

LimeX awoke from the bed she was sleeping in. Sure, it was not the best sleep she had, but she would not let herself fall truly asleep in case someone would attack her. Sitting up, she looked at the ruined building she was residing in here. The last time she had been here was when she was under Etutu's control and had fought the three apprentices. It was not something she could remember very well, but it did not bother her. Standing up, she changed back into her normal attire, grabbed her small bag and pulled out a single object. Gazing at it for a moment, she closed her eyes and sighed. "Best not to think of that now. Doesn't help me squat." Standing up, she put it away before she walked downstairs and sat down on the dust-covered seat, wincing as it groaned. She awaited her new companion to wake. "Thage or Roxanne. Either way doesn't bother me so long as she doesn't attack me out of the blue..."

Thage was not able to sleep well at all last night. Roxanne had come back and she had protected LimeX. She did not know what to think; she thought she had sealed Roxanne away long, long ago. It was the only remaining piece of her that was good. She could not remember much about last night, other than that Chase boy coming to attack the both of them and her losing control of herself. But that did not matter now. She needed to wake up and start a new day. She got out of her bed and walked downstairs to see LimeX sitting on a dusty stool. She asked, "What happened last night? I don't think I was myself..."

LimeX turned and said, "Ah, so it is dual personalities." Standing up, she dusted herself off and turned her gaze back to the blonde. "Roxanne, I believe that is what she called herself. Your alter ego, correct?" Pausing, she nodded and then continued, "Whomever she is, as long as her motives don't coincide with mine and cause problems, I have no quarrel."

Thage sighed. "Roxanne is my persona who comes out when someone I trust is in dire need. In the case of last night, that boy - Chase? - was pinning you to a wall and threatening your life. I can't control what happens when I'm her. The best way I can explain it is, Roxanne is who I was, before I destroyed my home world. But that doesn't matter now. Are you ready?"

The brunette closed her eyes and nodded. "Your past is your past. I destroyed...a lot worse than that..." Standing up, she created a portal back to the place they were at yesterday and said, "Time to get to work." Stepping inside the portal, she appeared at her destination and aimed her blade, saying, "Fire..."

"Fira," the blonde cast as she stepped out of the portal. She did not know where she was nor did she really care either way. She saw some people walk towards them and before they knew it, Thage stabbed a woman clean through her chest. When she removed her keyblade, the woman had shifted into a heartless. Several buildings were on fire now, but she did not care. This was the part that she was waiting for. Now she could have some FUN!

While LimeX lets her ally have her fun, she headed into a bank and set the place on fire, scaring the workers and clients who all ran out the place immediately. She went to the safe, unlocked it with her keyblade and grabbed two big bags of cash. Then she left building and made her way for Diablos's home. The boy was just leaving his house, when he saw her dumping the bags of money in front of him. She told him, "You have two choices: stick to doing small crime like this and live in this dump, or come with

us and cause all kinds of havoc." She turned towards the door. "Either way, this town is going to burn down..." She walked out and continued her job.

Sure Diablos did not like the girl after what she did yesterday, but causing mass destruction and getting the money sounded like a perfect way to start the day. A dark grin appeared on his face and he answered, "I'm in!" Then he followed after her as he left the woods and went into the city. He saw people screaming and running towards him. Diablos summoned his keyblade cast, "Poison!" A purple mist appeared and infected the crowd with toxins. People collapsed on the ground as they became weak and feverish. The boy walked up to a man lying on the ground and stabbed him on the back with the keyblade, removing his heart and making his body vanish in the process.

LimeX noticed Thage doing her job well and nodded to herself. She made a portal which she headed through and appeared behind the woman. "We now have that guy from yesterday on our side. We don't need to like him as long as he does his job."

"That sounds wonderful!" Thage said to her as she cast Thunder onto another building. "Is he particularly useful? Maybe I can help him where he is?"

The girl mused for a moment and made a portal to his location. "Keep an eye on him. Tell me his spells."

"I can do that," said the woman before she walked into the portal. She then walked out onto a rooftop and saw Diablos wreaking havoc. She was at a spot where she guessed that he would not see her.

Diablos stabbed a man into light particles and then a woman before he threw his ice-covered keyblade in a boomerang style at fleeing kid. The kid got hit and became trapped in ice before the keyblade returned to its owner. The purplette had a sadistic smile on his face as he enjoyed the massacre he was doing to the city's citizens. This was a lot better than robbing banks, destroying property, bullying kids, and all that stuff. He said to himself, "Damn, this is so awesome! Staining my keyblade with death and watching all those scums suffer; I've never felt so satisfied. Why didn't I do this before?" Then he heard sounds of running feet from behind, which were getting louder. He knew very well the answer as to which group these sounds belong to. The boy sighed, "Oh yeah, that's why."

