

After going through the portal created by LimeX, Glacies and Zephyr appeared right back at the training ground. The bluenette said, "I'm glad we're back here safe and quickly. Now I wonder if Master Leohart got back." She looked around at her surroundings for their master. Hopefully, he hadn't come back yet and noticed they had left the training grounds.

Zephyr looked around at his surroundings for any signs of their mentor, but to his relief he saw nothing of certainty. He said, "I don't see him anywhere, Glacies. It looks like we made it back in time." They were only lucky as a matter of fact, because without LimeX they wouldn't be standing here at all.

Glacies let out a sigh of relief and said, "Then I guess we're safe. Come on, let's get back to training." So she went up to one of the dummies and cast Blizzard at it. The magical ball of ice hit the dummy and encased its torso in ice. Then she cast her Fire spell at it as a fireball flew out of her keyblade and impacted the ice, causing it to melt into water to wet up the dummy. After the dummy was soaked in water, Glacies raised her keyblade into the air and shouted, "Thunder!" A lightning bolt jolted down on the dummy and zapped it, causing a few pieces of it to break off with electric sparks running around them. Pleased with the outcome of her combo, Glacies decided to name her technique, "I call this move, the Elemental Trinity! What do you think of that, Zephyr?"

Zephyr clapped in response to Glacies's combo, "Nice! Not much I can do with these moves. I kinda need to be holding my keyblade to cast a spell unless..." He summoned his keyblade and cast Aero around himself making the winds stir around him. Then he cast Cure into the Aero as it was calming and the winds made the spell spread all over the training ground. Glacies held out her hands into the wind to feel its soothing aura. After he finished, he said, "It probably weakens the cure power though."

"I see," Glacies said when she noticed that the wind carried a little less healing property than the single Cure spell did. But nonetheless, it did seem to relax Glacies's nerves and made her feel less stressful about that event when that portal sent them over to Traverse Town. A wind like this could make for a relaxing day and heal all the wounded it touched.

As the Aero spell disappeared, Leohart entered the training grounds. He was a 38-years-old brown-eyed man with long black hair that was tied back and he wore a white haori and white hakama pants. Leohart greeted his students, "I'm back!"

Glacies bowed and greeted, "Welcome back, Master Leohart!"

Leohart asked, "So what have you been up to?"

Zephyr said, "Nothing really, we're just working on combos." He kept secret about how they snooped around the castle and somehow got teleported to Traverse Town.

The master asked them, "I see... May you please show me what you have come up with?" He looked at one then the other.

Glacies decided to go first as she said, "Sure, I'm going to show you my Elemental Trinity attack." Then she walked over to one of the dummies. She whipped her keyblade out and channeled ice magic into it before she shouted, "Blizzard!" The ice ball came out and bombarded the dummy with ice. Then for her next move, she channeled fire magic energy into the keyblade and shouted, "Fire!" The fireball impacted the ice and melted it to soak the dummy in water. For her final move, Glacies raised her keyblade into the air with electricity charged through Icestorm and she shouted, "Thunder!" A lightning bolt fell down and hit the drenched dummy. The dummy was electrified and it got scorched black as the bolt split it downward into two until it reached the bottom. Glacies felt a bit exhausted after having to perform the combo twice in row. So, she sat down and turned her head to look at her master and asked, "So what do you think? Impressive, isn't it?"

"It is impressive indeed," Leohart said. "Although in a real battle it will be harder to get the Blizzard to hit due to its slow speed."

Glacies made a mental note to herself, *'Then what I would have to do to get the Blizzard spell to hit the enemy, would be to get in really close to them and cast that spell, so that they don't avoid it on time, or paralyze them with my Thunder spell and then do the Elemental Trinity on them.'*

By this time Zephyr was already at a high spot. "My turn!" he said whilst summoning his keyblade before jumping off the tree. He waited for the right moment before casting Aero which stirred the winds lightly and slowed down his fall until he was able to right himself and land perfectly.

The master commented, "Also a good one, but only for higher altitudes."

While running up to his friend, Zephyr said, "We also came up with a team combo!"

The light-haired bluenette nodded as she explained, "Yeah! What we did was have Zephyr cast Aero and then I cast Fire through the winds to create a bigger ball of fire. Want to see?"

"Aero!" Zephyr said casting the spell in front of him and Glacies.

Glacies followed afterwards by pointing her keyblade at the winds and calling out her spell, "Fire!" The fireball flew through the winds and grew bigger. It hit the target at the bull's eye and left a huge scorch mark on it for all to see. The apprentices turned around to look at their master with big grins on their faces and said simultaneously, "Ta-da!"

