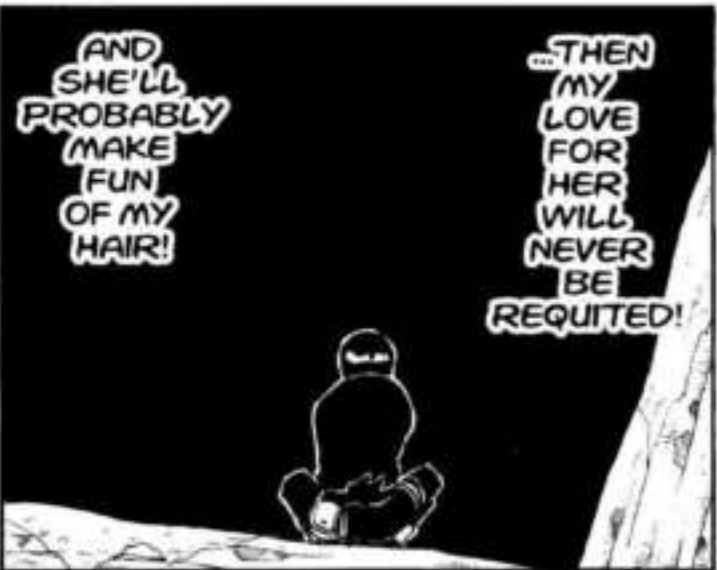
BUT
IF I
MISS
EVEN
ONE...

...THEN
SAKURA
WILL
FALL IN
LOVE
WITH
ME!!



...ALL
20 OF
THESE
LEAVES.
BEFORE
ANY OF
THEM
HITS
THE
GROUND...

IF
I
CAN
CATCH...



AND
SHE'LL
PROBABLY
MAKE
FUN
OF MY
HAIR!

...THEN
MY
LOVE
FOR
HER
WILL
NEVER
BE
REQUIRED!



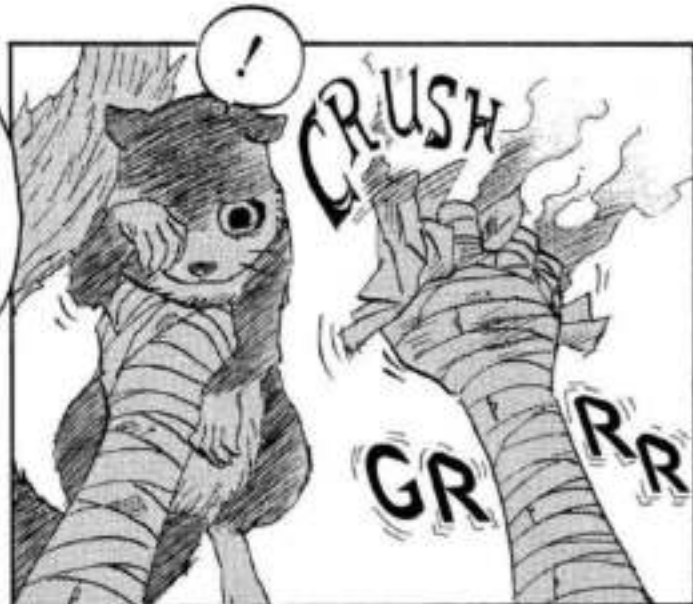
LEE CREATES
HIS OWN
TRAINING
EXERCISES,
WHEREVER
HE MAY BE.



YAAAH!

LEAP







HOW'D HE SPOT US WHEN WE HID SO FAST?!

COME OUT OF HIDING... UNLESS YOU'RE A COWARD.



WOW... CAN I HAVE YOUR AUTOGRAPH?

OH, IT'S YOU THREE...

OH! WHAT AN HONOR! LORD HYUGA NEJI, LAST YEAR'S ROOKIE OF THE YEAR... FANCY MEETING YOU HERE!



TIME FOR PLAN B!

MY MASTERFUL PLAN A-- HIDING UNTIL ANYONE WHO MIGHT HURT US IS GONE-- HAS FAILED!

STUPID PAIN IN THE NECK... FINDING US LIKE THAT!



I CAN'T TELL YOU HOW LONG...

...I'VE DREAMT OF MEETING YOU!



GET A LOAD OF THIS!







I KNOW THAT SOME GUY NAMED OROCHIMARU IS THE ONE WHO'S BEEN PULLING ALL THE STRINGS...

