

Glacies and Leohart had finally reached home to Radiant Garden, where they found themselves in front of the castle. A few servants came by and asked their master, "Anything you need help with?"

The mentor told them, "Take Zephyr to the infirmary." The servants obeyed as they went over to Glacies to take the boy from her.

As she watched them go, Glacies trusted the servants to do their job and prayed that her friend would recover well. She sat on the concrete stairs as she waited patiently for Zephyr. She looked to Leohart and asked, "Master, do you think we should find LimeX and Chase in the meantime? I mean, it might take a while for Zephyr to recover and who knows what LimeX is doing out there."

Leohart stated, "By the looks of it, she was trying to resist harming any of us. She told us to stop while she had limited control and she left us. She could have killed Zephyr easily if she wanted to, but she didn't... Everything would depend on how much control she still has left. In the meantime, I guess we should continue your training for when we do have to fight Limex."

Glacies said, "Right, who knows when we'll have to face her again." She thought, *'And hopefully, I'll be able to protect Zephyr better.'* She could not bear to see him hurt again. Then she went to the training ground and started to practice her keyblade attacks on one of the dummies until Master Leohart had a new lesson for her or whatever else he had in mind.

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ChameX appeared at a village. She gazed around at all the faces and raised one hand, gazing at her palm. "Darkness..." Suddenly screams filled the air as thousands of black tendrils began to slice everything in their path, releasing hearts out of the people stabbed by them. After she was done, she began walking through the village, heading for the train station as she would before the worlds had been separated.

A sinister voice spoke in ChameX's mind, *'LimeX... Kill...that punk boy...and his friends, too...'* It was not Etutu that was talking to her, but rather his darkness infused within her that was speaking to her. It was ordering ChameX to attack Zephyr, Glacies, and Leohart.

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Leohart went inside to go check on Zephyr. The servants used Cura on him, healing all of the wounds; he just needed rest now. He went back outside to tell Glacies. "Glacies," he called to her. "Zephyr is doing fine; he just needs rest."

The girl came and said with a smile, "Oh good, that's a relief. I'm glad the servants know how to treat their patients." She was glad to hear that her friend was going to be okay.

He suggested, "You're probably tired yourself, too. You can go home and take the rest of the day off."

The bluenette bowed and said, "Thanks, master." Then she left the castle and went on her way home. As she walked through the streets, Glacies noticed that the air was starting to grow heavy and that there were storm clouds appearing in the sky as they completely blocked out the sun. They were so thick it was almost like it was night time. She stared up at the sky in bewilderment and asked, "Huh? What's going on? Why are clouds suddenly appearing like that?"

A crowd of people passed her, running away from a street to the right. They all shouted, "Run away!" "Let's get out of here!" "We're all going to die!"

Glacies was confused and scared about what was going on. Whatever it is sounded serious and dangerous, but since she did not have a clue on the situation, she had to ask somebody. She saw an oncoming stranger approaching and stopped him as she asked, "Excuse me, sir. But what's going on?"

The man looked at her and answered, "There's a serial killer in town and she's using some dark powers to kill everyone in sight. You have to get out of here, before she goes after you too!" Then without saying anymore, the man dashed off with the fleeing crowd.

Glacies had a worried look on her face and murmured to no one, "A killer in Radiant Garden and she's attacking everyone here." Then she thought about her bedridden mom and wondered if the killer had gotten to her yet. "Mom!" the girl cried as she was scared and worried about her mother's fate. Glacies ran through the crowd and dodged every person who came in her path. She needed to get to her mother and see if she's still alive, before the killer gets to her. She turned around the corner and saw her house in sight. Standing in front of the deserted street was ChameX, who was facing the other direction. The apprentice said their names in surprise, "Limex? Chase?" Then Glacies gasped in shock when she saw a black tendril trailing after a fleeing family. The tendril paused as ChameX turned and saw the apprentice. The eyes held no emotion as she gazed at her. The bluenette took notice of the apathetic expression and thought, *'So Bihai was right; LimeX and Chase have been taking by the darkness. I have to do something, but I have to be careful too or else I'll end up like those people she's killed.'* Then ChameX turned and walked to the end of the street and followed at a walking pace after the fleeing family. "No!" Glacies shouted as she ran towards ChameX and blocked her path to keep her from getting to them. She told them, "Chase, LimeX, stopped this! You have to fight the darkness; fight Xander's control over you. You can't let him make you kill people. Please snap out of it!" She hoped that they would listen to her.

