

After many hours later, Glacies woke up and went into the shower to wash herself. Then she changed into her casual clothes and went into her mother's room to greet, "Good morning, mom! Did you have a good night's sleep?"

Amelia woke up and smiled as she replied, "I sure did!" Then she suddenly realized that she was feeling less sick, but not completely, and said, "And somehow, I'm feeling a bit better."

Glacies was glad to hear it as she said, "I guess the Esuna spell I used on you worked."

"Esuna, so that's why my illness got a bit better. Thank you, Glacies," the mom said gratefully. "Honey, guess what? Glacies just learn how to--" the mom turned around in her bed but only to see that her husband was missing. She asked, "Huh? That's odd, why isn't your father here? He usually never wakes up earlier than now."

Glacies shifted her eyes to the side and down onto the floor as she knew what her mom was going to feel when she heard the fate of dad. Glacies was getting herself prepared for tears and sobs she was about to see. "Well, you see mom..." she said with both hesitation and guilt at having to be the bearer of bad news.

After the daughter told the story of how her father got killed in the Keyblade War, Amelia became very upset as tears started to water her eyes and sobs started to sound from her mouth. "No... Noooo!" the mother cried as she grieved for her deceased husband.

Glacies, who was crying as well, apologized, "I'm sorry, mom. We should've been quicker. If we were, then dad would still be alive with us today."

Amelia looked at her daughter and hugged her as she said, "It's not your fault, Glacies. I understand." Then after a few minutes of grieving into each other's arms, Glacies left her house and rode her glider on the way to the castle. But she flew in a bit slow and steady speed as she was still feeling sad about her father's death.

Soon, she landed in front of the castle and reverted her glider back into a keyblade. After getting her emotion under control, she walked into the castle and greeted the servants, who smiled and returned the favor. She went to the infirmary to see if Zephyr was awake. Just like she thought, the boy had woken up before she arrived. He was yawning widely and stretching. His limbs felt extremely stiff from not moving them at all for a while. "Hello!" Zephyr said to her.

Glacies smiled and said, "Good morning, sleepyhead! How are you feeling?"

The boy answered, "Stiff... I feel very stiff." He swung his legs over the side of the bed and got up slowly, his legs aching in protest to the sudden movement.

Glacies giggled amused and said, "You must have been sleeping for many hours than usual. No wonder why your limbs are stiff."

Zephyr replied, "I guess that must be it." Then he noticed that the clothes he wore before had been by a hospital robe the servants had put him. He grabbed his armor piece and put it onto his shoulder. He said, "I should probably go to get some actual clothes. I can't really go outside in this." He pressed the button on his armor piece leaving him in his keyblade armor. He took a few short steps, making a mental note to himself not to use his glider right now. As he started walking, his limbs got more used to moving again so he picked up the pace to his normal waling speed.

Glacies went to his side and said, "Come on, let's go see Master Leohart."

"Yeah," he said and they left the room to go find their mentor. The girl walked beside him so that, because of his handicapped speed, she would not to leave him behind. And should it look like he's about to trip or fall over, she would be there to catch him.

They went to the training ground, but the master was nowhere to be found. Glacies said, "Looks like he's not here yet."

Zephyr suggested, "If you didn't see him when you entered, then maybe he's in his study room. He always goes there when there is something new that he needs to learn of anything. And with the new universe structure and all, he probably has a lot of research to do right now." He led Glacies in the direction of Master Leohart's private study room.

The bluenette said, "I wonder what he's studying now." To her guess, he was probably studying how much of an impact the separation of the worlds would have on the universe. They to the study room's door, which was nearly closed by an inch. The two were curious about what was going on inside and Glacies asked, "Think we should peak in and see what he's doing or just leave him alone so that we don't disturb him?"

Leohart closed a book that he was looking that and heard voices outside. Before the blonde kid could answer, the master called through the door, "Glacies, Zephyr come in." The apprentices were both taken by surprise at suddenly hearing the man as Zephyr jumped a bit. "I was just about to go summon you two," Leohart said as he got up and put the book on a shelf before sitting back down in his chair.

Zephyr opened the door and walked in, followed by Glacies. The girl asked, "Master Leohart, what is it you needed to talk to us about?"

The man said, "We should probably leave soon. I want you to go pack your things for the trip; we may be gone for a while." With that, he got up and dismissed them.

The teens nodded and said, "Yes master."

Zephyr turned to his friend and said, "Let's get going." Then they walked out of the room and into the halls. They walked through the castle until they got outside. The boy was able to get his limbs used to moving again, so he decided it was safe to use his glider. He summoned his keyblade and threw it back. It turned into its glider form and he jumped up as it flew right underneath him. He landed on it and started to fly to his house.

Glacies rode her glider back to her house and went in to pack a few clothes, personal items, her book, and a diary. She went to her mother's room and told her, "Mom, I'm going on a trip with Master Leohart and Zephyr. I'll probably be out for a few days."

Amelia, who was changing into her casual clothes, replied to her, "Okay, well good luck and take care. I hope you have a safe trip, dear."