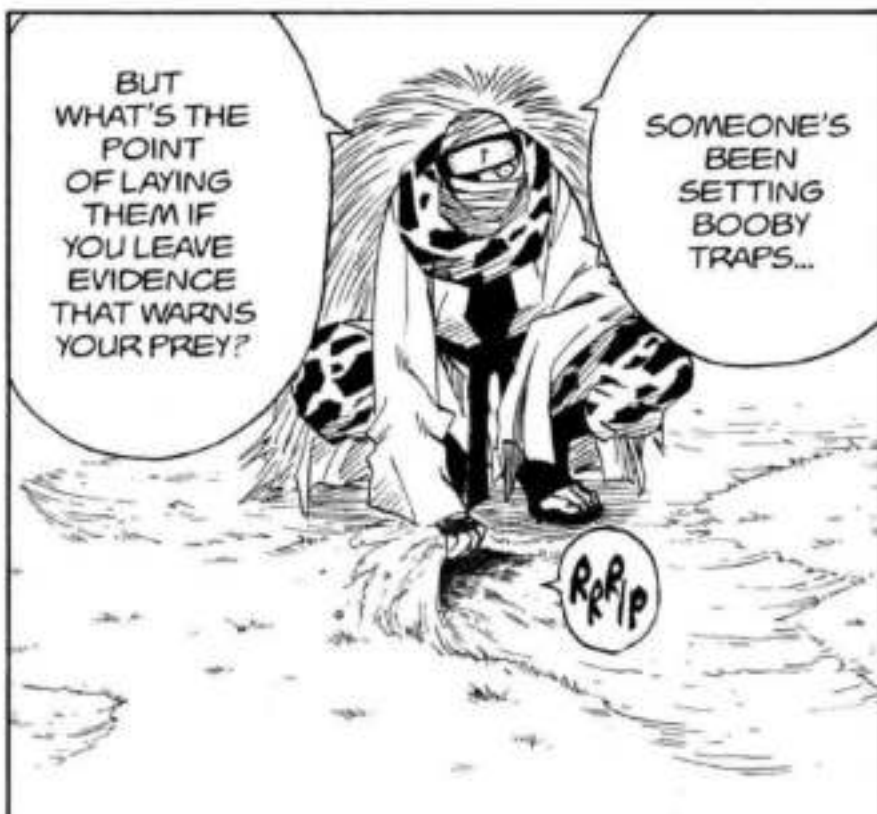
SO WHAT DO YOU WANT?!



WH-WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!











PO

**KONOHA
HURRICANE
TECHNIQUE!!!**

WAM WAM WAM

W









 Number 52:

The Principles of Use!!











~HMF!~

...



...SO STRONG!!

HE'S...



!!

I'VE SEEN YOU USE THESE MOVES BEFORE.



SO, I'D BE WASTING MY TIME DUCKING AS THOUGH YOUR ATTACKS WERE REAL.

THIS IS SOME KIND OF ILLUSION, RIGHT?!



IT'S A GAMBLE, BUT IF I TAKE THEM DOWN ONE AT A TIME...

MY STRENGTH SHOULD BE ENOUGH TO BEAT THEM!

BUT THERE'S THREE OF THEM AND ONE OF ME, SO THEY HAVE THE ADVANTAGE.



HOW CAN WE PICK OFF THE WEAK WHEN WE CAN'T FIND ANY WEAKLINGS?!

GAAAH!?



RUSTLE RUSTLE



...BUT THEY'RE TEAMED UP WITH SASUKE-- THE BEST OF THE BEST!

NARUTO AND SAKURA ARE TOTAL LOSERS...



WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, YOU IDIOT?!

...BESIDES NARUTO'S TEAM, OF COURSE!

WELL ...

... SMART

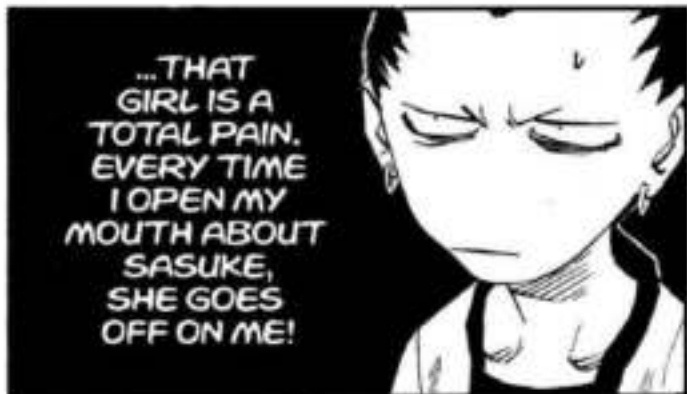
WHAT?!



