

Ninja Passion

By : Amaris Maverick

The City of Chimes has been ruled by the Empire and enforced by Ninja clans for as long as time has existed. In this city ruled by said clans, two ninjas find love in the most remarkable of places. Lady Io has long since retired, but Jin reminds her of a past, a cause she hasn't fought for in so long. Until his clan is set to fall and his life is placed in jeopardy. One retired Ninja can't help but pick up her sword once more to help the man she loves.



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Ninja Passion : Chapter 1

So Happy Birthday To Me!! I was bored as the 8th turned into the 9th and I'm eagerly awaiting the day;½ now. So here I am posting something out of boredom again. Bad Amaris! But heres some good smut, theres gonna be lots of plot, but I'm going to amp up the sex factor in this one. So enjoy. :)

I no own pictures. I just think they look awesome. :)

i;½

Courtesan Name: Lady Io/ Ninja Name: Kyoko

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1/2

Black Raven Clan: Kazuma

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Jin

Chapter 2: Retire

It was a hot July night when it happened. One moment the palace was quite, relaxed. The next chaos erupted as a small band of ninjas infiltrated the Empires impregnable castle. Their leader, a woman, her hair wild in the wind as she held her blade to the Emperors neck. His eyes wide in panic, her band of Ninjas stood their ground as the five Clans descended in the palace with malicious force. But Kyoko the Crimson was not to be trifled with, her intent was known. The Emperor had delt behind he city's back and handed over land to opposing kingdoms in exchange for riches. Due to the nature of the crime, it was quiet, the lands were razed in "wild fires" or "bandit attacks" What he had not known was that a small village of ninja's had existed in their lands. Under the secrecy of the Clans protection.

When the Emperor allowed such attacks, he broke what trust and treaties he held with the Jade Clan. And their last members were here to enact justice for their fallen comrades. Their families, and the innocents who were slain for their land. Kyoko slashed the Emperors neck in revenge and her band fought to escape. The all managed, but in a last fight with the Eldest son of the Black Raven Clan, her right arm was severly wounded.

In an attempt to track Kyoko and her Jade Ninjas down, they failed to find the trail. Kyoko and her people had vanished almost instantly.

"Ah!" Kyoko screamed as Ho carried her through the woods, away from the City as fast as possible.

Mitsuki came up as they stopped, jerking down her silver mask and touching Kyoko's face. "Leave me, I'll leave a trail." Kyoko hissed.

"No!" Mitsuki hissed. "You avenged our people today, and you fought to get us all away, we wont shame you by leaving you behind."

"This arm is holding on by skin!" Kyoko jerked off of Ho's back and the small band of Ninjas all jerked back in shock. The arm was dangling from the elbow, "I wont make it far, Hell I'll bleed out! Leave me!"

Li came up behind her and struck her on the neck, she toppled instantly, where Fuu caught her. "What do we do now?" Fuu looked up. Li looked at the arm as she bleed on the grass.

"She's losing too much blood, we need to remove the arm the rest of the way off and cauterize the wound." Li said as she jerked her gloves off and tied a sash toghtly around Kyoko's arm to stanch the bleeding. They all looked to Mitsuki and she rubbed her face looking at Ho and Gin who stood back, shaken but Kyoko's injury. Mitsuki sighed, they were young all of them, five years younger then Kyoko and herself. As her best friend Mitsuki would bear the responsibility. She would take Kyoko's anger and her shame.

"Theres no way to save the arm?" Mitsuki asked.

"No." Li said as she rubbed her forehead. "This is a ragged wound, the arm is completly severed its pure luck it hasnt fallen off."

"Then do it." Mistuki said. "Weve lost enought comrades, I wont lose any more."

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Jin rubbed his face as he stumbled into the compound. His brother patted his back behind him and moved past tugging his mask down and removing his hood. Jin followed suit and they stripped of their weapons. "Was it necessary to cut her arm like that?" Jin asked.

"She was a traitor Jin." Rin said.

"Only because the Emperor betrayed us, and in his actions we betrayed the Jade Clan." Jin said.

"It is a terrible thing." Their father was sitting on the roof above them, holding a small cup of sake. "The loss of the Jade Clan, they were powerful, and strong. I'm sorry Kuso."

"A loss father? They killed the emperor!" Rin snapped.

"The plan had been to marry Kyoko and her elder sister to you two." Dai said. "Kyoko and Kyota would have made fine warriors, fine brides. But we failed to hear from them a month ago, we thought it was due to the bandits intercepting a messenger. But now I know, we were all betrayed."

"I was going to marry that traitor?" Rin demanded.

"That traitor was the most powerful kunoichi to grace these lands, boy. Revenge is a bitter thing, but regret and pain last a life time. Kyoko assassinated the Emperor tonight to prove she feels no regret. This was for her Clan. I would burn this whole City down if one of my clan died. It's only logical she sought to collapse the corruption a it's source to avenge her lost Clan." Dai stood up and walked along the tile roof. Jin watched his father, taking in what the lesson was here. "We must respect those that took their actions and bear that weight. Kyoko will never return here, but if she were to return, you bring her to me. Understood."

"Yes, Father!" Jin and Rin said at the same time.

