

Once they got to Halloween Town, Kumo's brown hair, ears and tail all changed to black. His normally round pupils in his blue eyes became feline slits and the tip of his black tail was spiked. His skin now had a light grayish color to it. He wore a black t-shirt with a small jack-o-lantern on the front, orange shorts, and white sneakers with black & orange markings. Kumo looked at his otherworldly transformation with fascination and said, "Whoa, cool!"

Juliet simply got a lot darker; she was already spooky enough. She pulled out the package and said, "I'm opening it. What if it's empty? Then what was the point?" She turned the box around a few times and then she shook it.

"But LimeX said not to open the box," the boy reminded her. The nails on his hands were now a bit longer and pointing to make them look like claws. Also, he has fangs inside his mouth.

The girl retorted, "And? LimeX is the teacher and unless she forces me, I don't listen to the teacher even if she's an awesome one at that." She raised her gaze and saw the claws and teeth, then went back to her box shaking. Who cares?

Kumo tried to reason, "But what if she finds out? We're going to get in trouble."

Juliet just laughed fearlessly, "If she finds out, I'll just have to beat her up so she doesn't bother me. Plus, I can escape into a portal. Now let's open it."

"Uh-oh," the boy worried as he had a bad feeling about opening the box here & now and he had no idea why.

LimeX grinned and made a portal, "You're going to want to see this, Chase." She walked in with the man and they appeared above the two apprentices. The masters were, of course, well-hidden and unable to be seen. They watched as Juliet brushed Kumo off, eager to open the box.

Suddenly it sprang open and an enormous heartless jumped out. It roared and Juliet frowned, "Why would the mayor need that?"

Chase's eyes went wide with surprise and said, "That looks like one of Etutu's creatures! LimeX, don't tell you got that from the Realm of Darkness." Because that was the only place where Etutu and his heartless creatures thrived. With how large the thing was, the werewolf felt fearfully worried for his apprentice's safety. The boy was still green in his training and he cannot take on this kind of monster at his stage.

LimeX covered his mouth and said, "Don't tell me you've forgotten our initiation as well. We battled a similar thing. This heartless has barely even any health left, a few hits from us and it would be dead; and

it's got a tracker. It's to test how they do under pressure or some sort of crap." She turned and watched the fight, letting the man speak again.

Chase whispered, "Yeah, but our fight was with a dinosaur-like creature, not a heartless." He looked at the heartless, watching to see what moves it would make to hurt the apprentices and if he himself would need to get involved to protect them. Maybe the heartless would not pose much threat since that it is weakened.

The darkblader chuckled, "Yes...in a way. But this isn't a test of surviving. It's a test of dealing under pressure; very different from ours in that case. It's to test Juliet's weakness."

"Hmm," the werewolf hummed as he got interested in seeing how the blonde would fare on this little test.

Kumo's hair, cat ears, and tail all raised up in fright as he pointed to the creature and screamed, "Ahh, a heartless!"

Chase noticed that despite not having seen nor heard of the huge monster, his apprentice had named the monster correctly. He thought, *'That must be Master Bihai's knowledge acting up again.'* He knew his apprentice would sometimes pick up some wisdom from his previous life without meaning to. Afterwards, the neko boy would either get confused as to how he knew something he is not supposed to know or completely forget about that moment as if it never happened.

Juliet blinked once, then grinned, "Well, I don't know how you were fitted into that box, but you're going right back in there." She summoned her keyblade and said, "Kumo, snap out of it and get your stupid light ass into gear."

"Okay," Kumo said before he summoned his keyblade. Then he ran at the heartless and tried to swing in some hits at it. The heartless barely flinched and it grabbed him. The boy started screaming and squirming, "Ahh, let me go!" The blonde stood there for a moment too long, then dived into the fight. Kumo continued to try twisting himself out of heartless's grasp in vain for a few moments until he shouted a spell, "Aero!" Gusts of winds blew hard around his body as they attempt to push against the heartless's grasp and blow off to free the neko.

Chase was surprised, but he did not show it, by what Kumo just did and thought, *'An Aero spell? I didn't teach him any spells. He shouldn't be able to know it yet. Unless that was his past life acting up again. If that's the case, then there's even less things to worry about. I guess Kumo will definitely be alright on this one.'*

Juliet grimaced; not wanting to be one-upped, she dodged the hand coming to grab her and jumped upon it. She ran up it as fast as she could. She wobbled and began to fall so she aimed her keyblade at the head and cast a fire spell. Her aim was wrong as she fell and it ended up heading towards Kumo. She

blinked once and nearly forgot to land safely.