ALL RIGHT,
ALL RIGHT,
SORRY FOR
DISSING
YOUR IDOL!



NOW,
WHY
IS
THAT?



...THAT
GIRL IS A
TOTAL PAIN.
EVERY TIME
I OPEN MY
MOUTH ABOUT
SASUKE,
SHE GOES
OFF ON ME!



MAYBE
YOUR
PRECIOUS
SASUKE
IS BETTER
IN THEORY
THAN HE
IS IN
PRACTICE!



AND
SAKURA'S
DEFENDING
HIM.

!!



HEY!
SASUKE'S
UNCONSCIOUS!

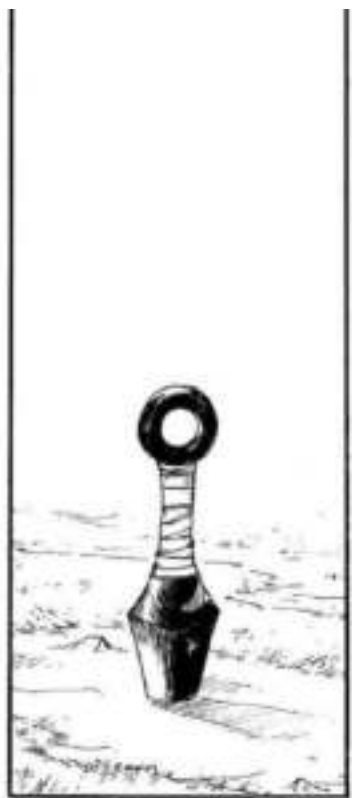
BUT
SAKURA?
SHE'S A
COMPLETE
WIMP!

THERE'S
NO WAY
ANYONE
HERE IS
GOING TO
BEAT
SASUKE.