Chapter 3: House of Pleasure

Ten years later

Jin was walking along the rooftops. His arms were chilled by the night air, but he was pleased by the chill. It eased the ache of his earlier sparing. His rounds in the JÅ netsu district left him bored, no one messed with the geishas or the working girls. Even the houses where the male prostitutes worked were left alone. Their red light district was in an upper rung of the City. The crime was in the lowest rung, Jin wondered if he was getting off easy working here. But then he knew, his father thought he was too uptight, too literal with their work. His brothers and comrades wanted him to abuse his role and pay for some attention. He sighed as he walked along the roof top. He paused as he always did when walking by the House of Euphoria. It was run by a pair of women, Lady Io and Lady Sakura. Their women were taken in when they ran from their former employers. It was rumored to hold even male workers. They were notorious for their skill and their lack of tolerance.

He frowned beneath his cloth mask as he saw a man come flying out of the open doorways. Soem for the girls screamed and scrambled inside. Out walked Lady Io, she held a pipe in her hand as she exhaled a bit of clove smoke. "How many times must we tell you." She hissed. "You don't get to beat my girls."

"A whore is still a whore, I paid for my service!" The man bellowed. Lady Io shifted her kimono moving with her and she knocked her pipe empty before she handed it to a girl who rushed to take it. Lady Io was a beautiful woman, her skin was a pale creamy tan color. Her hair swept up in an elegant design, a small coy comb was set in the mass at the back of her head. She was always made up perfectly, her eyes lined with khol, her lips ruby with paint. But she avoided powder, and it was always appealing to look at.

"Perhaps you did." She stepped forward, her eyes narrowed and she placed her hand on her hip. "Shall I be the one to service you? I dare you to try beating me into submission."

Jin's spine tingled as her sultry tone filtered right up to him. Only the man struggled to his feet and looked at her, a leer really, and Jin scowled in annoyance. Women were meant to be observed, honored, not treated like filth. This man only wanted to violate Lady Io. "I wouldn't want a cripple like you, damaged goods."

Jin's eyes widened in shock, his suspicions now confirmed. He'd thought her arm was merely weak so she never used it, but as Lady Io turned her head she lunged forward, one shapely leg swept out and threw the man on the ground. "You filthy piece of shit!" Lady Io shouted, "I'll kill you!"

Jin jumped down, just as the man's friends exited the House of Euphoria. They began to move off Lady Io just as Jin dropped to the ground. He stood up and they cursed. "Shit, It's a Black Raven!" One of them yelled. They scrambled off and Lady Io shouted again.

"Come back and I'll tear your testicles off for the offense!" She growled.

"That's not the way to keep business Lady Io." Jin said, she cast him a sidelong glance and sighed.

"I know, Sakura will be mad." Lady Io smiled. "Unless you're willing to pay for the loss."

"You know where I stand on this." Jin smirked as she leered at him.

"Shame, I can taste you from here." She turned and slid her left hand over his armor. "I may be missing an arm, but I assure you, I'm better than any girl in here."

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He had no doubt about that, he'd heard rumors of those men lucky enough to land a session with Lady Io. Her skills were rivaled only by Lady Sakura. he looked down at her, allowing his eyes to graze over the tops of her breasts barely concealed by the cream kimono she wore over a red layer. Her furisode was beautiful. Images of fish swimming and water splashing. She looked him over and when their eyes met she looked amused. "Hmm, perhaps I should give you a discount, maybe even a pass card." She said with a lusty tone.

Damn the woman was hard to say no to. He didnt want to pay for Lady Io, he wanted... A shriek came from above and he looked up seeing the albino raven his father used to call for their ninjas. "Jin!" A voice called. He looked up seeing Rin above.

"Another time Lady Io." Jin said and ran over to the store front he'd dropped from. With a few expert steps he was scaling a pipe and joining his brothers as they started running. "What's happened?"

"The palace gaurds are fighting rival ninjas in the square!" One of the other ninjas said. Jin nodded and moved to join Rin at the head of the group.

Io walked back inside the brothel and spotted Sakura already. Her kimono's always sported cherry blossoms, as if she were living up to her chosen name. "Yes, yes, I'm sorry." Io said. "I just dont like seeing them get hit."

"I know, but you have got to learn to threaten and not assault." Sakura said touching Io's face.

"I dont like it, they think because of my arm I'm worthless." Io hissed. "I'll be damned if some filthy piece of shit is goinmg to call me a cripple."

"Yes yes." Sakura smiled. "You saw that ninja again."

"He always seems to be patrolling right when I lose my temper." Io chuckled. "Keeps refusing to come in though."

"I wonder why queen of vulgarities." Sakura laughed. They turned at the same time as Tu-Li appeared. "What is it?"

"Rouge Ninja's in the Square. The Black Ravens were dispatched to handle it." Tu-Li said. Her eyes were hard as she went from reporting to Sakura to looking at Io for direction.

"Ill go." Io said.

"Io!" Sakura snapped. "You cant."

"Uh, yes I can." Io said, "This way I wont assault any one else."

She was already walking away before Sakura could complain more. She was always such a worry wart. Io walked up the staircase and down the farthest hallway towhere her suite was. She slid her door to the side before she went in and locked it. Immediatly she started to loosen her kimono and remove the whole thing. She undid her hair and carefully placed her comb and pins on her vanity. She walked into the huge closet that held her kimonos, and her other clothes. She dragged a trunk out from under a table. She settled her palm on one of the locks and turned it before she used the key around her neck to unlock the whole thing. It lifted and she sank her hand in and lifted her ninja gear. She dressed easily and froze when she heard her window open.

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Fuuka climbed in and settled her Kimono back over her legs. "You're going to need help attaching the armor."

"Thank you." Io smiled and allowed Fuuka to dress her fast. She was armed and protected in a matter of seconds. Her scarf was settled around her head and her cloth mask pulled up. Her hair fell in a messy plait around her and a small false arm was attached to her elbow, then wrapped around a false sword at one of her hips. The other more useful one was above it. She turned and with a swift movement she was outside the window and scaling the wall with one hand. She was off on the rooftops silently and stealthily. She just wanted to ensure the Black Raven Clan could handle the situation. That way life was safe for every one here.