LimeX mused silently with Chase fading out of her senses as she watched her pupil. She saw Juliet glance to the left, where an open street was. "You can," the brunette muttered to herself. "But should you? Yes, you are dark, but does that mean you are evil?" Juliet paused; indecision hidden from her face well. "Hmmm, very good hiding your emotions."

Juliet turned and gazed at the neko for a second and LimeX stopped breathing. "Now... Come on, Kumo...." She whispered so low, even Chase would have had trouble hearing.

The Aero spell had successfully freed Kumo from the heartless's grasp. The misaimed fireball that was coming at him collided with the winds. As the fire blew out, the winds died down and the boy fell down to the ground, crying, "Whoa!" The neko landed on his bottom and grunted, "Oof!" He got up on his feet before rubbing his hurting butt and groaned, "Ow." He looked up at the heartless for a short moment before he charged at it and swung his keyblade rapidly at it. Juliet shook her head and charged once more at the heartless. The heartless felt some minor aches from Kumo's attacks on its leg. The heartless lunged its arm at him as it attempted to grab him again. But then the girl got to it and connected with its hand. The heartless retraced its hand before it used the other hand to try and attack Juliet. Kumo raised his keyblade up at the sky and shouted, "Bind!" The spell caught the heartless as paralyzing sparks ran course over its whole body to numb its movement. This was Kumo using knowledge from his past life again. The heartless frozen in place was now left vulnerable to all attacks. "Juliet, now!" the boy shouted. The girl delivered the finishing blow. The heartless was finally destroyed as it combusted into a cloud of darkness before disintegrating away. Kumo pumped his arms into the air and cheered, "Yes, we did it! We beat the heartless!"

Chase smiled at his apprentice and thought, *'Yes, and it's all because of your pre-incarnated knowledge and the fact that you two worked together.'*

Kumo was surprised to see LimeX jumping down. Were they going to be in trouble for disobeying her? She walked over to Juliet. They both share a single look and then the brunette handed the blonde a box. The dark master walked back a bit and made a portal to go through. This one stayed open. The dark apprentice opened the box and inside was a small, keen blade. She frowned; why did she need a blade when she had her keyblade?

There was a letter in the box, saying 'Trust me, you'll need this.' Juliet snorted once and then went through the portal.

Kumo watched the portal disappear before he heard, "You did a great job, Kumo. I never thought you could use spells in battle."

"Huh?! Master Chase?" asked the surprised boy as he looked around for his unseen master. Then the gray werewolf jumped out of his hiding place over his apprentice and landed in front of him, surprising

the young neko boy. "Ahh!" Kumo cried out in both surprise and fright at the werewolf standing in front of him before fell backwards on his bottom.

Chase was a little amused at Kumo's tumbling, but he did not show it on his expression. The master explained, "Don't worry, Kumo, it's only me. Sorry to scare you like that. But sometimes when we enter another world, our appearance changes just like yours have."

Kumo looked at his Halloween Town features in wonder and said in amazement, "Whoa!"

The master praised with a smile, "Anyway, that was amazing. You kinda had me worried there, but you and Juliet took down that heartless with ease, especially when you used a few spells I haven't taught you yet."

Kumo felt proud at being praised by his mentor for an excellent work and he smiled as he said, "Heeheehee, I'm a good student!"

"Yes, you are. Since we probably have enough excitement for now, how about we go around this place and check things out? I bet we're bound to find some interesting souvenirs to keep."

"Sure!" said the excited boy as he loved to look at new places.

The group was practically sucked into the door, falling through the hollow tree and landing in a very large pile of snow. Behind them was the old snowy tree with the jack-o-lantern door on it, the door that would take them back to Halloween Town. Sakura said, "Well, we're here!"

Zephyr looked around at all the snow. Looking down at himself, he noticed that his clothes had changed to all brown and on his head were a pair of reindeer antlers. He mumbled, "Please don't say I have a red nose..." He really did not want to have a big fake red nose on his face.