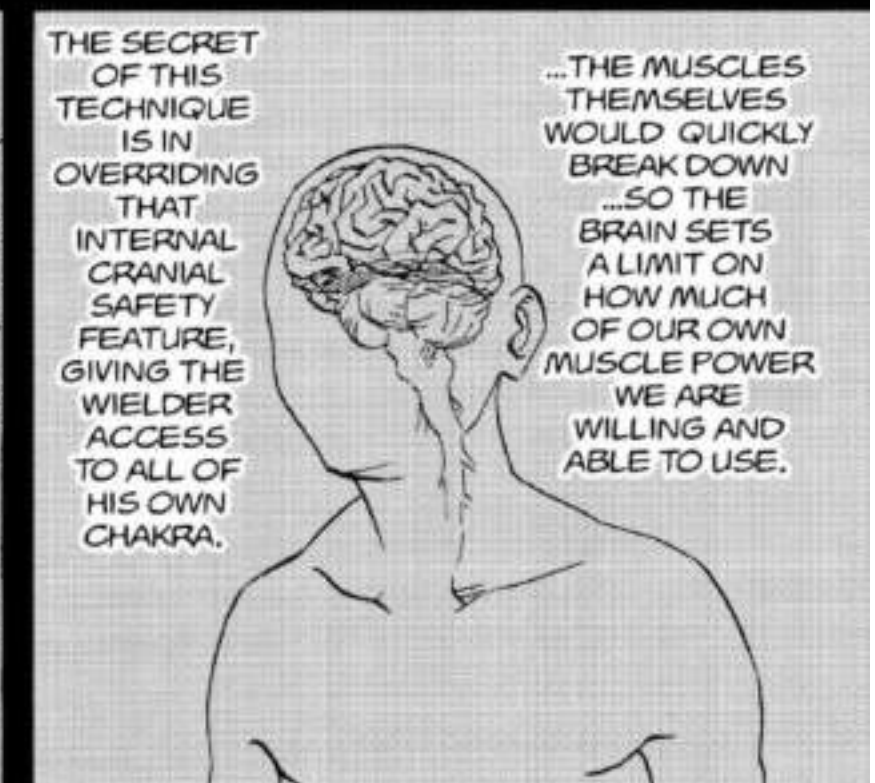
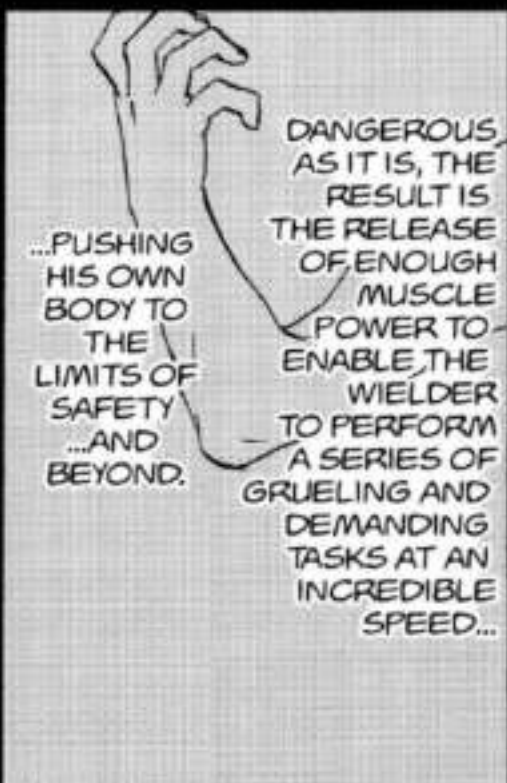
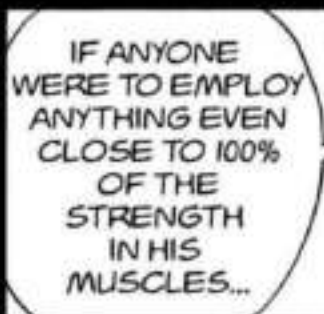
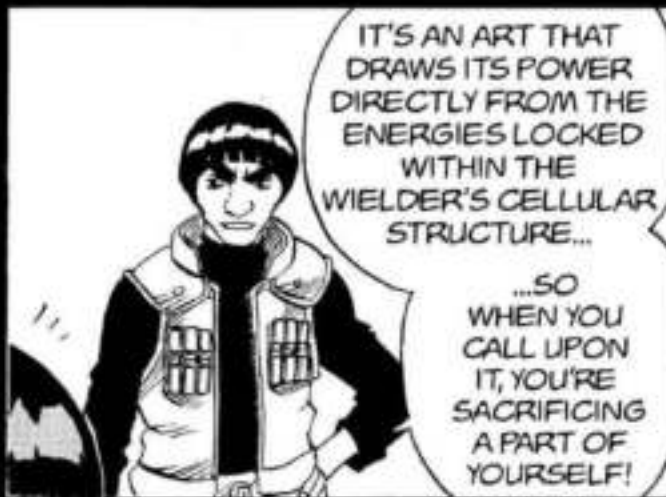


OH!

?!
?!







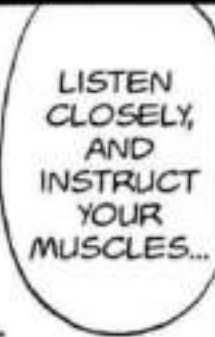


...ARE SEVERELY LIMITED.

THUS, THE CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH YOU MAY EMPLOY THIS TECHNIQUE...



...LIKE SO...



LISTEN CLOSELY, AND INSTRUCT YOUR MUSCLES...



AND ...WHEN IS IT PERMISSIBLE?



!

HUF

HUF



HAH!



MASTER GUY... THE TIME HAS SURELY COME FOR ME TO USE THE FORBIDDEN SKILL YOU TAUGHT ME...

...AND NOT HOLD BACK!





FORWARD
LOTUS
TECHNIQUE!









MEET KISHIMOTO MASASHI'S ASSISTANTS
PART FOUR
ASSISTANT NO. 4: KAWAHARA TAKEMI



PROFILE

- * A TOTAL PERVERT
- * BLABBERMOUTH
- * A NATIVE OF KANSAI WITH A GREAT SENSE OF HUMOR. (HIS OLDER BROTHER IS ALSO QUITE A JOKER. I'VE FALLEN FOR HIS PRANKS AT LEAST TWICE.)
- * LOVES AMERICAN AND EUROPEAN-TYPE MUSIC.
- * A TOYS'R'US KID AND A STAR CHILD.
- * A REAL RAY OF SUNSHINE, HE BRIGHTENS UP THE MOOD IN THE OFFICE.

