

In the world of Twilight Town, a 29-year-old 6'3" tall muscular man, with reddish-blond hair and green eyes hiding behind a pair of shades, was walking down through the street as he was minding his own business. He wore shady-impressive clothes that consisted of a black leather jacket that was zipped halfway over his maroon shirt, a pair of dark navy blue jeans, black gloves with silver spiked knuckles, a silver skull pin adorned with garnet gem eyes on his jacket, and black combat boots with sharp spikes at the toe boxes. Xander, which was his name, noticed that most of the people in town were living their lives happily as if they didn't have a care in the world. He thought, *'Wow, for a world that's not affiliated neither with light nor darkness, this place is as cheerful as the other worlds affiliated with light. I wonder if Twilight Town would remain the same if I added in a little darkness to this place.'* Xander was a darkblader, a keyblader with an elemental affinity of darkness and a heart tied to that darkness. He had a specific goal in life and that goal was to bring darkness to every world affiliated with light in order to rule over them. The man kept walking through the market street until he reached the station plaza where the large train station was. He went inside through the glass door and went to the ticket booth where he took out his munny and showed it to the patron. Xander said to him, "I need a ticket to Traverse Town. Give it to me and you can have this munny."

The patron said, "Right, one ticket to Traverse Town coming right up." The man gave Xander the ticket and opened up the cash register to put Xander's munny in. The darkblader traded the munny for the ticket and head on over to the blue train that was on destination for Traverse Town. He went into the train and sat on an empty seat between an old lady and a young boy who was sitting next to his mother. Soon after ten minutes, the train's horn blew to signal that it was about to depart and all of its doors shut closed. The station's gate open and the train started to move out on the tracks to leave Twilight Town.

During the long time on the train, Xander had been silent; not bothering to speak to anybody at all. The snoring granny besides him had been sleeping for a while since he got inside the train and the little boy on the other side had never spoken a word until he saw the silver skull pin on Xander's black leather jacket. The boy took a fascinated interest in it and asked Xander, "Wow! That looks so cool, mister. Where'd you get it?!"

Xander shifted his eyes to the young lad and smirked as he replied in a husky sinister voice, "Heh, wouldn't you like to know? Sorry kid, I have no interest in satisfying your little curiosity. In fact, why don't you try finding one of these yourself?" The rare skull pin he got came from another world he went to once, where he had stolen it from a panther king, who pissed him off badly, after he murdered him.

The mother turned her head to look at her son and asked him sternly, "Tommy, are you talking to strangers again?"

The boy lied, "Uh... no!"

Xander said, "Heh! Don't lie, kid! Your mom knows what she heard, because we've been sitting right next to her."

The mother scolded her child, "Tommy, what did I tell you about lying to me? You know what? After we get off this train, you are not to play with your toys ever!"

"Ohh!" the boy groaned in response.

After many miles later, twilight had darkened into night and the train finally stopped at Traverse Town's station. The train's doors slid open to let Xander and the other passengers out of the train. The reddish-blond haired man walked past the people as he saw a sign on his way to the exit that said "Welcome to Traverse Town." He said to himself, "Traverse Town, eh? I wonder what that place is like?" Then he walked out the double doors of the train station and saw that the town's setting had a Victorian-age appearance to it with lights shining out of the windows of the buildings. Xander said with a plotting grin, "Well this place definitely ain't fancy as Twilight Town was, but maybe it could make up for that if I can find a clue about 'it'." Then he walked away from the train station.

At the same time, a royal blue-haired, amber-eyed woman in a black cloak was sitting on a wall nearby the train station with a stack of papers next to her. She was folding the papers into origami flowers. Sometimes she would make animals, but her favorite kind of origami was the flowers. A gust of wind blew away one of the flowers and made it flow gracefully through the air as the wind carried it over to Xander.