Chapter 4: Captured

Jin was surprised when they arrived at the scene. None of the other Clans had been sent out, since this was in the Black Ravens jurisdiction. He slid into position on the roof and looked at Rin. His elder brother sighed but edged back and let Jin take the lead. Rin was demoted for the month. So he slipped down into the shadows and motioned for the others to block the possible exits and rush the Rogues. The guards noticed them and backed off from the fight. Jin motioned and his group descended on the rogues. But just as they did the small group scattered. "Take them down!" Jin shouted. He pinpointed the leader and gave chase. He followed the Rogue into a darkened alleyway. They ran for what felt like minutes, but Jin finally unearthed a throwing knife and launched it at the intruder.

The rogue hit the ground and rolled, he came up and launched a set of throwing shurikens. Jin leapt up and rolled in the air avoiding the weapons. As he came down he flung out one hand and a chain flew out. It bashed the ninja in the head and Jin whipped it back. With a rough throw he lopped the chain around the rogues neck. The rogue came up his fist flying to fight. Jin subdued him, and he frowned as he felt a harsh stab to his side. He looked down seeing the rogue spit out a knife. He growled and slugged the ninja hard. Annoyed and possibly poisoned Jin dragged the stupid rogue back to the square where the rest of the Black Ravens were carrying the other wayward intruders. They turned them over and Jin huffed a shaky breath.

"You alright brother?" Rin asked.

"Fine, I'm going back to my post now." He said and rolled his shoulders, blinking away the sudden blearyness. The other Black ravens nodded and made off back to their posts.

"Hey, Jin!" Rin called. "Try and get laid tonight, you need it."

"Shut up!" Jin shouted annoyed. He made his way across the rooftops and with every step he took he felt nauseous, dizzy. Fuck he'd been poisoned. He moved to stop, catch his bearings and try to head for home, only he slipped and right as he did, everything went black.

Jin the Black Raven, had fought well, Io was impressed. She'd tailed him through the fight, after assuring the others were fine. But she'd seen him get stabbed. He'd hidden it well, blasted fool. The she'd followed him as he returned to the district he patrolled. She was just below him when he fell and caught him easily. She knelt and propped him up against her right leg, she checked his pulse and reached behind her into one of her pouches. She pulled out one of six green vials she kept on her at all times. She tipped the vial into his mouth and forced him to swallow. Then shifting him to her shoulder she lifted him up and leapt onto the roof in front of her. She followed the alleyways back to her brothel.

She scrambled into the window and shuffled into her room. She settled him on the bed and leaned back tugging her mask down. "You certainly are a hassle." She smirked. She moved into her dressing room to change into a soft silken kimono, she looped the ties and moved out to where Jin laid. With soft easy movements she laid his weaponry on one side of her bed. She removed his clothes and set them in a basket, she took them to the door and summoned one of the girls to clean them for her. She left his mask on, just so he wasn't upset. But she ran her fingers through the short black hair atop his head. She tugged one of her sheets up and settled a cool cloth on his head.

Io settled in a soft nest by the balcony. She spied her pipe waiting, freshly packed and ready to be lit. She smiled, the girls were quite efficient. She settled the pipe to her lips and lit the herbs. She inhaled a sweet

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smoke this time, woodsy, seemed Sakura had been shopping again. Io settled her legs up near her and waited. Hours passed as she smoked, relaxed, and allowed her muscles to ease. Another girl returned with Jin's clothing, and Io folded them with his armor and set them next to his weapons. He would wake any time now that the poison was neutralized, but he hadn't yet. Had she not used enough? She peered through the red curtains and smirked when she saw his brows furrowed. He was waking up, he was just trying to orient himself. "Are you awake now?" She asked.

"Lady Io?" He shot up and groaned.

"You alright there Ninja? Found you outside in the alleyway. Were you coming to tell me you'd reconsidered?" She asked smiling.

"Alleyway?" He frowned. "Where am I?"

"My bedroom." Io laughed as he jerked around noticing his things.

"I apologize for the inconvenience." He said as he stood up to yank on his pants.

"All is well, staring at you naked for a while is hardly an inconvenience." She chuckled.

"You're a crass woman Lady Io." He chuckled.

"Indeed, off so soon?" She tilted her head. "Sit. it's barely dawn."

"I couldn't." He said as he lifted his shirt and tugged it on, she sighed at the loss of those abs. Perhaps she could seduce him, it had been a while since she was interested in something. She allowed her silken robe to roll off of one shoulder. She walked over to the table where her tea pot sat seeping tea.

"Here, it'll chase that chill away." She said pouring him a cup. As she turned around his eyes shifted up from gazing at her shoulder. She smirked.

He stepped forward and took the cup. But his eyes lingered on hers. He turned and lowered his mask to drink, when he turned back it was in place once more. She sighed at the loss. She sipped her cup and inhaled its scent. A rough hand covered her shoulder gently. She shivered at how warm his hand was. He set his own cup down under her stump and his dark voice was just behind her. "Thank you, for helping me out." He said. "You didn't have to."

"But who would refuse me if you weren't around to do so?" She asked. He stiffened and his hand fell away. She looked back and gazed into his hazel eyes. "I usually have men beg me, or curse me for my lost arm. But you Black Raven Jin, you look at me as if you could ravage me for days. Then you tell me no. How odd."