IN TERMS OF JOBS, HE'S AN ALL-AROUND MASTER OF ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING.



 Number 53:

Sakura's Decision!!







EVEN IF YOU BLOCK MY FIST, THE SOUND WAVES REACH YOU.

IT'S SOUND!



DO YOU UNDERSTAND...

...THE FUNDAMENTAL NATURE OF SOUND?



SOUND?!



...!!



...THOSE VIBRATIONS DISPLACING THE AIR, WHICH TREMBLES AGAINST YOUR EARDRUM.

PRECISELY.

WHEN YOU HEAR A SOUND, IT'S ACTUALLY...

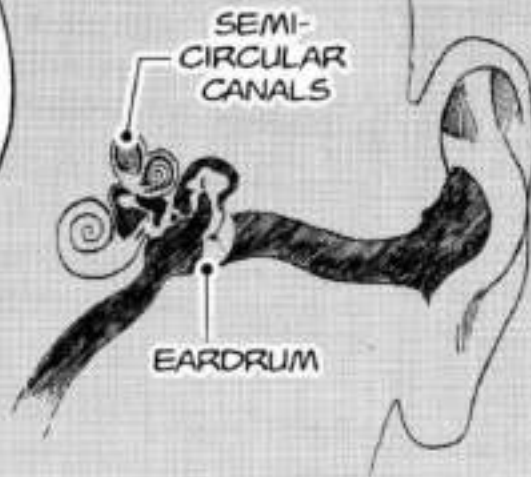


...!

VIBRATIONS ...?

MOREOVER,
IF THE SOUND
IS POWERFUL
ENOUGH TO
UPSET THE LIQUID
WITHIN THE
SEMI-CIRCULAR
CANALS OF THE
DEEPEST INNER
EAR...

...IT BECOMES
IMPOSSIBLE
FOR YOU TO
MAINTAIN YOUR
BALANCE.



AND THE
HUMAN
EARDRUM--
THE
TYMPANIC
MEMBRANE--

...RUPTURES
WHEN
EXPOSED
TO SOUND
LEVELS IN
EXCESS OF
150 PHONS.

...SIMPLY
DON'T
WORK
AGAINST
US.

SO,
YOU
SEE,
CRUDE,
OLD-
FASHIONED
PHYSICAL
ARTS...

HEH
HEH...
AND IT
WILL BE
SOME
TIME...

...BEFORE
YOUR
EQUILIBRIUM
RETURNS.



IT'S RARE
FOR A FOE
TO FORCE
ME TO REVEAL
THE NATURE
OF MY
TECHNIQUES.

BUT
NOW THE
TIDE HAS
TURNED
AGAINST
YOU!

YOU
DID
START
OUT
VERY
WELL,
THOUGH.

POP

POP

POP

Three instances of the sound effect 'POP' are written in a stylized, bold font, indicating the sound of the character's techniques.











...AND
IT
GOES
TO
!!!!



AND NOT
ONLY THAT,
BUT FAR
FROM
RELYING
ON THE
MOMENTUM
OF MY ARM'S
SWING...

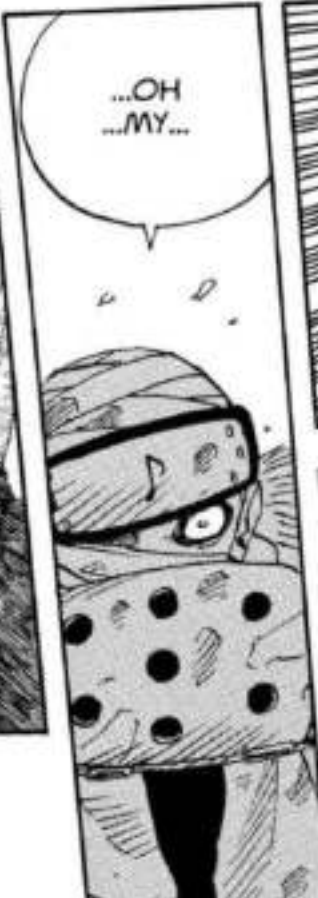
...I CAN USE
MY CHAKRA
TO DIRECT
ITS POWER
TOWARD MY
CHOSEN PREY,
WHEREVER
HE MAY LIE!!



