

Zephyr started looking for a way to go as Zero sniffed for scents, when Hitomi started to walk a certain direction. She said, "Follow me." Having spent many lives walking through the Realm of Darkness, she knew what the place was like and had a good idea of the layout; although to Hitomi it was not memory, it was subconscious. Everyone followed her through the Realm of Darkness. The place had barren gray pathways with strange curving branch-like structures with glowing blue marks on them.

Sakura felt uncertain about the little girl leading them. She questioned, "Hey Hitomi, do you even know where we're going around here?"

Hitomi answered, "I do, but I don't know how. I just know where we can probably find LimeX. She may not be in the same place we last saw her, but we can start from there."

"Okay then?" Sakura looked at the two children, finding their knowledge of some of the things they probably should not have learned yet to be rather alien. How could they know things like what nobodies are, what the balance of light and darkness is, and in this case, Hitomi's way around this realm they were in? It was rather curious for someone in their age group to know this much despite their youth. The demon turned her head to Zephyr, walked beside him closely and whispered him a question, "Zephyr, your little friends here seem to know a lot about stuff. Did Leohart and Chase teach them this much?"

The blonde boy whispered back to her, "Actually, they were both reincarnated. They've been through many lives and it seems like they've kept some of what they know from their past lives. That's why they seem to know a lot."

Sakura was amazed, but she kept her composure in keeping quiet. "Reincarnation? I didn't know that actually exists. I guess that explains everything." She began to think about the idea of being reborn again, *'Reincarnation; that's so cool! I wonder if I can be something scarier in my next life.'* It was not that she was ashamed of her appearance; in fact, she liked the way she looks now. Being more intimidating could be helpful in reducing her foes' morale or making Halloween more fun. She was a denizen of Halloween Town after all, so she figured she got to be the best-looking monster to be able to pull it off.

Then Kumo saw a small pool of darkness nearby with black steams flowing out of it. He could not help but look at it as he asked, "Hey, what's that?" He went over to the black circle on the ground to go see what it was.

The demon girl warned, "Wait, don't touch that! You don't even know what it is."

Soon, they saw a Shadow heartless and another coming out of the circle. Kumo jolted back and cried, "Ahh, heartless!" Zero let out a scared whine and shuddered fearfully.

Sakura spoke like she was getting tired of fighting these creatures, "Well here we go again." It seems like they would never stop fighting the heartless until LimeX was stopped for good. She summoned Shadow Heart as she got ready to attack the heartless. Hitomi summoned her keyblade as well. It was not like

she was not expecting the heartless to appear.

As the two heartlesses appeared followed by a third one, which was a Neoshadow, Kumo's nose caught a familiar scent from the lead Shadow heartless. "Hey, that smells like-"

"Stop!" the little girl called, casting the spell on the 3 heartless. She did not bother to help the neko finish his sentence, just caring that they did this quickly.

Zephyr had his own keyblade out already, just in case, so that as soon as Hitomi cast Stop on them he threw his keyblade forward, "Strike Raid!"

The heartless disappeared and the dark hole did, too. Kumo blurted out, "LimeX! That's LimeX's heartless!"

The teens and the dog turned to him, wondering what he meant by that. Sakura asked confused, "LimeX's heartless? What are you talking about?"

The neko answered, "I think she might be a nobody. She seems to smell different than all of us."

Zephyr gave him a funny look, feeling skeptical of his assumption. "You sure about this? Because she really didn't look like one."

Hitomi explained, "Not all nobodies are like those silver creatures we saw." Everyone looked to her to listen on what she has to say. "The appearances they take on are a matter of how strong your will is. If it's exceptionally strong, then the nobody will retain its human appearance."

The blonde was surprised to hear about this. He asked, "So you're saying LimeX was a nobody this whole time?"

"Yes, we are," the darkblader confirmed. "I never felt a heart from her whenever I was near her. The heartless you slew was the one that carried her heart. As long as the heartless is destroyed first, after the nobody perishes then the victim will return whole as they were before."