Glacies expected to feel the coldness of the snow-covered bright & jolly town, but to her surprise and confusion, she did not. This world felt like it had the same temperature as if she was at home or in a building. Then she noticed the boy's new form and giggled, finding him to look both cute & silly. She confirmed, "Actually, you do." Zephyr's eyes shifted to the red orb in place of his nose and groaned out in embarrassment.

Hitomi stepped out the door, reappearing in green elf clothes with pointed ears. She stated, "It's much colder here..."

Sakura giggled a bit, "Of course it's cold; it's snowing, silly!!!" Unlike her friends, her clothes did not change since she was a local in the world of holidays. "Alright, well obviously there's all the little

workplaces and the workshop is connected to Santa's house right there!" She pointed to the large house facing them between two rows of houses. The demon led the way as they walked through the town towards his house while a few of the elves skittered away from her or hid. Jack followed, eager to see his old friend. Having noticed the fearful elves, Glacies first assumed they must have been spooked by the monsters' dark appearances. But she quickly realized that this might not be the answer since Jack and Sakura seem to be Santa's friends. So what gives?

The Pumpkin King knocked on the door with his bony fingers and a fat jolly man with rosy cheeks, white hair and a white beard appeared. Both Jack and Sakura said simultaneously, "Hi, Sandy Claws!"

Santa greeted them in a friendly manner, "Jack Skellington! Hello! Sakura, too? What a surprise! Oh, and you brought some friends!"

The demon told him, "They're friends of mine on a visit from another world. They're all Keyblade Wielders."

Santa beamed, "Nice to meet you! Come on in!"

They all went inside his cozy and warm room as Sakura suggested to the keybladers, "If you ask him nicely, Sandy Claws will check his Naughty & Nice list for ya."

Glacies said, "That sounds like a good idea. I'm going to ask him now-" She stopped when she felt the room was burning hot in here. *'What is this? Why is the temperature in this world different than normal?'* she wondered before she lifted her hand to her burning forehead and discovered her answer when she saw her hand made out of snow. Glacies was now a snowman; her whole humanoid body with a fur-trimmed dress was made out of snow, she still had light blue hair which now had a holly clip on it, she wore a red & green stripe scarf around her neck, and she wore red boots on her feet. The reason why the snow did not feel cold to her and why Santa's fireplace made his room really hot to her was because Glacies was a snowman.

Sakura raised her eyebrows in concern for her friend, "Uh, Sandy Claws, can we go into the workshop? It should be colder in there."

The fat man, noticing the snowgirl's condition as well, complied, "Uh, go right ahead."

Sakura nodded and opened the door to the workshop, stepping inside the large room. "Come on in, you guys!!!"

Jack entered too, "Hurry up before you melt, Glacies!"

"I'm coming!" the snowgirl replied. She went into the workshop, leaving behind a very few tiny drips of water on the floor she once stood on. Once everyone was in the workshop, Glacies no longer felt the

intense heat, but was now feeling like she was in the room temperature.

The demon said, "There we go, all better. Forgot about your other world transformations."

Jack saw the factory machines producing toys for the holiday. He said to Santa, "Starting production already I see. Looks like you're going to have a lot of toys being made. Mind if we help with the delivery on Christmas?" He looked eager and happy to assist the fat man on that holiday.

Sakura told the keybladers, "Yeah, we were planning on helping him out on Christmas and dressing up for the occasion."

Santa declined the Halloween monsters' help, "No need, everyone!" Then he asked the apprentices, "So, you all wanted to see if you're all on the nice list?"

"Yes, Santa," Glacies answered.

"Let me check..." The man pulled out his list.

The demon told him, "It's Zephyr, Glacies, and Hitomi."

"Hmm..." After checking his list twice to determine their niceness, Santa confirmed, "Oh, well, you're all on the nice list! Good job, you've all been very good this year!"

Glacies smiled happily and looked at her fellow apprentices as she beamed, "Looks like we're still on the nice list as always." Though for the elf child, this would be her first time, not counting the Christmas days of her previous lives. Zephyr was excited to know he was on the nice list, but Hitomi looked as though this bit of information was useless to her. Probably because she did not know what Christmas is.

Sakura cheered, "Awesome! So, what should we...?"

The demon was cut off by three very familiar little runts whispering, "What's Jack doing here...?!?" "Aw man, we were going to make a big ol' mess and now he shows up!" "Uh-oh, Sakura's with him! Oh dear!"