LEEEEEE!!

HAUGH!!

LUBOUB





IT LOOKS LIKE SASUKE AND NARUTO ARE JUST UNCONSCIOUS... BUT...

RUNNING AWAY SOUNDS LIKE A GOOD PLAN!

THOSE GUYS ARE GETTING CREAMED!!



WASN'T SHE, LIKE, YOUR BEST FRIEND OR SOMETHING?!

I MEAN, SAKURA'S IN DEEP! WE CAN'T JUST LEAVE HER... CAN WE?!



WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO, INO?!

...THE FAMOUS LEE'S OBVIOUSLY HAD HIS BUTT KICKED, AND SAKURA'S ALL ALONE...

WHY... WHY ARE YOU ASKING ME?



SAYING WHAT?!



I HEARD SOMEONE SAYING...

WHAT'S UP, SAKURA?



UM... INO?

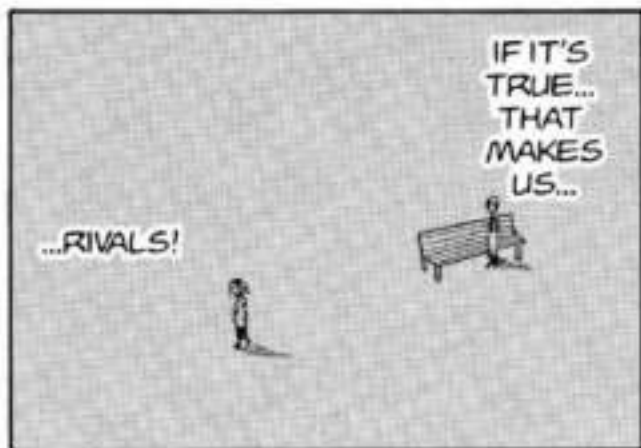
!



WHAT? *cut off*



SAYING THAT YOU LIKE SASUKE, TOO!







YOU'RE A DISGRACE TO ALL SHINOBI... FUSSING WITH YOUR LOOKS WHEN YOU SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON YOUR TRAINING!



WHAT NINJA TECHNIQUE IS THAT-- THE ART OF DEEP CONDITIONING?

LOVELY HAIR... SO MUCH MORE BOUNCE AND SHINE THAN MINE HAS!



YO!

HAH! GOOD ONE!!

...IS ENTERTAIN HER!

THE LEAST WE CAN DO...

ZAKU... WHY DON'T YOU FINISH OFF SASUKE OR ONE OF HER OTHER FALLEN HEART-THROBS...

...RIGHT IN FRONT OF THIS LOVESICK LITTLE PIG?



SPF

S-SAKURA...



HOLD STILL!

NO! THEY WOULDN'T...!



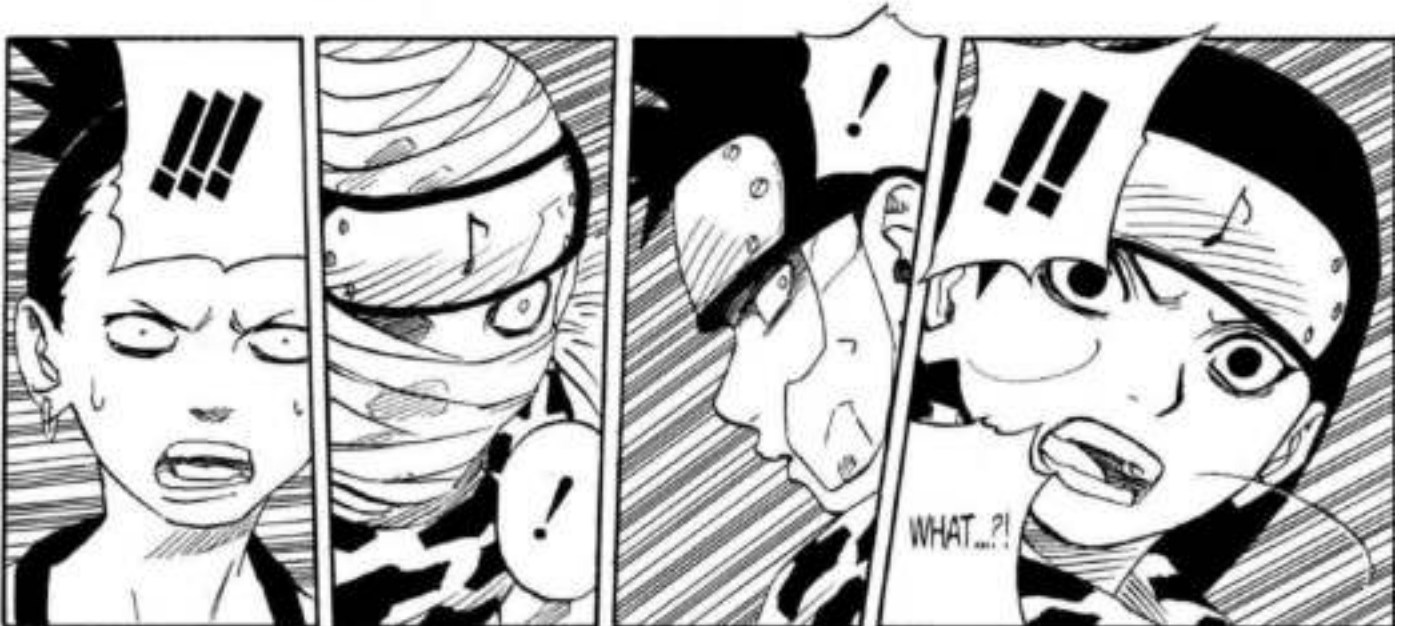
I CAN'T SUMMON ANY STRENGTH...