Glacies looked at the work clothes her mom was wearing and asked, "Going back to work, mom?"

Amelia nodded and replied, "Yes, well somebody around has to make the money for my surgery. Don't worry, I'll be fine. The illness shouldn't hinder me much now that you've made it less serious."

Glacies said to her, "Well I hope you'll alright. If you need anything mom, tell me, alright?"

"I will, sweetie," the mother said. Then Glacies went downstairs into the kitchen and packed up as many snacks as she could. Then she left the house and flew back to the castle. She waited for Zephyr to return as well.

After getting home, Zephyr immediately went to his room. He made his armor revert back to its one plate button form and took off the hospital robes, putting on his normal clothes. He then grabbed a few days' worth of clothes and packed them, also taking a few other personal items along with him. He went into the kitchen and grabbed some food, eating while he wrote a note to his parents. When he finished, he made his glider come back and flew back to the castle, finding that Glacies was already there. The boy asked, "Just waiting for Master Leohart now?" He jumped off of his glider and it disappeared along with his armor, after he landed.

Glacies nodded to Zephyr, who now returned, and said, "Yep. He should be here anytime soon. Anyway, about the trip. I wonder where if he's taking us to the other worlds."

Zephyr said, "Well he did say we were going to be gone for a few days. So if we weren't going to other worlds, he wouldn't of said that." Now that Radiant Garden was on its own, it was not a really big world; more like one city.

The girl replied, "You're right. Though I wonder what kinds of worlds we'll be going to. I'm pretty excited to see them, especially when I'm going with you and Master Leohart. And maybe one of them will be

that special world that Bihai and Konan made for us." Her mind ran with imaginations about the various worlds and cultures she'll discover. "I wonder what it would be like."

Zephyr asked Glacies, "The Land of Departure, wasn't that what they called it?"

"Yes, the Land of Departure," Leohart said, finally showing up behind his two apprentices and surprising the girl a bit with his sudden appearance. He had his armor on and summoned his glider. He explained, "One of you should try opening the portal this time, for practice. Focus the power into your keyblade and it will know what you want to do. How much power you use determines how long it will stay. If not all of us make it through stay in your spot, we will be with you after we open the portal again."

"Okay, I got it," Glacies obliged. Then she held up her keyblade and channeled much of her power into it. Everyone watched a beam of light fire into mid-air until it summoned and opened a portal in front of the girl.

"Cool!" Zephyr said in amazement.

Glacies opened her mouth in wonder and said, "Hey it worked!" The blonde quickly summoned his glider and jumped on, flying through the portal right after Leohart. The bluenette followed the other two into the Lanes Between.

Sakura was currently in her house in Halloween Town, making herself a bowl of what looked like frog's breath soup, and, of course, she was also humming the town's Halloween song as she cooked. *'After lunch maybe I'll go see Jack and help him with the Halloween preparations... I can't believe the worlds broke apart... Man, I can't even think about Halloween when all this stuff has happened.'* She was a 16-year-old human-like demon with silver-blue hair, dark red eyes, and wore black dress & boots. She had helped on the side of the Light in the Keyblade War and she had recently gotten home now that it was over. There was a small group of people walking through Halloween Town. They were talking rather loudly and laughed occasionally. Currently, they were passing right by Sakura's house. Sakura popped her head out of her house and looked at the large crowd. *'What's going on?'* she thought. Then she asked them, "Hey guys, what's up?" She exited her house and closed the door, joining the tiny group of people. "What's all the commotion about?"

"Hi!" they said to Sakura. "The mayor lost his voice! And it's almost Halloween!" Everyone felt sorry for their beloved mayor.

Sakura gasped, "How could he let himself lose his voice before Halloween?! I swear, sometimes the mayor can be an idiot." She headed over to Jack's house immediately and knocked on the door. "Jack, you home?" Jack answered the door and Zero floated outside to say hello. "There you are, Jack! Nice to see you, Zero. Did you hear? The mayor lost his voice!"

The disappointed lanky skeleton said, "Oh, how terrible! Right before Halloween, too!"

Suddenly, a big crash sounded from the main square of Halloween Town. Standing over the mayor, ChameX looked at the cowering man with her usual blank expression. A black tendril appeared and picked him up. The short, stocky man let out a terrified scream before ChameX raised the X-blade to steal his heart. But then her freewill regained the strength to fight back Etutu's control. As she hissed in pain from the migraine, she willed the tendril to throw the mayor away. She growled and groaned at the god's darkness, "G... Get out of my heart!" The darkness soon retained its dominance and she started to gaze around. Something piqued her interest and she bent down and picked it up in her hand. It was a bug that reeked of malevolence. If she could absorb the darkness from it, then Etutu's power over her will be stronger and LimeX's resistance will weaken.

Sakura glanced at the town square to see a figure had taken the mayor and thrown him. "What the....?" She glared as she pulled out her keyblade, Shadow Heart. "Nobody threatens my home and gets away with it!"

Jack asked, "Sakura, you're not going to fight her, are you?"