He looked as if he were going to say something and she smiled, she reached into her small tin she pulled out a small red ribbon. "This is a free pass, exclusive to me. One time and one time only Jin. After that it's up to you if you return." She settled the ribbon in his hands. "You should come visit me, it's been months since I last entertained, I ache for touch. Especially touch so strong."

He shivered visibly, oh he wasn't used to lewd talk. How delightful, she enjoyed the power it gave her. She looked down to where his cock would be, she really was disappointed that she hadn't looked earlier. His gloved fingers curled around the ribbon and he stepped forward, his free hand coming up to cover the end of her stump. She hissed and moved to jerk away, only his eyes froze her. "This doesn't make you a cripple Lady Io, I don't see the loss of your arm. I refuse you because I don't want to pay you for service. I want you to want sex."

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It has to be more than an act for me."

Her eyes widened, surely he didnt think... Io only took men who appealed to her. It was purely on her desires, it was always real for her. "Perhaps you misunderstand Jin." She leaned up and pressed her face next to his ear. Every hard inch of him pressed against her. "Thats what the ribbon is for."

She leaned back and walked away she unlatched the window and picked up her pipe, she smacked it twice and pinched a bit of herbs to press within the pipe. She lifted it and then lit the center. She looked back at Jin and waved, "Off you go, I have to sleep before I can function later."

He stared at her for a moment longer. Then he came forward and looked down at her, the intensity of his stare drew color to her cheeks. Then he was gone, out the window and up on the opposite roof. She looked after that enigmatic ninja and smirked. She hoped he would return, she could use a distraction.

Chapter 5: Longing

Jin was watching the younger ninjas as they trained with his father and brother. He was perched on the mat above the training room. His bare feet brushed the polished wood floorings. His fingers were twined with the red ribbon as he cooled down from his earlier training session. Behind him his mother was stitching a small cut together. His mother was feared for her skills within their clan. Today she was dressed in a pale blue kimono, loosely tied, her leather armor beneath it spoke of her own training. "Ah, an invite from the Houses of flesh eh?" She mused. His mother was once a working woman, trained as a black widow. Until his father visited and decided he was going to marry her. He bought her from her master and she'd been a Black Raven since. "Careful, they might want to drain you dry."

"As they should!" Rin walked over and plopped himself next to them. "Drain you until you pass out."

"Shut up." Jin rubbed his face and his father plucked the ribbon from his hand as he approached. The students continued their training with one another for a few moments.

"Smells like the House of Euphoria." Dai said as he looked it over. "I've never seen a red one before, tons of other kinds though."

"Sakura's ribbon is pink, is this from Lady Io?" Rin asked.

"Oh, how precious." His mother sighed. "The ninja and the cripple, that sounds like a song."

"Lady Io is a rough woman," Dai said and handed the ribbon back to Jin. "I didn't think that was your type son."

"She's not, gods, lay off all of you." Jin rubbed his face annoyed.

"Oh, but Jin a woman like Lady Io deserves respect, she'd very...worldly as I've heard." His mother said as she started to bandage his minor wound.

"You irritate me, I'm not going, that's all." He huffed and jerked up to stand.

"Why not? Lady Io is unrivaled as I've heard it. You couldn't find a better whore." Rin called.

"She's not-" Jin glared at his family. They meant well, but they were raised like this, they knew station, they knew their places. Jin just didn't see Lady Io that way. She carried herself with the elegance of a royal, and the violence of a ninja. But she was sultry, sexy, alluring like a whore. But she was compassionate like a commoner. He respected that. "She's more than just a whore."

With that he stalked off and into the main portion of the manor. He walked along the wooden floors until he came to the inner rooms. He found his room and slid the rice paper door open. Once inside he looked at the ribbon in his hand. He had a chance to see if Lady Io was as perfect as rumored. She never took clients so it wasn't like he'd be taking left overs. She was known for being selective, her last customer had been months ago. Perhaps he could persuade her away from her station. He shook his head and rubbed the bridge of his nose. He was getting ahead of himself.

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Io was sitting in the middle of the main room. They were closed for a few hours. Her meditative stance was broken when she felt a few of the girls move around her and place candles in strategic places around her. She listened until the girls moved off and away. Sakura came up next and set the small short katana before her. She felt the blind fold wrap around her head twice and she let Sakura finish. She tapped Io's arm and walked away. Slowly, Io lifted the sword, the rope wrapped around her arm and she tugged the sheathe off of the blade. She whirled the blade out.

Instead of taking an offensive as she had so long ago, she kept the blade relatively close, all defense around her in a spiral. The sword was used to maintain a protective place at her side. She swept out one of her legs as she twirled the sword. She swept candles out as she trained, her blade slicing the wicks of others. She moved in a crane swirl, her missing arm altering the basic form. she slid down her legs bent and braced for movement. With a practiced movement she sheathed the sword with her single hand. Tugging down her blind fold she came face to face with only one candle still lit. The farthest on her right side. She snarled and stomped over kicking the candle childishly.

"Thats no way to set an example Io." Sakura hissed. Io looked over and gave them an enraged look.

"Shut up." Io glared at the offending candle and gripped the end of her stump. "I cant get that last candle no matter what I do."

"It's only a matter of-" Sakura started.

"Time?!" Io looked at her best friend and glared in dark anger. "All I have is time! I'm never going to get that candle, I'll always have this weak spot, I will always be a vulnerability!"

