

why?

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"Naruto, where are you" Hinata yelled, "I can't find you!"

"That's because he's gone." Sakura said appearing behind her. "He left this morning, I saw him run through the gates" Sakura's eyes were watery; Hinata could tell she had

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1 - gone away

Naruto Sakura. Shikamaru Ino. Asuka Neji

"Naruto, where are you" Hinata yelled, "I can't find you!"

"That's because he's gone." Sakura said appearing behind her. "He left this morning, I saw him run through the gates" Sakura's eyes were watery; Hinata could tell she had been crying.

"Why are you so sad?" Hinata asked, to tell the truth, she felt kind of sad too. "It's not like you love him or any thing."

Sakura just tilted her head forward, letting her hair fall softly over her face. Her eyes watered once more, and a few tears hit the ground. Hinata gasped.

"You do!"

She was answered only with Sakura's quiet crying and the gentle pounding of the rain.

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"So he really did leave. I didn't think he would listen." Asuka whispered to herself. She sighed and almost fell from the tree she was sitting on. "Well this might work out for the better."

"What are you doing now?" Neji said sitting beside her "spying on people again?"

"No, not exactly." She said, and pointed at Sakura's sobbing.

"What happened?" Neji said when he saw her crying.

"He left." Asuka whispered

"Who Sasuke?" Neji asked

"No," Asuka said quietly as if someone was trying to hear. "Naruto."

"What?" Neji yelled. But then Hinata looked around, and he said more quietly "It's for Naruto that she cries?"

"Yes." Asuka remarked

"But how, she hates him." Nejii said eyes wide.

Asuka looked at him, her face an inch from his. "For someone who can see everything, you see nothing at all." She smiled, and jumped from the tree, leaving Nejii staring wide eyed at the place she was sitting.

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Ino sat on a park bench staring over to where Sasuke was training "Ah, Sasuke." She sighed.

"You're so troublesome." Shikamaru said. He stood behind the bench "Why do girls like that kind of guy?" He sat down next her.

"You just don't understand us." She crossed her arms and turned away.

"You're right. Why can't you like someone who might possibly like you back?" He said

"And who would that be?" She turned and looked him in the eyes. His eyes, kind, caring, sad. Not at all like Sasuke, his were dark and cold.

"You wouldn't know." he turned away trying to hide his blushing face.

"You're right I don't, so tell me." Ino said, standing up and walking in front of him.

"He doesn't want you to know" He said closing his eyes, telling himself `don't blush, don't blush!'

"He doesn't want me to know, or you don't want me to know?" She asked slyly

It was no use. His cheeks exploded into shades of red. He jumped up, and with a quick "I got to go," he ran off.

"Heh. I wish he would just tell me. It makes it a whole lot easier." Ino said to herself, and then smiled evilly "Although... this could be fun."

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"It is better, better for everyone that I leave." He told himself every step he took, trying to get himself to fully believe that lie.

It was dark and rainy, just like it was when Naruto left. He decided to stop and rest a while, for he had been running all day.

"No one likes you; you are unwanted in this village!" Asuka had said

"But-"

"Leave this place you evil fox! Leave and never come back!"

And he had left. For the first time in a long while he had cried. Still even now his eyes glistened. Before he knew it he had fallen asleep.

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“Really,” Sasuke remarked “she looks fine to me.”

“Her tears are silent, remaining only in her heart.” Neji said

They were looking at Sakura, though she looked no longer sad like the night before, there was something different, haunting about the way she acted.

Ino walked up to her. “Hi Sakura-chan!” She said with a smile.

She looked up, her eyes cold and harsh. “Don't come near me.” She said in a raspy voice and Ino backed away, looking scared.

“Does she look fine now?” Neji asked.

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Every time Ino ran into Shikamaru she would ask “Can you tell me who it is now?” And he would turn away and run. Ino swore that his face was slightly red every time she saw him.

And every time Ino came near him he knew he could no longer keep it in. He would have to tell her sometime soon. But did she already know?

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Sakura sat on the ground. What was wrong with her? How could she push someone away like that? Now everyone was staying away from her. They were scared of her, and she was scared of herself. She closed her eyes, and again she started to cry. “Why didn't I realize sooner?” She said quietly to herself “Why did you run away? Was it because of me?”

“See?” Neji said to Sasuke “She loves Naruto.”

“I see.” Sasuke said quietly. Was that a hint of sadness in his voice?

