

((**Note:** It's been 4 years since I finished the Keyblade War arc of this fanfic. I know I said that I was going to finish my other fics before I continue this, but then my interest in this story came back since having seen the E3 trailer for Kingdom Hearts 3. I've been wanting to get to the filler arc for a long time, but my Dragon Cave RP fic was taking too long to get to the "big part" I've been dreaming of. So I'm just going to go ahead with the filler arc anyway.

Now before I get started with this, I'm going to mention some things regarding this fic's universe and the canon universe. I've noticed that some of what happened in the Keyblade War arc contradicts with the canon game's lore such as the events of Kingdom Hearts: Union Cross and the fact that we didn't get to mention a bunch of children rebuilding the worlds. Because the RP and the mobile game's keyblade wars differ heavily, I decided that I'm going to make this RPfic an AU of the game. And because now it's an AU, the lore of this story will also differ in some ways from the games.

First of all, light and darkness will neither be good nor evil and both will have positive and negative effects on a person depending on their heart's alignment to the realm they were born in. For example, if you were born in the Realm of Light, then the use of darkness weakens the heart and corrupts a person. If you were born in the Realm of Darkness, then the overuse of light burns you. If you're from the Realm in Between, then neither element will harm you unless you're using certain forms of negative darkness/light. You can potentially develop an immunity to the harmless effects of either element, no matter the realm. There will also be light-type enemies in this AU. I don't know what they're going to be called yet or what their emblem will be. And I don't know when they'll make an appearance, but they will be introduced eventually.

Secondly, people do not need Donald's magic to transform their appearances to fit in with the other worlds they're in. The world's magic transforms them. I know it's already been stated in Chapter 13, but I felt like bringing this up in case what this is the first chapter you're reading.

Thirdly, Kingdom Hearts: Union Cross (or Unchained X for that matter) does not exist at all in this AU. There are no foretellers, no Chirithies, and no Master of Masters. The other games (with the exception of KH3: Remind and so on) however will exist in this AU's timeline, though there may be some changes regarding the universe's logic, story and backstory to be consistent with this AU.

And lastly, the other 2 Realms, besides the one in between, will have worlds of their own that have been a part of the planet before its separation. The Realm of Light has Destiny Islands and Disney Town/Country of the Musketeers/Timeless River and probably a few other worlds too if I feel like adding them to the lore. The worlds there have always been separated though. As for the Realm of Darkness, it'll be one big planet like how it was in the Realm in Between before the Keyblade War. There will probably be some more differences, but I'll mention them in later chapters. Anyway, the rest of the lore is the same as the canon for now. With all this out of the way, let's go ahead and start the story now.))

After Konan had completed her reincarnation process, it was now time for Master Bihai to go through

his as well. A booming voice asked, "Are you ready for your reincarnation, Bihai?"

The bald elderly man with long white mustache replied, "I am."

Then the booming voice said, "Then let the process begin!" At the start, a big ball of bright light engulfed Bihai as two rows of small orange block-like orbs spun around him and streams of light blue light flew towards him. Bihai started changing form as his whole body shrunk and became younger. His bald head grew bear brown hair and cat ears, his old dark brown eyes turning into younger cerulean blue ones, wrinkles on his face & hands disappeared, a brown cat tail appeared on his rump, and his long mustache and goatee vanished. In place of the old man's clothes were now a white t-shirt with short gray sleeves, navy blue shorts, red & white kids' sneakers, and a baby blue wristband. Once the transformation was completed, the booming voice said, "The reincarnation process has now been completed along with the memories of your past life erased. Welcome back into the world, Kumo."

After the voice stopped talking, the physically 4-year-old boy in the light ball started flying down towards one of the worlds as he smiled cheerfully and said, "Wheeee!" He was heading for La Cite des Cloches. The ball of light fell from the sky like a meteor crashing down towards Earth. That ball of light hit the cobblestone street without leaving a crack on it. The light disappeared to reveal the small neko.

