

The keyblade accounts I-Alsce and the Keyblade

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Yay! KH OCS!

Yes, sailoraqua, Ichigo is in this.

Kingdom hearts C squaresoft

characters C disney

Alsce C swampertgirl0504

Ichigo C sailoraqua13

Caitlee C setokaibaslittlesis

Marie C Marieblack07

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0. Crystals

Lesca sat on a cliff overlooking the Clam plains. Only a few more miles and they would be at the temple in Djose.

Her faithful chocobo Billy-Bob sat next to her, whining every now and then.

Lesca looked at her huge sword in the ground next to her, that glowed yellow.

There was a scream from beneath her, and Yuna her sister, a summoner, was waving to her.

Lesca dropped down to the floor, it was at least ten feet but as an assistant summoner she had to not be scared.

Yuna smiled at her sister. Her brown hair floated in the breeze and her eyes-one green;one blue-twinkled in the twilight.

Lesca loved her sister dearly, but she hoped that she wouldn't succeed in her pilgrimage, because everyone knew what happened to summoners when they could summon the final aeon.

A tear rolled out of Lesca's eye as she thought this.

"Hey." said Yuna, gently. She put her arm round her sister.

"I don't want you to die, Yuna! I don't want the final aeon to kill you, Even if it does defeat sin!"

Sin was the terrible monster that was destroying their home land Spira. Every ten years a summoner would go on a pilgrimage to collect aeons, beasts they could summon to aid them in battle. But when they summoned the final aeon which could defeat sin, it took the summoner's life.

Then there would be ten years of peace.

However, a new Sin would always be spawned-from the dead summoner.

Lord Braska-Yuna and Lesca's father-went on the last successful pilgrimage to stop sin.

When they had banished him, Braska died, but instead of him becoming sin, Jecht-one of his guardians [people who protect a summoner on their pilgrimage] gave his life to this.

Or so they thought.

Tidus-Jecht's son-was with them, and they figured this upset him quite a bit, so they didn't talk about it.

A tear rolled down Lesca's face.

"Don't cry, Lesca. We all love you too much." said Yuna.

It was true.Yuna's guardians were her family now.

Lulu the black mage, who held a possessed doll called a moogles (and who's outfit was revealing near the top) was like her sister. Even though she was -like a goth- she was always looking out for her.

Like Wakka. He was a tall guy with a deep tan and ginger hair....and he played blitzball, the sport of Spira.

Enemies did not want to get in the way of his blitzball attacks.

Then, there was Kimahri. He was....like a giant blue cat standing on two legs with a spear.That was because he was a ronso. He never said much, but they all knew he was Yuna's most devoted guardian.Yuna had known him since her father had died.

Tidus. the newbie.he had joined them just as Yuna had started her pilgrimage. No-one knew where he had come from-but he said Zanarkand, which was impossible, because Zanarkand had been in ruins for 1000 years.

But Lesca believed him.

Auron. Auron, Auron, Auron. You did not want to get on the wrong side of him.

Auron was about...well, no-one knew his age, but he had been Braska's guardian 10 years ago. he was the best warrior in the group. His katana was the same size as he was. You couldn't see his mouth because of his high collar, and he wore sunglasses to cover his eyes.

Rikku was the youngest. She was about 14, same age as Lesca, and she was a thief. She was super-fast with her hand blades, and she could steal. Yay!

She was an al-bhed, so she was good with machines. Wakka didn't like her, because machines-the machines-were against the fayth [religion of the summoners].

But everyone loved her really.

Lesca sighed. She hated Sin. She hated him for the destruction he was causing. She hated him for killing the people of Spira, but most of all she hated him because destroying him would kill her sister.

"So...Been practising?" asked Yuna.

Lesca wiped her tears away and nodded.

"Here, I got you these." she said. Yuna held out her hands. In them were two separate hand cuffs. They had keys sticking out of them. One was black and the other was white.

"Key cuffs?" whispered Lesca, getting a feeling inside...not that she had worn them before, but she was meant to wear them.

Yuna put something in Lesca's gil pouch. A white crystal.

Suddenly Lulu came next to her.

"Hello, Lesca." she said.

Lesca smiled at her.

"Here. I want you to have this."

Lulu dropped a purple spherical crystal into Lesca's hand. She raised her eyebrows and put it in her Gil pouch.

"Take care of it." said Lulu. She walked off.

Lesca went to sit by the camp fire.

Wakka, Tidus, Rikku and Kimhari were there.

"Heads up!" said Wakka, before she could sit down. Lesca expected him to throw his blitzball, but instead, he threw an orange crystal.

Lesca put it in her Gil pouch.

"Lesca!" said Tidus. She crossed to him and Rikku.

"Y'know, you're like a sister to us...." began Tidus, but Rikku shook her head.

They held out their hands. A blue crystal and a green crystal.

WHAT WAS IT WITH ALL THESE CRYSTALS?

Kimhari grunted. Lesca turned.

He looked at Lesca.

"Kimhari miss Lesca." he said, and gave her a dark blue crystal.

Lesca was worried. What did he mean miss?

Lesca saw Auron out the corner of her eye looking into the horizon.

She went over to him.

"Sir Auron, what is going on?" she asked.

Auron sighed.

"The darkness comes!" he said, loudly.

Everyone in the camp began to buzz around.

"Auron?!" asked Lesca, desperately.

He pointed.

Lesca looked at the sunset. A huge shadow was coming.

"That isn't night," he said, "That is a shadow. It's destroying Spira. We're getting you away."

Lesca looked at him.

"Just me?"

Auron looked at her.

"You were meant to save us."

He took a red spherical crystal from his pocket and gave it to Lesca.

Suddenly, there was a scream.

The darkness was only a few feet away! It moved so quickly!

"YUNA!" screamed Lesca.

Yuna was swinging her summoning rod over her head. Her guardians were moving into a circle around her, and Auron grabbed Lesca's wrist and threw her in the middle. Then he moved to complete the circle.

A hole was appearing at Yuna's feet, a brilliant white that overpowered the shadow.

A white forcefield came from her friends, making a forcefield around Yuna and Lesca.

Lesca tried to run, but the darkness had completely surrounded them.

She ran to the place where the forcefield hadn't finished—next to Kimahri.

Kimahri grabbed Lesca and pushed her away from the shadow....but he was pulled in.

"KIMHARI!" screamed Lesca.

The forcefield began to fade.

A dark blue beam came from the shadow and hit her gil sack.

Auron was sucked in the darkness, then Rikku.

Rikku screamed and struggled, but she slowly sank away.

Lesca ran and tried to pull her free, but the force was too strong.

Auron made no effort. He just stared at Lesca, as if to say a silent goodbye.

A green beam and a red beam came out of the shadow as Auron and Rikku were taken.

The red beam hit the red crystal, it glowed and Lesca saw a tiny figure of Auron in there.

"Auron?" she whispered. The figure looked at her and shook its head.

She looked up.

Lulu was gone. And Tidus.

Wakka was slowly disappearing. He made no attempt to break free.

"WAKKKA!" cried Lesca. He ran and hugged Wakka.

"Hey. You're my little sister, ya' know? Stay safe."

He gently pushed her away as the shadows devoured him.

"Lesca!"

The girl looked up.

"Head's up!"

He threw his gil sack at her.

Then he was gone.

A purple beam, light blue beam and orange beam came from the darkness and into her pouch for Gil.

Lesca looked at Yuna. Her sister was crying, her tears flying, defying gravity.

The porthole flew wider suddenly, and went to Lesca's feet.

"GO!" screamed Yuna. Lesca looked at her sister.

She was being sucked in.

"NOT YOU! ANYONE BUT YOU!" she screamed.

Yuna smiled, sadly and took her hand.

"I love you." whispered Yuna. Then, the shadow surged forward. Her sister, her only true friend, was gone.

A white beam hit her Gil sack.

Suddenly Lesca was surrounded by darkness.

It seemed to whisper to her. Not words, but mournful sounds. It wasn't growing anymore. It was

waiting for Lesca.

Lesca noticed some yellow dots in the distance. Or was it near? It was hard to tell.

A huge shadow jumped at her. it was arched over and had mad antenna.

Lesca fought it off, but the thing kept clawing near her chest, near her heart.

She saw more eyes. She couldn't fight them. her weapon was gone, like her faithful chocobo.

She needed and escape.

There was only one way.

She looked at the porthole. Where did it go?

Only one was to find out.

In a feat of strength, Lesca threw away the shadow and jumped.

She fell, and she could see the in darkness, the sould of the fayth comound to show her her friend and her dear, dear sister one last time.