She twisted and stomped off, her eyes shut with anger as she walked. She made it to her room before she sank to her knees and clutched her stump closer to her body. It was one thing to fake having an arm when she went out, but to be constantly reminded of her weakness. It was too much for her. Tears streamed down her face as she stared at the arm. She never regretted losing it, she was glad to have honored her goal, to have upheld her word. But now, years later, seeing the stump, the disgusted looks men gave her when they saw the scars that leeches up her upper arm. The bandages she wrapped around it werent enough. She sighed and rubbed her face angrily. She wasnt weak, it was just a small thing she needed to over correct. Stripping as she walked she entered her bathing room. It was behind her dressing room and it was small. She needed a few moments to relax. But her eyes caught the small scrap of black Black Raven Jin had left behind. It was a piece of his hood, she'd found it in her bed after he'd vanished.

She lifted it and smiled, he certainly was the only man that hadnt looked at her with revulsion yet. She sighed, she missed the days when all her worries wereof her clan. When she was focused on training, missions, being the best of the best. Now she was maintaining a whore house. Lusting after a man who was living the life she was unable to anymore. She shed her clothing and set herself at the bench where the water basin was. She set about washing herself first. She decided she wasnt going to mope about her shortcomings. She was going to take the hand delt to her, ignore Sakura's over bearing attempts to coddle her. And be who she wanted to be.

The first thing she wanted to do with her new lease on life, was to seduce one Kazuma Jin.

Chapter 6: Secret Rendezvous

It was in the market that Jin saw Lady Io again. She was flanked by two male guards from the House of Euphoria. She smiled at them as they held her things. He had to force himself not to approach, even if she wasn't swathed in her Madam kimono. She wore a plain violet kimono that hung down to her ankles. Her hair was knotted simply and she wore elegant makeup. She was beautiful anytime he saw her. So he sat in the tree that overlooked the entire market and watched her. She selected fruits and vegetables with ease. Rice bundles were lifted by the bigger man. The rest carried by the other one. She turned to them and waved a hand. They seemed annoyed by her wave off but complied nevertheless. Jin was amused, sometimes he wondered who her partner was. It always seemed like Lady Io was in complete control of the entire brothel.

Then she approached his tree, she settled underneath it and looked up at him. "Hello again Jin." She smiled.

"Lady Io." He greeted even as he smiled.

"It's a bit creepy to spy in the market." She mused.

"Spy?" He looked down. "I'm on patrol."

"I see, well have you heard the rumor yet? Seems an strange clan ninja's have been seen protecting the innocents in town." She looked up with delight. "How funny so many clans to protect the area, and now look."

"If they protect the innocent I have no quarrel with them, but they should at least become one of the Clans here. Vigilante work is pointless." Jin looked down and finally dropped beside her. "They could get killed or arrested."

"I see," Lady Io looked at him oddly, "So only the Clans can help, is that how the rest of your clan see it?"

"My father respects other Clans, even new ones." But they cannot hope to survive without the help of the others." He settled next to her and looked up. "Once my father looked the other way to a lost letter, and the next thing we knew our long time allies were decimated by our own Emperor."

"Emperor Jing?" Lady Io asked. "Empress Hana's brother?"

"Yes, we lost our allies and they assassinated the Emperor. Had there been trust and better relations we might have prevented their exile. I was supposed to marry one of their princesses." He smiled sadly. "But that was years ago. And the scar is still upon the Black Raven Clan."

"This outside clan, what were they called?" Lady Io asked.

"The Jade Clan." Jin supplied, she looked away with a sad smile.

"Our emperor really did cut off a limb didn't he?" She stood up and ran her fingers down his face. "I think your former bride might have been pleased. However, her loss is my gain."

She winked and walked away from him. He watched her go, and smiled stupidly.

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Io stalked the alleyways as she approached the House of Euphoria. But she passed a window just as she heard voices. "Is it time yet?" The voice asked.

She paused as she recognized that female lilt, but from where. "No, but we are close. The clan is ready, we just need to get the Black ravens out of the way."

"They are a people clan, we should go after the Golden Dragons, closer to the Empress." A third voice huffed.

"No, it has to be the Black Ravens." The first ever so familiar voice laughed. "They deserve everything they get."

"So tonight?" The second voice asked.

"Tonight." The third confirmed. "You have my word as a Silver Monkey."

Io's hand flew up to her mouth in shock. As she did she knocked a clay pot right off the sill. She was barely scrambling up the wall adjacent to her and flattening herself on the roof when she heard them spill out into the alleyway from the window. She managed to roll to the other side there she promptly lost her balance as she tried to use her stump to catch the edge and fell off. She landed directly atop another Ninja. Swathed in black she recognized him instantly. It was the Eldest son of the Black Ravens. Rin.

She stood up and immediately reigned in her rage. She jerked her under mask up over her mouth and glared. "What are you doing here Black Raven?" She snapped.

"Who the hell are you?" He jerked up, depositing her roughly. She jerked up and hissed as she realized she wasn't wearing a prosthetic arm. Fuck. He narrowed his eyes on her. "You!"

Io then realized her hair had spilled from its pins and she now looked completely like her normal self. Her careful guise of an off duty geisha ruined. She looked like the ninja she was hidden inside. She swept one hand up and smashed his jaw shut. Then she kicked him the abdomen. She jerked his jaw towards her, "You didn't see me."

"Traitor." He growled.

"Traitor eh?" She snorted. "Foolish little boy."

"Dai wants to meet with you, but I think you should be beheaded." Rin growled.

"And who would do it?" She smirked under her mask. "You?"

"I cut off your arm didn't I?" He asked. She punched him in the face again.

"You couldn't kill me if you tried." She sneered in his face. "Now run along like a good little dog."

