

At the end of the corridor was an old ruined castle. ChameX limped inside and headed up the three stairs to the highest floor. She raised her blade and muttered a quick Cure, making her wounds vanish. She brushed herself off and entered the room she was using. She sat down on the old and rusted bed and gazed at her hand.

Konan appeared in a place with nothing but a purple light all around her. A voice from somewhere boomed loud and deep, saying, "I see you have died already..."

The woman said, "Yes... it was necessary."

"Are you ready, for reincarnation?"

"Yes."

"Very well...." Suddenly Konan's form changed into that of a little blue-eyed girl around the age of 5, her memories were completely wiped. She had on lavender shorts, a white t-shirt and her hair turned brown. "Your new name...is Hitomi...."

"Hitomi...." the little girl repeated, before reappearing at the castle of another world (that's the Beast's Castle; not where ChameX is.) Hitomi had landed in the courtyard and she opened her eyes, still greeted with nothing but darkness. She stamped her foot, she could still hear, she had her tongue so she should be able to taste. She could feel everything and she could smell, but it was just her eyes that were not working.

After going through the portal, the lightbladers wound up in another world with an old ruined castle in front of them. Sakura said, "Where are we...? This place seems almost as ominous as Halloween Town." She hated to admit it, but the place gave her the creeps. *'Well, at least I can give Jack a few tips for next Halloween.'*

Glacies said, "I don't know exactly. But I think LimeX may have escaped inside that castle." Then she asked her teacher, "Shall we look, master?" It seems plausible that ChameX may have gone inside the castle. The bluenette would have gone inside on her own, but her better judgment told her to ask Leohart first and see if he thinks it's best for everyone to go together just to be safe or split separate ways, so that they can find ChameX faster.

"Yes, of course," answered Leohart. They went inside the castle and looked inside. The whole place was dark and dusty; there were cobwebs on every corner of the large room, on the run-down furniture, and on a few debris.

Glacies said, "I guess nobody's lived here for a long time, considering what a wreck this place is." She observed every detail of the castle ruins. The group walked forward and noticed that there were many doors and holes, where some of the doors used to be, on both the ground level and upstairs on the next floor. The girl said, "LimeX could be anywhere in this castle. I wonder where we should look first." She tried to decide which way to go.

"Everything looks so old," Zephyr said, simply stating the obvious. "I have no idea where she would be, but we shouldn't go alone. We need to stick together unless you want to end up like I did."

Glacies replied, "Good idea! Here Zephyr, hold my hand." She took the boy's hand and held on to it. Surprisingly, the moment she touched him, the girl blushed red on her face and felt warm with passion. This was odd, why did she feel this way when she known and trained alongside Zephyr for years? Also, why was she having this feeling now when they were supposed to be focused on looking for ChameX and catching her? The girl tried to shrug these meddling feelings out of her as she said with her cheeks still red, "Uh... Let's all go see what's upstairs and check into that room on the left." So, everyone walked up the few sets of stairs while the bluenette was still holding onto Zephyr's hand until they reached the top floor. Then the girl opened the door she had picked and looked inside to see ChameX on the bed. Glacies release Zephyr's hand and then summoned her keyblade as she cried, "There she is, let's get her!" So Glacies ran into the room before she leapt at ChameX from the middle of the room. The bluenette attempted to thrust down her keyblade into ChameX's chest, so that she could release her heart and then everyone can go and dispel Xander's darkness out of her.

ChameX raised her head and gazed at them. Her hand formed the X-blade and deftly blocked Icestorm. She jumped back and cast Fire at the female apprentice. Sakura cast her own Fire, which hit ChameX's spell and dispersed the both of them. Zephyr threw his keyblade like a boomerang at the X-blader and it knocked her out through the open window. ChameX fell until she grabbed the window of the third floor. After swinging inside, she made a corridor of darkness and growled, "Stupid lightbladers, they're so persistent in trying to stop me. Fighting Mr. Ponytail is painful enough; four is too crowded. I need to move to another world."