Sakura asked, "So if we kill LimeX too, she'll come back with a heart." Her red eyes shifted away, feeling reluctant about this. "I'm not sure if I want to see what she's like with one." She imagined the brunette would be eviler than she was now if she were whole again, considering all the bad things she has done. "But I guess if she wants it, then it's the right thing we have to do."

Kumo said to them, "Come on, let's get back to going where we were going." Then he bounded off ahead of them as he ran on the path.

"Wait!" Hitomi called, running after him. "You don't know your way around here," she said, trying to get

in the lead. Zero barked at the neko, trying to tell him to slow down before they run into any more danger.

"Kids..." Zephyr muttered before sprinting after them.

Sakura followed him and giggled, "I know right? They think they can do everything." As amusing as children's confidence were sometimes, she knew how dangerous this Realm was and they ran as hard as they can to catch up to the neko boy.

LimeX joined Shade as he began the ritual that would extend his lifespan and become a real human being. The man was standing at an altar with her beside him. He glanced to her and then at the heartless on the table. He asked, "Are the nobodies ready?" The girl held up the bag holding the writhing nobodies. "Good." He raised his blade and struck LimeX in the heart. She collapsed and the heart floated out of her. Shade then created a Corridor of Darkness above it to send it to another world. Black curvy particles and steams rose out from LimeX's body before it dispersed into smoke. The nobody girl was no more.

After coming out of the portal, Chase stood in front of the gravestone with the name, Ilem, written on it. Juliet buried the soul in the dirt where the body was buried and then covered it up. As they waited, a random Corridor appeared above the grave, surprising them, and sent a heart down below the soil. Juliet tilted her head to listen to see if it worked. A muffled reply came, "Would someone get me the hell out of this thing!?"

Chase recognized that voice and said with rising happiness, "That's Ilem! She's alive! Juliet, let's dig her out." Then they began digging the dirt off and soon uncovered the coffin. They opened it up and revealed a girl who looked strikingly like LimeX with her hair, skin and eyes, the latter of which she opened. The clothes she wore were different. She looked pissed off. Chase could not help giggling at the cranky girl, but he was more joyful than amused to see the love of his life again. Tears of happiness filled his eyes as he said her name, "Ilem!"

The 18-year-old brunette glanced to him and stood up and brushed herself off. "That's my name. Now could someone tell me what the hell is going on?" Then she noticed his new attire as well. "And why are you in these clothes?"

Chase wiped the tears off his eyes and said, "It's a long story. But anyway, it's great to have you back, Ilem. I really missed you." Then he went to hug her with all the love and affection he could muster.

Ilem pushed the man away and glanced around frantically. "Never mind that, where's our best friend

LimeX? Your sister, remember? She was with you when I tried to defend you both from the dark thing that attacked!" Standing up she glanced around. "Where is she?"

The man raised a brow at her in confusion. "Sister?"

The woman looked back at him, wondering if his mind was asleep or something. "Yes, you know. The girl who put that X behind her name because you said it made her sound cool. And then you took the R and L out of your name because we agreed it suits you."

Chase gave her a strange look and said, "You're not pulling my leg, are you? She looks a lot more like you than she does me." He thought she might be pulling a trick on him or probably was not thinking clearly due to her long slumber in the grave. But the serious look on her face seems to be implying that she might be telling the truth.

Now Ilem was puzzled and surprised, her brown eyes wide at what he said. "Chase, what happened? You didn't hit your head in the fight or anything, did you?"

He shook his head, answering, "No I didn't. But what we're saying doesn't make sense to each other. You say she's my sister and I thought she was yours." It seems like he lost more memories than just that of Ilem. Did Shade omit out the fact that he also lost some memory of LimeX as well? Did his supposed sister also forget that he was her brother before being approached by Shade? The man was so confused about all of this; he was not sure whose version of LimeX was the true one. "We need to get back to her and get this straightened out." If anyone knew the truth, it would be either LimeX or Shade, if the former did not remember. Then he looked at the apprentice and asked, "Juliet, can you take us back to the lair?" The blonde made the Corridor, linking up back to the clone's hideout. Everyone went inside to go there.