"Of course I am! That's my job!" The demon girl charged at the ChameX and went to slash at her with the Keyblade. But ChameX brought her the X-blade up and easily blocked the attack as she gazed at the bug. A dark aura appeared and blasted the demon away. The brunette then closed her hand and headed for the graveyard, carrying the bug. It seems like this insect was a part of someone's body. If she could find the host, then she will get all the darkness within his heart. Sakura glared at the human girl and charged at her again. "I ain't done with you yet!" She took note of the X-blader's interest in the insect and thought, *'She seems to be interested in one of Oogie Boogie's bugs! I can't let that evil girl meet him! Those two could probably take over Halloween Town! Besides, she's got a keyblade too and she's not using it for the right purpose.'*

ChameX turned her head and gazed at Sakura. "If you insist," she said and black tendrils began to make a shape beside the X-blader. It was a perfect replica of ChameX. She told it, "Take out the girl." She turned and began walking away. The clone grasped the keyblade, resembling LimeX's own, and came at Sakura with her blade with alarming speed.

Sakura was barely able to put Shadow Heart up in time to stop the clone's attack. "Jack! You got to go stop the other one!"

Jack came running from his house with Zero at his heels. "I'm on it!"

Sakura said, "Don't let her get to Oogie Boogie! She's got some nasty plans afoot!" The demon turned back to her opponent as Jack ran after the real one. The ChameX clone kept up the offensive with calculate ease. Sakura continued her battle with the clone, but she was clearly losing. This girl, she had

quite the skills. *'Could she be a Keyblade Master...? I haven't even fully mastered my Keyblade!'* She attacked again and again, but she was still losing the fight.

ChameX continued until she came to the graveyard and gazed around. She dropped the bug and gazed off into the distance. She mused, "Hmnm.....Darkness...." For a single moment, her thoughts turned to Chase before the darkness had hold of her once more. She told it, "Yes I know the mission."

Jack had caught up with the real girl and told her, "Back away, whoever you are! You're not getting anywhere near Oogie Boogie!"

ChameX turned and looked at Jack, saying, "Oogie Boogie. So that's the one." She sent a dark tendril to reach out and grab him.

"Whoa!" cried the skeleton, who was lucky enough to move out of the way in time. ChameX temporarily regained her free will and she quickly dashed away from the graveyard before the Etutu takes control again. Her hand clutching her migraine-aching head.

Sakura was still battling the clone, and Jack was headed back to where the demon was. *'Well, it looks like she's being controlled by the darkness. I hope she gets out of Halloween Town! Jack and I need to focus on preparations for Halloween!'*

The temple guard had made the mistake of running back to where the demon was. But at least, she took the moment to banish the clone from doing further harm. With the darkness back in control, she gazed about and mused for a few moments. Then she turned and said to the humanoid monsters, "The doors to the other holidays are in that forest, are they not?" She did not wait for an answer. She turned and began heading toward the forest.

Sakura gasped internally, *'No! She is not going to get Sandy Claws or any of the other holiday leaders!'* Sakura went ahead and cut her off, barring her way. She asked, "What do you want with the other holidays?"

ChameX sighed and gazed at the girl. Then she raised an arm and sent black tendrils at the two. Sakura and Jack both got sent flying and they crashed into the ground. Turning back, the X-blader let the tendrils deal with them as she mused, "Now... Clover or tree?" Turning to the tree with the Christmas Tree door, she nodded once and said, "I'll save the clover for second." And she stepped through the door into the Christmas realm.

Sakura got back up and followed the girl into the tree door, down into Christmas Town. She had to warn Sandy Claws! She quickly turned her keyblade into its glider form and flew to the toy store. She went into Santa's office and called, "Sandy Claws!"

Santa turned his attention away from his paper work to see the bluenette and asked, "What happened,

child? You're all beaten up!"

The demon told the jolly fat man, "No time! Some crazy lady attacked the mayor in Halloween Town and now she's coming here! You need to hide!"

After traveling through the path laid out for them in the lanes between, the trio arrived at the Land of Departure. The group found themselves standing in a setting with tall grassy mountains surrounded by flowing water. In front of them was some kind of a strange huge castle-like building. Glacies asked, "Whoa, is that the Land of Departure?" She looked at the new world around her.

Leohart said to them, "Yes... This land is directly in the middle of the Realm In Between, which would make it a good place for training new keyblade masters as that is what a keyblade master must have. You must have a balance of light and dark, but you must also be able to suppress any evil urges so that they don't corrupt you." He led the way and said, "Now let's get going to the building." Zephyr nodded and followed.

Glacies said to herself, "So when Zephyr and I become keyblade masters, we'll be training our own apprentices here." She continued to observe her future training grounds. They went inside the building and looked around at the white & gold walls with glass-stained windows. After going up a couple of stairs, she found three thrones at the far end of the room. In the middle throne, was a big book with a picture of a gold heart on a cross thing (you know, like that emblem you see on Ventus's & Aqua's straps and Terra's belt.) on the cover. The girl asked, "Master Leohart, may we take a look at that book? I think that's what Bihai told us to find."