The group hurried over to the ground floor and looked out to see ChameX about to go into the corridor. Glacies said to everyone, "She's going over there! Come on, we have to get to her quickly!" They ran out the room and raced downstairs in a hurry to catch ChameX before she could go into another world and do some damage to that place.

Leohart decided to split from the group as he said, "You three go, I'm going to search this castle for clues."

The teens stopped to look at the master and Sakura asked, "Clues? Why?"

The master told them, "I might find something on how to save LimeX from Etutu's influence. Now go,

you mustn't let her escape!"

Zephyr said, "Right, we'll take care of her while you do your thing." Then they went their separate ways.

ChameX heard them coming and growled. Her blackened cape began to flap and the portal disappeared. "Fine," she growled, black tendrils beginning to cover her body. She took a fighting stance, her blade beginning to pulse with darkness. She then took one step towards the entrance and waited for them to come.

The group finally caught up to ChameX who had her keyblade summoned to fight. Glacies said, "There she is! Quickly, we must stop her before she escapes!"

Sakura held her Keyblade in a defensive self and prepared herself for the fight. *'If we all work together, we can take her down!'* She gripped the hilt tighter as she put all her focus on the X-blader. *'Just gotta watch out for those clones she's been making. She does that and she'll most likely escape our grasp.'*

Glacies looked at the X-blade that ChameX was holding and thought, *'The X-blade; we have to avoid destroying that. Because if we do, we may kill both Chase and LimeX! I have to go with the safe method instead; extracting Xander's darkness out of them.'* The girl started off with a first strike by performing her special finish command, Elemental Trinity. First, she cast her Blizzara spell at the brunette to try to either freeze her in solid ice or to leave some frost on her. Zephyr saw what his friend was doing and immediately figured her plan. When the girl followed up with a Fire spell, the boy cast an Aerora to make the fireball stronger. Finally, Glacies tried to cast her Thunder spell on the X-blader's arm in an attempt to shock it and disarm her.

ChameX dodged all the spells deftly and grabbed the bluenette, jumping away from the others and slamming her against the wall in one quick movement, knocking the breath out of the apprentice. Glacies was stunned for a bit as ChameX brought her X-blade to attack, before the others could counterattack. The bluenette's looked up and widened her eyes in fright as she watched the temple guard's X-blade come at her chest fast like lightning.

Meanwhile inside ChameX's heart, Chase was starting to slowly regain his strength. He broke through a heavy goo of darkness and rose out of it. As he tiredly panted for air, he sensed a fight outside the heart and caught a brief vision of ChameX about to thrust into Glacies. Chase had a shocked look on his face as he cried, "No!"

Then ChameX paused; her eyes gazed blankly at the surprised apprentice, before she dropped her and stepped back. Glacies clutched her heart and got back up on her feet as she recovered from the shock of

almost getting possibly killed by ChameX. The X-blader jumped out the window once more and shifted her body to land without harm. She moved a few leagues away and waited for her enemies. Zephyr said to Sakura, "We can jump out too; I can soften the fall with Aerora." Glacies was already familiar with that move, but he never told it to Sakura. "We all have to jump at around the same time though."

"Okay, no problem! Let's do it!" She tightened the grip on Shadow Heart. "Let's get a move on! We got some villain butt to kick!" She smirked a bit and looked out the window. *'Sure is a long way down though...'* Then the trio jumped out the window as the boy waited for the right time to cast Aerora. He didn't want to cast it too late or they would just continue to fall a bit faster after, but too late and they might crash. After he deemed it time he cast the spell, the winds stirred slowing the fall down. They landed softly on their feet.

Glacies looked around for signs of ChameX as she asked, "Where is she?"

ChameX was standing at the top of a dead tree. She had her weight dispersed so as not to snap anything. She was gazing at the X-blade with a frown. "C-" she muttered, "Chase?" She flinched and shuddered for a few moments. Then the black tendrils split from her cape and whipped about behind her and she gazed at the others. She gripped the X-blade and waited for them to strike.