The constables were known for being well-trained fighters, heck they may be even better than Diablos himself. They've caught a lot of criminals before and incapacitated them to keep them from using keyblades again. The delinquent transformed his keyblade into a glider and started to drive away quickly. "Get him!" one of the constables shouted. Then the chase began as the constables got on their gliders and pursued after the scoundrel through the streets.

LimeX appeared in a portal beside the fleeing boy and said after him, "Is there a reason you're running like a chicken?"

Diablos stopped for a bit, snickered and replied, "Heh, you're talking as if those guys were easy to beat."

That's the watchmen, you idiot! Those guys can take down any tough thug they see and beat them down good without breaking a sweat, even when it's one on one. I'd like to see you try going against them."

The girl made a portal and pointed to it. "I suggest you follow me or continue your chicken running." She jogged through the portal and watched the constables from the top of a building.

The boy replied, "Fine, I'll go. But don't call me chicken! I don't run from anyone or anything unless they're impossible to beat!" Then he landed on the ground, reverted his glider and went through the portal.

LimeX pointed down at the guards and then spoke, "Thunder." She repeated herself a multitude of times and then Thage showed up after using Magnera to draw herself up to the brunette's side. The girl turned and made a portal, telling the darkbladers, "Thage, Diablos, we are done on this side. We have to do the other side of town now."

Diablos asked, "Tch, how do you know my name?" The girl left now answer as she stepped through and began her assault on the other side now.

"Well," Thage said to her new teammate. "I'm sure that she doesn't want to wait all day. Come on." The woman created her own Corridor to the other side of town.

The boy clicked his tongue, "No need to remind me, I know what I'm doing." They went in together.

When they got there, LimeX turned to look to Thage and held up a wanted poster. "Now, our employer is looking for these." She held up a picture of a Nobody, a silvery creature with a black face and a strange white mark. "If you see one, call me immediately by making a portal to where you are." She paused and then smirked at Diablos, "Oh that's right, ONE of us doesn't have a portal."

"Hmph!" huffed the boy who made a disgruntled face in response.

The girl pointed to the two of them and said, "Team up. Oh and Thage, I want you to test him and see how well he fares making destruction while avoiding getting caught. Test him how you will." She turned and pointed in a direction. "I will be over there somewhere. Keep an eye out for one of those creatures."

The woman asked her, "Where are we going to meet up at?"

LimeX paused and answered, "Meet back at Diablos's place. He can grab some junk while we're there and then we will move on." She headed through her own portal and began making more heartless.

Thage looked to her partner and told him, "Well, show me what you can do."

"Yeah, yeah, I'm on it." Diablos hopped onto a nearby horse carriage and smashed the wind shield with his keyblade.

"Hey!" yelled the man inside yelled as the horseman looked at the commotion in surprise.

The boy smirked devilishly, "Don't 'hey' me, I'd be more worried about what I'm about to do to you." He cast Poison at the passenger, making him cough in the purple fumes. Then he used Freeze Raid by throwing his ice-powered keyblade at the horseman and the horses, hitting and encasing them in ice. Diablos jumped off the carriage and the crowd watched in horror and shock at what he just did now.

The bystanders all glared at Diablos and shouted boos and threats at him. "You little punk, what's your problem?!" "How could you?!" "Hey that's the troublemaker who robbed the store a few days ago!" "And he bullied my kid, too!" "Let's get him!" Then some of them summoned their keyblades and started casting spells at him, while others threw things like food, objects and trash at him.

The boy dodged all their attacks before making a taunting yawn and said, "I've seen two-year-olds shoot down birds better all of you all can. Your aiming really sucks!"

"Oh yeah? Well take that!" said a fat black-haired man before he tried to Strike Raid the troublemaker.

Diablos quickly defended himself by using the keyblade to block the attack and sneering, "Is that all you've got?" The poisoned man got out of the carriage and staggered away for help, but he was quickly stabbed in the chest by Thage and turned into a shadow heartless.

The group went into the castle's library where Chase told them, "Alright guys, pick up any book that you think might have info on the Realm of Darkness and read everything. No wait, skim it! Because we need to save enough time and energy to hunt down LimeX later. If you don't find the right book, take another and read through it." Everyone began their search for a book.