They were sitting near Sakura, close enough to hear her but far enough for her not to notice them. Why was it that Sasuke suddenly felt so sad? He sighed, maybe it was shock. Naruto? Sakura? They just don't mach up.

Neji looked at him. He looked tired, he looked sad.

“For someone who can see everything, you see nothing at all.”

Sakura suddenly stood up, surprised. She ran off, as if she was chasing someone...

When she finally stopped, she was in front of an old swing. She walked up to it, a few tears welling up in her eyes.

"Naruto!" She said, "Where have you been?" But the Naruto looking up at her only smiled, and disappeared.

"No," she whispered, then louder cried, "No!" she collapsed on the swing, sobbing.

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2 - chapter 2

Chapter 2

Naruto heard something, it sounded as if his name was being called. Did they miss him in that village? Or did they want him back to ridicule him more. Though his own thoughts tortured him more than any ninja could.

"So, are you going to cry? And you're just going to sit there in self loathing?" Some one said near by.

"Asuka, you yourself said that there wasn't room for me, or the demon fox inside of me," Naruto fumed, "You said I was unwelcome in the village."

"Yes, but someone in Kohonu misses you." She said quietly

"Some one misses me?" He asked, "I don't believe you. No one likes me, everyone hates me, all because of that demon fox."

"Very well then," Asuka turned and walked away, "Sit here and sob."

He watched her walk away. Suddenly he stood up and wiped the tears from his face.

"It would be nice, to see what everyone does when I'm gone" Naruto thought out loud, "I'll spy, I'm a ninja after all."

Naruto ran to Kohonu, wishing that what Asuka said was true. He knew that it wasn't, that he had false hope, but he would not stop believing. He did not want to be seen so instead of walking into the village through the front door, he climbed the wall.

'If one person misses me, I will stay in the village' he thought.

When he got to the top, he stopped to try and find a safe place to hide. He tried to jump onto a nearby tree but he lost his balance and fell. He landed on the ground with a thud.

The blonde quickly ran to a tree, hoping he wasn't seen or heard. He wasn't. He breathed a sigh of relief and watched silently at all that was happening.

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Something rustled in the bushes. There was a thud and a stifled cry. But never mind that now, Neji thought, he had to figure out what was wrong with everyone. They were all acting so differently.

Shikamaru, who was normally very bored, was now walking quickly and urgently to wherever it was that

he was going, a frightened look on his face. And Ino trailing behind sporting an evil grin.

Sakura was crying a lot and yelled at any one who spoke to her, or came near.

Sasuke was different too. Although you could barely tell, there was a small chime of sadness in his voice, and a hint of longing when he looked at Sakura.

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Okay people, sorry it's short. It is not going to turn into a sasu/saku fic promise. Naruto is coming back see?

3 - Dry your tears

Ch. 3

`Why am I acting this way?' Sakura asked herself, `Why can't I pull myself together?'

She knew why, she only asked this question so that maybe, just maybe, she would get a different answer from her conscience. But it never worked.

She stood up suddenly and wiped her eyes. She ran toward the park, where she knew **he** would be. She could act, and maybe, just maybe, things could return to normal.

"Sasuke-kun!" Sakura said with a huge smile, all traces of her tears gone.

He looked up at her, a little surprised, "S-Sakura?"

She tried to look as confused as possible, "What?"

"But you were so... so..." Sasuke couldn't find a "good" word to say.

"Depressed? Miserable? Psycho? Crazy?" Sakura asked, still looking confused.

Her response took him by surprise. He stared at her for a second, his shocked face turning white. He looked almost as if he were in pain. It was almost unrecognizable though, and Sakura did not notice.

"What about..." Sasuke paused, his face getting paler, "you and... Naruto?"

"What about it?"

"I thought, I mean... you were acting so strange..."

"I never really cared about him, it was only a reflex. I would act like that if anyone I knew left this village." She lied perfectly.

Her expression quickly turned to shock as she realized what had just happened. Sasuke had kissed her. **Sasuke had kissed her!** No. **No!** This wasn't supposed to happen. He was supposed to reject her as he always did! Things needed to be normal!

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Naruto choked on air. Sasuke had kissed Sakura! It took his mind a while to comprehend this, and at first he thought it wasn't real.

But it was.

She obviously doesn't miss me very much, He thought to himself.

He held back tears he knew he'd cry, and backed away from the place that he saw the scene. He dashed toward his `home'... If you could call it a home.