Glacies saw the caped girl and pointed to her as she shouted, "There she is!" She ran towards the tree as she whipped up her icy keyblade into the air and cried, "Thunder!" A thin lightning bolt fell from the sky down at ChameX, who jumped from the tree and let the spell strike it instead. The X-blader landed on the ground and gave the trio her usual blank stare. Glacies bared her teeth in annoyance at having her Thunder spell missed and she thought, *'This is getting annoying! How do you stop this girl, when she keeps getting away and avoiding your attacks?'*

Zephyr held his arm behind him and swung it forward, throwing his keyblade. "Strike Raid!" he said as he released his keyblade that went spinning in the air in the direction of ChameX. The brunette jumped out of the way and continued gazing at them with that same look. The black tendrils faded for a moment, then came back in almost thrice as much number, surprising the trio with awe. A black portal appeared behind the X-blader and she walked through it. It swirled there chaotically.

Glacies yelled, "Oh no you don't! I'm tired of letting you go away; this is going to stop right here!" Then she ran hard after ChameX into the portal in determination to keep her from escaping again.

Zephyr caught his keyblade after it spun back to him and called after his friend, "Glacies, wait!" He ran after her, trying to get through in time before she would make the same mistake he did before.

But it was too late; the bluenette tackled the X-blader down and the corridor closed behind them. "Gotcha!" she cried out triumphantly at ChameX beneath her. Her satisfaction was cut short when she felt the presence of tendrils behind her. Glacies looked back and saw them coming at her. She shut her eyes tight and braced herself to be harmed. But then they stopped a few inches away from her; the

lightblader opened her eyes and felt confused as to why the tendrils did not hurt her.

ChameX, fighting the killer urges, groaned and pushed the other girl away. She stood up and shuddered; the black tendrils shuddering and shrinking. "Chase..." she slurred out, her eyes closed, "Help...." Then she collapsed to her knees.

Meanwhile, Chase got himself wrapped by the dark tendrils squeezing onto him. The silver-haired boy made a tight face as he struggled to free himself from Etutu's darkness. Soon, a bright light engulfed Chase and he let out a scream as the light grew bigger into a ball and freed him from the tendrils. The lightblader slashed at all of them with his keyblade using his Round Blitz technique and the tendril pieces fell into the pool of darkness, where they merged back into it. For a very brief moment, Chase sensed a small source of light coming from somewhere (when Glacies got onto ChameX) and wondered, *'Hm? What's this?'* Soon, the light disappeared (when LimeX pushed away Glacies) and was followed by LimeX's voice calling for him. "LimeX!" Chase cried out in worry. Then more tendrils, eight of them, appeared and surrounded him. The silver-haired temple guard bared his teeth as he murmured to himself, "This is going to take a while. Hang on, LimeX!" Then he began to slash at the darkness as he avoided the tendrils' attempts to hit him or wrap him.

Glacies walked up to ChameX to close the distance between them and looked down at the kneeling girl as she said, "You know, I really hope that this time the madness ends once and for all. We've been trying to get you and Chase separated and destroy Xander's darkness inside you, but you just keep running away like you want to stay that way and keep your friend trapped inside you. What's even worse is that you've gone and hurt a lot of innocent people, including my best friend Zephyr. This is the last time you'll escape from me. Say goodbye to Xander's darkness, LimeX." Then Glacies attempted to thrust her keyblade onto ChameX's chest, so that she could release her heart and start getting rid of the evil god's power over it. The X-blader blocked unconsciously and leapt back. The apprentice growled and she yelled, "Why don't you take a hit already?!" Then her anger turned to awe, when she saw the temple guard going through a strange transformation. Her body convulsed and the tendrils began to enter her body. Her skin grew darker and she stood up.

In her possessed state, ChameX grasped her blade and breathed out once, "You know, Glacies. Darkness isn't overly bad. Sure, there are forms of it which drive people to do bad things, but there are also good forms that do a ton of good for everyone. But I'm not that form." She took a battle stance. "I'm tired of this game of cat and mouse. This time, I'm going to kill you. I'm generous, so I'll give you the first move." Glacies just stood there as she wondered if she should go in and attack at the risk of getting herself killed. The girl knew that ChameX would just easily dodge all her attacks and maybe land in some good strikes on her in retaliation. She hesitated to move at all, because she was so scared of dying.