"Oh, crap!" Sakura ran over and looked behind one of the presents to find Lock, Shock, and Barrel. "What the pumpkin are you guys doing here?!?"

Shock murmured, "Uh-oh!"

Lock grimaced, "Busted!" They all scattered and the demon ran to catch them all.

Jack exclaimed, "Why, it's Lock, Shock, and Barrel! Let's catch those little troublemakers!" Jack went to

go help Sakura, since the three were hard to catch.

Glacies asked, "Lock, Shock, and Barrel. Weren't those the three kids who went from bad to good after Limex stole the darkness out of their hearts?" She recalled that which happened a month ago.

Sakura groaned, "Well obviously the darkness came back if they're behaving like this again!" She was able to catch Lock, and Jack just snatched up Barrel from behind a box.

The skeleton exclaimed triumphantly, "I got one!"

"Me, too! Someone grab Shock!" Sakura then took the little miscreant and stuffed it in one of Santa's spare present boxes. Jack stuffed Barrel in along with Lock and Sakura held the box closed. "Glacies, can you get him, or do you need help?"

The snowgirl said, "I think we've got this."

Hitomi looked over as Shock was running away from Glacies. She got her keyblade, which appeared with a flash of darkness. "Drift!" she said, casting Zero Gravity to cause the final one of the trio to float up in the air, unable to move.

Sakura grabbed Shock and threw her in with the rest of the 'late trick-or-treaters' as Glacies would call them hence the costumes they wore. The demon appreciated the elf's help, "Thanks, Hitomi. Jack and I will take them back to Halloween Town and they'll get punished later. Sorry about that, Sandy Claws."

The man forgave, "No worries, dear!"

Sakura resumed the tour, "Anyway, as we were saying, this is his workshop, where he makes all of his funny toys."

Jack said, "We tried doing Christmas once, but it didn't turn out so well."

Santa frowned, "You can say that again." That explained why the little elves were avoiding the two monsters. Apparently, they had made a big mess of things trying to help Santa some time ago.

Sakura asked, "Yeah, so we stick with Halloween. Is there anything else you guys want to do while we're here?"

Glacies thought about telling Santa what she wanted for Christmas. She suggested, "We could tell Santa what we want for Christmas." She was originally going to wish for her mother to get well from her illness, but now that she was cured and feeling well again, the wish was already granted. There were no books, clothing, or any particular object she had in mind right now, so the snowgirl was left to think, *'Hmm... What exactly do I want for Christmas?'* She asked her friends, "Zephyr, guys, what are you

all getting for Christmas?" Maybe whatever they mentioned that interested her, she will have what they are wishing for, too.

Sakura shrugged, "Eh, I don't care what I get for Christmas. What more could a girl want?"

Jack answered, "I myself want to get another Christmas book."

"Jack, half of your library is Christmas books."

"So? One more couldn't hurt."

Glacies thought, *'He really does have a liking for Christmas; it's like he's obsessed with it.'*

Sakura rolled her eyes, "Oh, geez....anyway, so I'll have to think about it when Christmas rolls around."

Zephyr replied with a sheepish smile, "I don't know what I'm getting, but I don't really want to know. Part of Christmas is the surprise you get after opening presents so I don't want to ruin that."

Glacies smiled and said to him, "Well in that case, I should get you a really good gift that's sure to astonish you." She began to think about what gift she should give him for Christmas and thought, *'Hmm, maybe marbles or a camera?'*

"What is Christmas..?" Hitomi asked. The term kept being used by everyone and she had no idea what it meant. Sure, she has celebrated many Christmases in past lives but the holiday knowledge did not transfer.

The snowgirl answered, "Christmas is a holiday in December when loved ones get together and share the joys of giving, caring, peace on Earth, and good will towards people. It's also the day when Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus. Santa Clause here also plays a part in Christmas. Every year, children send letters to Santa about what they want for Christmas and Santa's elves makes the toys for the children. If a child is good before Christmas Day, then Santa will deliver the desired toys to them. But if the child is bad, then they get coal instead. That's why most children try to be on their best behavior, so that Santa Clause can give them their presents." Hitomi listened, the concept seemed very familiar even though she never heard of it. After explaining the holiday to her, Glacies thought, *'Speaking of sharing and giving, I should also get some gifts for mom, Master Leohart, Hitomi, Sakura, Nemo, Touketsu, Chase and Kumo.'* Then she looked at Sakura and said, "Well, since we have nothing on mind on what we want from Santa, how about we all go ice-skating or something? Anybody up for it?" Ice-skating was one of her favorite activities and she loved to skate & dance on the ice.