Glacies came across a nearly empty aisle with a sign that read 'Bibliographies/Tales of Keyblade Masters' section. There was only like a very few books on the shelves and she thought, *'Looks like this section's for when we pass our stories to future apprentices and their stories to the next generation of apprentices. I wonder if my story will be up someday.'* Then she walked past the aisle and came to the 'Universe Section'. She picked up a book about light & darkness and skimmed through the whole book. After the end, she was disappointed to find that the book only talked about the elements and properties of the two opposing forces rather than where to locate the Realm of Darkness. She sighed, "I guess it's not it." Kumo, being young and naive as he is, just searched through the children's section. Chase picked up one of the books at the 'Universe' section and started reading through it.

Hitomi looked around, feeling like she knew this place, whereas Zephyr, Juliet and Sakura immediately

started looking at some books as Zero floated by the demon. "No! It's not in any of these books...." the child said, having a feeling that she knew where it was.

Chase stopped halfway reading as they all turned to look at her. Sakura asked, "Huh? It's not?"

"Nope!" Kumo answered, his memory kicking in as he left the children's section. He cried, "I just remembered where the book is! Come on, follow me!" The neko boy bounded off with the others following him. He went to the bookshelf he was "familiar" with and pulled out a big black book. He opened the book and said, "It's right on this page!"

Chase bent down to pick up the book and start reading the page to see if his apprentice was right. After two minutes and a half of reading, the man closed the book and smiled at the children, praising, "Thanks you two, you've both been a good help just now." Kumo grinned with pride at their accomplishment. Chase looked at everyone and explained to him, "Alright, according to this book that Kumo just picked out, there are two ways to get to the Realm of Darkness. One of them would be to take the long way through space from the Realm In-Between to the Realm of Darkness. The other way, which is shorter and easier, would be to use a Corridor of Darkness."

Glacies suggested, "The Corridor of Darkness sounds much more efficient, why don't we go with that one?"

Chase frowned and said, "I'm afraid, it's not as simple as it sounds, Glacies. The pathways, hence the name, are made out of darkness. If a normal person uses it constantly, their hearts will become corrupted."

Kumo blurted out, "Yeah, and you'll turn into a really bad person!"

Glacies became nervous after hearing the warnings and said, "Gee, that doesn't sound good. Isn't there anyway to protect us from the darkness?"

The man told her, "That's where your keyblade armors come in, Glacies. They have the adequate magic infused with them to protect the wearers from the darkness. You and Zephyr have them, so you should pretty much know that they can protect you from the darkness's influences."

"Oh yeah, that's right!" the human girl said as the realization hit her.

"Also, those with really strong hearts can be protected from the Corridors of Darkness as well."

Glacies said with confidence, "Well with our keyblade armors and strong hearts, we can go through the Corridors of Darkness with no worries at all!"

"Oh, our problem's not over yet," Chase said, which made the light-haired bluenette disappointed. "We

need somebody, but not just anybody though, to create a Corridor of Darkness. It's usually the darkbladers with strong magic, who can create such things. I may create portals, but due to my affinity to light, I can't summon a Corridor of Darkness. And luckily, we have someone among us who can." He turned his head to look at Hitomi and ask, "Hitomi, would you care to do the honors?" The little girl summoned Lurebreaker and made what he asked for.

Before the teens could go into the Corridor, the man took precaution and asked the demon girl, "Sakura, have you been through any Corridors before?"

Sakura shook her head, "Not once in my life."

"That's good," he said, knowing that she would be perfectly safe from the darkness's negative energy. Then he told the children, "Kumo, Hitomi, I need you two to stay here this time."

But the neko groaned, "Ahh, that's no fair, master! I want to come, too!"

The man told his apprentice, "We don't know what the Realm of Darkness is like and I can't have you running into whatever unknown danger is there. Just stay here and hang out with Hitomi until we get back, alright? Maybe even play some games or read a story." The Realm of Darkness was where the Heartless were at their strongest. There was no way a keyblader child could survive this easily, even if they had some of the knowledge of their previous incarnations.

Kumo smiled gleefully at the idea and said, "That sounds like fun!"

Chase smiled and said, "Of course it is! It's much better than going into the Realm of Darkness. No big strong Heartless to fight at all. You'll be a lot safer here." It looks like the team will have to do without their Bind spells for now. Hopefully, they will not have to require the children's help should they ever get into difficult fights in the dreaded realm.

Then as the older keybladers walked towards the corridor, Glacies said to the children, "We'll be back soon!" Then she and Zephyr activated their armors as they all entered the dark portal.

LimeX stiffened like she had sensed something wrong going on. She turned and made a portal to Thage, saying to her, "We have to go, now." Turning, she made a portal for the two of them to Diablos, who was still antagonizing the civilians.