He whipped around ready to hit her, she jerked back and to the side, that's when he took advantage of her awful blind spot. He gripped her arm above where it had been severed. With a practiced step he moved behind her and wrenched her stumped arm back. She cried out as it spasmed with phantom pains and joint ache. Enraged she struggled. "How hard could it be to catch one little cripple?"

She dropped to the ground and slid underneath his legs she came up with a knife in her hand and his neck underneath it. She brushed her lips against his ear. "Extremely." She kicked him and as he hit the ground she

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lunged for him, smashing the knife in hit tunic, leaving him stuch against the ground.

She turned and walked away, last moment she turned to look at his embarassed and upset face. She smirked, anjoying his suffering if only for a bit. Then she decided to takie pity and answer his earlier statement. "Your father doesnt need an audience with me. We've already met. The usual time at the usual place."

Chapter 7: Set Up

Jin didn't know what he was doing as he approached the House of Euphoria. First he was clutching the little red ribbon in his hand. The second he was in full Ninja gear. Even if it was his night off. He clapped his hands and sighed. He was at a brothel, for sex. He could do this, he wasn't paying for it. Lady Io was interested in him enough to give him the ribbon. He walked into the brothel and frowned when a younger Mistress walked up. Her name... He was sure was Fuuka. "Master Black Raven, what brings you here this evening."

He held out his ribbon and she gasped with awe. "I'm sorry, but Lady Io is not in tonight." She said. He frowned.

"Not in?" He asked. Where could she be, she had already gone to the market today.

"No sir, we expect her back around dawn." The girl said and turned. "There are many other girls if you wish."

"No, thank you." He bowed to her slightly and turned on his heel. Where had she gone. He frowned as he saw a group of his clansmen on the roof in front of the house. He climbed up as well and stood among them. "What goes on here?" He asked.

"Ko is calling for us over near the palace walls." One informed him. Jin nodded.

"Well then, let's go help our brother."

Io was perched on the roof of the palace as she looked down. Sakura was inside speaking to the Empress. She looked out her hair flying from its tie at the crown of her head. The two of them were enough for what was coming. The information she had heard earlier was enough to lead them here. If anyone was trying to take out a clan family, to do it would need to be here where the Empress resided.

Io's eyes landed on a wall across the courtyard where three ninjas snuck in. Led by a woman. Her eyes narrowed as she slipped down onto the balcony motioning for Sakura to join her. They jumped off of the balcony and jumped from tree to tree in silence as they approached the small group of ninjas. As Io drew close she saw the Black Raven insignia on their arms. She followed Sakura filling the area where her blind spot was. "What do we do?" Sakura asked.

"Stop them from whatever they are trying to do." Io whispered back. The Empress only knew that they had come to protect her from any dangers this night. She was the only person that had allowed them into the city, knew of their truths. The Empress trusted them all implicitly. Io's eyes narrowed as a councilman walked out, a man who had decided ninjas were too dangerous and was currently trying to get the rest of the council to petition the Empress for expulsion.

The three ninjas descended on him and Io cursed shifting and launching herself out of the trees. Her blade in her hand instantly. She lunged into the fray and stabbed the first ninja hastily. Sakura landed on the other one. Io turned to the woman and frowned when she found her backing up hastily. Just then ten Black Ravens descended around them. Then a huge Ring of Silver Monkeys appeared around the surrounding roof tops. Just as the Empress's army rounded the corner the Empress was in the lead. Io cursed again and yanked Sakura to her side. "What goes on here?" The Empress asked.

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"The Black Ravens attacked Councilman Han." A Silver monkey said. He stepped forward and Io's eyes widened as she recognized the voice. It was their leader, Kyosuke. She jerked Sakura to the space behind her and the Empress turned to see the bodies. They were garbed in the Black Raven standard, and bore the insignia. Councilman Han jerked to his feet hands covering a gash in his arm. She looked at him and he stepped forward.

"These two Konoichi saved me." he said. "These traitorous Black Ravens deserve to be executed."

"I agree, call the guard to capture any Black Ravens spotted in the city. Apprehend these Ninja." The Empress said just as she nodded to Io. Two smoke bombs later Io called out to the Black Ravens.

"If you want to escape alive follow me." Io shouted and pointed to a body. "Grab that Sakura."

They fled the ten Black Ravens following Io. She led them right out into another group of Ravens and they all descended down into the sewers.

Jin was confused when his entire group had been waylaid by a single ninja. He led them towards the place of safety. He said. That they had been set up and the Black Ninja's were in danger. They were running through the sewers when they exited the walls right into the main forest. He noticed more and more of their forces fleeing with similarly garbed Ninja leading the way. He stopped as they came to an old house. Outside was a cypress pond and on the garden bench sat their leader and another Ninja. Dai was garbed for war but he looked aggravated. "Father!" Jin rushed over only to have the oddly dressed Ninja jump before him.

"It's okay Jin." He said. "This is Kyoko of the Jade Clan."

"Traitor!" Rin rushed forward his finger pointed. "It's because of you! You did this."

"On the contrary fool, I just saved you all from execution." She tilted her head back mask obscuring the lower half of her face. "The Silver Monkeys have allied with an outside force. And orchestrated the attack and attempted assassination of Councilman Ho. Mituski and I managed to save him, but at the time your forces were called to the palace. The Silver Monkeys claim it was your clan. But now, I have evidence to clear your name."

"Why would you do that?" Another Ninja asked. She blinked and turned away.

"Why would a traitor want to help us?" Rin sneered. She pointed at him and lunged. Her body dropping into an impressive display as she swept out a leg and caught him in the jaw. He flew back with the force of it.