ChameX gazed at her and simply said in that emotionless voice, "Must destroy the light..." Suddenly, a dark aura appeared around the brunette and a power force blew Glacies away off her feet as the bluenette let out a cry. Glacies fell on her back pushed her torso up to see what ChameX was doing now. The temple guard's arm sprouted black tendrils that protected her and harmed any who tried to touch her. She made the tendrils stretch flew towards the other girl with its sharp tips seeking to stab either her heart or her throat. Glacies shrieked and she quickly scrambled of the way before the tendrils could touch her. Then ChameX pointed the X-blade and cast, "Fire." The fireball flew out of the weapon and

hit the girl, causing her to scream as the flames ate at her skin and clothes. Before the brunette could do any more harm, her willpower tried to regain sense and stop her rampage. ChameX growled as she clutched her head with both hands. She was mentally torn between wanting to kill and wanting to stop.

ChameX created a corridor of darkness behind her and summoned the dark tendrils around her to barricade herself from the people she will harm and trap her in. As the temple guard staggered backwards into the corridor and thrashed her head around, Glacies used an Esuna spell on herself to put out the fire. Then she looked at the other girl worriedly and said, "LimeX, please fight it off." Glacies wanted to follow after her, but first she needed to check on her mother. She remembered one of Xander's last sentences saying that her mom may or may not make it through her illness. The girl went inside her house and walked upstairs into her mother's room as she asked, "Mom, I'm home. It's me, Glacies, how are you feeling?" She kept her body turned in a direction where her mother would not see the burns.

The ill woman on the bed turned her head to the side to see her daughter at the door and rasped, "Glacies, you're alright. I'm glad you made it back safe and sound. Did you stop Xander?"

Glacies said, "Yes we did, mom. Now we don't have to worry about him plunging the worlds into darkness." Then she went closer to her mother and asked, "How are you feeling, mom? You're not getting any worse, are you?"

Amelia said, "Of course not, dear. I'm fine." But actually, her illness was indeed getting worse. She did not tell the truth because she did not want her daughter to start fretting.

Glacies made a small smile of relief and said, "Oh good. I was so worried about you on my way home, especially when I heard that Li-- I mean the killer was in town."

The mother looked up at the ceiling in worry and said, "Yes, the killer. I heard all the screams of those poor people outside. I was afraid that she was going to come after me next."

Glacies laid a soothing hand on her mother and assured, "Don't worry mom, she's gone on. I don't think she'll be back for a while." *'Well hopefully,'* she thought as she hoped ChameX would not return to finish the job on this part of town. Glacies asked, "Hey mom, would you like some chicken noodle soup?"

Amelia looked at her and said, "Why yes, of course, dear."

"Okay, I'll be right back!" Glacies said before she went downstairs into the kitchen to take a can of chicken noodle soup out of the cupboard. She opened the can and poured the contents into the pot to cook. She turned the stove on and cooked it for a few minutes before she filled the bowl with the soup and took the tray upstairs back into her mother's room. "Here you go, enjoy!" Glacies said as she gave the soup to her mom.

The mother sat herself up in the bed and took the soup from her daughter as she said, "Thank you, Glacies."

The girl smiled and said, "You're welcome, mom! Now I'm sorry to leave so soon, but I have to run back to the castle to warn the master about the attack. Be safe while I'm gone."

Amelia smiled and promised, "I will. And please be careful, dear."

"Don't worry, I will," the daughter responded. Then Glacies left the house and went on her way back to the castle. After she reached the place, she came bursting in through the doors and ran to Leohart, crying, "Master Leohart, I just saw LimeX and Chase! She's in town killing a lot of people."

"What?" the man said, suddenly jumping up at what his apprentice had said. "I didn't think she would come here. We have to go and stop her. Even if we don't end this, as long as we get her to leave here, it's fine."

"Right, let's try and save everyone," Glacies said before adding softly, "And LimeX and Chase." Hopefully the next time she encounters ChameX, she'll be able to free them from the darkness. They left the castle as they rode their gliders to find ChameX.

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Meanwhile inside ChameX's heart, Chase, who was unconscious and in suspended animation, drifted around in the darkness as he thought, *'So much darkness... Will we ever get out of it?'*

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After a little while, Glacies found the X-blade-wielding girl and said, "There she is." They landed down in front of ChameX and reverted their gliders back into keyblades. As they got into fighting stance, Glacies said to ChameX, "LimeX, it's time we banished the darkness out of you. And you're not stopping me this time!"