Leohart was impressed with their collaborated technique. He gave a nod at the two and commented, "That is a very good combo for you to do when you are up against a strong opponent together... If you are ever against anyone who has an unfair advantage over you and both of you are in the fight, keep that combo in mind."

"We will, master," the apprentices said as they took Leohart's tip into their minds to remember by.

The master said, "Good, I'll shall give you both an hour's break. Be sure to meet back here at that time for more training." He left the training grounds and walked back into the castle.

Glacies turned to look at Zephyr and asked, "So Zephyr, what do you want to do now? Shall we leave the castle and go for a walk around town or something?" While they were out, they could also shop and hang out at the park or the town center for a bit.

"Sure, let's go!" the blonde said before making his way through the double doors. Glacies smiled and followed after him as they went through the few hallways of the castle and then go out through the front doors. They left the castle grounds through the open iron bar gates and walked down the stony steps that lead to the marketplace. They stopped by the girl's house to get her wallet so that she could buy whatever she or her friend saw.

Glacies looked at all the stores and shops around her that had some sales going on. Some shops were having clearance sales and/or trying to sell the newest products. She thought with a glee, *'Wow! Look at all the sales that are going on in all the stores. I knew it was a great idea to take a walk this afternoon. We get a good exercise and maybe go into the stores that have some interesting sales to buy whatever we like. This is like one of the finest dates ever!'* But then she started blushing red with embarrassment as she realized the last sentence she has just thought of. *'Wait a minute; did I just think that now? That's a bit crazy, because Zephyr and I are just friends. I mean he's a really good friend and all, but I don't think we've gone that far in our relationship yet. Plus, we're two years apart in age, so he probably can't be into older girls. But maybe he...'* She stopped herself before she could think any further. She told herself silently, *'Nevermind! Don't think too much about it now, Glacies. This is just a walk you're taking. It's nothing big or anything. So, stop thinking about it and just go.'*

Zephyr glanced at the nearly cloudless blue sky above them for a bit before he noticed that they were approaching a street with a bookstore, an ice cream shop, an antique store, and a few others down the lane. It wasn't a major area, but there were still quite a few people walking around. Zephyr thought about going to the toy store to purchase the newest jigsaw puzzle, but then he decided to let his friend go first since he usually put others before himself. "Where do you wanna go?" he asked her. "I don't really care where we go first," he added in case Glacies purposely chose to not go to a store that he would not like.

Glacies looked at the various options that she and Zephyr could go to. She pointed at one of the stores and said, "How about the bookstore?! I wonder if they have any new and interesting books on sale." Glacies loved a good story and sometimes at night, she would read her books in bed for some time while her lamp was on before she would go to sleep. They went inside the bookstore and went to the first section they saw. Glacies gazed at the shelves lined with atlases and travel guide of each world. All the pictures of various worlds shown on the books gave Glacies a sudden interest in traveling across worlds. She started thinking about that very short time she and Zephyr spent in Traverse Town and thought, *'I*

*wondered if we would have gone on a long adventure to find our way back to Radiant Garden if that girl never brought us home. We'd probably get to see all kinds of interesting places to enjoy and remember.'* As she kept on staring at the books, she asked her friend, "Zephyr, have you ever dreamt of seeing other worlds like Agrabah and Port Royal?"

As he looked at a few of the other books, Zephyr answered, "Yeah... I always wanted to go to Atlantica or the Pride Lands. I guess it's because of the rumors that you turn into part sea creature in Atlantica and you become an animal in the Pride Lands. I always wanted to see what animal I'd become."

Glacies giggled with friendly amusement and said, "I guess we'll see once we go there. It would be really awesome if those rumors were true. Tell you what, Zephyr. Once we both become keyblade masters, we'll go to those worlds together; you and me." That was a promise that she intends to remember and keep.

"We got a deal!" Zephyr said to her smiling.

With a happy and delighted smile, the girl replied, "Thanks, Zephyr! I'm so glad you're willing to join me on this!"

The boy asked, "So any specific books you came to look at?"

"Well yes, there is one," she said as she started to walk away from the geography section. She headed over to the young adult section and picked up a black & red book with a gothic illustration of the protagonist and some monsters on it. Glacies said, "Halloween Academy; it just came out today. I wonder if it's going to scare me like those horror theater plays I've seen." This was supposed to be a horror-genre book for teenagers like herself. Glacies never had read any scary books yet and she wanted to try reading one, so she chose that book.

Zephyr pointed out, "It does have the word 'Halloween' on it."

