NaruLee

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1 - Boring

It was a pretty boring day. I was lying in the hospital. Why? I have no clue. They had finished my surgery days ago, but since I went out and fought, they wanted to monitor my health and what-not.

I had heard Naruto hadn't been able to bring Sasuke back, which made me sad. No, not because I wanted Sasuke back (I really didn't like him too much anyway). It was just that I knew how upset Naruto was.

Like I said, it was a boring day, so I wanted to go say "hello" to him and see how he was doing.

I left my room, not caring that the doctors didn't want me to be up. I was fine.

As I approached Naruto's room, I got a sudden chill and felt dizzy. I almost didn't want to go in, but I couldn't let him down if he needed someone there for him, so I went in.

"Oh, hey Bushy Brow..." Naruto said to me. I didn't hear even the slightest sign of happiness in his voice.

I walked over to him and sat on the edge of his bed, "Are you okay, Naruto?"

"Um... yeah. I was just thinking about Sasuke...."

I smiled at him, trying to show courage, "Hey, we will get him back here someday. You have nothing to worry about Naruto. I am prepared to risk my life to get him back and I know you are too. Now come on, I hate seeing you sad!"

I saw him grin slightly to himself but he said, "But I won't have a chance to bring him back... not until I get back."

"Get back? From where?"

"Um, Pervy Sage is taking me on a two and a half year training around the country."

I gasped, "What?"

"Yeah... we're leaving tomorrow...."

"Oh, Naruto!" I said and hugged him, "It will be boring around here without you!"

I couldn't see his face but I knew he was smiling.

Naruto was a year younger than me, technically making me an "elder" to him, but we were able to treat each other as equals because we were so much alike.

We let go of one another and he said, "I'm really going to miss you... the whole village too, actually."

He was laughing a little bit; a good sign.

I nodded, "I will miss you too."

He grinned, "Hey, you better pass those Chûnin Exams next time! For me!"

I flashed him the nice guy pose, "Of course!"

We laughed and he said, "Well, you should get back to your room and I have to leave and go get ready. I'll stop by before I leave though."

I smiled, "All right. Thank you, Naruto."

"Nah, thank you."

I was slightly surprised at those words coming from Naruto, but I bowed my head and got up to leave for my room.

I really was going to miss Naruto. That knucklehead, always running around shouting about how he'd be Hokage and how he was better than anyone who challenged him. I chuckled to myself just thinking of this.

But Naruto had a soft spot too, although you'd never get him to admit it!

2 - Departure

I woke up early the day Naruto was to leave. Partly because the hospital's futon was extremely uncomfortable and partly because I wanted to remember him as best I could before he left.

He didn't even arrive until around noon, but I didn't mind. I was just glad he'd came.

I hadn't realized I was crying until he reached out to me and stroked my cheek, "Hey, stop crying, will ya? You're gonna make me cry!" he said, smiling sadly.

I nodded and apologized. I would have wiped my eyes, but he was doing it for me, so I just sat there and tried not to show how much I'd really miss him.

He took his hands from me and in an attempt to cheer me up, he said, "Hey, I'll get you a souvenir!" Unfortunately, that just made me cry even worse.

He hugged me and waited for me to stop crying before he looked me in the eyes.

"I'm really gonna miss you..." he whispered and closed his eyes, leaning in closer.

As if it wasn't me controlling my body, I leaned in too.

We were kissing. Naruto and I. My face got hot and even as he pulled away I couldn't think straight.

Naruto grinned, "Well, you're a lot better than Sasuke! That's for sure!" I laughed slightly and sighed.

"I hope you have fun on your trip. Do not forget about me!" I said, smiling and ruffling his hair.

He smiled and said, "Of course I won't forget you! You're too cool for that!"

Now I knew my face was red. First he'd said I was a better kisser than Sasuke and then he said I was cool! I had to be dreaming.

I stuttered a bit before saying, "Uh, would you like to go to Ichiraku, before you leave, I mean?" I should of known his answer. He always has time for ramen!

So we got there and talked a little about things like how awesome we would both be when he came back and then we argued about who would be stronger. But we both knew we were just having fun and it wasn't a real fight.