The few bystanders looked at him in awe as a child standing next to his mother asked, "Mommy, why does that boy have a tail and cat ears?"

Kumo, Bihai's reincarnation, looked around at the staring people for a bit, before he happily bounded through the street. A fat man watched him go and said to himself, "Boy, that was weird."

Kumo bounded across the street and turned around the corner until he saw some people wearing peculiar items. Some of them wore masks and others were in costumes. These people resembled corpses and ghosts with the things they wore. Though they looked a bit creepy, the neko was not scared of them at all. He was just merely curious about these outfits. There must be some kind of event going on, perhaps maybe a fun one at that. Kumo walked past the disguised citizens, looking at each one he came across with wonder. Without keeping his eyes in front of him, he soon bumped into someone and let out an "Umph!"

The young man's voice sounded friendly, "Whoa hey now, you got to watch where you're going, little one."

The boy looked up at the stranger and saw a hooded silver-haired man with a skull mask on his face looking down at him. He was wearing a dark green long-sleeved doublet with leafy vine patterns on it, a dark gray mantle with patterned gold and silver trims, black medieval breeches, yellow hoses, and black shoes. Kumo apologized with a smile, "Oh sorry."

The man observed the child's form and asked, "You seem new around here. Are you from another

world?"

"I-" Kumo put a finger to his lip and looked down sideways in thought, trying to remember his life before now. But nothing came up; all there is was blankness except for his first few minutes of this world. He finally answered, "I don't know."

The man assumed, "You must be a lost child then. I'll take that as a yes." He removed his mask, making his green eyes be seen more clearly by the boy, and asked, "What's your name, little one? My name is Roland."

The boy happily answered, "I'm Kumo, I'm a kitty-cat. Meow!"

Roland giggled heartily and said, "Well Kumo, I suppose you'd like a tour of this city here. But first, are your parents around?"

Unfamiliar with the term, Kumo asked, "What are parents?"

Roland answered, "They're your mother and your father. I'm sure they must be looking for you. I should get you back to them."

Kumo had no blood relatives that he knew of. His only family was himself. "I don't have parents."

"What?!" the man sounded surprised with his mouth open. "So an orphan then..." With a tone of pity, he continued, "You poor child. I'll take care of you then." He took the boy's small hand into his own and told him, "Come, I'll take you to my home. I'll even show you some interesting things on the way."

The two began to walk together through the street. Kumo, still noting the costumed people around them as well as the mask the man he was going with wore, immediately started, "Roland."

"Yes, child?"

"Why is everyone wearing masks and costumes?"

The man answered, "Because today is All Hallow's Eve. It's when the evil spirits come from the realm of the dead to haunt this world at night. We wear these disguises to scare away the spirits or to blend in with them."

Kumo looked at the day-lit sky and pointed out, "But it's not night time, so there can't be ghosts here."

Roland smiled, "Right, there are none right now. But we're just trying out our costumes to get ourselves ready by tonight. I already bought mine and I'm going to be wearing it straight home until I take it off."

"Can I get a costume too, Roland?" The boy did not want to be haunted by ghosts. They sounded pretty scary after all.

"Sure Kumo, I'll take you to that store where I got mine. I think they have a ghost mask that'll fit you." Roland turned around and took Kumo to the shop that sold the masks and costumes.

Chase's portal took the master and his apprentices back to the training ground of his castle. After the portal disappeared, Leohart turned to his students and focused his attention on Hitomi. As his newest pupil, she needs an introduction on what they do here. So he explained to her, "Welcome to my castle courtyard, Hitomi. This is where we train in the ways of the keyblade. I'll be teaching you techniques and spells useful in defending yourself with. As my newest student, you'll be starting with the most basic moves." He looked to his older apprentices and told them, "Zephyr, Glacies, you two are to spar with one another. I will be training Hitomi."

"Got it," the boy responded as the blue-haired girl silent obeyed. The teens summoned their keyblades and got into their fighting stance.

Glacies playfully said, "Try not to lose, Zeph." A spar with her friend felt like a friendly competition. She was hopeful in beating him in this training game of theirs.