Leohart said to Glacies, "Remember, this may be too much for us to handle, our goal for now is to make her leave Radiant garden."

"How?" the girl asked her master without turning her away attention away from ChameX.

ChameX gazed at them and then summoned the X-blade. She clutched her downed head and clenched her teeth as she tried to stay strong under the influence. Her eyes shifted to them and warned, "Just leave me be or I will have to hurt you." Turning away a black tendril struck a window, shattering it. ChameX rubbed her forehead as if she had a migraine. A dark aura shrouded her body and she began to straighten up. A sinister smile formed on her face and she said in a distorted voice, "All this yelling about

'stopping me' or 'banishing the darkness'. You seem to forget who I am. I am a darkblader, and the only one I listen to is Lord Etutu."

Then ChameX shotlocked a flurry of dark projectiles at them. The pair were struck and they cried out in hurt. Leohart gritted his teeth, while clutching one of his wounds, as Glacies told her through pained expression, "I don't care how many times you tell me to leave, LimeX. But I am not going to let you go off hurting these people. Somebody has to stop you before you do any more damage. And I don't care if it costs my life to do so." Pointing her keyblade at her, she continued, "LimeX, we can either put an end to Xander's darkness right here and now, or we'll make you leave Radiant Garden. Your choice and last chance!" Glacies was about ready to attack, in case it didn't go as she hoped for.

ChameX gazed sadistically at her, "So be it." She sent dark tendrils at them. Leohart parried a few of them, while Glacies got stabbed on her right arm. Thankfully, it was not the left or the bluenette would have difficulty fighting without hurting herself. The girl swung and knocked away the second tendril. ChameX cast her Fire spell at the girl, but Leohart quickly got to his apprentice's side and used his keyblade to block the fireball.

The bluenette looked up at him and appreciated, "Thanks, master." Then the man charged towards the temple guard and the brunette smiled wickedly as she sent another and bigger tendril at him. But the man protected himself with Barrier Surge, knocking away the tendril with his magic wall, and rushed at her for the hit.

ChameX hopped back from his attack and cast, "Thunder." A lightning bolt shot down from above at the master, but Leohart moved to avoid the zap. Then he went in and swung at the girl, who parried the attack before trying to counter. The man blocked her and immediately the fight between them turned into both combatants blocking each other's attacks, failing to get a single hit on each other.

Glacies watched them fight and got the idea to attack ChameX while she's distracted. So aimed her keyblade at the brunette and waited for the right moment to attack. "Fire!" she yelled and sent the fireball flying towards the X-blader. But ChameX sensed the spell coming and quickly evaded by leaping backwards. Leohart, when he swung forward, got himself put into the fireball's path.

Glacies worriedly thought she ended up getting the wrong target hurt. But fortunately, her master turned and blocked the spell. He told her, "Careful, Glacies!"

The apprentice apologized, "Sorry, master."

ChameX summoned tendrils to grab at Leohart's arms. The tendrils ensnared his limbs tightly, squeezing his wrists like boa constrictors. The man looked at the vine-like tentacles in alarm and murmured, "What?!"

"Fire!" the X-blader cast another spell which successfully burned the man this time. He let out a pained

scream as fire blazed on his torso.

Fearing for the man's life, Glacies cried, "Master Leohart!" She ran as hard as she can to the tendrils.

Leohart saw his apprentice coming and knew that she was putting herself in danger of ChameX's attacks. At the same time as the X-blader cast another Fire spell at him, the master raised his keyblade and cast, "Thunder!" Just as he got burned, she got zapped and collapsed onto her knees.

Glacies reached her master's side and snapped the tendrils apart with the swings of her keyblade. After he was free, she used an Esuna to put out the flames on his robe. She asked, "Are you alright, master?"

"I'm fine," Leohart answered through clenched teeth, feeling his burns hurt him. If Zephyr was here, he would have healed him instantly. But for now, the man must bear with his wounds.

ChameX glared at him and yelled, "That hurt!" She shotlock her Dark Volley attack, which sent projectiles of darkness at the pair.