On his way, Xander saw the paper flower flying and landing right in front of him. "Eh, what's this?" he asked as he knelt down to pick up the flower origami. He held the flower as he stood upright again to look around for where it had come from. He found the source of the flower's origin when he saw the 23-year-old bluenette making some origami flowers. *'Ah so that's where it came from,'* Xander thought. Suddenly he sensed some kind of special power coming from that tranquil woman. Xander eyed her inquisitively and thought, *'Wait, is that darkness I'm sensing? This must be the pure and benevolent type. I like that kind of darkness, my personal favorite. It looks like this town does have something interesting after all. Let's see what's making this babe give off those vibes.'* Then he walked over to the woman and greeted her, "Hey there, what's your name, pretty lady?"

The woman looked up at Xander before finishing the flower she was working on. She said, "I could ask you the same question. I am Konan."

Xander said, "So your name is Konan, huh?" He thought it sounded like a nice name, but he didn't have the heart to compliment her on that this time. "The name's Xander!" he introduced himself.

Konan said, "Xander... Nice to meet you."

Xander showed the paper flower in his hand to her and asked, "So is making origamis like this like here one of your hobbies?"

"I guess you could call origami my hobby," said Konan as she finished making a paper crane. She held it out to him and said, "You may keep this. Consider it a welcome gift to Traverse Town."

Xander took the crane from her and looked at it for a bit as he said, "Thanks!" Usually, a small trinket like the crane wouldn't really impress him that much, but Konan made it look beautiful compared to the other origami artists. Xander put the crane in his pocket and looked back to Konan as he asked, "So tell me a little about yourself? How often do you hang around this train station?"

Konan answered, "I come here quite a bit. It's one of the places in town where I feel the most free."

The man asked, "Really, eh? What's it about this town that makes you feel free?"

The bluenette explained, "The train station is where other people come and go to or from other places. New people come, old people go, it is like being reborn in a way."

"How poetic," Xander replied to the way the woman said it. He asked, "So Konan, I guess you like meeting new people then, right?"

She shrugged and said, "I mostly just sit here and fold. I don't really talk to anyone." Konan took another sheet of paper and this time folded it into something other than a flower or an animal.

Xander said, "So you're one of the quiet types, huh?"

"That's right," said Konan before she finished making a paper keyblade.

Xander noticed the unique origami and thought, *'A keyblade this time, huh? This gives me an idea of taking this conversation to an interesting turn.'* Then he asked, "Hey Konan, how often do you use your keyblade?"

Konan said, "Not much, but only when I have to." She never ceased her folding of the papers during the entire conversation. She folded a new flower and took the blue one in her hair out before she replaced it with the new one. The previous one was getting worn down a bit after wearing it for a few days. She picked up another piece of paper and started folding.

"I see," said Xander. He wondered if Konan could be of some use to his plans. He'll have to test her in a fight first though. "Hey Konan, how about we get to know each other a little more in a match between us? I'm itching for a fight right now," he asked before he started summoning his keyblade called Death's Revenge. Mists of darkness shrouded his hand before taking shape to form a black keyblade with sharp blade-like edges and adorned with red gems.

Having nothing else to do, but fold papers into origami, Konan accepted the challenge and summoned her keyblade. Darkness appeared around her hand as well as a large piece of paper to fold itself into a

keyblade. "Sure. But here is no place to fight though. Follow me," she said before she led Xander away from the train station.

The muscular man followed after as he looked at her origami-like keyblade and thought, *'A paper keyblade to match her habits of making origami. How fitting.'* Konan led Xander into the first district before they went out through the huge double doors of the town's gates that lead to the outskirts of town. They walked through the woods until they came to a clearing with a wide open space. This was the perfect place for a spar. She looked at her opponent and held her keyblade up in a battle stance. Xander also got into a battle stance said with a cocky grin, "Alright, now we can get this party started!" Then they charged at each other.

Konan looked like she was about to attack, but she was actually going up for a spell to use on him. At the same time Xander was trying to swing at her, Konan cast her spell, "Mini!"

Xander never got to hit her as he shrunk down to one-third his size. He saw that the world around him had gotten bigger due to his new size changing his perspective. "Hey, she shrunk me!" he said in a high-pitch squeaky voice. But that didn't seem to bother him much as he said to her, "Heh, no matter, I still fight. No matter what small or big I am. I can find a way to use this small size to my advantage." Then he leapt at her like a grasshopper and spun himself around as his keyblade whirled along with him. He was using his Aerial Sweep attack at her.