"Of course," answered the keyblade master. He went up and picked up the big book, looking around for a table to place it on. He soon found a place to put it where they could all see it and put it on there. He opened the book and scanned the index for important chapters.

Zephyr went over to the table and looked at the heart-cross symbol in the book. He asked Leohart, "That symbol; what does it mean?"

The man answered, "I don't know. It could be meaningless, just symbolizing this world. Or it could have meaning." He flipped the page as he was clueless about the symbol. When Leohart flipped the page to the introduction, the page read:

"Greetings Keybearers, if you are reading this book right now. Then you are about to learn all there is to being a Keyblade Master and what your duties are."

They kept on reading more of the book and it is said more things like that the purpose of the keyblades from now on were to watch over the balance of light and darkness in the Realm In-Between and protect

them from any forces that seeks to disrupt the balance. It also mentioned that there was harmful darkness in the Lanes Between and that only the Keyblade Armors can protect the keyblade wielders from that darkness. Glacies said, "Wow, I'm glad we all have our armors." As they continued reading, the book warned them not to let the people know of the existence of other worlds. Glacies asked, "Why? Why can't we tell other people about the worlds?"

Then the page on the book said, *"Because someone would try to gain more knowledge and eventually learn about the Keyblade War."*

"Oh, so that's why," said Glacies as she remembered Bihai saying that Keyblade War must never happen again and Glacies, having been in one, experience its tragedies. Seems like this was meant to keep future generations in the dark as there was no need to hide the worlds from the people in the present, since everyone knows about the other worlds. As the book went on, Glacies read that there were hearts in each world just like there were hearts in people. There were also other ways to complete Kingdom Hearts than just the X-blade. 1) If one were to gather all the hearts of the worlds in a single place, then Kingdom Hearts would appear. The girl said, "I guess that's another reason why everybody should stay ignorant of the other worlds." 2) There is a Door to Darkness that leads to the Realm of Darkness where Kingdom Hearts now resides. If 7 hearts of pure light were brought to it together, then the door will open. "Wow, how smart," Glacies said sarcastically with a frown. She did not like the fact that the Kingdom Hearts was in a place where Etutu could get to it easily. "Xander is so going to be happy that the Kingdom Hearts is right there at his home. What the heck were Bihai and Konan thinking?"

Reading a different section of the chapter, Leohart said, "Relax, Glacies. It says here that the Kingdom Hearts will be protected in an invincible barrier that will keep anyone, including Etutu himself, from getting to it unless one of the requirements are met."

Feeling kind of relieved, the girl said, "Well okay then." They kept on reading more until they got to the page that instructed how to perform the Keyblade Inheritance Ceremony on a new apprentice:

"As you already know, most of the people of the next generation and so on will never be able to wield a keyblade, unless of course the keyblade chooses them."

The book said that in order for one to be chosen as the new keyblade wielder, he/she must have an extraordinarily strong heart. If they were to find one, they must perform the Keyblade Inheritance Ceremony by letting the heir touch the keyblade for a minute. While not required, it is traditionally preferred to say the words:

"In your hand, take this Key. So long as you have the makings, then through this simple act of taking, its wielder you shall one day be. And you will find me, friend—no place will contain you then. No more borders around, or below, or above, so long as you champion the ones you love."

Everyone memorized the words so that when they find their successors one day, they'll be able to

perform the ceremony. The words did not need to be exact as they can be altered a somewhat, but it was the preferred way of the ceremony. Then after reading some more, they came to the page about the X-blade. Like what Chase told them once, the X-blade could only be made when a keybearers with strong light and others with powerful darkness fight each other in the Keyblade Sanctuary and combine. The X-blade can be used to open the door to Kingdom Hearts, which it existed alongside. To return the fused person back into two people, the X-blade must be destroyed. Glacies said, "So that's how we'll bring Chase and LimeX back to normal. I'm glad we have the solution to stopping LimeX now." But soon, her hope dimmed when they read more of the page that warned its readers that if the X-blade were to be destroyed, then the hearts of the combined people will be greatly damaged.

Zephyr said with a frown, "Oh boy, this book is not making it easy for us, is it?" How on earth were they going to save Chase and LimeX without destroying their hearts?

They kept on reading the book in hopes of finding a second solution on how to save Chase and bring LimeX back to her senses before she kills anymore people. Because the longer they wait, the more lives would be at risk. Glacies skimmed through the book and saw a page saying that the keyblade can extract a heart and do all kinds of things to it like extract the light or darkness out of it, transfer it to another body, or destroy it. The girl asked the males, "Hmm, I suppose that could work. At least we can remove Xander's darkness out of them without harming Chase and LimeX. What do you think, guys?"

Leohart said, "Yes, it might. If we destroy the excess darkness, then they should have control. They had perfect control over themselves before this happened. They may also be fighting the darkness from within."

Glacies said, "Then we got to help them out. They've helped save the worlds and now we have to repay them."