Everything went black.

1. Blood sisters

Lesca lay on a beach, not stirring, crystal scattered all around her.

The sun beat down on her face, She looked alot younger, because the porthole had taken a couple of years off her age.

A girl and two boys ran down the beach. TThey didn't notice Lesca to begin with, but suddenly the girl saw her figure on the shore.

"Sora! Riku! Look!" said the 12 year old. She and the two old boys, one 12 one 13, ran over to Lesca.

"Who is she?" asked the silver-haired Riku.

"I dunno." said the other boy.

Lesca began to stir.

"She's dressed weirdly." said the girl.

"Yeh. Kairi, I'll go get my sister Ichigo to check her out." said Sora.

Riku looked at Kairi and ran after Sora.

Kairi sat by Lesca and ten noticed the crystals. She casually picked one up and looked at it.

It was a pretty green, and glowed in the light.

She screamed and suddenly dropped it.

A tiny figure was inside the sphere, getting up dizzily. It was a girl in green shorts and mad strawberry-blonde hair.

The figure waved at Kairi then disappeared.

Lesca woke up.

Lesca fet the soft lap of waves on her feet.

She smiled. She was warm.

"Yuna?" she asked.

No reply.

"Yuna?" she called, a little more urgently.

Then she remembered.

"YUNA!"

She sat up, eyes snapping open.

She looked at the girl next to her.

"Yuna!" she said to Kairi.

Kairi was confused.

"No. I'm called Kairi."

Lesca blinked.

"Have you seen my sister?"

Kairi shook her head.

"No. Sorry."

Then she fully remembered.

"I was sent here...." she muttered.

"Look, you're lost. i found you here, with these."

She gave Lesca one of the crystals.

Lesca took it. It was green.

Suddenly, Rikku appeared.

"RIKKU!" she said. Rikku waved at her.

"Are you ok?" she asked. Rikku nodded.

"How do you know my name?" asked a voice.

Lesca looked up. A boy with silver hair stood over her, smiling.

"Oh, no, not you, my friend in the crystal." she said, holding it up to the boy.

Riku took it, nodding.

"Ok. Weird."

Lesca stood up and collected the crystals.

"I have to get back to Spira." she said.

"Where's that?" asked Kairi.

Lesca sighed.

She pointed out to sea.

Then she remembered the key-cuffs.

She looked at them, then the rest of her clothes.

Her top was in shreds. It had been a tightly-bound red ribbon. Now it was just a tattered strip that hung over her, but it wasn't revealing.

Her shorts were soaked. They were short shorts, but she had a veil that she wore from above her chest to her knees. That had gone.

Her sandals were ok.

Her jewelery had gone.

But her handcuffs were unharmed.

Lesca began to cry.

"I'll never get home. I don't know where I am!" she cried.

"It's ok," said Kairi, hugging Lesca in a comforting way, "You can stay here with us and then find a way back!"

Lesca wiped away her tears.

"Thank you. But where is here? And who are us?" she said, knowing her grammatical mistake.

"I'm Kairi. This is Riku. And over there is Sora and his sister, Ichigo. You are on Destiny islands!"

Lesca studied her surroundings. Lots of water and sand. And trees. It was beautiful.

"Oh." she said.

Suddenly, she was knocked to her knees.

She turned to see a boy had ran into her. He had mad brown hair and blue eyes.

Lesca smiled, the first time she had in this weird place.

Next to the boy was a girl with the same colour eyes and black hair.

"Ichigo, this is....Who are you?"

Lesca was going to say her name, but something stopped her.

"Alsce."

She had re-arranged the letters in her name. She felt ashamed, they couldn't know her real name after she had failed her sister and friends.

"Ok, Alsce. I'm Ichigo." said the older girl, looking at Lesc-Alsce.

"You're fine. No signs of physical illness."

"Thank you." said Alsce, "I need a place to stay."

"We'll build you somewhere." said Riku.

"Ok. Out of what?"

"Trees!"

So, the five of them set to work, tying driftwood and fallen branches together to make a roughly built house.

They picked a place in the middle of four palm trees, so when they had finished they tied the main posts of the house to the tops of the trees to help it stay put.

Alsce liked it. They went inside and put palm trees on the floor as a carpet.

Alsce smiled.

"Maybe you should stay at my house ytonight." suggested Kairi.

Alsce nodded, to exhausted to do anything else.

So the two girls walked to kairi'a place.

Her grandmother-who she lived with- was surprised but kind, and gave Alsce a place to sleep.

Kairi gave her a pair of her PJs when She had had a bath. Alsce found they fitted perfectly.

In the bathroom she had noticed she looked younger. More 12 then 14.

'Well, a new age for a new person.' she figured.

In the morning, thay had pancakes for breakfast. kairi gave her some of her clothes, which Alsce adored.

Then she began to live in her hut. They made furniture for her there, and Alsce becam more and more at home.

She loved her house. She always had her crystals. Sometime she would speak to her friends in the crystals. They seemed to listen, but couldn't talk back.

Slowly, she was known around the island. 'The hut girl' she was called.

But she upgraded that 'hut' it was more like a 3-storey house with washing facilities.

But she always went to Kairis for breakfast. For her lunch and dinner she would either eat the fruit of the island or catch fish.

So, she made herself at home.

A week passed.

A month.

A year.

A year passed since the Spira event, but Alsce never changed.

Occasionally she spent a night around one of her new best friend's house. Mostly Soras...not just for Sora, for Ichigo. Ichigo became her best friend. They told each other everything. It was Ichigo she told about her past, and Ichigo who was shown the crystals, but it wouldn't be with ichigo she found their true meanng.

It was Ichigo who first suggested they became blood sisters. Alsce thought they were sisters, or as close as, but went along with Ichigo for it's own sake.

They picked a night when the sunset was blood red.

"What do we do?" asked Alsce, as Ichigo sat them down on the shore.

"Make a prick on your thumb." she said, holding out a penknife. Alsce quickly did this so it didn't hurt.

Ichigo did the same.

"Ok, now press wounds together."

The girls pressed their thumbs together.

"Now we have each other's blood in our veins! We're blood sisters!"

Alsce smiled at ichigo.

Alsce felt a tap on her back. She turned to see Sora, smiling at her. He silently beckoned.

Alsce looked at Ichigo. She was zoned out...they could silently get away.

So they did.

Sora took Alsce's hand and they ran across the beach, into the shade of some palm trees, next to the freshwater spring.

When they were safe Sora began to talk.

"You've been here for over a year now, and I really really like you-"

Alsce was about to tell Sora she really liked him too, but then he continued.

"-And it really bothers me I haven't shown you this yet."

Alsce blinked. Sora pointed at the place when the two giant slabs of stone in the middle of the

island met. There was a tiny crack, but big enough to get through.
Sora went through first, then Alsce.

The cave was dark. Alsce had a weird sensation, like when she entered a summoning area and the fayth buzzed around her.

Slowly, everything came into focus.

There were rocks. And on the rocks, rock carvings. Alsce looked at them in wonder.

"Yeah, we did these ages ago. Except there was one we found that was here before we started."

Sora pointed and a groove. Alsce fingered it. It was spherical and quite deep. Next to it were two deeply chut rectangles, one either side.

Alsce looked at the drawings and gasped.

They were pictured of the fayth-souls of dead summoners- all around it.

Alsce picked up the white crystal from her Gil bag and placed it in the groove.

It began to glow.

"C'mon! Work!" she muttered. How it would work she had no idea, but it would. Alsce made her hands into fists, then slot the keycuffs carefully into the rectangles.

Something clicked, and Sora and Alsce were thrown back.

They looked up when they got their balance back.

There was Yuna, smiling at Alsce.

"YUNA!" said Alsce, running to her sister.

But she fell through her.

"Lesca." replied Yuna.

"What.what happened?"

"The fayth brought me back, but only my soul, like the others. What do you think was in those crystals?"

Alsce began to cry, and Yuna disappeared as the crystal fell out. She put it back in her Gil pouch and left, Sora following her.

Outside, she started to talk again.

"Don't tell anyone." she said, and left for her hut.

Sora smiled.

"I won't."

2. Weird dreams

It was about 3 months after that experience Alsce began having the dreams.

She was falling to begin with. Always falling....then she realised she was in a huge typhoon, and was washed up on destiny islands.

It was very peaceful, and when she looked up, all her old friends were there, with Yuna. They were all smiling at her- except Auron, his face was covered- and there was a tsunami wave heading towards the 7. Lesca tried to scream, tried to warn them, but they didn't hear her or ignored her. Yuna held out her hand.