Konan got hit and staggered back a bit. Fortunately, the attack hurt less than it would have done if Xander was at his full size. The bluenette pointed her keyblade at him and cast her spell, "Blizzard!" After landing on the ground, Xander saw an iceball flying straight at him. He carefully watched & observed its speed and waited patiently for the right time to dodge. Once the time was right, Xander rolled to the side and let the Blizzard spell hit the ground. Then he rushed at her before he slammed his keyblade into the ground to do a Stun Impact. Konan saw a red circle appearing underneath them. She stepped back to try keeping her distance away from Xander, but she misjudged the range of Stun Impact. An explosion occurred from the red circle and a red laser dome appeared. Konan barely got hit by the dome, so it did not do too much damage to her. Having failed to paralyze Konan, Xander couldn't use the same special attack instantly since it took a lot of energy to use that command, so he would just have to wait until it fully charged up. The bluenette woman was about to cast a fire spell at Xander, but her timing was a bit wrong as she thought that Xander would be slower due to his size. Xander had rushed at her and did a three-hit combo attack on her before he spun around with a fierce finishing horizontal swing at her, knocking the woman back a few feet away. Konan started running away from Xander to put some distance between herself and her opponent. By the time she stopped and turned around, she saw that Xander was running after her. At halfway, he jumped at her six-feet off the ground and flew towards her.

Konan leapt backwards to distance herself again and aimed her keyblade at Xander as she called out her spell, "Fire!" The fireball came out of her keyblade as it boosted her backwards to give her an extra distance. Xander's eyes widened as he saw the Fire spell coming straight at him fast.

The fireball collided with the small man and knocked him out of the air as he got hurled backwards by force. Xander fell and hit the ground where he rolled across the grass. After he stopped rolling, Xander got up back and grew to his original size. The Mini spell's effect had finally worn off. But thanks to Konan's Fire, his body was now on fire and the flames started to burn his clothes and skin. "Now that really burns me up!" the man said the intended pun with his shades tilted down to the side. Then he pushed his finger to his shades to fix them back in place. "Let's speed things up a notch, shall we?" Xander said as he was hinting his next move. Magic energy started building up within his body and keyblade until he had enough to cast his spell. "Slow!" Xander shouted. Soon the whole world around him started to go at one-fourth the speed as the time continuum slowed down. A mouse on the ground started running in slow motion, a baseball that got whacked into the air by kids playing the game with their keyblades floated gracefully and softly through the air, and the stew in someone's kitchen pot bubbled at a lower speed. Even Konan was affected by the spell as she saw her opponent charging at her in what seems to be a pretty fast speed in her perspective. When Xander said that he was going to speed things up, he meant that that the Slow spell was going to reduce not only her movement speed, but also reaction time as well, so that he was going to look like he had become faster than her. The woman tried to react in time to block the man's thrust attack, but her slow speed got her hit and knocked back a bit. Then Xander swung Death's Revenge to go for the second hit, but Konan managed to dodge to the left to avoid the attack despite of her status ailment. Then the reddish-blonde quickly turned as he tried swinging his keyblade at her again, but once more Konan managed to evade the attack. The man smirked as he was impressed with her dodges and thought, *'I guess she deserves some credit for being able to dodge easily at a slow pace like this.'* Then he dashed at her to try swiping his keyblade at her, but again Konan dodged the attack.

While the fight was going on, a 17-year-old girl with black hair and brown eyes was walking through the woods with her blue cloak flowing behind her. Beneath her cloak were clothes that were brown and silver and were in a crisscross pattern over her body. She also wore white sneakers on her feet. The girl passed the two fighting darkbladers with a disdainful look at them before she continued down the road. She turned back once and her eyes locked onto Xander. She was not looking at him, but rather looking at the darkness of his blade. As she watched them fight for a little longer, her look of disdain turned into pity. The girl turned with a flick of her cloak and trailed away. She had some work to do. "Kids," she sighed.

