





岸本斉史

Greetings. With everyone's support, my first comic has been published. I'm ecstatic. Speaking of ecstatic, the first time I won an award for one of my manga, I was so happy I was flying high. But this time is 10 times better than that. I don't know how to say it, but this is the happiest moment of my life. But I guess I'm happiest knowing that this comic will be read and enjoyed. Yup, that's it!

—Masashi Kishimoto, 2000



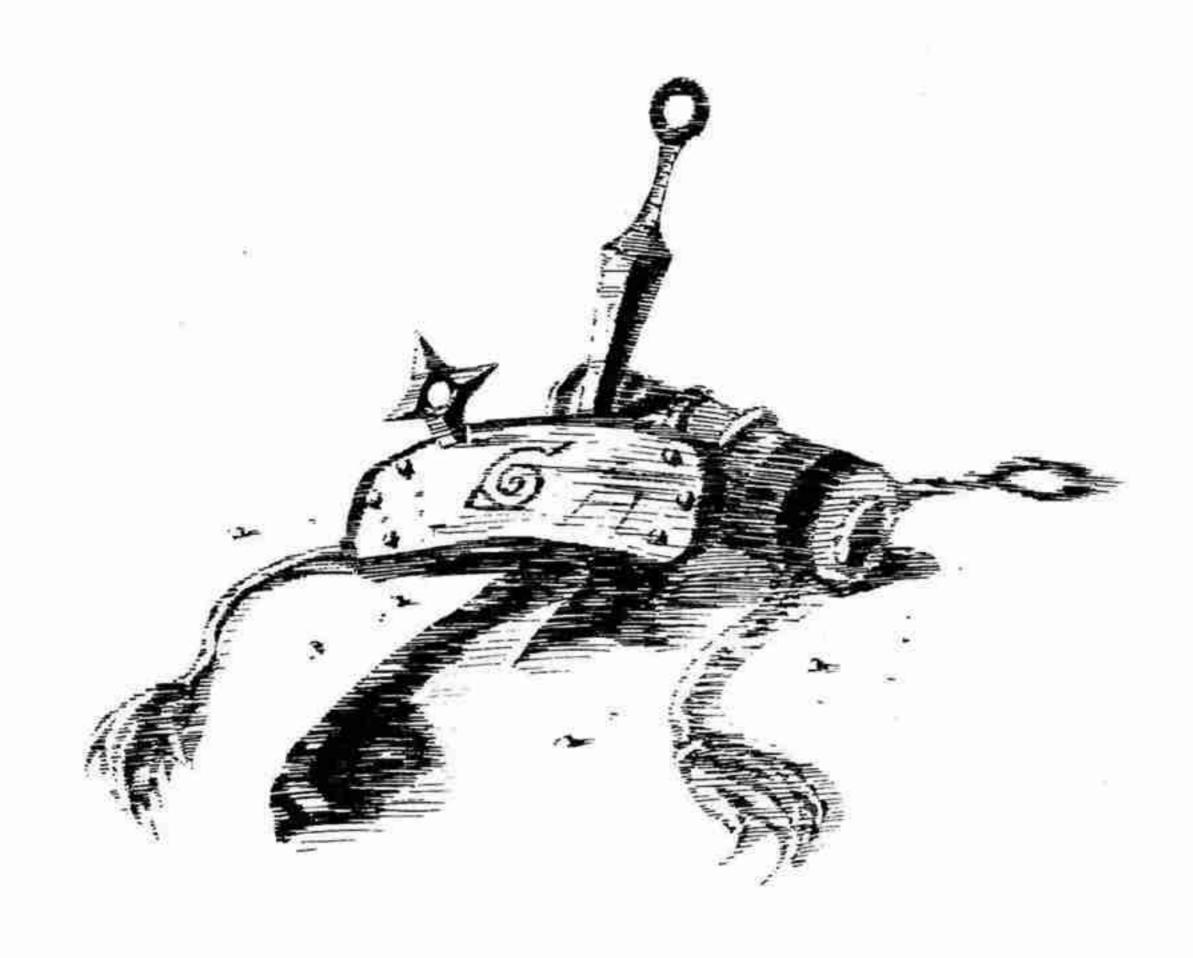
Author/artist Masashi Kishimoto was born in 1974 in rural Okayama Prefecture, Japan. After spending time in art college, he won the Hop Step Award for new manga artists with his manga **Karakuri** ("mechanism"). Kishimoto decided to base his next story on traditional Japanese culture. His first version 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.







THE TESTS OF THE NINJA



STORY AND ART BY

MASASHI KISHIMOTO



NARUTO

VOL. 1 THE TESTS OF THE NINJA

CONTENTS



NUMBERI	UZUMAKI NARUTO!	5
NUMBER 2	KONOHAMARU	61
NUMBER 3	ENTER SASUKE!	85
NUMBER 4	HATAKE KAKASHI!	109
NUMBER 5	PRIDE GOETH BEFORE & FALL	129
NUMBER 6	NOT SASUKE!	149
NUMBER 7	KAKASHI'S DECISION	169
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THE SUFFERING PEOPLE GATHERED
THE GREAT SHINOBI CLANS TO FIGHT THIS MENACE.
FINALLY, RISKING HIS LIFE, ONE NINJA
WAS ABLE TO IMPRISON ITS SOUL.

HAVING DEFEATED THE DEMON, THE BRAVE SHINOBI DIED.

THAT SHINOBI WAS THE FOURTH HOKAGE, THE FIRE SHADOW, CHAMPION OF THE VILLAGE HIDDEN IN THE LEAVES...