They continued reading and found something about the Dive to the Heart. It was where one would physically appear inside of their heart that looked like a pillar with a stained glass top. Glacies wondered, *'I wonder how one could get to the Dive to the Heart.'* They read some more and then found something about the Mark of Mastery. It was where a Master tested the hearts of their apprentices. Only after their hearts were deemed strong enough by the Master could they become Keyblade Masters. It was different than before. Previously after their apprentices learned everything they had to teach them, they would graduate. But now they would have a test of heart. Glacies murmured, "Test of Heart, I wonder what that's like." She was curious about it. Some more pages later, they saw info about the Realm of Light, Realm of Darkness, and the Realm In-between. After reading about what kinds of worlds were in those places, they read about the techniques, magic spells, and other abilities that Keybearers could do. As they continued to read, Glacies started to have a feeling that something bad was going on out there somewhere. The girl wondered, *'What's this? Why I do I have the feeling there's something terrible going on somewhere in the Realm In-Between? Is it just my imagination?'*

A moment later, ChameX smashed the door into atom-sized pieces. She walked straight past them and into the toy factory. Upon entering a room, she found the three; Lock, Shock and Barrel. "There you are," she spoke. She raised her hand and black tendrils charged for them.

The kids squealed as the tendrils grabbed them. Sakura glanced over at her and murmured to herself, "Why would she be after them?" She could not understand why ChameX would be after them. Was it to team up with them or to cause them harm? She was definitely puzzled for some reason. Heck, why were those three in Christmas town anyway? After the tendrils absorbed the dark energy out of them, the X-blader released them and walked through a portal. She vanished from the world. The effects of her visit were still a mystery. But Lock, Shock and Barrel seemed...nicer somehow. Sakura shook her head and headed back to Halloween Town, puzzled. As soon as she got back, she explained everything to Jack.

The pumpkin king said, "Well, I'll make sure to keep an eye on those three."

"Thanks, Jack. Anyway, we need to get back to work! We've got to prepare for Halloween!"

"Righty-o! I need those phantom-shaped lanterns all hung up in the town square. Think you can help?"

"Definitely!" replied the demon girl. The two headed out to the town square and started hanging up the lanterns.

Suddenly, Glacies had the urge to read more about the X-blade. So, she asked Leohart, "Master, may we return to the chapter about the X-blade?"

The master replied, "Of course, we can look it over again to refresh your memory." Once they turned back to the X-blade chapter, the trio saw the pages that they had accidentally skipped over because of them being stuck together at the time, and read some new info:

"The X-blade is weak, but it does have a sense of belonging. When light and darkness meet in the X-blade, they usually take turns of control. However, if something were to disrupt that control, say darkness introduced to the X-blade's heart. Then the relative soul would take over and be forced to cause the havoc the X-blade commands. Should the soul try to resist, then the excess light or darkness will force the wielder to absorb the respective element out of the hearts of others to weaken the host's resistance to control."

After having read that part, she was about to turn to the next page, more bad feelings started to grip the girl's heart. Confused and worried by it, the bluenette thought, 'Why am I feeling this way? Why do I have this gut feeling that LimeX is doing more harm again?' Wanting to do something now than to sit here and wait, Glacies asked the keyblade master, "Master Leohart, I think LimeX is out harming people

again. I know I sound impatient, but may we go out and put a stop to her now?"

The man closed the book and answered, "Very well, we shall take after her immediately. We've been here long enough; it's time we put a stop to her and bring LimeX and Chase back to their senses. Come my apprentices, we shall go outside and open a portal to the Lanes Between." Everyone left the castle and got to the circular area of the summit. The master told the boy, "Glacies has already done her attempt at opening the portal, so now it's Zephyr's turn. Zephyr, use your keyblade to open the gateway."

"Got it," replied Zephyr. Then he pointed his keyblade at the sky and shot out a beam of light to open the gateway. Everyone activated their armors and rode their gliders into the Lanes Between.

After riding through space, Glacies arrived in the world of Halloween Town first and landed in the middle of the street. Her crystal ice glider and her armor disappeared in a flash of light as she appeared in their Halloween Town form. Glacies was a ghost with a transparent white body. There was darker shade to the upper half of her face under her light blue tinted hair. She wore a white sundress with three ripped holes, skull pendant necklace & earrings, orange dolly shoes, and striped stockings. The girl looked around the spooky town as she walked and thought, *'I wonder if LimeX is here.'* As she went on, the guillotine's blade suddenly fell down in a blink of an eye. Glacies, who had been right next to it, jumped in surprise and let out a frightened scream, "Ahhhhh!"

Sakura glanced over at the ghost girl that had just screamed and said, "Wow, never seen a ghost scare herself." She pulled out her keyblade so she could light the lanterns for Jack.

The skeleton told her, "Okay, let it rip!"

"Got it! Fire!" the demon said and Shadow Heart shot little flames to all the lanterns, lighting them all rather quickly. The keyblade vanished and she smiled at Jack. "All done!"

Jack appreciated, "Thanks for the help, Sakura!"

Sakura turned back to the girl and asked, "What's up with you? Scared of your own shadow?"