Lesca would desperately run to catch her, but the wave would strike, and she would be washed away.

Then she would wake up.

Alsce never told anyone about the dreams at first. But she finally did when everyone on the island had a temperature and was indoors-except Sora, that is.

Alsce and Sora sat on the horizontal palm tree on a small island that was attached to Destiny Island.

"Sora, something's wrong." she said.

Sora nodded.

"I know. Is it a dream?"

Alsce gasped .

"Yes. Why, are you having them?"

Sora nodded. He told her about his dreams, that they were always him falling, then waking, then trying to catch Riku.

Alsce told her that her dreams were the same, except with all of her old friends.

Sora sighed.

"I dunno what they mean. I just hope they stop."

"mmm." replied Alsce.

The two sat quietly, looking out to sea.

"Alsce..."

"Yes?"

"If you ever need me, I'll always be here for you."

"Thanks. And me likewise."

Sora and Alsce drifted off into their own little worlds then, worlds where there was only the sea, the sun and each other.

*****7 MONTHS LATER*****

Alsce ran along the beach. She hadn't stop having those dreams, and she was 14 now. Again.

Sora was following her, trying to catch her, but fell over on the shore.

"SEE! TOLD YA YOU COULDN'T CATCH ME!" she screamed, laughing her head off.

"Ok, ok, you win!" he laughed. Alsce came and sat next to him.

"It's been almost two years." she said.

"I know. This exact spot."

"I still have these weird cuff thingies and my crystals."

"I wonder what their for."

They couldn't be bothered to keep talking, they were both overwhelmed by tiredness,

and fell asleep n the sand.

Alsce was washed away by the Tsunami wave, again missing her sister.

But she didn't wake up this time.

She kept falling, and the blue ocean became shadow, and she fell on something.

Alsce got up to see a giant stain glass panel of a girl.

There was silence.

Alsce looked around. There were 3 structures.

On one was a sword, on the other a shield, and on the last a-summoning rod?

‘You will need a weapon to fight the darkness.’ said a voice.

Alsce looked around. Where was the voice coming from?

‘You will need a weapon to fight the darkness.’ repeated the voice.

"No. Where am I? How can I trust you?" said Alsce, holding up her fists.

‘Then you will fight.’

Suddenly, the sword flew up of its own accord. On more careful inspection. Alsce saw a tiny shadow creature was holding it.

Then she realised not picking a weapon had been a bad idea.

The creature rushed at her and sent Alsce flying. She landed heavily on her back.

She stood up and faced the shadow.

There was no ways she could punch it into submission. Her handcuffs were her only hope.

The shadow rushed at her again, but she dodged, and it fell.

Suddenly, she noticed something new.

There was a groove in her left key cuff.

It was spherical.

Alsce pulled out her Gil bag and grabbed a crystal-the light blue one, it was the first on she found- and slotted it into the groove.

Both her Handcuffs lit up in a light blue light, and they disappeared. A blue sphere of light appeared in front of her, glowing.

It turned bigger and brighter, and Alsce covered her eyes and held out her hands.

There was a weight on them suddenly.

Alsce saw there was no light, but a giant key with a handle. It was transparent and had blue lights moving about inside it.

Like Tidus's sword, the brotherhood.

Lesca held it up and swung. It was light and swished delightfully.

Then she remembered the shadow.

She turned. It was running at her again.

But this time she slashed with her new blade. The sword was knocked away and the shadow exploded.

Alsce walked over to look at the sword. It was short and silver.

Alsce bent to pick it up.

But, just as her fingers grabbed the hilt, it slipped out her grasp, through the floor.

Alsce looked around.

The same was happening to the pedestals. They were falling...and , to her dismay, so was she.

Alsce saw the glass crack beneath her feet and she fell into the darkness.

SLAM

She hit a new floor.

Slowly, Alsce opened her eyes.

She was on a pink floor this time. And she wasn't alone.

"Sora!" she cried, and rushed over to him.

Sora turned and smiled at Alsce.

She hugged him.

"I'm so glad I'm not alone." she whispered to him.

"Yeh. This place is weird. What's that?"

Sora was talking about the key weapon.

"I...I dunno.....my handcuffs turned into it when I used a crystal....It's really effective against the...LOOK OUT!"

Alsce pushed sora away and slashed a small shadow that was coming up behind them.

Sora looked at her. A door appeared behind him.

"Time to go." he said.

He held out his hand to her.

Alsce looked at him, then took it. They walked together through the door, relishing this moment.

3. Escape

Alsce sleepily opened her eyes.

There she was, on the sand, the only sound Sora's gentle breathing next to her.

She sat up, groggily, and rubbed her eyes.

She looked at her handcuffs.

Sure enough, there was a spherical groove in the left one.

"So it was true...." she muttered.

She needed to be alone.

Quickly, Alsce scratched a message in the sand with her right handcuff, then got up and walked away.

She was aiming for the cavern.

"Hey!" called a voice.

Alsce turned to see Selphie running up to her, skipping rope swinging wildly in one hand.

"Hi." said Alsce.

"What's the matter? You seem sad. Tidus and Wakka think there's something wrong."

That was the weird thing. There were these two kids on the island called Tidus and Wakka, who looked like her friends but smaller.

"Kinda. It's nothing important."

"Sure? Sora and Kairi and Riku have been weird... Ichigo seems to know. Do ya think you could find out what's going on for me?"

"Ok."

Obtained: Selphies request

Alsce looked around.

"Ok..." she muttered.

Selphie skipped ff. Alsce looked at Sora. She leaned in closer to him, so her head was above his. He looked so handsome in the sunlight.

Slowly, she bent in towards him. And he came towards her, slowly. He was obviously awake....

Nothing could ruin this mome-

"SORA! ALSCE!" called a voice. Sora lifted his head up, much more quickly than Alsce could, and consequently hit her in the mouth.

"ow!" said Alsce.

Kairi came running over, and stood above Sora, who was back lying on the sand.

"Wake up, sleepy head!"

Sora smiled. Alsce sighed and looked out to sea.

"I wonder what's out there?" she said.

"Umm...Alsce? Wake up! That's what we've been trying to tell you!" she laughed.

Alsce looked blank.

"Look, we're going to build a raft to take to sea, to explore the world!"

"Ok. How do we do this?"

"Exactly! We need help! Which is why we have you guys."

Kairi told them they needed supplies.

Sora and Alsce first had to help gather the materials, so they set out to find the stuff: A rope,

two logs and a sail.

"I think there's a rope up there." said Alsce, pointing upwards to the open tree house thing...where Tidus was.

Sora nodded.

"I'll get the sail and we'll look for the logs later."

Alsce nodded, and as she walked away Sora took her hand.

"Yes?" she asked.

"Alsce...you know earlier....It...it didn't mean anything, did it?"

Alsce shook her head.

"Oh, no...of course not..."

Sora grinned.

"Good."

They parted.

But, oh, it had meant so much to Alsce. And she was sure it did to sora, too.

Alsce climbed the ladder to the open tree house. Sure enough, there was a rope. But Tidus had it.

"Tidus, can I have that rope?" she asked, as Tidus threw the lasso up into one of the trees and started to climb.

Tidus blinked.

"Well, I may let you, but you have to earn it." he said, jumping down.

"Fine. How?"

Tidus chucked her a wooden sword.

"Fight."

Alsce held up her sword. It wouldn't be the first time she'd had a fight. No-one could beat her, except Riku, and that was once...the only time they'd had a duel...

She'd had real practise, with real fiends.

"All right, but don't go crying to mama when I whoop you!" she laughed.

Tidus hurled himself at Alsce-a mistake. She just side stepped and brought down the wood on his arm.

"Ow!" he moaned.

"Give up?"

"Never!"

Tidus jumped at her again, knees thrown up behind his back, sword above him.

He brought it down on Alsce, who held up her sword to block the blow.

They were frozen in that pose for a few seconds, neither of them able to push back the other.

But in the end, gravity got to Tidus and he fell to the floor.

"Ok, take the rope." he said. Alsce smile and picked it up.

Obtained: rope

She gave Tidus back the sword.

"No, you keep it," he said, " I have this feeling you'll need it."

Obtained: wooden sword

Alsce smiled and jumped down the ladder.

Sora was waiting at the bottom of the trees, smiling.

"Ready?" she asked, hopping down.

"Ok, let's go look." he replied.

So Alsce and Sora walked off to try and look for the logs.

In the end, they also decided to split.

"Take this to Kairi, will ya?" asked Sora, handing Alsce a sail.