"I've had enough of you you bastard." She snapped and brandished her blade. She turned and looked at the rest of them. "Does anyone else want to look the gift horse in the mouth?"

"After our last encounter, you have to understand, were a little confused about you helping us." Jin said, He was a little confused about a lot of his. His father didn't expect him to marry her now did he?

"You young foolish boy." She patted his face and walked back to the bench. Her arm seemed fine for being severed off. They must have healed it. "I can take five of your best Ninja with me Dai, I can hide them in a place no one would dare look. Until it is time to capture the one responsible for the framing."

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"Take Jin, Rin, Ko, Rai, and Nae." Dai said and looked at her. "I apologize for the years of suffering you have endured. Had we been more vigilant you may not have lost your whole clan."

"Indeed." She tilted her head. "Suki!"

The other Ninja walked out of the house carrying a small bag. "Lead them to the House of Euphoria, there they can hide in peace."

"Yes." She turned and walked towards the other ninja. She waved for the ones that would follow her. Dai looked out at the rest of the group. "Make yourselves useful and create a perimeter. Come Kyoko, let's go inside and discuss things."

They entered the house and Jin looked at his father being followed by the woman who was more notorious than anyone else.

Chapter 8: Clan Leaders

Io lounged against the sliding door of the villa. With reluctance she lowered her mask and looked at Dai. It had been a long time since Daiskue had met with her. The last time she'd demanded the head of the ninja who's taken her arm. He'd shown her mercy, had offered her people safety and funds to start life anew. She owed him much, but she would repay, with celaring his clan's name. She looked up ad smiled as his wife sat a bottle of sake down on a tray. "So Lady Kyoko, what can I expect, willmy sons die?"

"If I had my way only Rin would." Io smiled darkly and Dai chuckled.

"Hard to believe he was once your betrothed." Dai said, she sneered annoyed.

"Yes, could you imagine a Mistress like me married to the man who took my arm." She touched the prosthetic. "I'd kill him in two days."

"Perhaps you would like Jin." Dai smiled. "He's a powerful Ninja, obeys commands and leads better than I do."

"Jin would be a good edition if I thought he'd marry a cripple." Io sighed. "Enough, I dont need to marry to solidify my clans standing with yours. We will merge after I prove your clan is innocent."

"As is planned." Dai rubbed his face. "I trust you Kyoko, as I should have so long ago. I cost you so much, by my ignorance."

"As long as my subordinates have protection and safety, I will forgive and forget." Io lifted the small cup and rose it. "To the future."

"The future." Dai and his wife mirrored and they all drank.

Io was redressing when Sakura slammed into her rooms. "What were you thinking, I barely made it away before Jin started demanding to know where the Ninja's went. I told him we had protection and spoke to Kyoko. Theyre upset, come fix this. It was your idea."

"Easy love." Io smiled softly and touched her face. She swept her hair up into it's easy flowing design. She applied a soft spatter of makeup and stood up. She walked from the room with a grace she hadnt possessed in a while. She stood at the balcony and looked down at the ninjas in the center of her brothel. She waved to her girls and a few surrounded her. "Make sure they are comfortable, but hidden. Take all the things that distinguish them as ninja. There cant be any in this district."

"Lady Io." Jin called up and she grinned.

"Are you the leader tonight Jin?" She asked.

"Yes." He nodded.

"Well then, I will need you to remove all evidence of your ninja gear. Hide it, and become clients, or even whores. Hide in plain sight. Our mutual friend will come later and discuss business with you." Io said. "Until then you are all welcome to seek solace with my girls. My home is yours, but be warned, they are deadlier

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than they look."

As she turned she smiled, Jin had leapt up and was standing next to her. "I uh, I came earlier but you were out."

"Yes, Sakura and I met with Kyoko before she went out. She said she had a lead and was following it. Then Sakura came and told me Mitsuki was here with you. Kyoko came after and informed me of the other things." Io smiled and leaned closer. "So you came to see me?"

He looked away and huffed before nodding. She grinned and waved a hand. "Well then." She looped her arm around his and tugged him down to her suite. Inside she settled the doors closed. "You will stay here, where no one dares to come."

"I'm sure I can-" He turned and she jerked him over to her. Her arm sliding around his waist.

"Here you're safe, us leaders need to stick together." She smiled. He looked down and her hand lifted she smoothed her fingers over his mask. "Can I?"

He covered her fingers with his gloved ones and he backed up. At the table he gripped the edges and unclipped the harness holding his sword to his back. It hit the floor and she watched as he unearthed weapon after weapon. He set a small blade on the table beside her bed and looked back at her. He tugged his hood down and she smiled as she saw the short cropped black hair. He lifted his shirt and tugged the mask off. She felt her eyes widen at the sight of his bare face. He had a small black goatee that coated his chin. Across the left side of his face a scar slid down his cheek and over his lips. His dark eyes sank into her and she moved across the room to him. Her hand lifted tracing the scar. He exhaled shakily and she stepped back.

She settled on the bed and looked over the myriad of scars on his chest and arms. She'd seen them before, but now she slid the edge of her kimono over revealing the bandages she kept wrapped around her stump. "I'll let you look, but only because you let me see your face." She said and tugged the bandages loose. They fell away and she looked away from the stump, it was mottled with the burn scars from where she'd been cauterized. The rest were scars from when it had gotten infected, and when she had tried to stab herself. Angry with the state of her injury she'd attacked herself with a throwing knife. Jin stepped forward and his hands smoothed over the angry scars.