"Eek!" Glacies cried in fright as she shielded herself with Icestorm. Her keyblade managed to block two of the shots, but the others hit her legs and stomach, knocking the wind out of her and hurting her. Leohart rushed in at her with Barrier Surge, which protected him from the shots. ChameX blocked his attack and the two began another contest of parrying each other. After some attacks, Leohart decided to try an evasive tactic and stepped back in a 90 degrees rotation to let the X-blader's swing miss him. With an opening exposed, the master empowered his keyblade with a paralyzing effect and delivered a hard hit to the girl's chest. ChameX fell back onto her butt, paralyzed and unable to fight.

Now with the perfect chance to expel Etutu's darkness, Leohart held his keyblade over the girl's heart and found the perfect aim to strike. But before he could do it, ChameX summoned a corridor of darkness beneath her. Alert, Leohart quickly stepped back before he could sink in. Glacies cried defeated, "No!" They were so close to saving the temple guards and now ChameX escaping through the corridor she fell in.

Once ChameX was gone, Glacies's keyblade vanished and she frowned, "We were so close. We almost had her!" She really wished Zephyr was here, he would have floated the X-blader up with his Aero spell to keep her from leaving. With her mind on ChameX, Glacies cannot help but wonder why was it only LimeX that's speaking and not Chase. This had the girl puzzled as she wondered why Chase in ChameX had not spoken since the end of Etutu. But then again, ChameX had not said anything during the fight against Xander. Glacies really did not know how the two people fused as a X-blade wielder worked. She wondered, *'What happened to Chase? And how am I going to bring him out again?'* Maybe the book at the Land of Departure can explain this and find a solution? *'It's worth a try, but I have no idea where to look in the Lanes Between.'*

Making his glider appear again, Leohart said, "Maybe we can leave after Zephyr wakes up, then he can

come with us. Go back home, I'm sure you want to spend some time with your mother." He got on and flew back to the castle.

"I will," Glacies nodded before she watched her master fly off. Then the girl went on home and went upstairs to get her new book out of her room. Then she went into her mother's room and greeted, "Mom, I'm home! Did you finish your soup?"

Amelia looked at her daughter and answered in a rasp, "Yes I did, dear. Could you please take the bowl and tray downstairs for me?"

"Sure thing," Glacies replied before she picked up the tray & bowl and carried them downstairs into the sink to wash. After washing them, Glacies returned to her mother's room and laid down on the spot of the bed where her now dead father used to lay beside his wife.

As the girl started to read her newest book, her mom looked at the book and asked, "Is that a new book?"

Glacies nodded and answered, "Yes, mom. It's called Halloween Academy. It's supposed to be scary story about a boy who enrolls in the academy and discovers a book that lets him summon horrific monsters like werewolves, zombies, and phantoms. It's all fun and games until he gets hurt."

"Sounds, interesting?" Amelia said. "Would you like to read it to me?"

Glacies nodded with a smile and said, "Sure! I'll be happy to!" Then she read a few chapters of the story from the beginning of the book until her mouth got tired from constantly speaking out each word from the story. She said, "I need a break, mom. I'm going to get myself a glass of water."

The mother replied, "Okay, baby. Let me know when you're about to read again, because that was an amazing story."

"Sure," Glacies said and she went downstairs into the kitchen and took a cup out of the cupboard. Then she went to the sink and filled the cup with cool water. After drinking and resting for a while, the girl went back to her mother's room and resumed the story, until she started to feel sleepy and decided to take a nap next to her mother.

Amelia looked at her resting daughter and smiled as she rasped quietly, "Oh my, it looks like my daughter's taking a catnap. It must have been a long day for her, especially after dealing with Xander. This makes me feel like resting, too." The mother closed her eyes and went to sleep as well.

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Glacies found herself in a shadowy world that was swarming with dark clouds everywhere. She walked

as she looked at her peculiar surroundings, wondering what kind of place this was. After moving on for a bit, she spotted a silver-haired boy in a yellow & black short-sleeved jacket and brown pants with his back turned to her. *'Is that who I think it is?'* Glacies wondered. Then she ran towards the boy and called, "Chase! Chase! Over here, it's me, Glacies!" The 19-year-old turned around to look at the younger girl with his emotionless lime green eyes, the same kind of eyes LimeX had. This made Glacies stop in her tracks to look at the boy and asked, "Chase?" Chase summoned a keyblade in his hand, but this time it was not his Kingdom Key. The girl stared at the X-blade in shock for a bit before she saw a huge aura of darkness appearing around Chase.