Sakura cocked her head to the side. "Ice skating...? What's that?"

She looked at Jack, but he shrugged, "Don't look at me, I don't know!"

Since they did not know what ice-skating was, Glacies decided to show them. But first she looked at Santa and asked, "Santa, do you have an ice-skating ring outside?"

Santa nodded, "Why of course I do! I gotta keep trim to fit into my Santa suit." He led the group on the way to his skating ring.

Chase and Kumo took a walk around Halloween Town as they saw the dark spooky setting around them. There were various monster-like residents around such as frankenstein monsters, witches, vampires, ghosts, and zombies. Kumo looked at all of them with wonder and said, "Wow, look at all the monsters here. They're creepy."

Chase explained, "That's why this world is called Halloween Town, Kumo. You're bound to see lots of spooky stuff here."

Soon, the master and his apprentice came by the mayor's home, where the gates suddenly swung open in surprise. "Ack!" cried Kumo, who got startled badly that the black neko jumped onto the werewolf's furry chest and hugged onto him.

Chase held him as he was just as startled for half a second before he quickly calmed and relaxed himself. The werewolf stated, "And that's another reason why this town got its name."

"Wahhh, I'm scared!" cried the boy, who was still frightened by the gates.

His master reassured him, "Don't worry, you'll be okay as long as you're with me." Chase walked away from the gates as he carried Kumo and passed a couple of buildings until they stood in front of a toy store. "Hey look Kumo, there's a toy store in front of us." The master looked through the window at the horrifying toys such as the mini glowing skeleton toy, the creepy green monster jack-in-the-box, and a black goth girl stuffed doll with big solid black eyes. "With some scary stuff inside," Chase continued saying.

Kumo looked at the blood-stained razor-sharp chattering teeth toy with interest and said, "I want that one, Master Chase!"

The werewolf was uncomfortable with how dangerously sharp the teeth looked on the toy. He did not want his apprentice to play with it. He suggested, "Uh... how about we go inside and look at more toys. I think you'll probably find one that's better than that one you picked."

Kumo groaned, "Ahh, but Master Chase, I want it!"

Chase told him firmly, "No, Kumo, that toy is too dangerous to play with. You could cut off a finger with that thing. Look, just find another toy, alright? I promise you'll like it better than that teeth thing." He opened the door and went inside.

"Alright," Kumo sighed. The neko still wanted that chatter teeth toy, despite his master's warning.

After entering the store, Chase set his apprentice down and the two walked down one of the aisles, which were shelved with spooky boy toys. Kumo picked up a grumpy-looking clown town wearing a black & red suit and clown-faced shoes with fangs and tongues spat out of the mouths to look at it for a bit. He did not have any interest in this toy, so he threw it away before he picked up the next toy which happened to be a real knife with blood on it. Chase eyed the toy with disapproval and thought, *'Just what kind of toys does this world sell and why would they give them to kids?'* Thankfully to the master's relief, the neko boy dropped that knife as he did not want it either.

Kumo looked around some more until the third toy managed to catch his eyes. "Whoa!" he said in amazement as he went over to the skeleton puppet with fearsome eyes, many grotesque fangs, spikes on its skull and on some of the other parts of its body, and demon-like wings. He took a liking to that toy because it really scary looking and he wanted to get it more than the chattering teeth toy he saw earlier. "Master Chase, can I get this one, please?" he asked as he was hoping for his master not to say 'no' to this one.

Chase examined the toy to look for any unsafe parts on it. To his approval, the toy was completely safe to play with. The werewolf decided to let Kumo have it as he said, "Sure, you can have it. But first, I have to pay for it first." The master-&-apprentice duo left the aisle and went to the counter to pay for the toy. The scary clown cashier rang up the item and told them the price. Chase gave the munny to him and was handed the toy.

The clown chattered, "Thanks for shopping! Come back next time, mwahahahaha!" His laughter sounded scary.

After leaving the store, Chase gave Kumo the toy and the boy started playing with it. "Roar, roar, roar, I'm the creepy monster and I'm going to gobble you all up! Roar!" He moved the skeleton demon puppet like it was stomping through the air.