SKRITCH!

SCRAPE







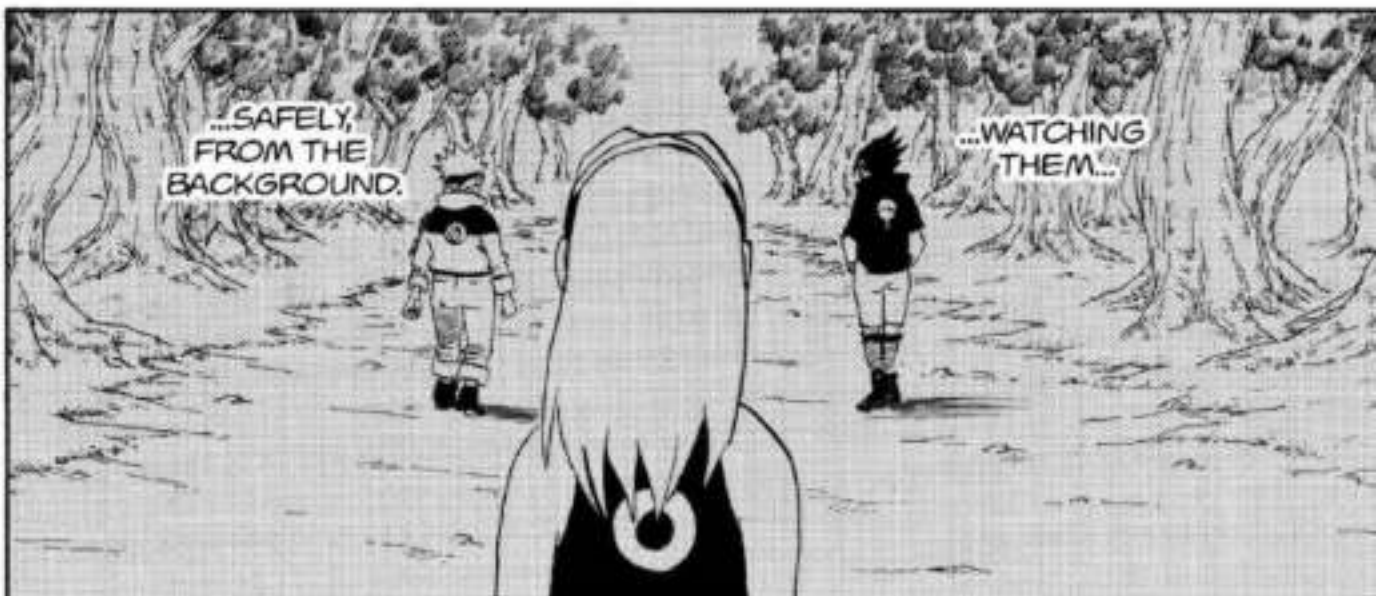


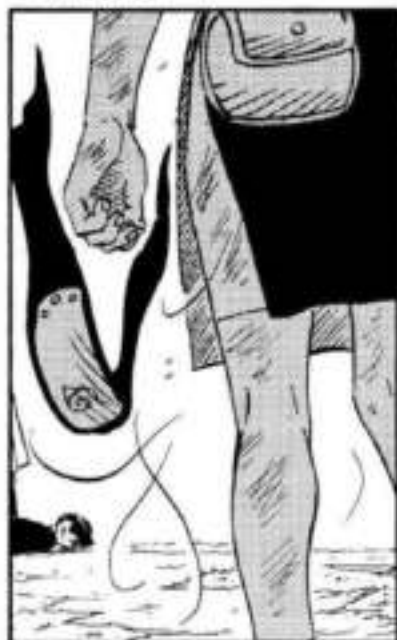




 **Number 54:**

Sakura and Ino





...WOULD BOTH RISK ANYTHING TO PROTECT ME.



WHILE THEY...



YOU'RE ALL MY TEACHERS...

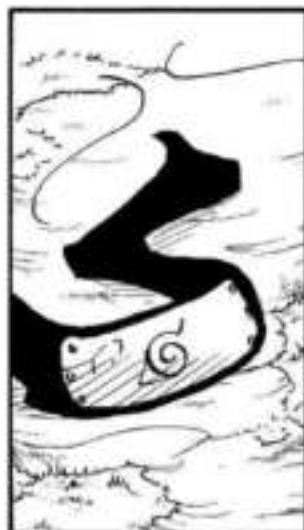


...AND HE RISKED HIS LIFE TO COME BETWEEN ME AND DANGER.



UHN...

LEE SAYS HE LIKES ME, TOO...



...LIKE YOU, ALL OF YOU.

GRRR



...AND YOU'VE SHOWN ME WHAT I WANT TO BE...



NOW
IT'S
YOUR
TURN...

...TO
WATCH
MY
BACK!!



KIN!
FINISH
HER!!

SAKURA...?! ...!

HA!













MY NAME IS YAMANAKA INO. WHAT'S YOURS?

I'M SAKURA... HARUNO SAKURA...



Hiccup!

FINCH
WHO ARE YOU...?