Obtained: sail

So they parted.

Alsce took to near Kairi's part of the beach for logs.

"Hey!" she called. Kairi looked up and smiled.

"Hi, Alsce." she said.

"So, how far have we got?" she asked, handing Kairi the rope and sail.

"Not far. We're just sketching up the basic template. How far have you got?"

"We're still trying to find the logs. Where's Riku and Ichigo?"

"Riku went to help Sora and Ichigo is in that weird grotto next to the freshwater spring." explained kairi as Alsce saw a driftwood log and brought it to her.

"Thanks."

Suddenly, they both saw Sora running up the beach.

"Found another!" she said, handing another similarly sized piece of wood to kairi.

"Cool! Thanks, Sora. I think we can retire for tonight, don't you?"

So they split up. But Alsce didn't go home.

She went to find Ichigo.

4. The summoning of Valefor

Ichigo sat, looking at the cave carvings.

Alsce crawled into the cavern, a tight squeeze now, but fittable.

"Hey." she said. Ichigo looked up.

"Hi. I've been wondering, do these spherical cuts fit all the crystals?"

"Yeh."

"What did you call your sister again?"

"A summoner?"

"Yeah...that's it."

Suddenly, an idea popped into Alsce's head. She put her white crystal in the keycuff.

A white light surrounded it.

Suddenly, a new key appeared in her hands. It was white and pink and at the blade end, instead of it being flat it was round...like Yuna's summoning rod.

Ichigo blinked.

"Hey ichigo..." said Alsce, smiling, "Have you ever wanted to an aeon?"

"Whats that?"

"A magical beast....but I may have to go outside to do this."

Alsce and ichigo went outside and Alsce held the keyblade to the ground. Then she focused her energy on the image of valefor.

A circle appeared in light round Alsce's ankles, the pattern like at Yunas feet.

"Alsce, what's happening?" asked Ichigo, worriedly.

Slowly, Alsce lifted the keyblade and started doing the series of complicated movements that were meant to summon the aeon Valefor.

Ichigo watched in amazement, it seemed so complicated. But Alsce let herself be swallowed up in the summon, indulge in the patterns.

She went into a daydream as she did the final movement, throwing the summon rod into the air.

Four balls of light flew from the tip of the keyblade into the sky.

"Please let this work." prayed Alsce.

She waited a few seconds.

Nothing happened.

What if the faith had been destroyed too? then this was pointless.

There was a loud squak from the sky.

Alsce smiled as Valefor flew down from the heavens, wrapped in her wings like a protective cocoon.

Then at the last minute she threw them open, the drag on the air slowing her to gently stop at the ground where Alsce took her head in her hands, like she had seen her sister do so many times before.

"Oh, Valefor...." she said, remembering how long ago it had been since she had done this.

Valefor cried a sad, sorrowful cry and a tear dripped from her eye, Alsce slipped her hands from her mask to round her neck.

Ichigo was flabbergasted.

"What?! Who?! When?! Where?! Why?! WHAT IS THAT?!" she screamed.

"This is Valefor." said Alsce, tuning round.

Ichigo's mouth dropped open.

"It...it's a bird.....with a mask...." she said, meekly.

Alsce nodded.

"Want a fly?"

Ichigo came to her senses.

"What? Is it safe? I mean, is it strong enough?" asked Ichigo, looking at Valefore like if you flicked her she would break.

"She is strong enough." said Alsce, as Valefor lowered so she could climb on her back.

Ichigo blinked.

"Sure!"

So Ichigo joined Alsce on Valefor's back.

Valefor slowly beat her wing, building up speed.

"Alsce? Are you sure?" screamed Ichigo over the noise.

Alsce nodded and gripped the fur on Valefor's neck.

"HANG ON!" she called.

Valefor pushed off the ground, so quickly Ichigo fell off, but caught onto Valefor's tail.

"Ichigo!" called Alsce, turning part of her body out and reaching to her friend.

Ichigo tried to grab Alsce's hand, but it was too far.

Alsce turned round, grabbed her keyblade and reached that out to Ichigo.

She grabbed it and together, Ichigo was put back in a safe position.

Valefor was overjoyed. It was the first time she had flown for over two years, and it was heaven.

Sure, she wasn't exactly free-these girls were a bit heavy, but at least it was something!

Ichigo was screaming as loud as her lungs would let her, but Alsce was always leaning forward, keeping them streamlined.

They flew above Destiny Islands, and over the sea....

Valefor let out a squawk at Alsce.

Alsce nodded.

"Ichigo! Duck!" she called.

Ichigo threw herself down like Alsce-and Valefor aimed for the ground.

The aeon folded up her wings and went like a dart at the water.

"WE'RE GONNA DIE!" screamed Ichigo.

At the last second-when they were millimetres away from the water, Valefor threw open her wings and the upthrust sent them soaring.

Alsce turned to see the look on Ichigo's face.

"Valefor, can you go back please?"

Valefor let out a squawk of approval and flew back towards their homeland.

On the beach, Valefor laid down and Ichigo jumped off at full speed.

Alsce stroked the side of Valefor's head on last time, then she flew up into the heavens until Alsce needed her again.

"What did you think?" she asked.

"EXCELLENT!"

5. The prophecy

Marie screamed, very loudly.

The darkness rolled towards her like a giant shadow wave, a thousand yellow eyes lit up and burning like fire.

The heartless were after her.

The girl ran, her brown hair flailing behind her.

But there was only so much island she could get to.

She stopped at the sea, knowing the shadow could glide faster than she could swim.

Marie fell to her knees as the shadow surrounded her, in a circle getting smaller and smaller.

A creature jumped out, its body black, eyes yellow, and danced mockingly. It knew she would no longer exist...soon she would be nothing.

Marie swiped at it and it jumped back, but not for long.

There was barely feet between her and the dark now. There was no hope.

But suddenly, a blinding light shone from behind her. Marie turned to see what looked like an anthropomorphic mouse in a pink dress.

She held her gloved hands up to the darkness and shouted (in an annoyingly cute voice)

"You shall not hurt this girl!"

A light shone from her, even brighter, and the darkness stopped. It didn't retreat, though.

"Take my hand!" she said to Marie.

Marie didn't have time to think, so grabbed the mouse's hand.

They disappeared in a flash of light.

Alsce smiled.

"I knew you'd like it. Next time I'll introduce you to Bahamut."

"What's he like?"

"Bahmut? Big. Nasty. Teethy. Uh...blue. Looks like Valefor but stronger."

"Oh.....how many aeons are there?"

"All in all? uhh.....8, not including Braska's aeon and counting the magus sisters as one."

"Tell me!" said Ichigo, excitedly.

Alsce raised her eyebrows.

"About all of them? It'll take a while."

"I'm willing to listen." said Ichigo, sitting down. Alsce joined her.

"Ok...well, you met Valefor....."

"Then there's Ifrit. He's a giant flame wolf. Very strong. Friendly. You can sit on his shoulder, actually."

"Ixion is a lightning unicorn, who, in my view, looks a bit like a giant flea. "

he's a bit flimsy...not my fav aeon.

"Shiva is ice in the form of a beautiful woman. And she has dreadlocks.....I like them....she actually has more of them than clothes."

"Yeh....I told you about Bahamut.He's the most powerful...to begin with."

"Yojimbo is a mercenary.....you have to pay him to attack. He has a really big hat to hide his face. He was a human once, but he became an aeon when he died. Oh, he has a little dog Daigoro!"

"Anima.....I don't like to talk about Anima..." said Alsce.

"Oh, c'mon!" said Ichigo, really interested.

Alsce sighed and looked in the orange sunset.

"Imagine the most horrible pain you can ever feel, like all your limbs have been broken and forced into a knot on your back. But 1000 times worse. that is what anima feels, all the time. Anima is pain. The attacks anima uses.....well, the pain it causes people is so bad it usually kills them instantly. It's in chains when Anima is summoned. But when it uses it's over drive-that's a really strong attack all aeons have-...."

"YES!?"

"It is sent underground and released of the chains."

Ichigo blinked.

"it sounds horrible!"

Alsce smiled.

"Anima is a girl."

ichigo gasped.

"Weird! Tell me more."

"Well, then there's the Magus sisters, They dress like bugs. Cindy is fat and dresses as a ladybird. Mindy is small and dresses as a wasp. Sandy is tall and dresses as a dragonfly. They are really powerful-but they don't always do as they're told."

http://i221.photobucket.com/albums/dd224/Sister_Of_Fate/Summons/TheMagusSistersimage.jpg

Ichigo smiled.