Zephyr smiled back confidently, "Don't worry, I won't." Like his friend, he was just as eager to win. Glacies took the first swing at him, but the boy was quick to dodge as he has the advantage in his talent, speed. He swung back, hitting her in the stomach. The attack was light as it should be during spars, so no real harm was being done.

Leohart said to the little girl, "Right this way." He took her hand and led her to a space away from the battling teens. Then he let go of her and turned to face her. "Now then, I suppose we should start with some swings. Please summon your keyblade."

Hitomi held her hand out and began to summon her keyblade. Clouds of darkness appeared and took shape, becoming the form of a dark maroon keyblade with a black bit that was sharp and pointy. The edges of the stem were black in color and the curly markings were glowing white. The handle was light pink in color with dark maroon curls. The dark maroon bow was an upside down heart with sharp projections. Lastly, its keychain was a diamond with devil wings. The girl looked at her keyblade and felt its name calling in her head as if she had known it before. *'Lurebreaker,'* she thought.

Leohart summoned his own keyblade with a flash of light forming it. He told, "Before we get into the moves, I'm going to need you to get into a fighting stance. Watch how I do it." He brought his right leg back and away from the left foot, which left his knees bent a little. "Put your right foot in the back like this and keep your hips and back straight. Don't turn your body side-wards." Hitomi attempted to copy

her teacher's stance with her right foot falling back, but her legs ended up positioned in a straight line. The man corrected her, "Your right foot must be far from the left, Hitomi." After she corrected her stance, Leohart gave her a short nod, "Much better. Now I can start teaching you the moves." The keyblade master began teaching his apprentice the swings, thrusts and guards as well as how to move in fighting stance. A few times she got a move wrong, but she eventually became a natural at performing the basic attacks.

It was a chaotic night and preteen boys in a rural village went around pulling all sorts of pranks. Outhouses were tipped over; farm gates were unhinged to let animals like sheep, cows and horses run loose; eggs were thrown at houses; and other kinds of mischief were made. A boy had a jack-o-lantern on a pole with a white sheet hanging below the head to make it look like a pumpkin-headed ghost. He held the pumpkin in front of a window and made a low moaning sound. The girl inside the house woke up and saw the thing at her window. She let out a horrified scream as the boy outside snickered under his breath. Somewhere in town, a sleeping man woke up to the smell of smoke. He lit up his torch and saw dark clouds of smoke coming into his wood. He got really worried about this as he said, "What in the blazes?!" He leaves his bedroom and finds fire burning things in the living room. The man gets horrified as he lets out a long shocked scream.

LimeX stands outside listening to the man's scream in sadistic pleasure. The girl was in a world affiliated with darkness. It had been nighttime here when she left Chase to go her own way. Different worlds were known for having different times of the day. One world would be in a state of daytime and the other would be in the dusk. This world here had an informal holiday known as Mischief Night. Some worlds had it set on the day of Halloween, while others had it a day before that. LimeX was not one for collecting candy from people's house; she would rather do tricks than treats and Mischief Night suited her better. The girl left the burning house to be turned to ashes as she went into the forest to go meet with someone she knows. She walked the ground covered with dead autumn leaves that had fallen from the trees. It took her a while until she got to a lone cottage sitting beside a river. The girl knocked on the door and a womanly voice inside said, "Come on in." LimeX opened the door and entered the cottage where a white-haired drow with a slender body and wearing an assassin outfit was sitting on a patterned rug. The drow had a permanent scowl on her face, but she was not angry at the moment. There were heads of her enemies mounted on her wall. She asked, "So, I take it you came here to talk about the fate of the Keyblade Temple, correct?"

"Yes, Sabella," LimeX answered regretfully. "Etutu destroyed the temple and started a Keyblade War." Her hand clenched into a fist as she blamed, "It's all that stupid light scum's fault! He didn't call for help. Because of him, it happened."