"Let me show you how it's done!" he said. "Zero Gravity!" A wave of darkness swept under the crowd's feet and lifted the people up to float in the air. Gasps and shocked cries sounded out of them. The two girls stood by his side as LimeX repeated the same message to him before sending a Thunder spell at the nearest group of people, injuring all of them. Holding in her hand was the weakest nobody, barely alive.

Diablos turned to her and asked, "What? You found the thing already? I was just getting started."

The brunette made a Corridor and said to the boy, "Come, we have a bigger business to deal with." She stepped into the Corridor she had created. While her Corridors were normally round and purple in color, this one was a deep dark black.

Diablos sneered, "Why? Don't tell me they sent more constables to get us. I thought you could handle many of them. After all, you did call me a chicken from running away from them, right?" Thage went into the Corridor after him. The woman's Corridors were only black when she was in dire need. Was there something going on? She was silent as she was sure to ask LimeX a few questions when they got to where they were going.

Chase's team got into the Realm of Darkness, where they ended up on a large black platform of nothing in the dark world. The only luminescence was from the lightbladers, but Juliet did not seem phased.

Sakura looked around at the black space of the world as she looked for a way to leave the platform. She asked unimpressed, "That's it? That's what the Realm of Darkness is like? Geez, it sure is boring around here. Not what I thought it would be. Everything's all black and with only one piece of land we're on. Why is it so dull?"

Chase formed an amused smile and joked, "You can ask Etutu that, when we find him." And when they do, the god was going to have a lot to answer for all the chaos that his partner-turned-criminal was doing. Juliet walked towards a certain edge and glanced down. Then she jumped, landing on a second platform below. The man saw what she did and said, "She knows this place a lot better than any of us do. Come on, let's follow her."

Then when they approached the edge, Chase halted and stopped the other lightbladers as Zero smelled something and started barking about it. Glacies asked, "Chase, why are we stopping?"

"Look!" he told them.

The teens looked down and saw two girls with an unknown boy. Glacies thought, *'That's LimeX and Thage! But who's that boy with them?'*

Juliet paused there and turned her eyes to the trio of people waiting for them. "LimeX..." she murmured.

"Juliet," her master responded. LimeX turned to her cohorts, "This is my apprentice, Juliet." She chuckled, "Well, I guess she was."

Thage was shocked. LimeX had an apprentice? Since when? She thought, *'Ah, who cares. I met her later, anyway. What's it to me what her past life was? That's her business.'* She let out a sigh.

Diablos made a sneering face at the dark apprentice and asked the brunette, "So what she is now? A reject?"

Chase looked at the purplette and thought, *'So that's why he won't tell me anything about LimeX. He's working with her!'*

Then the man leaped off the platform and landed next to Juliet. Zephyr jumped down after he did, summoning his keyblade just in case. "Who is that guy?" he asked Chase.

Chase answered, "That's the guy from last night, who doesn't care about anyone's suffering. Don't ever ask him to save your life, because he won't do it anyway."

Diablos saw the man and sneered, "Well, well, well, if it isn't the goody two-shoes hero! So tell me, where were you when we wrecking shit and killing people? Did you get lost like some stupid little kid, or did you stay at home and shake in your boots while all that was going on? Ooh, I bet 3500 munny that it was the last one! What do you girls think?" He looked at his cohorts for an answer, but nobody cared to respond to that. Chase gritted his teeth bitterly; he did not think that LimeX would be up this early to cause havoc before they could find her. They should have gone after her immediately after the meeting.

Juliet opened her mouth and answered him, "Actually, they were working out how to get here."

LimeX glanced to the group, both members before them and the ones above. She paused, before closing her eyes and breathing a sigh. "Are you going to fight Juliet?" Her former apprentice shook her head. "And yet you are not going with me?" Juliet nodded once. "And you know why I am doing this?" Once again, the blonde girl nodded, a little distressed. LimeX opened her eyes and looked to Juliet, "So you cannot make your choice?"

Juliet took a step forward, her eyes misting a bit. "LimeX I-" she spoke, only to be cut off.

The brunette chided, "I'm...disappointed. I thought you were stronger than that. My mistake." The apprentice glanced downward and turned away. LimeX turned to Thage and Diablos, saying, "Make sure they do not get past here. I will be back once I've delivered the package." Again, she hoisted the squirming nobody.

"Right," Thage obeyed.