"You're the most beautiful woman I've ever seen." He said and she looked up to find their faces closer than they had ever been. Before he could shut her out again she surged up, connecting them in a kiss. She grinned as he deepened the kiss. One hand sliding to her neck to tilt her for the perfect angle. Oh yes she was right about Kazuma Jin

Chapter 9: Passion

Jin looked down at Io's body laid back on her circular bed. The plush luxury of it reminded him of the other night when he had awoken inside it. Stripped of all but his mask and pants. She had looked at his body then, and now she was seeing his face. Their lips parted and he looked down at her. "Dont run away Jin." She breathed. "I want to feel like a woman again."

His eyes darkened and he lifted her up, he tugged the obi she wore loose and her kimono fell open. The small sash around her waist was the only thing keeping it all together. She smiled at him and took his hand. She led him back to the bed and he pulled the sash from her waist. "You can tie all these yourself?" He asked.

"I can manage on my own. But to look splendid I ask Fuuka to tie them for me. She is the best at it, she was a geisha before this." Io said, a real one. He touched her face and inhaled he closed his eyes and she waited. He needed this moment, focusing on her heartbeat, her scent, the core of her being was before his minds eye. He wanted to know Io in every sense of the word. He heard her heart speed up, then slow it matched his own heartbeat and he opened his eyes to look at her. There was somethign different about the way her eyes were watching him. She took the kimono in her hand and flung it open. She was bare before his eyes. Her breasts were rosy tipped, large enough to fill his hands. She was creamy white, muscled, but soft. Her hair fanned out over the bed .

He lifted her enough to pull the kimono away. He discarded it to the floor and kicked off his pants. He watched those darkened eyes look down his torso to where he was hard as steel for her. Had been since the moment he'd met her. He settled one knee on the bed and leaned close to her. Their lips smashed together with a fervor. Heat pooled in his abdomen as he moved lower. His mouth closed over her neck and she let out a small puff of air. Her single hand came up to grip his bicep and he grinned. He licked over her pulse point and marvelled that she was calm, excited but calm. He moved lower again, leaving open mouthed kisses down her collar to her breasts. He kneaded them and leaned forward, licking over the dusky nipples before nipping them softly. That got him a gasp, and her back shifted slightly.

Jin moved lower his hand smoothing down her flat stomach, and he kissed her just above her belly button. Her legs lifted crooking open invitingly. He smirked when he looked up at her. She reflected his smirk with one of her own. Gods she was his match. He looked down where the most intimate part of her lay, she glistened with desire and the rational part of his mind shorted out. He slid one finger down her center, barly touching the glistening folds. The sound she let out was filled with need and desperation. Had it been a long time for her too? He slid his fingers to either side of her dripping core and opened her so he could she the pink of her inside. He growled and shifted forward, he tongue swept over the exposed glistening center. Her head flung back and her moan was delicious. He speared her with his tongue. Her back shot up and her hips bucked. He grinned and slid one hand up to hold her down, the other curled around one of her thighs. He slipped it over his shoulder and almost groaned at how great it felt to feel her soft skin on his. He moved those fingers down to her soaking lips and sank two inside her.

Those feminine walls clenched his fingers and he used his thumb to seek out her clit. He spied the hidden ball of flesh and licked over it slowly, before he flicked it with his tongue. She jerked softly, her soft cry of pleasure was music to his ears. He crooked his fingers, seeking the secret spot inside her she hid so well. As he stretched his fingers inside her and tilted them up she let out a cry. He slipped his fingers from her and lifted them to his mouth, he licked them and shivered at the taste of woman and pleasure.

He felt her leg slide from his shoulder to his hip where she urged him closer. He crawled to her, their lips connecting in a heated rush. He shifted his hips and filled her with one smooth thrust. The soft soaking center of her encompassed him and his head fell to her shoulder with a rough grunt. Her hand came up to his

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shoulder and her hips lifted taking him in deeper. "Io," He panted as he lifted, he took her hand in his and pressed it to the bed and entangled their fingers together. His other hand sat on the bed for leverage. He swiveled his hips and she gasped.

"Jin-" She hissed and he smirked. He thrust forward and watched as her eyes widened before they closed all together. He focused his attention on keeping himself from coming like a teenager. He moved within her, realizing the slide of her walls was perhaps his favorite thing about this. With every thrust her cries of pleasure rang out, utterly real, nothing like a working woman's. Her eyes screwed shut as her fingers gripped his. She moved her hips up again and began to meet his thrusts with her own. He cursed and moved harder, slightly faster. She arched suddenly her eyes flying open and a strangled moan coming from her. He'd found it again. He smiled and concentrated his hips in the same direction, relentlessly hitting that spot inside her that made her crazy. All at once her inner core constricted around him. He groaned as he felt her flutter against him, her body arched and she let out a pure cry of bliss.

With her gripping him so tightly as she came it forced his orgasm, hearing her, feeling her. It shook him to his soul and as he emptied inside her, he felt empty of himself and full of her. He caught his weight on his arms and lowered to her. Her free hand stroked his back sheened with sweat. "Jin, I'm insulted you didn't come to me the first day we met, we could have been doing this all this time." She snapped.

He laughed then, and rolled from her, he tugged her against him and looked up at the canopy above her bed. "I agree." He breathed. "Thank you Io."

"You should call me by my real name Jin." She said and sat up, she stretched and stood up. "Since you know me so well now, I suppose you can know the truth."

"What truth?" Jin asked. He frowned as she slid a robe over her shoulders and lifted her pipe to smoke. She pointed to a bottle of sake on the table.

"My name Jin, is Kyoko."

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