Suddenly, a rift appeared in the sky and a small figure dashed between Xander and Konan, who was almost recovering from the Slow spell. The two fighters halted and watched the figure run as Xander yelled in an annoyed tone, "Hey watch where you're going, you bum!" Then he grinned darkly and said, "You wouldn't want either of us to whack your eye now, would ya?"

The figure ran up the tree as he was planning on getting to the top and jumping up into the portal to make his escape. But the cloaked girl jumped up into the air and landed at the figure. Her keyblade, which had a black wing-like blade, a black hilt with a golden guard around it, and gold chains attached to a dark gold cross (not Christian-like) keychain, arced a graceful downward stroke as she tackled the

figure off the tree and down onto the ground. He growled at her before his own keyblade, which was a pitch black blade shaped slightly like a heartless, vanished. The girl picked him up and put him in a standing position as she scolded, "I told you the area was out of bounds."

The figure growled at her and said, "I left, didn't I?"

The girl shrugged and said, "You put a foot down in the area, that's good enough for me." The figure backed away, or at least tried to as the girl began to down stroke him.

She almost did it when suddenly a voice sounded out and a bright light accompanied it as someone called out their keyblade. "Stop LimeX!"

The girl named LimeX paused and growled. She pushed away the guy and said, "Last chance, now get out of my sight." The light faded again as the keyblade was called back and the person walked away. LimeX flicked her wrist and her blade vanished, and she watched the retreating figure with absolute hatred, before starting to walk in that direction.

As the Slow spell was coming to an end, the world reverted back to its normal speed. Konan could now move as fast as she used to and Xander didn't look to super quick in her perspective anymore. Xander was about to use his Aerial Sweep attack at her, but stopped when he suddenly heard a pair of screams above him. He said, "What the heck?"

"What's happening?" Konan asked as she and Xander looked up at the sky to see two screaming teenagers and an armored man falling from the portal.

Xander wondered, *'Now where the hell did they come from?'* Then he moved out of the way to avoid having the kids fall on him.

Zephyr summoned his keyblade and called out his spell, "Aero!" The powerful gusts of winds appeared beneath to soften his fall before he would hit the ground. Unfortunately, because it was a low level spell, Aero was not wide enough to reach Glacies and No Name. The ice blue-haired girl crashed onto the ground on her bottom.

Glacies felt great pain from having fallen 15 feet above ground. She rubbed her bottom where it was hurting and groaned, "Oww... that hurt!" No Name, on the other hand, having been trained to survive falls, shifted his body so that he could land on the ground without hurting himself.

Xander looked at the three newcomers and asked, "So who the hell are you three supposed to be?" He did not regard LimeX's presence as he was not interested in her at this moment. He was rather annoyed that the trio, who all fell from the portal, had interrupted the fight and ruined the fun. Of course, the blame also went to the stranger that LimeX attacked, since he was the one who was stupid enough to run through a battlefield. Xander looked at everyone from Zephyr to the LimeX who stood out away

from the others. He thought, *'I'd never imagined I would have a small crowd here appearing out of nowhere like this.'*

Glacies turned her head to Xander and asked, "Three? What are you talking about?" Then she pointed to her friend and said, "There's only Zephyr and—" She stopped speaking when she saw wandering knight from the portal in the elevator. She said, "Oh, so there really are three of us." Then she slowly got up as she dealt with the throbbing pain on her bottom and said, "Anyway, I'm Glacies. I don't know who the other guy is though. My friend and I just saw him inside a portal before we got sucked in through it." Then she looked around at the outskirt and asked, "So where are we anyway?" Wherever this place was, it certainly didn't look like Radiant Garden, the world she and her friend grew up in.

"This is Traverse town," Konan said as if it was perfectly normal for people to fall out of the sky.

Both teens were shocked at the answer. Did they hear correctly? Did they get transported to somewhere far away from their home world? Zephyr asked, "Wait, what?!"

Glacies cried in panic, "Are you serious? We're in Traverse Town?! But that's only like 23 worlds away!"

Feeling like the end of the world was happening right now, Zephyr exclaimed, "We'll never get back in time before the master gets back! We're gonna be in so much trouble!"