Glacies noticed the silver creature with the brunette and thought, *'That's the creature I saw in my dream! But what is LimeX doing with it?'*

The brunette turned and walked straight off the platform. But instead of falling, she seemed to walk directly into the darkness. "Oh, and good job on the city. Remind me to teach you how to do portals later, Diablos."

Chase thought, *'That confirms my suspicion. If LimeX is trying to keep us from passing through here, then she must be collaborating with Etutu. But why?'*

"Now," Thage said, looking at the small "army" before her. "You won't make it past here. Just give up."

Diablos smirked and said to the chasers, "This is totally going to be your unlucky day." Then he ran straight at them.

Chase looked at Juliet for a bit and knew that she might not want to fight against LimeX's lackeys. "Everyone, let's do this!" he said to his team without taking his eyes off his enemies. Then he charged at Diablos and Thage.

The purplette made the first move by casting a spell onto the boys, "Poison!" The purple mist hit the males and intoxicated them as they started to feel feverish.

Glacies and Sakura leapt off the platform into the fight. The armored girl flipped through the air before landing on her feet between the battling boys and casting, "Esuna!" Her spell cured everyone and removed the toxins out of their bodies.

Chase appreciated, "Thanks, Glacies!"

The armored girl replied, "No problem! Come on, let's do this!" Then they charged at the darkbladers. Zero stayed above as he barked down at the lightbladers, cheering them on to win the battle.

Hitomi, having watched everyone go through the Dark Corridor, thought of a way that she and Kumo could get through. She had a feeling that she somehow knew more about the Realm of Darkness than any normal person would and that she did not need the information in the black book to find their way to it. She said to the neko boy, "I think there might be a way for us to go through but I'm not sure how..."

"Hmm?" Kumo hummed curiously.

The girl could vaguely remember the image of a black coat, almost as if she wore it before. "I remember these black coats and they protect against darkness. I think there are two in here, follow me!"

"Okay!" Kumo said before he followed after the girl.

They ran through the castle. Hitomi seemed to know every bend and turn even though she had never been here before. She stopped at a wall and summoned her keyblade, tapping it. The wall opened to reveal a secret staircase which she ran down, making it to a secret basement level. In the basement level were a bunch of strange black coats. She grabbed one and put it on. Although it was much too big for her at first, it shrunk to fit her perfectly. Her hands got covered in black gloves, her shoes replaced with black boots and her shorts were replaced with black pants.

Kumo put on a black coat over his clothes and changed his red & white shoes to a pair of black ones. He put on a pair of black gloves next and put the hood over his head before asking, "How do I look?"

"You look like you in a black coat..." Hitomi said, obviously not getting the question. She suddenly got a headache as she put on the coat, but it only lasted long enough for her to bring her hands to clutch her head. For some reason though, it made her feel like she could do something new. She held out her hand and a Dark Corridor appeared a few feet away from them. "I remember that these coats protect people from the darkness. So when we're wearing these, we will be fine." The children went inside the Dark Corridor to the Realm of Darkness.

Chase attempted a Round Blitz on Thage by spinning around in a circle with his keyblade to whack her, but the woman blocked it as she was nearly pushed back by the force. Then Glacies tried to cast a spell on her, "Thundera!"

Sakura followed up with a spell of her own, "Fire!"

A lightning bolt came down towards Thage as the fireball flew at her. She was struck full blast by both spells at once. She screamed in pain and angrily cast, "Reflera!" She used the spell to get the thunderbolts and fireballs away from her.

Diablos ran up to Zephyr to attack him. As soon as Zephyr saw him charging, the armored boy threw his keyblade forward in a Strike Raid. He was ready to dodge in case the purplette dodged the attack and made it to him. Diablos got hit by the flying keyblade on his torso. He grunted and gritted his teeth as he clutched himself for a bit to soothe the throbbing pain. He glared at the armored boy as he thought about giving him a frozen taste of his own medicine. "Here, have a Freeze Raid!" he said as he threw his spinning ice-powered keyblade at Zephyr. The lightblader ignored his own keyblade as it was coming back and he dived to the side to avoid the keyblade known as Dragon's Fang. After his roll, the armored boy focused quickly to recall Spring Breeze and it disappeared from where it had landed on the ground.

Diablos tried to take a swing at his foe. But then a certain neko in a black coat came out of the Corridor of Darkness and cast, "Bind!"

Before the Dragon Fang keyblade touched Zephyr, Diablos whole body became numb with paralysis and he said, "What?"

"Thanks, Kumo!" Zephyr said, re-summoning his keyblade.

Kumo arrived with Hitomi at the Realm of Darkness and said with a smile, "Master Chase, everyone!"