Meanwhile, Chase was hacking at the tendrils when suddenly; a Dark Follower heartless appeared out of the black pool beneath. Chase looked at the giant heartless and said, "So Xander even managed to get his minions into our hearts, huh? I guess you must be the source of the darkness. Alright buddy, I'll take good care of you." Then Chase charged at the Dark Follower and jumped high up to strike it on its head. The heartless grunted silently in pain as Chase swung his keyblade at it a few times before three tendrils grabbed him and pulled him down away from the Dark Follower. The heartless punched its fist onto the black ground and a dark purple portal opened up beneath the fist to summon a few Shadow heartless. The Shadows came out of the portal and crawled their way over to Chase, where they got onto him and started scratching their claws on him.

Chase resisted as much as he took from the heartless before he raised up the Kingdom Key and shouted, "Magnet!" A huge magnetic orb appeared above and sucked in the Shadows and the tendrils, that was forced to release Chase, towards it. Chase landed on his feet and shotlocked all on of the Shadows and tendrils, before he fired the Meteor Showers at them. The shooting balls of light hit the heartless & the tendrils and destroyed them. Then he moved on to the Dark Follower that tried to launched its fist at Chase, who dodged the attack in an almost cartwheel-like fashion. The giant heartless made another attempt to punch at Chase, but the keyblade master avoided that attack, too. Chase jumped onto the Dark Follower's hand and ran up its arms until he got to its head where he swung his keyblade hard at its face and sent the Dark Follower staggering back until it fell backwards on its back with a thud.

Chase looked at the space in front of him to see if the Dark Follower would get back up to fight. Just like he expected, the giant heartless rose up from the black ground it had fallen on and hung both arms upward on the side as it warmed itself to get stronger and fight. Chase shotlocked onto the Dark Follower and fired the Meteor Showers at the heartless. The many lightballs crashed into the approaching purplish-black giant. Despite walking calmly towards Chase as if the Meteor Shower shotlock never done any harm to him, the Dark Follower was indeed hurting from the powerful light balls though it tried not to show any signs of pain. Dark smokes rose from the wounds the Dark Follower suffered and Chase noticed him as he thought, *'The Dark Follower may look unfazed as if it's never been hurt at all, but it's obviously bluffing. I could do another round of Meteor Shower, but I don't have enough energy to do that. I'm just going to have to wait until I recharge.'*

Glacies finally made up her mind as she clenched her fist and thought, *'No, I can't hesitate. Chase needs to be freed. He may not have saved my dad, but at least he did try and I have to repay him somehow, even if it means I have to die in order to do so.'* Using her newfound courage, the girl pointed her keyblade at ChameX and shouted, "Blizzara!" The iceball started flying towards ChameX. The X-blader did not dodge; she did say she would let Glacies have the first hit. Her eyes were completely closed, but they seemed to be staring out with potent malice. As if she hated the very essence of the bluenette. As if her sole desire was to snuff out the light so that she could rest. There was a reason she had her eyes

closed. Glacies followed up the attack with her next move, "Fire!" She launched a fireball out of her keyblade and it hit ChameX, who grunted in pain and had burns over her body.

The apprentice was about to use her Thunder spell next to finish her Elemental Trinity combo, but then ChameX raised her blade and said, "Cure..." Her wounds instantly vanished. She took a fighting stance and said, "And now it's my turn." She took a step and seemed to vanish; a phantom image was left where she had been. Glacies wondered where her opponent went as she tensed up for a surprise attack coming at her. Then suddenly, the bluenette felt a presence behind her and soon before she knew it, she got hit hard behind on her back with a downward stroke. Glacies let out a short cry of pain as she fell flat onto the ground. She gritted her teeth from the hurt she felt and tried to push herself up to get back up and fight whilst dealing with the pain on her back.