Glacies turned to Zephyr and apologized, "Oh Zephyr, I'm so sorry! Really! I should've never suggested for us to keep on using that elevator. Oh God, this is all my fault! All my fault! Oh, what are we going to do?!" They were so far away from home and not only was Master Leohart going to find out that his apprentices disappeared on him, but their parents would also be worried sick about them. The girl could only imagine how mother being very frantic about her daughter gone missing for a very long time and her father trying his best to comfort her. This much worrying and stress was not going to be good for her mom's illness. Glacies felt like crying on the inside as she thought not only of her mother's health getting worse, but also at the idea of probably being stuck in a world they didn't know too much about and may not have a chance to return home again.

"Don't panic, don't panic," said Zephyr who was trying to calm her down, even though he was just as scared as she was. He had to stay strong for the two of them, because Glacies would freak out even more if he was not.

Xander watched the two teens with a mocking smirk on his face as he said, "Heh, that's what you get for doing something stupid, little girl."

Then Glacies whipped her head around to glare at him and yelled, "And who are you calling stupid, mister? How was I supposed to know this was going to happen?" Glacies was never one to take insults like being called stupid or any other negative word, no matter how minor the offense may be.

Zephyr planned some ideas in his head quickly and decided to try taking the train home, if there was one in Traverse Town. He looked around at everyone and asked, "Hey guys, how much does a train ticket cost?"

Xander said to him, "So you want to take the train back home, huh? You better have enough munny, because it's 1000 for two." He gave them a mocking grin, "But you don't look like you got that much cash on you." Glacies did not bother to check her pockets for munny, because she knew she did not have any on her and her wallet was back at her house. So, she looked to Zephyr and hoped that he might have some munny on him. Of course, she would not be surprised if he did not have any now. Because who would bring their munny to go train at Master Leohart's castle?

After Zephyr checked his pockets, he only found a measly 10 munny. "Not even close," he murmured with a disappointed sigh. It looked like Glacies and he were going to be stuck in Traverse Town for a long time.

LimeX turned and sighed, saying, "Come with me, I'll make you a portal and get it to drop you wherever that one came from."

"Really? You can do that?" Glacies asked as she and Zephyr got their hopes up from the despair they felt.

Zephyr said gratefully, "Great! Thanks!"

LimeX blinked to them for a moment before pulling out her keyblade. She twirled it and grunted once, making a small portal. She used her keyblade to move it around until it was exactly where the other one was and motioned to it. She told them, "Get out of here, you're wasting my time."

The apprentices were unfazed by the girl's insensitive remark and Glacies said to her friend, "Come on Zephyr, the portal's waiting for us. We have to go now!"

The blonde said, "Right, I'm coming in after you." Then the apprentice went through the portal as it closed behind them. LimeX snorted at them and started walking deeper into the woods away from the other darkbladers. She had a good job, but she just did not find any joy in it. And that was beside the fact she had to share space with a no-goody lightblader. LimeX summoned her portal and went inside it to return back to the keyblade temple, where she worked at.

The man without a name, who had sat quietly the whole time, looked at the two darkbladers. He was rather interested in them, for he sensed something unique about them. Most of the people he observed were boring and their keyblades weak. He thought of his own, Rampant, and felt the itch to test it. No Name stood up and walked slowly towards Xander and Konan. He had deemed them strong enough to test and he drew his keyblade quite suddenly. Rampant was a bristle-colored keyblade with light gray edges that had some brown wraps around the blade and on half of the light gray guard. It had black

chains attached to a red diamond keychain with black lines on it. No Name pointed his keyblade into Xander's face and waited to see what would happen.

Xander was not fazed by the keyblade in his face, but he was rather smirking with amusement and saying, "Ooh, it looks I got myself a new challenger over here." Then he looked at Konan and said, "Sorry, but I got to take care of this guy first before we go back to our match." Konan nodded and went off to the side. Her keyblade un-folded then disappeared and she took out the paper she always had with her and started folding. Then Xander looked back at the stranger and drew Death's Revenge as he said, "Alright then, bring it on, chump!" Xander charged at No Name and tried to thrust his black keyblade at him.