Soon, Zephyr and friends arrived at the entrance of some unknown building. Kumo said, "Hey, we're here! This place smells like nothing, just like a nobody."

Hitomi stopped abruptly as they entered the pitch-black darkness. It was very blurry for her to see here as it was nothing. "What's happening?" She asked the neko.

He answered, "I think I sense some nobodies here. That means LimeX must be here!"

Sakura said, "I hope we catch her for good this time; I really hope." Zero barked in agreement. The faster the nobody girl was stopped, the more lives will be saved. This chase has gone long enough and it needs to be put to an end.

After going through the darkness, they came to a stop in front of a silver barrier. Kumo exclaimed, "A

barrier! That must be nobody magic!"

The demon asked, "So what do we do to break it down?"

Then they saw Chase past the barrier coming out of the Corridor. Kumo beamed, "Master Chase, there you are! We've been looking for you!"

The man turned around to see his happy smiling apprentice alongside everyone else. "Kumo, everyone! You guys waited outside for us?"

Sakura corrected, "Actually, we just got here."

The neko nodded, "Yep, and Hitomi was leading us to this place that smelled like nobodies."

"I see," said the master.

Zephyr asked him, "So what happened in there? Did you meet this 'Employer' person? Did you see all the nobodies he took?"

"I did," Chase confirmed. "And he told me everything about LimeX and why he sent her to do everything she did." Shaking his head, he continued, "As for the nobodies, I can't tell you I have."

Sakura was about to question him on Glacies's whereabouts when Ilem and Juliet came through with the former shivering once. The brunette said, "This place...feels like LimeX." It was not just the cold and gloomy atmosphere giving her that feeling, but also her presence as well. She heard Zero's rapid barking at her and turned her head to him, asking, "Okay, who let the dog out?"

"You did!" Sakura pointed at her accusingly.

Ilem narrowed her eyes at her, confused and offended at being assumed of some wrongdoing she had never done. "And what's that supposed to mean?"

Noticing the black-haired girl looking different, Zephyr asked, "LimeX, are you back to normal now? We met some heartless back there; Kumo and Hitomi said it was your heartless, is that true?"

Ilem gave him a dumbfounded look, "What?! You think I'm LimeX, too?"

"Uh yes," the blonde boy answered, feeling weirded out by this. "That's your name." Why did she think she was not LimeX?

The woman corrected him, "No, it's not. I'm Ilem."

"Huh?!" Zephyr and Sakura cried in surprise at the same time. Zero just dropped his jaw and went wide-eyed, sharing their confusion.

The demon asked, "But you look so much like her. Are you her twin or something?"

Ilem asked, "No, I'm not. What is it with everyone thinking I'm her?"

Chase told everyone, "I think we'll have it all explained once we find LimeX. Let me get you guys in first." He looked around for the button on the wall that Diablos had pushed earlier to keep any more intruders out. He found it and went to push it to deactivate the barrier and let the others in. After they got inside, Zero picked up LimeX's scent and trailed it to the room that Shade went in. But something was off about this; the door that blocked it was gone. The silverette frowned uneasily, remembering what his clone had said about the door. If this was the only way the door would open, then that means... No, he cannot be so sure of this yet. He needed to see her with his eyes first or at least hear from Shade himself. He told everyone, "Zero knows where LimeX is. Let's follow him." Then they all rushed in and ran up the steps that lead to Shade's room. Chase hoped that he would find his sister still breathing when he got there.

Just as they entered the room, they saw Shade with his eyes closed as he was chanting some strange words that no one could understand. On the floor before him was an occult circle with the nobodies' wrists and ankles strapped to the floor by metal bands. The nobodies writhed as they struggled to break free of the locks. Zephyr, Sakura, Kumo, Ilem and Zero all stared astounded at the clone, surprised to see that their silver-haired friend had a look-alike. The neko cried out, "Hey, he looks like Master Chase!"

Ilem asked her lover as she pointed to the clone, "Is that your brother?" She had heard about him one time back in the days of temple-guarding.