The ghost girl said, "N-no. I'm just new here. I heard about Halloween Town and all of its spooky things here, but I didn't think I'd be running into one of its surprises this early." Then she thought about Chamex and asked, "By the way, have you seen a dark-haired girl wearing a blue cloak by any chance?"

Sakura explained her story, "Uh, yeah, we did, not too long ago. We didn't know what the heck she was doing here and she picked on the mayor, but she was a pretty good fighter, especially since I got stuck with a clone. She did something to Lock, Shock, and Barrel though since they were all acting nice, which isn't like them at all."

Glacies said, "Okay then, so it looks like LimeX has been here like I thought." Then she thought in confusion, *'Now she's made a trio of kids nice? LimeX, just what are you trying to do? I don't understand you.'* She was puzzled by LimeX going from Radiant Garden's serial killer to a slightly more passive and enigmatic person. Glacies thought Xander's evil darkness made her a ruthless killer, but the last part of the story contradicted her belief. The girl asked, "So where is she now?"

Sakura shrugged and answered, "I dunno, she just vanished. Besides that, all she did was pick on the mayor. I fought her a bit, but I got stuck with a clone."

Glacies sighed, "Then I guess we've lost her." She felt a bit frustrated that she and the others missed a good opportunity to catch ChameX.

Zephyr and Leohart soon caught up to their friend, appearing in the same spot she did. Zephyr looked around without realizing his new appearance for Glacies. "Glacies!" he called looking around a bit before looking down at himself. He screamed a bit in fear, "WHERE DID MY BODY GO?!" His skin & flesh had disappeared and he was now in the form of a skeleton with the same clothes he wore in his human form.

Glacies got taken by surprise and fear when she saw Halloween Town's influence on Zephyr and Leohart. Shocked by their seemingly horrific appearances, the ghost cried, "Oh my gosh! Zephyr, master, you're both dead!"

Leohart was more calmer than his apprentices as he saw his zombie body. He explained, "It is to keep world order. Our appearances blend in so we don't look out of place."

"Oh yeah, that's right," Glacies said as she suddenly remembered about how certain worlds could change one's appearances. She felt embarrassed for forgetting that.

Jack came over and waved hello to the newcomers. "Hi! You all new around here?"

Sakura asked, "Wait, are you guys Keyblade Wielders, too?" She thought, *'How could I have missed that?'* Then she replied to Zephyr, "And of course your body is gone, you're a skeleton like Jack." She herself looked the most human in Halloween Town, but she did have fangs like a monster. Her nails were pretty sharp, too.

The ghost introduced herself and her friends, "Yes of course. My name is Glacies and this is my friend, Zephyr. Our mentor and teacher here is Master Leohart."

The demon said, "It's an honor! I'm Sakura, and this is Jack Skellington, the Pumpkin King of Halloween Town."

Jack gave them his best skeleton grin and waved. "Hello!"

"Hello!" Zephyr said to Sakura and Jack. He asked in a more serious manner, "So she was here? Are you 100 percent sure it was actually her? The one that came could of been a clone, too." He knew firsthand what the darkness in ChameX was capable of.

Sakura crossed her arms in an irritated manner. "I'm pretty sure it wasn't a clone. Her attitude was definitely real." She asked, "I don't know why she would come up in here and just randomly attack the mayor and then make the local troublemakers act like angels with that funky tentacle power of hers. Do you guys have any idea?" They obviously knew the girl better than she did.

Glacies crossed her arms and tilted her head to the side as she tried to hypothesize why ChameX would come here and do those things. She said, "Well I do know that LimeX has attacked and killed some people in Radiant Garden. The mayor being attacked was another one of her havocs. But as for Lock, Shock, and Barrel, I'm not sure why she changed them. I guess that LimeX must have absorbed the darkness out of their hearts. All we can do is try to find her and stop her rampage." If ChameX really did absorb the darkness, then ridding the darkness and freeing the temple guards was going to take more work to do.

Sakura said, "I guess that might be it. If you guys need any help in finding her, I'll lend a hand. Four Key Wielders are better than three, right?"

Jack worriedly told her, "But you might miss Halloween if you leave again! You might not even come back this time..."

Sakura assured with a cheerful grin, "Aw, come on, Jack! You know it takes a lot to get me down, ol' buddy!"

Seeing as he cannot change her mind, which he never usually did, Jack decided to let her go, "Alright fine, but you just be careful, okay?"

Glacies turned to Leohart as she asked, "What do you think, master? Should we let Sakura join us?"

The man replied, "Maybe... But we should test her first. Sakura, is it alright with you if we test your abilities first? You will go against Glacies in fight. I will watch both of you carefully. Glacies, you can treat this as an assessment." He told them, "You will start on my signal and I will end the battle when I see fit. No maiming, seriously injuring or killing."

"Yes, master," Glacies replied.

"No problem at all," the demon girl said as she summoned her Keyblade and held it in a defensive position, fixing her stance so her whole body was on the defense. "Ready when you are!" Jack stood back a bit and watched with interest. He had never actually seen Sakura fight, so now was a very good

opportunity.