ChameX did not hesitate; she swung down on Glacies's keyblade arm, making the girl cry out in pain. Her eyes were still closed, and yet they showed no regret as what she was doing. She growled inhumanly, and darted back after the attack. She then darted forward at that same-near-light speed to bash down the other arm, then the leg. The bluenette grunted in pain as she dropped on her bottom and sat there in pain. The X-blader jumped back and gazed at her without opening her eyes.

Glacies winced and she cast her spell at ChameX, "Fire!" She could not make a close attack on ChameX due to the damage she had taken, so using magic spells was her best option.

The brunette gazed at the apprentice's Fire with her closed eyes. It was only the simple fire spell, so her Fire spell should cancel it out. She pointed her blade and spoke, "Fire." As the flame shot out, ChameX took one step to the side. As with all attacks, they can only hit a certain area. Move out of that area and it's easy to dodge.

Both spells collided with and canceled each other out. Glacies was now feeling at loss for confidence; it seems like her distance attacks were easily avoided by ChameX as well. She thought with despair, *'What am I supposed to do? I can't win like this. I don't know what else to do.'* The girl forced herself to stand up, while feeling the pain on her left leg where her foe had hit, and walked up slowly towards ChameX to close the distance between them by a foot and a half. Then the lightblader cast her spell, "Blizzara!" The iceball homed in on ChameX in an attempt to freeze her. But the enemy only turned out to be an illusion as the attack passed through and made the phantom vanish. Glacies dropped her mouth in bewilderment and murmured, "What?" Then she sensed ChameX's presence behind her without turning her head to look at her as she tensed in fear at the mention of intense pain.

ChameX said, "This would not have turned out like this, if you had only left me alone. I will give you immense pain, and then relieve you of it." Then she raised her blade and let out a yell as she slashed downwards. Then she did it again and again repeatedly as the blunette grunted in pain from each blow. Taking a few steps back, the girl gazed at Glacies, who had collapsed from the damage and was now covered in bloody bruises. The keyblade apprentice had her eyes closed in a sleep-like state as she was almost dead, but who knows how long it would be until Glacies would depart to the afterlife?

The Dark Follower's fist glowed with a white light and it tried to punch its fist down at Chase, who jumped away from his spot before he could get hit. But while he was in mid-air, a wide shockwave blasted across the ground and as soon as Chase landed, he toppled over and rolled backwards across the black pool. "Guh!" he grunted. As Chase was about to get up, he saw the Dark Follower shooting two big blue-auraed lightballs out of its heart-shaped hole at him. The temple guard put his keyblade into a blocking stance and reflected the two lightballs back at the Dark Follower and hit it in the head. The Dark Follower tried again with four light-balls this time, but reflected them all back at the heartless.

The Dark Follower got damaged by its own attack reflected back it by Chase and a few more wounds appeared on the heartless. Then the Dark Follower created a red plasma sphere from one of its hands and threw it up into the dark air above it where the ball exploded into many huge dark electric spheres that fell towards the ground area Chase was in. Chase looked at all of the falling balls coming down at him and started running around and dodging each and every ball falling down to hit him. As Chase was about to evade the last electric sphere, a dark tentacle grabbed onto his leg and tripped him over. "Gah!" the silver-haired boy grunted before he looked at the black tentacle on his leg. "Sheesh, you guys never give up, do you?" Chase said to the tentacle. Then the dark ball became dangerously close to Chase and the temple guard watched it with fear before it fell on him and shocked him. "Ahhhhh!" Then the black tendril holding onto him shriveled and died.

The slightly bruised Chase looked up at the Dark Follower that was now standing before him. He felt a surge of keyblade energy in him and thought, *'Alright, my shotlock energy is back and up. It's time to finish this fight once and for all.'* The giant heartless threw its fist down at Chase, while the temple guard shot out a volley of Meteor Showers at it. A giant ball of light engulfed the whole area for a bit until 15 seconds later, the whole world became dim again. The Dark Follower was finally destroyed and the darkness from Xander was disappearing. The dark pool covering up the ChameX's station vanished to reveal the glass-stained picture of a sleeping LimeX. Chase smiled triumphantly and said, "LimeX, we're free now. Xander has lost again." But then his smile vanished, when he saw that the other side of ChameX's station, the one with Chase's glass-stained picture, was still covered in darkness. Which meant that LimeX's heart was freed from Xander, but not Chase's. "I don't get it! I thought defeating that monster would return our hearts back to normal, but how come I'm the only still trapped in darkness?" he asked himself.