Chase answered with a scowl, "No, it's not. That guy right there is Shade and he's no brother of mine." The lines of the circle began to glow as the nobodies started to thrash, looking like they were in pain from the magic affecting them. The glowing lines traced all over in the occult circle before finally moving over to the smaller circle beneath Shade. When the ritual was complete, the powerfully bright light shined through the darkness. Everyone shielded their faces to keep the light out of their eyes as a few of them cried startled. Then the light vanished and the occult circle became dark again. The nobodies were also gone, having been absorbed into Shade by the spell to turn him into a real mortal.

The clone grinned in a low voice that was filled with excitement, "Yes, finally! At long last, I am real!" He tested out his humanity by trying to summon his very own keyblade. Darkness took shape in its hand and formed itself into a keyblade. "And look, I have my own keyblade now."

With the clone open to talk, Chase took a few steps forward and demanded, "Alright Shade, where is LimeX?"

Shade turned his attention to the man and grinned sneeringly, "Ah yes, her..." He let out a dark chuckle before answering, "I'm afraid you're too late to the party, my boy. She's already vanished."

"What?!" shouted the aghast brother. His worst assumption had come true.

Everyone else was just as shocked as Zephyr asked, "Vanished? What do you mean?"

Shade answered, "She sacrificed herself to give Ilem her heart back. LimeX was housing that heart in her body the whole time, that's why she looks like Ilem." He shrugged his hands out briefly as he continued, "There, that answers one of your questions. And since that last bit completes the deal, I have to give you back all of your memories of Ilem and LimeX like I promised." Raising one of his hands forward, he said, "So here, you can satisfy your friends' curiosity with those." Three spiraling magic rays shot out from the palm of his hand and flew towards Chase.

The rays hit Chase on the head and the man began to have an excruciating migraine. He screamed out loudly as he fell to his knees and clutched his thrashing head. Memories after memories were pouring in to his head fast. Everyone stared at him worriedly as Kumo cried, "Master Chase!"

Ilem sent a glare at the clone, demanding, "What did you do to him, you bastard?!" If it was any other time, Sakura would have told her not to curse in front of children. But her eyes and concern were glued to Chase's suffering, which mattered the most at the moment.

Shade smirked coolly, "Heh, you act like this is going to kill him. All I did was help him recover his memories. You should be thankful. You'll want him to know everything about you. Now I'll let you spend some quality time with him; you all have some catching up to do after all." He vanished through a Corridor of Darkness, leaving the keybladers alone with their suffering friend.

Chase continued to get overwhelmed with more memories until he saw the last one of Ilem planting a kiss on his lips, causing him to blush at that time. Now having all of his memories back, the migraines stopped and the man collapsed with his eyes closed. Tiredness took hold of him as the aftereffect of the migraines left his head with pounding aches that were less severe. Everyone cried, "Chase!" How bad did he feel? Was he still alive? Everyone was so worried for him.

Thage was nothing. She felt nothing and she saw nothing. All she was, in her mind, a cloud of ephemeral essence drifting in oblivion. Unbeknownst to her, the spell she had used to give away Roxanne's soul had also costed her all of the darkness in heart. It was something she failed to read about when she learned of the spell and now, she was left with only half a heart. She felt at peace with herself, like she had never before. She could not even remember how she ended up like this. The truth was, however, that she was dying. A flicker came to her. She was not in oblivion. She was in the Lanes Between? How odd. Not caring, she drifted on with her meager existence to be played out before her.

The mysterious girl wandered through the Realm In Between, looking as if it was just aimless wandering. At one point she stopped and went rigid, creating a Corridor of Light and going through it. One of the rare times she used her keyblade glider and ended up in the Lanes Between. She looked around on her bike-like glider for something. What she was looking for was beyond her, but she knew she wanted to look for something. She saw a body floating in space and went over to it. Putting it on her glider, she returned to the Realm of Light through another Corridor. This was just what she needed; another ally to help her with her goal. Her glider disappeared and went back to its original keyblade form. She pointed that at the body which she had set down, pouring mass amounts of light through the keyblade from herself and her surrounding, forcing it all to occupy the empty shell in front of her.