The ghost summoned her icy keyblade and got into fighting stance as she replied confidently to the Halloween Town inhabitant, "Oh I'm ready all right!"

Leohart led Zephyr to the side and then stepped in between the two keyblade wielders who were about to fight and summoned his keyblade. "One..." he started raising his arm. "Two..." His keyblade was now pointing at the sky and the tip of it started glowing. He said, "Three!" He fired off a shot of light from his keyblade to signal the start of the fight and then jumped back immediately, heading to where Zephyr was.

Sakura leapt up and attacked Glacies, aiming to strike her keyblade of course and not the ghost. The demon said, "Let's see how you handle that keyblade!" Glacies quickly brought up her Icestorm keyblade in guarding position and blocked the attack. Then she countered by swinging Icestorm at the demon. Sakura had leaped backwards and landed on all fours to dodge her swing with her Keyblade. Then she quickly got up again without using her hands and went for another charging attack.

Glacies moved back in an attempt to avoid the attack. Even though she was in ghost form, Glacies wasn't going to take any chances to find out if anything physical would just run right through her as if she was air or water. She figured that the keyblade might be able to harm her anyway. As she dodged, Sakura's keyblade barely touched Glacies at between the chest and stomach. It was only within half an inch of her that Glacies worried that she might have been hit. She thought, *'Well that was pretty close; luckily, I wasn't hit or anything.'* Then she attempted to cast her Blizzard spell at Sakura as ball of ice flew at her.

The demon smirked and knew a cheap trick to parrying that spell. "Fire!" She cast her Fire spell at the ball of ice headed towards her. When the two balls of elemental energy collided, the fire melted the ice and the two attacks practically canceled each other out. "Nice try, but I'm pretty good at magic."

Impressed, Glacies replied, "I can see that. Nice job destroying my Blizzard with Fire." When Sakura charged at her again, the bluenette brought up her keyblade in vertical position to block the attack. But then the Shadow Heart slide off of Icestorm's blade and the tip of her keyblade hit Glacies on the side of her chest. The apprentice grunted as she felt the pain on the spot before she leapt back to provide distance between herself and her opponent. Then she raised her keyblade in the air and shouted, "Thunder!" A bolt of lightning came down towards Sakura as it tried to hit her.

Sakura had to do a little backflip to dodge the lightning bolt. "That was really close! You're pretty good!" The demon smirked a bit and fired off another Fire spell at her, which the ghost dodged by cart-wheeling out of the way. "You're a really good fighter, I'll give you that!" After she fired off the spell, she charged at Glacies again.

The ghost charged in as well and when she swung, their keyblades clashed together. Glacies asked, "You're a great fighter as well. Were you trained by someone?"

Sakura shook her head and answered, "Nope. I just practice a lot." The demon ducked down and swung a leg out, trying to knock Glacies down.

Glacies was swept off her feet and she fell on her bottom and said, "Then I guess you must be a self-taught prodigy. Nice! Zephyr and I were only trained under Master Leohart to become this good." Then she rolled to the side and got up as she prepared to block an oncoming attack on her. Then she came at Sakura and tried to swing her keyblade sideways to the left at her before swinging again at her in an uppercut.

Sakura was not able to block the side strike too well, she had misplaced her keyblade for the block and she got a little tap on her side that would probably leave a bruise. She did manage to block the uppercut, though. "I'm not perfect, though, as you can see. Still working on perfecting a side block. Should have seen me in the Keyblade War. I had to be a prodigy to survive that sort of thing."

Glacies's face had an expression of surprise as she asked, "Wait, you were in the Keyblade War and survived? I didn't see you there, how did you manage to get out of that one?" Sakura was really something; because the last time the Keyblade War ended, Xander in his heartless god form had used the power of Kingdom Hearts to wipe out most of the keyblade wielders before he got destroyed.

Sakura smirked, "Well, that's my own dirty little secret now, isn't it?" She attacked Glacies again with her keyblade. She had barely escaped the Keyblade War with her life, but still, it was impressive that she even escaped at all. She did not want to tell her how she did, though she hated remembering such a tragic war where she lost several friends and many good allies.

Glacies blocked the attack before she did a backflip to put a little bit of distance between herself and Sakura. She was about to run over to Sakura's side and attack her there, knowing that the girl wasn't too good at side blocks. But then when Glacies had backflipped to the Gargoyle statue, the creature's eyes flashed red as it turned its horrific face to her and let out a loud eerie yowl at her. "Eek!" Glacies shrieked as she was astonished with fright. Her heart jumped and she was left open to be attacked.

Sakura did not attack her though just because a statue scared her. She glared at the Gargoyle and scolded, "Lucifer, how many times do I have to tell you to stop scaring people every time they bump into you?!" The gargoyle grumbled and crossed his arms. "Don't give me that attitude, mister! Do I have to get Jack?" Lucifer just grumbled again and went back to being a statue. The girl turned back to her opponent and apologized, "Sorry about him, he's always like that."

