

Katsuki Junko/勝木盾子



Appearance c. 1984

Debuting in 1964, the first Japanese superhero was the self-proclaimed "scientific ninja" known by his alias of **Jiraiya**, after the famous ninja of folklore. And three years into his journey, Jiraiya found himself (somewhat reluctantly) saddled with a partner, who naturally took the alias Tsunade as she fought by his side. Looking back on those days, many years later, Katsuki Junko preferred to remember the good times, and was laughingly grateful that they never ran into anyone who insisted on being called Orochimaru. When asked whether her relationship with Jiraiya had been romantic as well as professional, she gently tapped Jude on the head with a spoon and replied that a lady never answered questions like that.

Her career as the first Japanese superheroine began in her early twenties, after Junko received training from the same man who had trained Kageyama Sarutobi: the mad scientist known only as Professor Chi. The professor claimed to have stripped the various esoteric techniques employed by generations of would-be martial artists of their superstitious dross, leaving only practical methods that anyone could use. Despite this, he trained only two students in his methods, and they would both pay a steep price for their power, though they would not learn that until after the professor died, in 1968.

Access to his notes painted a clearer portrait of what he had done to them and began to drive a wedge between the two heroes. Between these revelations and the cataclysm in Vietnam, Sarutobi began to increasingly reject the materialist and technological society that had produced him in favor of more traditional approaches to the martial arts and life in general. While Junko sympathized with such goals, she was unable to fully embrace them. Therefore, the two parted with a fair amount of acrimony in 1974, with Sarutobi beginning to lay the foundations for what he would call **the Shadow School**, and Junko departing for the United States.

Little is known of her life between her arrival in America and her meeting with **the Scavengers**, three years later. At some point in that time, she learned the horrific cost of the abilities she had mastered -- they caused her to age much more rapidly than she should. By the time she began teaching David, Jude and Joshua, she resembled a woman in her early forties, ten years older than her actual age. (Sarutobi suffered from the same affliction, which would ultimately kill him in 1992.) For this reason, as much as her lack of access to the tools used in her training, she did not instruct the Scavengers in these techniques.

Generally, during the adventures of her students, Junko remained behind and offered only counsel and advice to them. She encouraged David to become a worthy leader to his brothers, laughed at the pranks Jude pulled though never at the prankster, and tried to soften the sharp edges of Joshua. She was pleased when they began to make other human friends, such as **Julie Martens**, since she feared what would happen when her death left them alone in the world. She did not think of herself as their mother, exactly, and found the "Little Mother" name she was saddled with to be somewhat irksome, particularly after she found out what inspired it. But she was always their biggest fan.

Ultimately, in the name of saving her life, the Scavengers left Earth behind in 1991, by which point she looked like a woman in her seventies. If their fate is something of a mystery, hers is even more so. It may be that what was done to her was repaired, and even reversed, through the miracles of **Technate** medicine. But perhaps it was too late, and her ashes now rest in an urn somewhere on some alien world.

Katsuki Junko -- PL 8

Abilities:

STR 1 | STA 1 | AGL 3 | DEX 4 | FGT 6 | INT 1 | AWE 6 | PRE 1

Powers:

Abundant Step: Leaping 3 (60 feet); Movement 1 (trackless) - 5 points

Chi Mastery: Array (8 points)

- **Flurry of Blows:** Selective Burst Area Damage 4, Tiring - 8 points
- **Nerve Strike:** Cumulative Affliction 8 (Resisted and Overcome by Fortitude; Dazed, Stunned, Paralyzed), Tiring - 1 point
- **Restoration:** Healing 8, Tiring - 1 point

Advantages:

Assessment, Chokehold, Defensive Attack, Defensive Roll, Evasion, Fast Grab, Grabbing Finesse, Improved Disarm, Improved Grab, Improved Hold, Improved Initiative, Improvised Tools, Improvised Weapon, Prone Fighting, Tracking, Trance, Uncanny Dodge, Weapon Bind, Well-informed.

Skills:

Acrobatics 6 (+9), Athletics 6 (+7), Close Combat: Unarmed 2 (+8), Deception 8 (+9), Expertise: Philosophy 8 (+9), Insight 5 (+11), Perception 4 (+10), Persuasion 7 (+8), Sleight of Hand 6 (+10), Stealth 6 (+9), Treatment 6 (+7).

Offense:

Initiative +7

Unarmed or Improvised Weapon +8 (Close Damage 3 or more)

Flurry of Blows -- (Close Burst Area Damage 4)

Nerve Strike +8 (Close Fortitude 8)

Defenses:

Dodge 5, Parry 6, Fortitude 3, Toughness 3/1, Will 11

Totals:

Abilities 46 + Powers 15 + Advantages 19 + Skills 32 + Defenses 9 = 120 points

Offensive PL: 8

Defensive PL: 5

Resistance PL: 7

Skill PL: 6

Complications:

Responsibility--Motivation. Family (the Scavengers.) **Prejudice** (homeless.) **Rapid Aging.**

*Note: This represents Junko in the late 70s and early 80s. A decade earlier, while active as Tsunade, she was PL 9, her AGL, DEX and FGT were two ranks higher, she had Close Attack 2 instead of Close Combat: Unarmed, had Ranged Attack: Thrown 4 (+10) and the advantage Non-lethal Tactics, the abilities of her Chi Mastery did not have the Tiring limitation, and she carried an Equipment package identical to that used by **Kiyohime**. By the early nineties, she was in significantly worse condition than this; reduce all physical abilities and FGT by 2.*

Update 2021: **Captain Mystic** recently confirmed in an interview with **Argus** that Junko responded favorably to treatment on Muraddin, that her physical age was now younger than her chronological age, and that she has continued to mentor the Scavengers and their offspring, as well as **others**. She did *not* tell the agency that Junko asked her to discover the fate of the child born from her relationship with Sarutobi, whom she chose to give up for adoption and who is believed to have been the man who used the names Sakamoto Sasuke and Kobayashi Kotaro.



As Tsunade, c. 1967



Unmasked, c. 1967