Sabella, LimeX's other mentor and fellow darkblader, shared her resentment of lightbladers. She hissed, "Lightbladers... They're nothing but naive weaklings. Always thinking that they only need to be good will to triumph over evil." There was more to fighting than simple morality; strength, endurance, cleverness

and speed were traits that really prevailed should they prove to be better. The drow calmed and asked, "So now what will you do, LimeX, now that your mission has failed?"

The girl answered, "I got a new job to do. Bihai is making me protect the balance between dark and light in the universe. It's something Chase and I have to do." She continued with a scowl that soon devolved into yelling, "And we have to pass our powers to some kids in the future and make them do our work, because that old fart thought it was a good idea to not let the next generations have keyblades."

Sabella said, "From guardian of a temple to guardian of the universe. You certainly do have your work cut out for you."

LimeX crossed her arms, "Yeah? Well, it's not like I wanted it anyway. I was hoping to go my way after this."

Sabella suggested, "Well maybe you can do it soon if you find yourself an apprentice to replace you quickly."

The girl shot it down, "Nice idea, but Chase told me that this will be a lifetime gig as well."

"LimeX, you're an independent girl. You don't need to do what anybody tells you."

The girl smiled in pleasure, "You know? You do have a point, but where exactly am I going to find an apprentice?"

The drow told her, "Let me look into the future for clues." Sabella was not only a fighter, but also a mystic, too. She has the power to predict a possible future. She was the one who sent LimeX to guard the temple after seeing Etutu incite a war between worlds. The drow's eyes started glowing as a dark aura surrounded her body. It took her a good 5 minutes before her eyes stopped glowing.

LimeX asked her, "So, what did you find? A quick learner, I hope."

Sabella said to her former apprentice, "You will find your apprentice in four days. But who it is, you'll have to see for yourself, because that identity is unknown to me."

The girl snorted and complained, "So I have to search everyone I see on the fourth day. Great, just great! This will take a lot of my time and energy." She grumbled quietly, "Hope it's not a lightblader."

"Patience, LimeX. You may get your apprentice the moment your heart senses them. For now, just look forward to that day."

"Whatever you say, boss." LimeX opened the door to leave and said, "Well it's been nice to see you again. Maybe I'll bring a head over as a gift for you next time."

The drow smiled, "I would love that." The girl left the cottage and went back to the village to check the damages she did.

Chase stepped into the Land of Departure from the portal he created. The first thing to catch his attention was a stairway leading up to an enormous white castle standing right before him. Its arms, which each has a pair of architectural boxes conjoined by a bridge, were curved downward from the weight of the ends. It seemed like the arms will eventually break down and fall down to the ground past below somewhere from the stony circular area Chase was on. But what appeared to be keeping them from breaking down were the golden chains connecting to them from the grassy mountains' collars. The guy was not sure how the chains manage to do it as he was no expert on architectural engineering. He said to himself in thought, "So this is the Land of Departure, huh? It sure has a pretty weird castle, but maybe the inside's not too bad." He walked up the stairs to get to the oversized purple & yellow double doors. Chase guessed that the size must allow for keybladers of larger races to get inside. As proof to confirm his assumption, there were many doorknobs lined up vertically on the right door. The guy took the knob suitable for his size and twisted it open to get inside the castle. He went up one of the two staircases that were split to each side of the room by a platform between them. It took him up to the floor with the three thrones, where he had just been with the others.

Chase went to the same throne he was on with the tome and sat there to resume reading where he left off. The next part of the book told him more of the keybladers' duties to the Realm In-Between. Their main task was to keep the balance between light and darkness on equal footing and to keep one from overtaking the other so that the universe would not die. The man thought, *'I bet LimeX will be happy to fight the light if we ever get into a situation where we have to protect the worlds from the light.'* Then he got to the next chapter explaining that keybladers are allowed to make friends with and help the inhabitants of the worlds. But it also warns keybladers to never interfere with certain affairs of the worlds such as politics and local wars, for one might not know the full story of the world and end up putting it into decline. That is unless inaction leaves the world at the threat of elemental unbalance. Chase made a mental note to keep that in mind. Eventually, his mind started to become bored of reading and he decided to give the tome a break, so that he can have the energy to pay attention and learn. After folding the corner of the page he was on, the man closed the tome and left it back on the throne. Since now is a good time to go search for Hitomi's parents, Chase created a portal to the world where he first met the girl. The portal connected to just outside the castle's walls, since warping on the property would get him attacked by the guards there. No doubt they were still angry at him for killing their coworkers under the control of Etutu.