As soon as we were done, Naruto reached for his wallet, but I grabbed his hand, "No, I will pay." I smiled at him and took out my own wallet, handing Teuchi, the Ichiraku Ramen Shop's owner, the money we owed.

We left again, just so Naruto could take a last look at the village.

"Man, I'll miss this place..." Naruto said with a sigh.

"I know, but I am sure you will be back before you know it!"

He smiled at me, "Yeah, I'm sure you're right. Now, you get better while I'm away!"

"Of course!" I said, smiling with the nice guy pose.

Suddenly a tall man with white spikey hair appeared in front of us.

"Naruto, it's time to go." He said.

"Sure, Pervy Sage..." he sighed and looked toward me, "Take care of yourself, Bushy Brow!"

"I will. I promise." And that was the last I saw of him for a long time.

3 - He's Back!

I was out, training as usual. I had recently heard Naruto was coming back soon, so I'd doubled up my training. It's not that I was unhappy with my progress, I just wanted to progress further before Naruto came around.

Sure, I'd become Chûnin, now wearing a vest to match my sensei's, so that I was especially proud of. But still, I wanted Naruto to acknowledge me just as much as I would acknowledge him.

I suddenly heard a noise and then, "Hey! Bushy Brow!"

I spun around to see Naruto running toward me.

"N-Naruto!" I was ecstatic to see him, "When did you get back?!"

"Just now! I couldn't wait to see you!" he hugged me and I noticed he was a lot taller than before he left.

His jacket was still orange, but it was tighter fitting and the top part and the sleeves were black. The cloth for his headband was black now too, and a lot longer. He still wore orange pants, but they weren't folded at the end now and his zori were now black too.

"Wow! You got really tall, Bushy Brow!"

I laughed, "Well, I am a year older than you!"

"Still, I almost thought you were your sensei for a second!"

I smiled. Did I really look that much like him?

"Hey, come on!" he said, "Let's go to Ichiraku, like we did before I left!"

I was surprised he'd remembered, but I followed him anyway. I was pretty hungry!

"Hey! Naruto! Long time, no see!" Teuchi said as we entered.

"Yep! I've been looking forward to eating here again!" Naruto said.

"So, what will you be having?"

"Miso ramen with pork!" Naruto exclaimed.

"Same." I said. I had grown accustom to it after Naruto left and I decided to try it.

"Coming right up!" he said.

"So, you're a Chûnin now?" Naruto asked.

"Yeah. I am sure you will pass when it comes around again!" I decided to exclude the fact that I'd cried when I realized him and I couldn't pass the exams together.

"Too bad we couldn't participate in it together!"

"Yeah..."

Are ramen soon came and he told me about his trip and all that. I loved hearing him talk about all this. It made him really happy to be telling it, too.

So, we were leaving Ichiraku and I was about to head home when Naruto stopped me.

"Hey, do you wanna come to my house. It's gonna be pretty dirty, but we can clean it and hang out and stuff..." he said.

I smiled, "Oh, sure Naruto!"

He took my hand, "Well, come on then!"

I sighed. He was just as energetic as he used to be.... Oh well, I'd have been stupid to think he'd change. But I was glad he hadn't. He was more fun like this.

I followed him to his house and it wasn't too dirty. You know, excluding the dust.... So he and I got to work, dusting everything in sight.

By the time we finished, it was eight o' clock at night, which made sense since we started at three.

"I guess I should be getting home..." I said.

"Wait!" Naruto grabbed my shoulder, "You want you're souvenir, right?"

"Oh!" I laughed, "Sure!"

He reached into his backpack and pulled out a small box and took it out to put in my hand.

"One more thing..." he said and stood on his toes, to make him the same height as me. I didn't know what he was doing so I pulled away slightly but he just leaned in until we were kissing... just like before he left.

I'll admit, I gave in then. I kissed him right on back. And I have no idea why, but I was crying too. Naruto pulled away from me, "Is something wrong?"

He honestly did look worried, so I said, "N-no... I-I just missed you so much!" I cried and hugged him. I had told the truth. I really had missed him... more than he knew... and more than I'd known until that point.

Naruto hugged me back and waited for me to calm down, once again. I knew I was over-emotional sometimes, and I apologized to him, but he said not to worry about it. And you know what? I didn't.