"And then.....there's Braska's aeon...the final aeon..." Alsce voice faltered as she spoke.

ichigo put arm round Alsce;s shoulder.

"What?"

"It kills the summoner when you summon it to destroy sin." she whispered, tears spilling from her eyes.

"oh."

Alsce turned and sobbed into ichigo's shoulder.

"It's ok! You're here now! "

"But when i go back, i'll have to lose her! i don't want to lose her again!"

Ichigo blinked.

"You want to go back?" asked Ichigo.

Alsce looked up.
"Yeah. Of course."
ichigo looked down.
"I....thought you'd stay here with us, sis....."
Alsce shrugged.
"We'll see what happens. either way, I'll still sail to discover new worlds with you and the guys!"
Ichigo smiled.
"Ok! Let's seal on it!"
Ichigo and Alsce put up their hands and put their left hands together.
"Thumb to thumb..."
The pressed the thumbs together, then got out that position and intertwined fingers.
"Palm to palm..."
The slapped their palms together.
"Fist to fist..."
They put their fists together.
"Head to head!"
Ichigo and Alsce hit their foreheads together.
"Ok....let's go home now." said ichigo, as both of them stood up.
Alsce waved goodbye and they walked their different ways.
As she opened the door to her hut, she realised....
Ichigo had called her her sister.

Marie opened her eyes.
She was laying in the middle of a middle-sized room, surrounded by shelves, crammed with books. There were a few portraits of more anthro mice, all in ancient-looking outfits. There was also a stool with a book and magnifying glass over it. A door was behind her.
Marie sat up. The carpet was soft under her fingers.
There was a noise coming from the door.
She turned to see the mouse queen coming into the room.
"Oh, you're awake!" she said.
Marie nodded.
"I am Queen Minnie. You may not believe it, Marie, but you are here for a reason. A quest."
Marie shook her head.
"Ok, I'm confused. Where am I? What is this quest? WHERE IS MY HOME?!"
"You are in Fantasia, the realm ruled over by King Mickey and I. However, the king has gone missing. We need you, and the court wizard Donald, and the captain of the guards Goofy, to go and find him. But to do that, you must go and find the holders of the keyblade and handcuffs. Your home was swallowed by a huge darkness named the Heartless, evil creatures obsessed with capturing hearts of others, are there with it. It is your job with the fantasia blade to find them, and assist them."
Marie blinked.
Suddenly, blobs of liquid mercury appeared around her. They expanded from dust and grew to the size of her fist.
They all flew together and made a silver spiky giant key....thing.
Marie blinked.
"What is this?"
"It's a keyblade." said Minnie. She touched the handle and it turned red-but not hot-and orange.
Marie picked it up. It was very light, but powerful. She felt it inside herself.
Minnie smiled.

"Take care of it. Stay here, while I go and find Donald and Goofy...I shall return soon."

With that, she left.

Marie looked at it.

A force willed her to go and look at the huge book.

She obeyed it and went over there.

The book was massive, at least 5 ft by 3 ft. The writing was about 7 mm big. And was hand written with exaggeratedly looped writing.

'I suspect that is why they have the magnifying glass.' though Marie, idly looking at it.

She slowly lifted on page and turned it.

There was a crackling-the book was very old, and it seemed the pages might crumble in her fingers.

But she laid it gently and looked on the next page.

There was a well-done ink picture there, of three girls holding up keys to meet a point.

One had long hair, one had black hair, the last had middle-length hair.

The writing beneath it read:

The prophecy of the Keybladers:

one and one and one are three

The Triple bladers of the key

And if they banish the darkness sea

Then over lands there will be harmony

6. Lancer

"UP!" screamed a voice in Alce's head.

Alce snapped open her eyes.

It was early.

"Too early..." she muttered, and fell back to sleep.

"UP UP UP UP UP UP UP UP UP UP UP!"

Alce rolled out of bed.

"Ok, I'm up..." she muttered, rubbing her head.

"Good. Now you have a busy day." said the voice.

"Fine. I'll go take a shower." said Alce, and got went to her shower room.

Marie read the prophecy again, then went a bit further. It said no more about the keybladers themselves, just the keyblades.

She sighed and sat down on the floor, her keyblade swishing as she did.

"Why am I here?" she asked the room in general.

Suddenly, the door was opened again and Minnie came in.

"They are ready." she said, smiling.

So the giant anthro mouse queen lead the scandally clad girl with a giant key to the departure room.

The room wasn't huge. There was just enough room for the neon ship and a few people-well, animals.

There were Donald and Goofy-a duck and a...

Marie looked at Goofy.

"Errr....what....?" she gave up. It seemed a bit impolite.

Donald spoke.

"Is she the one, your majesty?"

Minnie nodded.

"She will help you find the others."

"Well, are you sure-" continued Goofy.

"yes." said Minnie, firmly.

Marie smiled.

"I'm Marie." she said, simply.

Goofy saluted.

"I'm Goofy, captain of the Guards!"

Donald sniffed.

"Donald. the magician."

Marie smiled, sweetly.

"Nice to meet you." she said.

"You have to go now." said Minnie.

"We're on it!" said two chirpy voices. A pair of chipmunks appeared.

Marie blinked.

Weird.

"And you are...?" she said.

"I'm Chip, and that's Dale! We're the gummi ship engineers!" said one of them.

Marie gave a laugh.

"What?"

"Chip and Dale?"

"Yeh."

"Chip'n'Dale?!"

"Yup!"

Marie burst out laughing.

"What's so funny?" asked Dale.

Marie wiped the tears from her eyes.

"Nothing. Shall we go?"

Marie followed Donald and Goofy into the Gummi ship. It was.....small. But there were huge windows all around, so you could see quite far outside.

"Good luck, boys." said the Queen.

Marie sat in one of the passenger seats.

"Here we go!" said Chip's voice, and a huge door to space opened in front of them.

Marie held onto the arms of the seat tight.

....

A hole opened beneath them and the crew of the ship fell into space-literally.

Alsce walked out her house, ringing the water out of her hair.

"Good morning, world!" she said.

"Hey!" called a voice.

Riku came up to Alsce.

"We're looking for food today to help with the raft." he said.

"Ok." said Alsce.

"Wanna walk there?" asked Riku.

"Sure." said Alsce.

They walked in companionable silence for a while.

"You've become so much stronger since when i first met you."

Alsce looked at him.

"Really? How?"

Riku smiled at her.

"You were always so quiet when you first came here. You only came out your shell when I first asked you to sword fight."

Alsce stopped.

"Oh yeah...."

-----ONE YEAR AND SIX MONTHS AGO-----

Alsce sat quietly, looking at the other children play. Riku was sunbathing, Sora and Ichigo were swimming, and Kairi was looking for crabs.

She was next to Riku for company, though.

Alsce wasn't in the mood to play. She was still deeply troubled about her past and she didn't feel accepted yet.

"Did you fight where you came from?" asked Riku, sitting up.

Alsce looked at him.

"What kind of fighting? Martial arts? Chocobo jousting?"

Riku raised his eyebrows.

"Uhhh.....What a Chocobo? Anyway, no, I mean with swords."

"Yeh. All the time. I had to do it to protect my sister. Why?"

"I dunno...I had an idea that if i had a swordfight with you you'd feel more at home."

Alsce brightened up.

"Ok. Have you got the weapons?"

Riku nodded, got up and walked off.

Alsce waited patiently for a few minutes until Riku returned.

"Here." he said, throwing a wooden sword at her feet.

"But this is made of wood." said Alsce.

"Yeh. Exactly."

"Don't you fight with real swords?"

Riku blinked.

"No. That's really dangerous." He said.

"I fought with real weapons..." said Alsce, but she stood up and grabbed it.

"I have to tell you, I won't go easy on ya just because you're a girl!" said Riku, as the others noticed them.

"I won't go easy on you just because you're not as good as me!" said Alsce.

"YAH!" yelled Riku, jumping and bringing the sword down on Alsce.

She did a dodge roll to the left and and threw out her legs to throw Riku to the side.

"Take this!" she said, hitting him on the back really hard.

He grabbed her sword and threw it to the sand, then hit her in the stomach.

"Ah!" said Alsce, falling and clutching her stomach.

She kicked up at Riku, hitting his shins so he fell.

"Ow!" said Riku. He turned as Alsce was jumping away and whacked her on the ankles, making her fall out the air. Then he held his sword to her throat.

"I leart that trick five years ago. I call it Trip In The Air.You're good, kid. But not good enough."

He said.