Chase went through the portal and stepped into the woods. The portal disappeared behind him and then the man fled away from the castle's outskirts before anyone could see him. He slowed down to a walk once he had enough distance from the palace. Now he needs to look for a form of settlement such as a village to get started on finding Hitomi's family. He will also need to find a disguise to hide his

identity when questioning the guards later. The little girl was first seen at the castle's premise; someone close to her had to have brought her there. That person must have thought LimeX kidnapped her and is now worrying sick over her. Chase hoped to clear things up with them soon and bring Hitomi back to them. The man continued to trek through the forest until the rows of trees began to thin leading up to a town. He went into the place and saw some people going about their business. Some were going into stores, some were just walking through the streets, a pair of women was conversing with each other, and an old man was pushing a wheelbarrow full of turnips. With the latter being the closest, the silverette approached him and greeted, "Hello sir."

The old man tipped his hat and greeted, "Hello there, boy! Come to buy turnips for All Hallows' Eve? You'll have to come to my store to get them."

Chase was very familiar with All Hallows' Eve; it was a holiday that was celebrated in the world of his birth. He would go there to celebrate it with his older brother, but he promised to visit Halloween Town and participate in Sakura's holiday with her. All Hallows' Eve and Halloween were similar holidays with some difference between them. Today would be a good time to celebrate Halloween, since it only lasted for one day in a year. All Saints' Day comes tomorrow and that's when he'll take the time to visit his brother. Chase told, "Actually, I'm looking for someone who knows a young girl I found. She's really small with brown hair and gray eyes." After describing the rest of Hitomi's appearance, he asked, "Do you by any chance know her or someone who has a child like that?"

The old grocer shrugged, "Can't say I have. Sorry for not being able to help, boy."

"It's alright," the silverette forgave. "At least, I still have a chance at getting clues." He went around the village, asking every single person he saw about their familiarity with Hitomi. But no one seems to know anything about her. The last man he spoke to claims that he knows everyone in town and that this was his first time hearing about the girl. It seems like Hitomi was not from this village. The only place Chase has left to check is the castle. The staff there likely came from different towns and villages. The girl must have come from one of them besides this village he was in. As he planned before this idea, Chase went to a clothing store to purchase a brown cloak to hide his clothes with. The only thing left to cover was his face; he would need a mask or a face scarf for that. He went through the streets searching for a shop that sells such things. The man soon came to a stand where a black-haired man and his wife were selling masks for All Hallows' Eve. Chase browsed the masks to look for one that seemed the least intimidating. His eyes settled for a skull-like half-mask that covers the top half of the face. Picking that up, he told the sellers, "I would like to buy this, please."

The couple smiled as the brunette said, "Sure, cough up twelve munny and it's all yours." Chase took out the few amount of munny he carried with him and gave it to the sellers. After the silverette put the half-mask on, the husband appreciated, "Thanks for shopping, boy!"

His wife smiled, "We hope you come again, dear!"

Chase smiled back, "Maybe I will someday." It was not guaranteed that he will return as he was always going to be vigilant in his duties to protect the Realm In-Between wherever the danger was. He turned and left, making his way out the village and returned to the forest. He retraced his steps to the castle as he walked past the hordes of trees.

Eventually, he made it back to the castle and went to the gates where a pair of guards stood outside watching out for any suspicious visitors. The silverette approached the two men, who blocked his way into the premise with their keyblades crossed in front of him. One of them demanded, "Stop! Who goes there?"