To answer his question, another heartless, which resembled the Dark Follower, but was black with a tint of red and had wings, appeared out of the dark pool in the Chase side of the station. The Dark Follower that Chase defeated was the one in control of LimeX's side and that means this new heartless here belonged to Chase himself. The light temple guard was about to start a fight with that monster when all of a sudden, there was a line of light splitting Chase's side and LimeX's side of the heart. It was an indication that Chase and LimeX would separate into two people again. Pretty soon, the two hearts separated and the Chase side disappeared as the LimeX side became whole again. Chase disappeared

from the Dive to Heart world and reappeared in the Realm of Light, but in a world away from where LimeX, Glacies, and the others were. Chase was now in the Beast's Castle world.

For a moment, ChameX shuddered and nearly dropped her blade before it stopped. Her heart was finally free of Etutu's control. Her body returned to normal as her appearance was removed of all of traces of Chase and she started to look completely a lot like herself again. She opened her eyes and looked around. "Chase?" There was no sign of him. Instead, there was the bleeding body of Glacies. She swore and pulled out her blade, "Cure." The bluenette's wounds instantly vanished. LimeX opened the portal and picked up unconscious girl and carried her back to where the others were and gently laid her down.

The worried lightbladers walked over to the brunette as Zephyr said in a slightly shocked tone, "You're back to normal!"

LimeX gazed at them for a moment, before turning back and creating another portal. "I've got to go."

The boy asked, "Where are you going? You no longer have a temple to guard."

The temple guard half-turned and said, "I've got someone to save, then I can worry about the future. For him, he might not have one." Then she turned back and closed her eyes. "Now....." She faced the portal she created and whispered, "Light.....corrupted.... Can I sense it?" She was silent; she opened her eyes and stepped into the portal. Then she began running and murmured, "Oh Chase... Darkness isn't your element. I worry what damage is being done."

Sakura knelt down over Glacies and looked at her in concern. "Hey, is she going to be alright? You don't think LimeX did anything bad to her, do you?" she asked. But for all the demon girl knew, the darkblader might have put her under a spell.

Zephyr looked over at his friend as well and said, "She probably did, but Glacies doesn't seem to be hurt. I mean look how peaceful she's sleeping."

Glacies was slowly waking up as her eyelids opened to see a blurry vision of Zephyr. Her vision soon became clear again. "Z-Zephyr?" the girl asked as she looked up at him. Then she lifted her upper body up and looked around to see that she was back at the place where she and everyone else pursued ChameX. "Zephyr, Sakura, what happened? How did I get here? I thought LimeX was going to kill me," Glacies asked in confusion as to why she still lived.

The boy said to her, "I don't know what happened over there, but LimeX and Chase split apart. LimeX was fine and she brought you back, but Chase was still consumed by darkness." Then he asked, "How are you feeling?"

"I'm-" Glacies was about to say that she was sore all over from taking in too much damage from LimeX, but then to her surprise she discovered that she was actually feeling pretty fine now. There were no wounds on her body to make her movements painful; it was like Glacies had never battled ChameX in the first place. "Alright?" the girl asked as she looked at her healed body. She wondered if Zephyr or Sakura had used Cure on her before she woke up. She looked between the two and asked, "So who healed me up?"

Zephyr asked Glacies, "LimeX did, probably before she brought you back. Do you need another cure?"

Glacies replied, "N-no, I think I'm fine. I'm feeling a lot better now."

Then Sakura said, "Well that's good, because I thought she might have removed your heart or something. And that wouldn't be nice at all. But I'm wondering why she did that..." This LimeX person was certainly strange one; one moment she's bad and then the next, she's good. Sakura might as well come to the conclusion that the darkblader was bipolar.