What was this? Thage was being filled with light; it was warm. What was this? She opened her eyes. They were now permanently glazed over; just as how they had been when she lost the dark half of her heart. "Who...are you?" The blonde stood up and looked around. There was that turquoise-haired woman? Memories started to flow back into her sometime before she was on the verge of death. She was with a woman and this woman was there. She looked very familiar.

The mysterious girl answered, "Well... My name..... For now, call me Light... That is my name, yet it is not my name... I have selected you to help me.... I want...to rid everywhere of darkness... We need to show them the light...." She took off her hood at these last 2 sentences and her eyes took on a more blank look than they had before.

Thage asked without any emotion, "What? Selected me?.. What does that even mean? And-"

The mysterious girl said, "Well... You were the ideal person for this... Just an empty shell, waiting to be brought back..."

The blonde looked at the turquoisette. She did nearly die, so she guessed that made sense. "So Light, what are my new orders?"

The mysterious girl said blankly, "Travel round to different worlds and infuse them with light... Also, any people you see that could do with more light, infuse it in them."

Thage asked, "And I'm supposed to do this how?"

"By aiming at their heart and sending the light into them."

"But I'm a darkblader, how can I?.." That was when the blonde noticed something off about herself. "The darkness inside me is gone. What happened?"

Light answered, "When I found you, you were an empty shell with only half a heart. I filled that empty shell with my light, so you are merely a vessel of light, nothing more. That means everything you do may

only use light as you lack any darkness at all." The mysterious girl looked off in the distance. "We should get started as soon as possible."

Thage stood up and looked around at the area. She could not really remember how she got here, but she knew that LimeX was not her master anymore. This girl known as Light was her new master. "When do I begin, master?"

Light corrected her, "I am not your master... We are servants of the light goddess... After Etutu, the god of darkness, tried his last attempt at making darkness take over, our master deemed it necessary to exterminate all darkness... As to what we need to do now, just go to a world and start exterminating the darkness by forcing more light into it. You may also wear a cloak or mask; something to hide your identity. Sadly, not everyone approves of our great goddess's plan... I shall go now." The mysterious girl disappeared in a Corridor of Light off to some world in the Realm In Between. Thage made a Corridor of Light behind her and went inside, going off to do her new task in another world.

Chase's mind lingered in the dark. His headaches had all soothed and gone. He began to hear voices calling out to him. "Chase!" "Chase, wake up!" "Are you alright? Answer me." "Master Chase, wake up!" "Chase, please get up! I don't want to lose you!" The man recognized that last desperate voice and knew that it was Ilem begging him to return. Though his body desired rest, his mind told him to get up and rejoin his friends. He opened his eyes to a blurry vision of all the faces watching him from above. The vision soon became clear and he was able to see how was here with him.

Chase looked off to nothing in particular as he spoke, "I-I remember now. Everything about LimeX, about Ilem. I remember it all now." He pushed himself back up on his feet as everyone else rose with him.

Ilem looked relieved to see her boyfriend still alive and fine. "Well that's good and all, now would you mind telling us everything? You're the one with all the memories now."

"Right, I suppose an explanation is order," Chase replied. Now that LimeX and Shade were no longer here to do it, it falls on the man alone himself. "Everyone, I'm sure you've all heard, but LimeX is my sister.

"Sister?!" Zephyr, Sakura and Kumo chorused in surprise. Even Hitomi and Zero were stunned as well.

"Yes," the man confirmed. "And she didn't always look like Ilem either nor did she always have some of her personality traits. Many years ago, she was disowned by my father for being a darkblader as well seemingly being responsible for our mother's death at the time of her birth."

Juliet felt sympathy for her master, *'So she was shunned like I was.'*

Chase continued, "I never saw her again for years until recently some months ago. I didn't recognize her at the time and thought she might be another raider. But then she told me her name and intentions. She became best friends with Ilem and I, back when Ilem was my temple-guarding partner. And the three of us protected the temple together. But then that fateful day happened." He frowned with melancholy as he shared the story that Shade told them about how Ilem died and how the siblings lost their memories of each other and their friend. He even included about how Shade came into being. "Shade had all of those memories at the time and he somehow knew everything about our present lives like he was linked to us or something."