The silverette answered, "My name is Chase. I found a small amnesiac girl who only remembers being in the courtyard. Her name is Hitomi. I think she might have some relationship to one of the people in the castle. Is there anyone who knows a brown-haired girl in a white shirt?"

The guards shoot their heads as the other one answered, "We don't know her at all. But let me go check with everyone else and see if they're familiar with her. Stay right here." The guard walked over the bridge to the castle as the other guard kept his eye on the masked man.

Time flew slow as the second guard took his time checking with all the castle workers. The first guard broke the long silence with a question, "So sir, you taking part in All Hallow's Eve?"

Chase answered, "Yeah. I bought this mask at the village nearby." He continued with a joking smile, "Gotta keep those ghouls from haunting me tonight."

The guard replied, "Yeah, I heard those ghouls are pretty nasty to anyone they have their eyes on. Which reminds me, I gotta get me a mask, too."

"You do that," the silverette recommended.

After a while later, the second guard came back and went to tell Chase, "I've talked to every servant and guard at the castle and even the royal family itself, but no one knows who this Hitomi child is. I think you might have the wrong castle, sir."

"I see," Chase replied. It seems like Hitomi may not have been an inhabitant of this world. Either that or her village was somewhere else in this world. But the latter seemed unlikely since her clothes appeared out of place with the culture here. Whatever she originated from is pretty much unknown with the girl having no memory of her past life. "Well thanks for your help. I think I'd best be going now." He turned around and walked away from the palace. Once he was out of sight, the man created a portal to Traverse Town and entered it to warp in front of Bihai's house. Chase went to the door and opened it to go inside. There was something important he needed to pick up for his duties. He went to Bihai's room and picked up the crystal ball from the table. Taking one last look around at the room and remembering all the times he spent at his master's house, Chase thought, *'I'm going to miss this place.'* Bihai was gone

and no one will be left to take care of the place.

The young man created a portal back to the Land of Departure and returned to the world, carrying the crystal ball in his arm. He appeared at the throne room and placed the object on the throne next to the one with the tome. He needed to find some place around here to put the ball. Chase went to explore the whole castle, looking for the perfect room to house the crystal ball. On the west wing of the castle, he found several bedrooms, a hot spring room, a bathroom, and a massive library with some bookcases full of books, some having partial and the rest, a majority of them, were empty. Chase guessed that the empty ones must be for storing new books. Then he went to check the east wing and found a kitchen, a dining room as well as other rooms, some of which were empty and others he had no idea were for at the moment. After having explored the place, Chase decided to claim one of the bedrooms in the east wing as his own. He placed the crystal ball on his dresser and lay on the bed to relax and rest. All that walking around was pretty tiresome. He needs to regain his energy for when he has to visit Halloween Town later.

Sakura was sharing a story of her brief adventure with Jack and his ghost dog, Zero. She finished the tale, "So after LimeX and Chase had their little talk, Chase helped get me back to my home. So here I am."

Jack said, "Well I'm glad everything's okay now. Hopefully, she'll never trouble us again."

"Me too," the girl nodded. Then she thought about the mayor and said, "Now we only need to worry about the mayor's voice. He can't make any announcements, being mute and all."

The skeleton rest assured, "Oh don't worry, I've already taken care of that while you were gone."

Sakura looked at him in a mix of surprise and gladness. "You did?"

"Of course!" Jack made two of his bony fingers walk on the air as he told, "I went straight to the Doctor Finklestein's lab and asked him to make a medicine for the mayor."

Sakura smiled in thought of the mad scientist in a wheelchair, "That doctor, what would we do without him." Doctor Finklestein was always there to help Jack and his friends whenever they need it.

The skeleton agreed, "Yes, the mayor would be in a pickle right now with Halloween about to start."

At the last part of his sentence, the girl realized what time it is as her eyes went wide in alert. She cried, "The Halloween festival! Jack, we got to get ready now!"

"Right, Sakura," said Jack as he stood up. "We can't be late for the big event. Let's go, you two!" Then he

left without another word as the girl got up and followed him alongside Zero, who let out a couple of happy barks.