! EVERYONE ALWAYS CALLS YOU "BILLBOARD BROW," AND PICKS ON YOU...



AND YOU HIDE BEHIND ALL OF THAT HAIR... LIKE A SHEEPDOG...

...OR A SHY LITTLE GHOST.

SOB

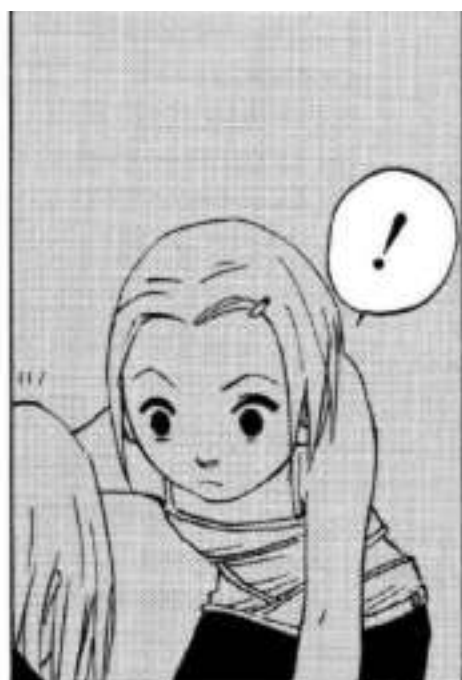


...SO OF COURSE YOU GET TEASED. YOU DO HAVE A HIGH FOREHEAD...

I CAN'T HELP NOTICING...

TAP

FLUFF









WHAT?!



THINK YOU'RE SO GREAT? WELL, TOP THIS!

SASUKE AND I ARE ON THE SAME TEAM!

WHAT'S IT TO YOU, SAKURA?!

SIZZLE

FWNP

SIZZLE



I NOTICE YOUR HAIR IS LOT LONGER...

...INO.



THAT GOES DOUBLE FOR ME, SAKURA...

...I DON'T CARE WHAT IT TAKES. YOU'RE NOT GOING TO SHOW ME UP!!



SO, INO...

...YOU'LL NEVER BEAT ME NOW.









TO BE CONTINUED IN NARUTO VOL. 7!

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