Above Chase was the horned wolf-like giant demon, Etutu. The heartless king let out a sinister laugh before ordering his puppet, "Now Chase, kill the brat and put her out of her misery." The darkness-possessed temple guard obeyed without any hesitation whatsoever as he used his Magnet spell to draw Glacies in. The light-haired bluenette was pulled off her feet and into the magnetic orb in the air. The girl struggled to pull herself off the orb, but it was a lot more difficult to move than she thought as the orb's gravity hold on her was really strong. Chase jumped up in the air and made a downward slash at Glacies with the X-blade.

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The bluenette jerked up from her sleep after having that nightmare where dark Chase had killed her. Glacies panted for a short bit before she looked out past the window at the sky. It was now late evening as the sun was about to set below the horizon. Glacies said to herself, "Late evening; I must have dozed off for a few hours." Then she looked at her mother and saw that she was sleeping. Glacies smiled before her thoughts went to Zephyr and what he might be doing right now. She thought, *'I wonder if Zephyr's awake now. I should probably go and check.'* Then the girl got off of the bed and went to Amelia's side to whisper, "I'm going over to go see if Zephyr's alright. You take care, okay?" She kissed her sleeping mother on the cheek before she left the house and made her way to the castle. On the way, she started to think about bringing a little gift for Zephyr to give. She thought, *'Maybe I should bring something to give to Zephyr. I wonder what he would like.'* Then she saw a garden of flowers at the central square. She thought, *'Flowers, I wonder if Zephyr would like one. It probably may not be something a boy like him would get excited about, but it's worth a try.'* So Glacies went to the garden and picked up a pink rose. She plucked the thorns off before she went to the castle to give to her best friend. Glacies went inside the castle and made her way to the infirmary where Zephyr was. She opened the door and went inside as she looked at the boy to see if he was still asleep. She went over to his bed as she held the rose in her hand. She saw how peaceful the boy looked in his sleep and thought, *'He looks well-rested. The servants really did a great job.'* Glacies put the bouquet next to Zephyr on the bed and got a piece of paper to write down a note in cursive that said:

*'Hope you had a nice rest, Zephyr!'*

*-Sincerely, Glacies'*



Then she put the note on the bouquet before she went over to Zephyr and gave a quick kiss on his head before whispering, "See you tomorrow, Zeph!" After that, she left the building and went on back to her house.

Zephyr groaned after Glacies left, opening his eyes slowly. *'Where am I?'* he thought wondering. He saw the flower and note next to them. The boy took the note and read it. Smiling, he thought, *'Thanks, Glacies.'* Then he put the note back down and looked around to see if they had water in his room.

Glacies went back inside the house and got to her parents' room, where she found Amelia still asleep on the bed. As she stared at her mother, Glacies thought it might be the perfect time to try out her Esuna spell. She thought, *'Esuna's a spell that removes abnormal statuses like slow, poison, and blind, right? I wonder if it can work on deadly illnesses too like the one mom's having right now.'* Glacies summoned her Ice Storm keyblade and raised it above Amelia as she whispered, "Esuna!" After she cast the spell, small orange orbs started to appear around the sleeping woman and started moving up and down. Soon an orange aura appeared around her as the spell started to take its effect.

After the aura died down, the woman on the bed breathed more normally and looked a lot better in her sleep. Glacies smiled at the work the Esuna did at making her mother look a lot better. It was like her illness was getting less serious. She thought, *'Wow, Esuna is sure something. I bet it would come in handy in case anyone gets sick.'* Then she went to downstairs and got outside into her backyard to practice her combat attacks. After half an hour of practicing her melee attacks, it was now night time and Glacies went on to magic spells and started doing different techniques with them. Then after another hour later, Glacies ended her training and sat at the balcony to rest. She looked up at the glowing stars in the sky for relaxation and noticed that there were a lot more stars in the sky than usual. She asked herself, "That's weird, I've never seen this many stars at night before. I wonder what happened?"

Zephyr fell asleep again in the bed he was in. Leohart was in his office working on papers. He looked outside looking at all of the stars. He said, "Before, each star represented a person... Now each star represents a person and a world." Adding in what Bihai said to him. He went to the astronomy tower to begin charting out all of the new stars.

After star-gazing and connecting some dots to make up constellations of her own, Glacies grew tired and went inside the house to prepare for bed. She brushed her teeth and changed into her pajamas before she went to sleep.