"Yes...but you foget I learned something while I was with my friend Kimahri. It was called LANCET!" screamed Alsce, throwing her hand out and putting her fingertips against his forehead, copying his ability.

She jumped up and grabbed Riku by the collar and threw him in the air, grabbed his sword from him and as he fell hit him in he stomach, making him fly about seven feet.

"Ok, ok, you win!" he said, sitting up.

Alsce smiled.

"Good match." she said, holding out her hand to him.

He shook it as she helped him up.

"You're good....for a girl."

"Will you stop bringing up the fact i'm not a boy?!"

"No."

Riku laughed and ran off down the beach, Alsce in hot pursuit.

Ichigo laughed.

"What?" asked Kairi.

"She's so.....happy. Happy, even when she has nothing left. I wish I was like her."

Sora rasied his eyeborws.

"She's so cute when she laughs." he siad.

"Ooooooooooooooh! Sora and Alsce sitting in a tree, K-I-S-S-I-N-G!" said Kairi and Ichigo together.

Sora moaned and and splashed them both with water.

He never took back what he said, though.

7. Paupo

Alsce and Riku found the others.

"Hey!" said Kairi, putting up the sail.

"Hi Kairi! Can I help?" asked Alsce.

"Well, Ichigo went to go and get Mushrooms. Riku's helping me with the raft. Can you go fill this up with fresh water?" asked Kairi, giving her a water bottle.

"Sure." said Alsce, and went to the spring.

Alsce bent down and scooped up some water. She splashed some over her face, too.

"It's sure hot today!" said Alsce to herself.

"Yes. It is." said a girl's voice.

Alsce wasn't expecting this, and, catching her offguard, fell into the spring.

She got back out quite quickly.

"Oh, hi Selphie."

Selphie waved.

"Have you seen Ichigo?" she asked.

Alsce shook her head.

"I could help you find her if you want." suggested Alsce, as she got up and slung the water bottle round her shoulders.

"Ok. That'd be great! I just need to give her something..." she replied.

So Alsce and Selphie started looking for Ichigo.

"Where might she be?" asked Selphie.

"Looking for mushrooms. So in dark places." said Alsce.

They looked all round the front part of the island. No sign of her.

But when they got to the other side of the island, there was a muffled scream from the stone wall.

"Ichigo?" asked Alsce.

Her and Selphie ran over to the wall. There was a huge rock in the way of where the scream was coming from.

"Ichigo! Are you in there?" called Alsce.

"Alsce? Is that you? Yes, I am. I was getting a mushroom and the rock fell over the entrance, and now i can't get out!" she heard her friend sob.

"We'll get you out Ichigo," said Selphie, "C'mon!"

This last bit was directed at Alsce, and they both ran to one side of the rock.

"PUSH!" said Selphie. They both pushed hard and the rock rolled to the side.

Ichigo came running out.

"Thank you, Alsce!" she said, hugging her friend, "Thank you, Selphie!"

"Any time. Girl power always wins! Hey, I figured I should give these back to you," Selphie put something into Ichigo's hand, but so quickly Alsce didn't see what it was, "seeing as you won't be around much longer."

"Okay, thanks!" said Ichigo, and the two girls started chatting about the weather that day, so Alsce went back to the raft.

When she got back, Sora was there.

"Hey Sora. Kairi, I have these." She said, giving her friend the mushrooms and water.

"Good! Sora's got the Coconuts, so we need....um.....three fish and a seagull egg."

"We're on it! said Sora.

So Alsce and Sora walked along the beach to get some fish.

"It's quiet today." said Alsce.

"Yeh. No-one 's around." said Sora.

He took her hand and they kept walking.

"Have you got a fishing rod?" asked Alsce.

"Uh....no."

"Ok, we'll just have to use our hands."

Alsce pulled Sora into the water.

"Hey!" he said, and splashed her.

"Don't!" siad Alsce, splashing him back.

They had a splashing tournament, and then decided maybe they should do what they came out here for.

"Let's swim out a bit." said Sora.

Alsce did, but the handcuffs were really heavy in the water.

"I see fish!" said Sora. A small shadow was hurtling towards Alsce.

She held out her hands and caught it.

Obtained: Fish

Over the next ten minutes they caught two more fish and got completely soaked.

"We're back!" called Sora, coming up to Kairi and Riku.

"Good. Got the fish?"

They gave them the fish.

"Good, Now we only need the seagull egg!"

Alsce darted off to the palm trees, Sora in hot pursuit.

"It's up there." said Alsce, pointing to the top of the tree.

There was a huge segull egg there.

"Alsce, can you climb up and get it?" he asked.

"I think so. Can you give me a foot up?"

Sora linked his fingers together and she jumped up, wrapping her arms round the tree.

She started to climb.

The tree was quite easy to get holds on as there was alot of sticky-out bark, but she didn't complain.

"Ok!" Sora, I'm at the top!" she called.

There was no answer.

She looked down, only to find he had gone.

Alsce sighed and climbed the last bit, grabbing the strongest-looking leaves and hauling herself up.

"Ok, I'm i've got it!" she said, grabbing the egg and putting it under one arm.

But then she lost her footing-
and fell!

Alsce fell, very slowly. It was a tall tree. And a long drop. She looked up at the sky. There was a seagull above her.

Sora had gone. She wouldn't be caught.

She had one hope.

Theorwing out her free arm, she yelled:

"LANCET!"

A blue beam flew from the seagull into her, and Alsce wasn't falling anymore.

She was floating.

"whoa!" said a voice. Sora had come back.

She fell out the air into his arms.

"Where were you?!" she asked.

"Getting this." As he put her down, he picked up a star-shaped fruit with three leaves.

"A Paupo fruit?" asked Alsce.

"Yeh....Riku gave one to me for a joke yesterday...I was wondering....did you want to share it?"

Alsce grinned.

"Sure!"

So the two sat on the floor and took turned ripping flesh off the Paupo and shoving it into their mouths.

"Juicy." said Alsce.

"And sweet." said Sora.

That was the only conversation that passed between them throughout the whole of the eating.

When they had finished, Sora took the egg off Alsce.

"We should go back." he said"

"I know." Said Alsce. So, holding hands, they went back to where the others were.

"Great! You got it! What kept ya?" asked Ichigo.

"I got stuck on the tree." replied Alsce, quickly.

"Oh, ok."

"Ichigo, what was that thing Selphie gave you?"

"...What thing?"

"Ichigo. I helped her find you."

"It was just an old thing. Nothing important." said Ichigo, looking into the sunset.

"Wanna stay the night at our house? You need all the sleep you can get if we're leaving tomorrow." said Sora.

"Ok." said Alsce.

So the five children split up, and Alsce went with Ichigo and Sora to their house.

How little they knew of the adventure that was about to start.

8. Destiny islands swallowed

~~~~EARLIER~~~~

Alsce and Sora sat on the horizontal palm, alone.  
"I wonder what other worlds will be like." said Sora.  
Alsce looked down and shrugged.  
"What's the matter?" asked Sora.  
"Well...I'd love to explore, it's just....."  
"We'll gget your sister back, Alsce. promise!" said Sora.  
"Sora.....Let's take the raft and go! Just the two of us!"  
"What?!"  
"Only kidding,"  
They laughed.  
"You've changed, Alsce."  
"How?"  
"Less shy. Stronger, too."  
"Oh. That's good. Sora?"  
"We'll always be there for each other, right?"  
"Of course."  
"Good."

~~~~~

-----On the way-----

Sora held Alsce back a bit.
"Alsce, do you remember the first thing we did when you got here?"
"Um.....We had a pillow fight."
"After that."
"We went swimming."
"After that."
"We went into that little cav-" Alsce stopped.
"Come with me." said Sora. He took Alsce's hand and they left Ichigo.

They ended up at the spring, outside the cavern.
"I'll go in first if you want." said Alsce.
"Ok." said Sora.
They got on their knees and went through the tunnel into the cavern.
It seemed to be lit up by some unsourcable glow.
"It's beautiful." said Alsce.
"No, look." said Sora. He pointed at one of the carvings.
There was a drawing of two faces facing each other. One was a girl and the other was a boy.
"Do you remember when we did these?" asked Sora.

Sora sat, a look of corncerntation etched on his face.
There was the sound of scraping as he made lines over the wall with a stone.
"Hello?" called a voice.

Sora turned.

"Go away! This place is a secret!" he said.

Alsce walked into the room.