Glacies agreed, "Good point there, Zeph. Now I'm going to give myself a little sneak peek of this book before I buy it." So, she opened the book and read a few pages of the second quarter of the book. Within moments, she found a gruesome scene within the book of some guy getting mauled and tortured. Immediately, Glacies closed the book and said, "Yep, that is scary!" The image of the part in the book sent chills down Glacies's spine when she read that. Then she looked at Zephyr and asked, "So Zephyr, is there any books you want to buy? There's comic books, puzzle books, and other stuff besides novels & literature."

"I don't know yet," Zephyr said. He started looking at a few books. He found a book on how to make origami and took it off the shelf and flipped to the back. On the back was a picture of the book's author which happened to be Konan. He asked, "Hey, isn't this that girl we saw in Traverse Town?"

Glacies went to look at the author's picture in the book that Zephyr was holding and recognized her as well. "Oh my gosh; yes, it is! I didn't know that girl back over there was an author! This is incredible, I can't believe we've both seen the author of that book in person! I'd never thought I'd come across any authors in life!" She was surprised to learn that Konan, whose name was printed on cover of the origami book, is the author.

Flipping through the book, Zephyr said, "Should we get it just to brag that we saw her in real life? Of course, we can't let the master know that, it says it's printed in Traverse Town!" Who knows what kind of punishment Leohart would give them for going off into another world? Not to mention their parents would be mad too if the master ever told them about this.

The girl agreed, "You're right, he'll think we've been slacking off behind his back and going into rooms we shouldn't be in." Then she looked at the page where it said that the book was printed in Traverse Town. "That's where she lives, obviously," Glacies said as she read that page. Then she asked Zephyr, "So you want to get that book? I bet we learn to make lots of creative origami from it like paper cranes and paper animals."

The boy smiled, "That sounds fun! It can be an activity we can do sometimes after training."

They went to the cashier and gave her the books to calculate the prices on them. The total price came up to 55 munny. Glacies took out her burgundy wallet and took the exact amount of money to give to the cashier. The cashier put the money in the crank-operated cash register and gave the books back to the girl. The cashier said with a cheerful smile, "Thanks for shopping; have a nice day, you two!"

"You too," Glacies gave a friendly reply. After they left the bookstore, Glacies looked at Halloween Academy inside the bag of books she was carrying and said to Zephyr, "Boy, I can't wait to go home and start reading this. Well... right after I finish that other book first though."

The boy laughed, "You sure sound like you want to get to that book now, Glacies."

The girl said, "Of course, why wouldn't I? I'm always trying to get into new books as soon as possible." Then as they kept on walking, a gang of seven hooligans, all aged 15-19, saw them coming up ahead. The gang surrounded them like a pack of wolves to prevent them from going any further. The intimidated Glacies asked, "Wh-what's going on?"

The ringleader of the gang, who was a spiky red-haired boy wearing a pair of black sunglasses & punk clothing, came up to Glacies & Zephyr with a wicked grin as he held a cigar in his left hand. "Well, well, well, what do we have here this time? Looks like we have us a dork and his girlfriend," the ringleader sneered as he shifted his eyes from Zephyr to Glacies. The ringleader said to the oldest and strongest members of the gang, "Hey boys, take out the blonde punk here and rob him of whatever cash and valuables he has."

Then the selected gang members grabbed Zephyr and summoned their keyblades. The boys tried to whack Zephyr repeatedly with their keyblades as the blonde was trying to block with his summoned keyblade as many of their attacks as he could. Glacies looked at her friend with a look of great worry on her face and screamed, "Zephyr!" She feared that he might get hurt badly or if the worse comes to this, killed.

Then the ringleader looked at Glacies after he took a smoke of his cigar & blew out a smoke ring and said to her with a flirting tone and a smirk, "Hey good-looking, why don't you leave that punk out here and come with me and my boys? We'll make your time a lot more worthwhile than this trash ever will."

Glacies knew that people like this ringleader and his gang were bad news, her parents often warn her to stay away from people like them. For all she knew, this guy was going to force her to take drugs, abuse her, or worse like... She didn't want to think about it. Glacies glared defiantly at the ringleader and yelled, "No! Never! I won't go out with a dirty rotten prick like you!"

The ringleader frowned as he blew out a puff of smoke and said, "Sorry bitch, I don't take 'no' for an answer. Boys, hold her tight. I want to get a taste of her." So, two of the gang members grabbed Glacies's arms from behind and held her really tightly.

Glacies screamed in discontent, "Hey, let go of me!" She tried to move her arms free out of their grip, but the boys were too strong for her. She tried throwing her foot back at one of the boy's shins to kick him. That boy let out a yelp, but he still managed to hold onto Glacies. So, the third boy grabbed both of Glacies's legs to keep them still.