No Name chuckled and easily sidestepped it. He let loose a single laugh and turned the keyblade to Xander again. "Blizzard," he mumbled and shot his spell point blank to Xander's chest. No Name smiled with confidence, for he thought that this would not be much of a challenge. Then he sent a strong blast of Aero to Konan blew the paper crane she finished out of her hands. The woman watched it fly with mild interest.

Xander watched the ice ball fly towards him for a brief moment. Then he smirked and brought up his keyblade into a guarding position to block the spell. The ice ball shattered upon crashing into Death's Revenge and Xander said, "You're going to need to do a lot better than a simple spell like that." Then he dashed at No Name and swung his keyblade upward at him. The unnamed man blocked the attack quite easily with one hand clutching Rampant and blocked Xander's roundhouse kick with the other. No Name used the advantage he had to knock his opponent over, as Xander was on only one leg and one of his hands occupied with Death's Revenge. Xander fell over backward, but he quickly threw his arms behind him to turn his fall into a few backflips away from his foe. and landed on his feet.

Trying to attack before Xander was well out of his range, No Name cast his spell as he whispered, "Aero." A ball of wind was sent flying towards Xander's head. The burly man quickly used his keyblade as a shield to keep his face from taking damage. But even after Aero failed to hit him, he could still feel the gusts of winds pushing against him as if they were trying to blow him away. No Name came at Xander and tried to deliver a heavy blow to him, but the opponent blocked the attack and engaged in a small contest of pushing the other keyblade back at the foe. Neither opponent's keyblades moved to either side as both seemed to be in the same terms of equal strength. Soon, the Aero's winds made Xander's left foot slide back a bit to turn the tides in No Name's favor. The armored man used all his strength to push forward and knock Xander away into one of the trees. A breath of air was knocked out of Xander as his back collided into the tree, but he looked unfazed from the pain he felt as if the attack did not do any damage at all. Xander took a few walking steps forward as he looked at the stranger straight in the eyes to try to read what he would do next. The look in No Name's eyes tell that he was doing the same thing; trying to read his thoughts and predict his every move. If No Name was going to evade and block every move Xander made, then Xander was going to have to come up with special tricks to throw the unnamed man off.

Xander leapt forward into the air before he did and air slide to zoom at his opponent in a blink of an eye while swinging his keyblade at his foe once he was close to him. No Name fell for the ruse by trying to swipe Rampant to parry the attack. It turned out to be a feint as Rampart never touched Death's Revenge. After catching No Name off guard, Xander delivered the blow No Name's head and made him stagger. The muscular man landed on his feet and said to his opponent, "Hah, I finally got you now! Didn't think you could do the untouchable dark horse charade throughout the whole battle now, did you?" Then he tried to make it look like he was swing an uppercut at No Name. The armored man regained his composure quickly to bring his keyblade down at Death's Revenge. Xander let his keyblade take the hit, but only so that the blow would push his weapon down and make the tip touch the ground to perform Stun Impact. Xander smirked darkly as No Name fell for the trap and the red laser dome started to appear and engulf both fighters. The armored man let out a yell of pain as he felt the Stun Impact burning his body and paralyzing it. Xander on the other hand was unharmed as this was his spell that he was using. After No Name dropped and kneeled over, Xander jumped high into the air so that he could come down at his foe with a deadly finishing move and claim victory. But then he saw a silver-haired boy in a far off distance coming out of a portal like the one LimeX used to send Zephyr & Glacies home. *'Wait, what's this disgusting presence I'm sensing out of that guy? Could it be a strong light? That light seems to be a bit unusual from everybody else I've encountered. I'm not a big fan of light, but maybe this guy could be the key to the 'thing' I've been searching for. I've got to follow him,'* Xander thought as he took an interest in the silverette's special light. Before Xander could land on the stranger, he made an air slide over him and landed on his feet behind him. Xander said to him, "Sorry to end our show quickly, but I have someone important to chase and catch. Consider yourself lucky that you get to survive for now." Then the muscular man walked away and went after the young man through the woods. No Name watched the reddish-blond-haired man go as he wondered if Xander had meant to kill him in the match or if he was just speaking metaphorically.