Sakura shuddered, "Whoa, that sounds creepy."

"I know," the man shared the sentiment. "Anyway, I know you all want to know about Ilem as well. So let me tell you who she is. Ilem is my lover. She was a temple guard before LimeX took her position after her death."

Sakura beamed in amazement, "You have a girlfriend? That's so sweet."

Juliet asked with wary frown, "Does your father know about this?" She found their relationship to be wrong. Lightbladers and darkbladers were the enemy of each other, right? How could Chase and Ilem be this close to one another? Their elements were the polar opposite of each other.

The man answered, "No, and thankfully, he never will." His world's culture was one of those that looked down on darkbladers and forbade lightbladers from getting romantically involved with them. If his father, or Roland, had learned of this, then there would be outrage and he would have lost his noble status and his familial ties. So Chase had kept this a secret from his brother.

Ilem snickered, "His dad would have dropped dead if he found out. But who cares what he thinks." She leaned over to the man and stroked his face. "We won't let anyone come between us, right Chase?"

"Right," he smiled with his cheeks blushing red.

Kumo decided to make fun of their public display of affection. "Master Chase and Ilem sitting in the tree. K-I-S-S-I-N-G!"

Chase retorted teasingly, "Hey now, that could be you one day when you grow up."

The neko spat in disgust, "Eww, no way!" Everyone laughed out loud in amusement while Hitomi just giggled quietly. Juliet however stayed quiet as she was still hurt by the deaths of LimeX and Thage. The comedy had made the room they were in seem less sinister looking.

After the laughter died down, Chase said, "Okay, that's enough. Now it's time for Ilem to get to know you guys." He went over his new friends to the woman, introducing them one by one. "Ilem, meet

Zephyr. The girl next to him is Hitomi."

The blonde boy greeted, "Nice to meet you." Hitomi just bowed at her.

The man introduced the demon, "And this is their friend, Sakura. She's from Halloween Town."

Sakura waved at the woman cheerfully and greeted, "Hi!" Her wide open smile showed her pointy fangs.

"I went to the Halloween festival in her world. It was fun, but some of the food there might not be to your liking." His teeth gritted in distaste at the memory of some unsavory dishes. "I'll have to take you there next year to show it to you."

"Sounds great, Chase," Ilem responded eagerly. "I haven't been to a party in a long time."

Sakura assured, "You'll love it! It's scary and amazing. I help organize the event every year."

The woman replied, "I'll look forward to it." She turned to the remaining strangers and asked, "So now who are these two?"

Chase looked to the neko, "This is my apprentice, Kumo, and that girl is LimeX's apprentice, Juliet."

Kumo eagerly greeted, "Hi!" Juliet however was seemingly uninterested in welcoming the new girl. She just let out a quiet "hey".

The man continued, "We had one more person with us, but Diablos took Glacies into another place to fight, so that I wouldn't interfere and try to save her."

Zephyr became alarmed at this news, "Diablos is fighting her?! That's not good, we have to go her now." The ruffian had beaten her badly before and this time he might succeed in killing her. The boy did not want that kind of fate for his friend. He would be devastated.

Chase replied, "Right, I'll make a portal to her now." He summoned a portal that would lead them to their bob-cut-haired friend. The portal immediately got them the image of Glacies talking to Leohart in his office. "There she is!"

Zephyr smiled in relief, "She's alright! Come on, we got to go see her." He went into the Radiant Garden portal first, eager retell everything that had happened to Glacies and Master Leohart.

Sakura told him, "Hey, wait for us." Everyone followed him into the portal. The chase for LimeX was finally over and everyone can now rest, but result of it was tragic. Chase's sister was gone and no one was happy with how she went out; it was especially devastating for those who had a strong bond with

her. Her friends believed that they would never see her again, but the ones who knew the circumstances of the nobodies knew that this was not the end of her.