The boy whom she kicked, slugged her across the back of her head, before he grabbed and pulled her light blue hair and yelled, "Hold still, you slut!" The ringleader grinned at Glacies's helplessness and walked towards her. He forced his lips against hers and ran his tongue inside her mouth. The bluenette gagged as she felt violated by the boy's nasty intrusion.

Zephyr continued to block the gangsters' attacks. Their techniques were not that skillful so they obviously did not have proper training, but when it is 5 against one, it is always hard; they were not giving him a chance to use any spells. If they were, he would just send them all flying away with Aero. He battled with them for a while before he finally saw an opening and thought, *'Alright, here's my chance!'* "AERO!" Zephyr shouted. The winds around him started to stir sending away his attackers smashing them against various buildings and objects.

The ringleader reached his hand out towards Glacies's bosom. He said lustfully, "Now let's see what's underneath there, shall we?"

Glacies looked in horror at what the ringleader was about to do and cried, "No! Stay away from there! Don't you dare touch me!"

The ringleader said with a naughty grin, "Quiet, bitch! I just want to take a 'little peek'. That's all."

Zephyr casted a quick Cure on himself before turning to the leader of the gang. "Glacies!" he cried as he saw his friend in danger of getting harassed by bullies. In an attempt to save her, Zephyr judged the distance between them before holding his arm back. Then he swung his arm forward and let go of his keyblade as he said, "Strike Raid!"

The keyblade went flying at the gang leader and hit him hard in back of his red-haired head. "Ow!" the gang leader shouted before he rubbed the back of his head.

The boys, who were holding onto Glacies's arms and legs, looked at their boss with worry and shouted, "Boss!"

The boy below Glacies loosened his grip around the girl's legs as he got distracted with concern for the gang leader. Glacies took the opportunity to free one of her legs from the boy's arms and kicked his head as she shouted, "Hiya!" The boy let out a yelp as Glacies's kick knocked him away from her feet. Then she quickly threw both of her free legs back to kick the other two boys in their shins.

The boys let go of Glacies and hopped on their other legs as they held their hurting shins while yelping, "Ow, ow, ow!" Glacies whipped out Icestorm and turned to face her three opponents. The boy, whose head she kicked, came up at her and tried to swing his keyblade at her, but Glacies blocked his attack before she could get hit and she dodged his second swing by hopping backwards. Then the other two boys came charging towards her with their keyblades ready to take a swing at her. Glacies cast her Fire spell at one of the boys and hit him with the stomach as he got knocked to the ground. The black-haired boy who was coming right at Glacies hit her hard across her head with his keyblade and knocked the breath out of her. Glacies fell to the concrete ground with a throbbing pain on her head from where the keyblade hit her.

As she tried to get back up, a lightning bolt zapped her on the chest and she let out a scream of pain. The freckled boy with braces grinned as he chuckled and said, "That's what you get for kicking my head, you dirty little whore."

The gang leader turned around to see Zephyr, who has just caught his returned keyblade, and glared at him as he growled, "You son of a bitch, nobody messes with the top dog around here and gets away with it! If my boys can't handle you, then I guess I have to take care of you myself. Firaga!" The gang leader shot out a big fireball at Zephyr in hopes of burning him up and setting him on fire.

Zephyr saw the Firaga coming towards him and barely managed to dodge it in time. Luckily for him the roll he did get him close enough to Glacies. "Cure!" he said causing the green light to appear around the girl and heal her wounds. The throbbing pain on her head suddenly ceased and the intense burn on her chest from the Thundara spell was gone. Glacies was really grateful for her friend's help as Zephyr told the gang leader, "You may have more numbers but that doesn't necessarily mean you are stronger than

us!" He looked at Glacies with his face silently saying to do the combination they had come up with earlier. Glacies understood what he meant and nodded in response. Glacies got back up on her feet and faced the gang members.

The gang leader who was pretty confident that they could take down the apprentices, said, "Oh we'll see about that, punk. Alright boys, let's take 'em down! But try not to hurt the chick too badly. I want her in good shape when we go and do 'it'." So, all seven gang members charged towards Zephyr and Glacies.

The light-haired bluenette felt warm magic energy rising up within her as she said to her partner, "Let's go, Zephyr!" Then she pointed her keyblade at the gang and shouted, "Fire!" The fireball shot out of her keyblade and flew towards the gang members.

"Aero!" Zephyr yelled making the winds stir wildly right in front of the released fireball. He then got into a defensive stance as they could still launch a counter attack.