"You can come in, Alsce," said Sora, "You're special."

~~~~~

The two of them sat next to each other, carving pictures in the wall. When they stopped, Sora had done Alsce's face and Alsce had drawn Sora's.

\*\*\*\*\*

"I remember." said Alsce, stroking the drawings.

Sora laughed. A wind blew through their hair.

But it hadn't come from the entrance.

The both whipped their heads.

There was a figure in a black cloak.

"Who are you?" asked Alsce.

"This world has been connected." It said.

"Huh?" asked Sora.

But Alsce knew all too well what it meant. She didn't speak as he continued..

"Tied to the darkness....soon to be completely eclipsed."

"Stop freaking us out!" said Sora.

"You do not yet know what lies beyond the door."

"You're from another world." whispered Alsce.

"There is so very much to learn. You understand so little."

"Oh, yeah? Well, you'll see. We're gonna learn what's out there!" said a voice, as Ichigo rushed in. Both Sora and Alsce felt more comfortable when she came.

"A meaningless effort. Those who know nothing can understand nothing." it said. Then it pointed at Alsce. "Even she knows nothing. And yet, in her heart, she knows so much. Like her poor sister-"

"SHUT UP!" screamed Alsce. She jumped at the figure and brought her fists down on it. But it had disappeared.

Alsce felt fresh tears running down her face.

"C'mon." said Ichigo, and helped her friend up.

"Why did you two go away, anyway?" asked Ichigo.

"To look at these." said Sora, gesturing to the drawings. Ichigo nodded as Alsce left.

Sora hesitated towards the door, she stopped, turned, and quickly carved something between his and Alsce's face. It was a hand passing a Paupo fruit from him to her.

Then he exited.

Ichigo looked at the carving.

"You will tell her, won't you?" she asked.

"Yeh. One day." Said Sora, then left.

Ichigo smiled at Sora's crush, then left after them.

-----

Alsce sat in Ichigo's room. There was a storm brewing outside and Ichigo had fallen asleep under her covers in the bed (She had hid under there when the storm had started and consequently nodded off), and Alsce was idly flicking through her blood sister's Digimon comics.

She heard lightning outside and ran to the window.

The storm was pretty bad, and the waves were high.

Good thing Alsce hasn't left anything precious on the beach-

"The raft!" screamed Alsce.

She ran out of Ichigo's room, straight into Sora.

"The raft-" he said.

"I know." replied Alsce. They took hands and ran out of the house.

-----

"Its dark and cold!" said Alsce, the breeze off the sea hitting her like a slap.

"I know. Be brave!" he said.

The two of them walked up the pier, where all the little boats were kept.

There were two empty spaces.

"They were Riku and Kairi's boats." said Sora.

"I wonder where they are." said Alsce.

They went back, heading towards the island with the horizontal palm.

They didn't notice shadows rising behind them.

----

One the island, they saw Riku facing away from them.

"Riku!" said Sora.

Riku turned.

"Is Kairi with you? Ri-"

Then he noticed the evil look on his friend's face. Shadows swelled round his ankles.

"Riku!" said The two, together.

"Come with me." He siad, holding ot his hand.

Alsce's mouth fell open.

"No! What about Kairi and Ichigo?"

"They'll come too," He said, "Don't fear the darkness. It may take. But it gives back. Alsce, come with me and we can get her back. All of them."

Alsce looked at Riku. He meant her sister.

"You...can?" she muttered.

"Yes."

But suddenly, the shadows rose up around Riku and swallowed him.

"RIKU!" the screamed, jumping out to him.

But the darkness spread round both Sora and Alsce, and then went back. They were in the secret cavern.

Kairi was standing in front og a brown door.

"Kairi?!" asked Sora.

"So...ra..." she said, turning.

Then a powerful blast pushed her forward forcefully.

Sora held out his arms but she went through him.

"KAIRI!"

Only then he noticed she was gone.

And the darkness swallowed them again.

Alsce felt her strength drain away.

There was more silence.

They were falling.

-----

Alsce felt Sora's arms tight around her.

"Alsce...I won't let you go....I won't lose you." she heard him whisper.

"Sora..." she whispered.

Suddenly, her feet touched solid ground.

Sora let her go and she fell to the floor.

As she opened her eyes a little she saw a key appear in his hand....like the one she had.

"A key?!" said Sora, the, "Or is it a sword?"

...

"Keyblade."

The ground crumbled beneath them again, and Alsce felt herself grow even weaker when she hit the floor again.

"Ow!" said Sora, getting up beside her.

"Alsce!"

He ran to her and picked her up.

"Alsce?! Talk to me!" he said.

"I'm....ok." she said, sitting up. She noticed they were back on the island with the horizontal palm...but the rest of Destiny islands had gone.

Behind them their shadows grew taller and taller, then stood up.

Sora's was huge and strong with two bright yellow eyes, Alsce's was thin and wrapped itself round Sora's like a snake.

"Oh no." they said together as more shadows appeared.

Then, suddenly, as Sora's keyblade appeared in his hand, the blue crystal from Wakka's gil pouch rose and went into the keycuff.

The Brotherhood Keyblade appeared.

"We have no choice!" said Alsce, getting up as more shadows appeared.

So they duo got up and started fighting off the shadows.

But there were far too many, and they began swarming all over the children.

"Oh no!" said Alsce as a shadow landed on her head. Other jumped on her limbs and brought her to the floor. Sora was having similar problems.

And as shadows clouded her eyes, she saw a figure with black hair fly up to her.....a figure with black hair who had huge angel wings and a keyblade.

"Keep away from my sister." She said, and brought the keyblade down on the shadows. The exploded and Alsce got up.

"Ichigo!?" said Alsce.

Ichigo nodded. There she was, a keyblade in her hand.

"What happened to your wings?" asked Alsce as Ichigo held Sora.

"What wings?"

An anime vein appeared on Alsce.

"Now's not the time!" she decided and started thrashing heartless again.

The three made short work of them.

"Now we've beaten the small fry, let's go onto the big ones!" said Sora, looking at the shadows.

The three of them started hitting the shadow, but it just brushed them off.

"THIS IS HOPELESS!" screamed Alsce.

"Wait....aim for the eyes!" said Ichigo.

"Oh yeah!" said Alsce.

Ichigo put her keyblade on her back and took Alsce and Sora's hands.

"This will hurt!" she said. She jumped up, very very high, then let go of Sora and Alsce when they were above the shadows.

"You left your face wide open!" said Sora, hitting his shadow as Alsce hit hers.

They exploded.

The children were thrown to different sides, and Ichigo (Who now had wings again) Grabbed Them under her arms and held them as underneath the last piece of the island cracked into nothing.

But Alsce and Sora were pulled out her grasp.

"NO!" screamed Ichigo, darting after them.

Sora grabbed a piece of rock that went by him and held on, but started to slip.

Ichigo soared after Alsce, but Alsce disappeared into the darkness. Knowing she couldn't continue, she went back up to Sora....

But he had slipped and fallen after Alsce.

Ichigo sighed and folded in her wings.

"Forgive me Roxas." she whispered, and fell after them.

-----

Alsce fell and fell, and out of Wakka's gil pouch came five crystals- orange, red, dark blue, purple and green.

The white one followed, but, out of it came The top half of Yuna.

She took her unconciuos sisters hands.

"I know it will be hard. And in the other worlds, you'll find us. It will be like we are locked away till then. But Lesca....don't be afraid..." she whispered, letting her sisters hand go and disappearing.

".....And don't forget...."

The crystal flew after the others and Alsce sank deeper and deeper into the darkness.

"....You are the one who will open the door."

## 9. Awake

"Are we there yet?"

"No."

"Are we there yet?"

"NO."

"Are we there ye-"

"NO, MARIE!"

"Donald."

"What?!"

"We're here."

-----

Donald, Goofy and Marie got out the Gummi ship.

"What did the letter say again?" asked Marie.

"Sorry to rush off without sayin' goodbye, but there's big trouble brewin'. Not sure why, but the stars have been blinkin' out, one by one. And that means disaster can't be far behind. I hate to leave you all but I've gotta go check into it. There are people with "keys", the keys to our survival. So I need you and Goofy to find them, and stick with them. Got it? We need those keys or we're doomed! So go to Traverse Town and find Leon. He'll point you in the right direction." said Donald, looking at a copy of the letter Minnie had given him.

"Hey, look!" said Goofy, pointing to the sky.

A star was twinkling out.

"Gawrsh! A star's goin' out!"

Donald sighed and looked at his surroundings. It was a small town with all the assets a small town would have. Shops.

Marie felt Pluto, the dog they had taken along with them, muzzle at her feet.