Glacies forgave her and said, "It's alright. I know and understand a lot of things in Halloween Town that's going to spook you silly. Anyway, let's get back to the fight." Then she charged at Sakura and attempted to hit her with Icestorm.

Sakura quickly blocked the attack. "Almost got me off guard!" She giggled a bit. "This fight is taking much

longer than expected..."

Glacies agreed, "I think so, too."

The demon asked, "What to do about it...?"

The ghost just shrugged and said, "I don't know. Master Leohart said that he'll be the one to end the fight when he thinks he's seen enough of your skills. So far, we seem to be equal in strength, speed, and everything; neither of us winning or losing. I guess we should just keep on fighting until he gives the say so to stop."

Sakura sighed, "Well, if that's what it takes!" She stepped back a few steps and pulled her Keyblade out of the block, then went for another swipe at the torso. ChameX appeared on a roof, looking as if she had been watching the fight for some times. As if she was getting an idea of both their styles and then locking them away for further use. Like someone would do when finding a weakness. Glacies got hit on the stomach and a breath of air was knocked out of her. She staggered back for a bit before she sidestepped around Sakura. Then she let out a yell and she swung her keyblade at Sakura's side, knowing that the girl wasn't too good with side blocks. The demon grunted, "Ouch! Owie...."

Right after the strike, Glacies pulled her keyblade away from Sakura. Then she whipped it up behind her opponent and brought it down to strike at her back as she yelled, "Hiya!"

Sakura blocked the attack with her Keyblade. "Drat..." Glacies pushed her keyblade against the demon's with as much strength she could muster in hopes of getting Icestorm close to Sakura's body and then swiping the blade part of the keyblade upwards across her torso. Sakura blocked the attack as best she could, but unlike the other girl, she did not have a lot of physical strength, so she ended up landing on her butt.

Glacies whipped her keyblade up in preparation to strike Sakura, but then she saw ChameX standing on top of the roof. The ghost opened her mouth in a silent gasp of surprise as seeing the dark Temple Guard return soon after Sakura said that she had left. Glacies shouted, "LimeX!"

ChameX raised an eyebrow and said, "Yes?" Her hands were folded as she watched them intently. Neither moving nor doing anything as she gazed at them. She stood there, still as a statue, and yet darkness seemed to flow around her like a cape. The darkness was her cape.

Sakura glanced over at LimeX. "So, that troublemaker is back in Halloween Town? I'll show her a thing or two this time!" She picked herself up off the ground and held the Keyblade defensively.

Clutching on tightly to Icestorm to get ready to fight, Glacies yelled, "LimeX, I've heard from Sakura here that you've attacked Halloween Town's mayor this time and robbed the darkness out of three children's hearts. No more playing bully and walking away, LimeX. It's time we put a stop to you and get Chase out

of you." Then she ran towards the building that ChameX was on and jumped on top of a spooky demon statue on a small pillar before she leaped up to the roof's edge and grabbed the gutter to bring herself up onto the roof. Now that she and the X-blader were on the same height, the ghost charged towards the temple guard and tried to swing her crystal ice keyblade at her.

ChameX gazed at them. She formed her blade and black tendrils came out of her cloak. She blocked the blade and jumped back. "Chase....." She turned and a corridor of darkness opened. She began walking to it, saying once again, "Chase....."

"No!" Glacies shouted as she was not about to let the X-blader escape. She raised her keyblade into the air and shouted, "Thunder!" The lightning bolt came down in front of LimeX as if to block her path away from the portal. Glacies yelled, "You're not getting away, this time!" She ran to the side of ChameX and tried to swing her keyblade at her to knock her away from the portal.

Sakura used her own magic to help out. "Fire!" A little ball of flame headed right towards ChameX. *'So, this must be their enemy and she's fused with another being... I'll ask Master Leohart to explain more to me later.'* The X-blader was completely absorbed by some thought. She did not even notice as she stepped right into the lightning bolt. She jerked and then she got a wound as the blade bruised her arm. She grunted in pain and then fell straight into the dark portal. It remained open for a few moments. Then it began to waver and evaporate.

Glacies bared her teeth with anger as she saw ChameX fall through the portal. She yelled, "Darn it!" She had been meaning to hit her away from the corridor, but somehow ChameX fell towards it instead. Then Sakura's Fire spell that was intending to burn the X-blader came at Glacies instead. The light-haired bluenette let out a short scream of pain as the fireball hit at her chest and set her clothes ablaze. The girl gritted her teeth in agony as the flames started burning her skin and clothes. She held up her Icestorm keyblade and shouted, "Esuna!" An orange aura engulfed Glacies's body as small orange orbs flew down and then up around her. The spell dissipated the flames and made them disappear. When she saw the corridor about to vanish, the ghost told the others, "Quickly everyone, get inside the portal before it disappears!" She dashed towards the corridor and went inside it. Zephyr and Leohart started to run to the corridor to follow Glacies and Sakura. Zephyr hesitated a bit, wondering if it would take them to the same dark place he was taken, too. He ran in after everyone else did.