The fireball flew through the winds and grew bigger and wider enough to burn all four boys. The gang members screamed out in pain as the flames burned their skin, clothes, and even hair. The ringleader yelled, "Oh shit, shit, shit, it fucking hurts!" Glacies smiled and giggled with humor as she saw the gang was busy running around in circles screaming and cursing with the fires burning them. Then she saw a look of hatred, rage, and intent to kill on the blazing gang leader's face as his clenching teeth bit through the cigar.

Glacies stopped giggling and became intimidated by that look on his face. People tended to get more dangerous when they were angry and Glacies knew that well. So, she grabbed her bag and took Zephyr's hand and said, "Quick, let's make a run for it and get out of here now!"

"Yeah!" Zephyr said and started running away with her.

The ringleader said, "Let's run them down, boys! We're going to teach them not to fuck with us! Oh, and let's put more pain on the girl this time. We want to break her legs so that she can't run from us anymore." So, the ignited gang members cast Esuna on themselves while the others who got beaten by Zephyr recovered. Once they were on their feet, the ruffian gang started to chase after Zephyr and Glacies as the ringleader said, "You can't run from us, you cunt! We're going to get you and kill blonde there, too!"

Upon hearing the c-word, Glacies was offended and became angry at the ringleader as she thought, *'Oh the nerve of that prick! Why if there wasn't too many of them, I'd take my foot and shove it up his--'* Before she could finish her sentence, Glacies saw a small group of knights up ahead and smiled as she said to Zephyr, "Look Zephyr, it's the Radiant Knights! Those jerks can't get to us if we're near these guys." It will be even better if her dad was among those men too, because with her father as a Radiant Knight those gangsters will think twice before trying to mess with her.

As soon as the two apprentices were approaching the knights, the gang stopped in their tracks in fright as the gangleader said, "Ah fuck, they're going to the knighty-knights! Quick boys, let's get the hell out of here before we get our asses thrown in jail!" Then the gang retreated and left Zephyr and Glacies alone.

Glacies felt relieved when she saw the gang running with their tails between their legs. She shouted after them, "And don't you dare come near us again, unless you want to be raped in prison!"

"Good now we can finally rest!" Zephyr panted a bit before asking, "You okay? Although most of them had a lack in training they still have higher level commands than we do."

Glacies replied with a grateful smile, "Yeah, I'm fine, thanks to you. And yes, you're right about them having stronger moves than us. I guess we better start training harder and faster, in case we ever run into them again. Well right after we get back to the castle that is." Then suddenly, they saw a black portal appear up in the sky and Glacies asked, "Hey what's that?"

"What?" Zephyr asked as he looked up, too. Out of the portal came a certain reddish-blond-haired man who fell onto the ground near the teens before the portal closed itself and vanished. "One word to describe this... Dejavu..." Zephyr said as the man's scene reminded him of how he and Glacies came to Traverse Town.

Glacies looked down at the man and immediately recognized him. "Hey, you're that guy from Traverse Town, aren't you?" she said as she was quite surprised to see him here.

As Xander got up, he asked with a slight temper to his tone, "Yeah? And what's it to you?" Then he groaned in pain as he clutched his crotch where the temple guard Chase had kicked him.

Zephyr recognized him as well and exclaimed, "Hey, it is you! What are you doing here?"

Xander said, "Let's say I got into a fight with your portal-making friend and her portal-making friend."

Glacies asked, "Wait, are you talking about that girl who got us back home?"

Xander said, "That's right, girl. And I would have gotten away with the X-blade if it weren't for that portal of theirs."

"X-blade?" Glacies asked puzzled as she tilted her head to the side a bit.

Xander frowned on the inside as he realized he made a mistake there and thought, *'Oops, can't let them hear everything or they'll try to get it themselves. The X-blade only belongs to me and no one else, especially those nosy kids.'* Then he said to Glacies, "Uh nothing, just thinking out loud. Nothing important at all. Now why don't you two go have fun on your little date or something?" Then the red-blond-haired man started to walk away, leaving the two teens and the radiant knights watching him go.

Zephyr said to Glacies, "Weird... I think we should start heading back to the castle before anything else happens to us. Unless you want to go somewhere else, I don't have any place I want to go."

The girl said, "Me neither, I'm a bit tired after that crazy encounter with that stupid gang. Come on, let's get back to the castle before we run into any more trouble. I want to train some more so that we can fight more easily next time." So, they went all the way back to the castle and went into the training grounds where Glacies dropped her bag of purchased books at the steps. Then they went to practice their fighting skills & commands and had a few spars with each other until it was late at night. The apprentices went on back to their homes and went to bed.