"What is it, boy?" she asked.

The dog ran off, round the side into an alley, where Sora was lying KO'd.

"Uuuhhhh...." said Sora. Pluto licked his face.

"BWAH!" He said, waking up.

-----

"I'll be back in a minute! I just gotta get more ingredients!" called a man with blonde spiked hair to a figure in the upstairs of his shop.

He walked out to the right and round to the crate where all the extra Elixirs were kept, then, grabbing some, he turned to go back.

"Eh...." said a voice. This surprised the man so much he dropped the elixirs.

"What are ya tryin' to do, makin' me-" he stopped halfway in his sentence. Where had the voice come from? The groan came again, louder.

Blondie moved the bigger crate to the side and saw a girl with black hair propped against the wall, covered in dirt and bruises.

"Kid!? You ok?!" he asked, grabbing her by the shoulders.

The girl groaned for the third time, but she didn't move.

Moving the piece of straw he was chewing to the other side of his mouth, the man picked up the girl and got more Elixirs.

"Ok, c'mon." He said, taking her back to the shop.

Inside he laid her down on one of the benches.

"She's been busted up pretty bad." he said to a nearby moogle.

"You're telling me." it replied, huffily.

"I've gotta get back to this, can you give her one of these when she comes round?" asked the man, throwing an Elixir to the moogle, who was about the same height as the bottle, so was consequently thrown over backwards.

"A 'please' would be nice, Cid...." muttered the moogle, but Cid didn't hear, and went back to tending the shop.

-----  
A man with brown hair and a gunblade looked into the fountain of the third district of Traverse town and sighed a deep sigh.

"I wonder when they'll come." he said to himself.

The fountain bubbled in reply.

"Hmmm." He said.

It bubbled more urgently, and a blue beam of light shone upwards through the water.

"What-?!"

He looked in.

"Whoa!"

There was a girl laying about ten feet under the surface who was sinking. Bubbles were coming from her mouth.

He jumped into the fountain.

-----  
He swam closer to the girl and grabbed her round the shoulders.

Then he noticed what was in her hand.

"Key---blade---?" he choked through water.

The blue light that was coming from it intensified and Leon shielded his eyes and turned with the girl and swam to the surface.

-----  
Ichigo came to and opened her eyes.

"Sora...?"

The moogle looked up at her and unclogged the Elixir.

"SORA!" she screamed, sitting up.

As she did this, the moogle jumped with the elixir and pushed it into her mouth, forcing it down her throat. When she had drained the tiny bottle it dropped from her lips.

"Blech!" She said, disliking the taste at first, then she thought it tasted like lime cordial, so it was OK.

"What-who-where-why-HOW?!" was the answer Ichigo came to.

"CID! SHE'S AWAKE!" called the moogle.

There was the sound of footsteps and a man appeared.

"Kid? You ok?" he asked, sitting on the bench next to her.

"Yeh-where am I? How did I get here!?" she asked.

"Kid, we dunno. I found you outside. You were pretty beat up. Feel better?"

"Surprisingly-yeah."

"Well, take these." He said, handing Ichigo three small bottles.

"Thanks!" Said Ichigo, and pulled the stopper out of one.

"No, kid! They're Elixirs. Used when you're fightin'."

Obtained-Elixir x 2

"Thanks." Said Ichigo.

-----  
The man put the girl down on the pavement.

"Oh, no....not breathing!" he said.

The put his mouth to hers and breathed out, then put his hands on her chest and pushed.

"Leon! How many times have I told you not to have thoughts like that about young girls?" called a voice. A girl with black hair ran into the square.

"Ha ha, Yuffie. Now help me, she's not breathing."

The ninja-now known as Yuffie-took a bottle out of her short shorts and pured it into the girls mouth.

She sat up, choking.

"Oh \*cough\* Man \*cough\*!" said Alsce, sitting up.

"Are you ok?" asked Leon.

"NO! But at least i'm awake."

-----  
"What a weird dream-"

"WOOF!"

"It isn't a dream!" said Sora, sitting up. Pluto lolled his tongue.

"Where are we, boy?" asked Sora to the dog. It ran off.

"Hey...."

He walked slowly into the town.

"This is totally weird....I'm in another world!"he exclaimed.

He went into a nearby shop.

-----  
Cid was behind the counter.

Ichigo was re-arranging some of the bottles.

"Thanks for helping out, kid." said Cid.

"It's the least I can do to repay you after helping me."

The bell rang as Sora came in.

"Hey, there how can I-oh, it's only a kid." said Cid, face falling.

"I'm not a kid," Ichigo heard a voice say, "And the names Sora."

Ichigo turned, knocking potions off a shelf, making Cid wince.

"SORA!" she screamed, running over to him and giving him a huge hug.

"Whoa! Ichigo! Let me breathe!" he said.

Cid laughed.

"Sora, after seeing ya sister, you don't look happy. What's the matter? You lost or somethin'?"

"No! Well, maybe....where am I?"

Ichigo and Cid took turns to tell him everything.

"Oh. Ok. Ichigo, we'd better go look for the oth-WAIT! Where'd Alsce go?"

"I don't know! I thought she was with you!"

"Uh...if ya wanna go, go. Goo luck with whatever you're doing. And you can always come back here, I'll look out for ya." said Cid. Ichigo and Sora walked out.

And, as they went out into the town, Ichigo swore she heard a violin.

-----  
Alsce walked next to Yuffie and Leon, worried about where her friends might be. Were they here? In another world? WHAT HAPPENED TO HER CRYSTALS?!

She started to sob.

"Oh, don't worry!" said Yuffie, putting an arm around her shoulders.

"Well, I have no idea where my friends are, and I wanna find my sister and the crystals flew away from me when the darkness came and-"

"Whoa, kid. Start from the beginning."

So Yuffie and Leon listened in silence as she told them her tale, right from when the darkness came to Spira.

"So...you have a keyblade?" asked Yuffie. Leon didn't speak.

Alsce nodded.

"This is great, Leon! She's the one you were meant to be looking for!"

"Yeh. but she's not the only one. I have to scout the town for the others."

"So they are here," said Alsce, happily, "Please let me come with you!"

"No. Go with Yuffie." said Leon, walking off.

Alsce's bottom jaw dropped open.

"HEY!" called Alsce. Yuffie grabbed her. She broke away from the ninja and ran after Leon, who had gone to the second district.

And, consequently...

Alsce looked around at the empty district.

"Leon!? WHERE ARE YOU!?"

...she got lost.

## 10. Caitlee and her flute

Caitlee stared down at Destiny Island. It disintegrated beneath her, the houses, the trees, everything she once knew ripped apart before her. She gripped her flute tightly and asked herself one question:

"Did I cause this?"

A man came up behind her-the same man who had been in the secret place in Destiny Island and answered her.

"You are the destructor of worlds. Of course you did. They never liked you."

Caitlee turned.

"They liked me! They did! I was sick, that was all. That's why I never helped build the raft. They wanted me to come! We're family!"

The man shook his head.

"They made you believe that. Poor child. Poor, poor child..."

Caitlee watched as the man held up his hand and a light flew up from, less than a foot high.

"I can give you what you want." He said, and a figure appeared in the light.

"I know what Sora wants..."

A small figure appeared in the light. It was Alsce, jumping up and down wildly.

"Alsce!" said Caitlee, reaching for her friend, whom she hadn't seen for a while as she had been bed ridden with the flu for the last few days.

"...I know what Alsce wants..."

The figure turned into another girl, with short brown hair and two different colour eyes, a white top and a purple shirt. Her tiny mouth formed one word, screaming, again and again.

"Lesca! Lesca!"

Caitlee knew the woman as Alsce's sister, Yuna.

"...And I know what you want."

The figure changed once again. This time, it was a boy, with silver hair.

"Riku..." whispered Caitlee.

The figure held out his miniscule hands to Caitlee, and Caitlee put her little finger in his palm.

"Soon." She whispered.

The figure disappeared.

"You can have everything you want...if you'll come with me." Whispered the man.

Caitlee looked at him, then looked at the world deteriorating beneath her feet. Where was it going? Where were her friends? What would she do?

Caitlee looked at the man.

"I'd rather take my chances." She said, and let herself fall. Fall, fall, fall, endlessly falling...

And then, she was sucked into the shadow hole after Destiny islands.

---

Ichigo and Sora headed though the districts. They were all very different. But it was in the second district they found something out.

There was a scream as the siblings came into the district, and a man came running past.

"Hey-" said Sora, but suddenly one of the shadows with eyes came and jumped on the man, plunged it's hand into his chest and pulled out his heart.

"Ichigo! It's the creatures from the island!" gasped Sora.

Ichigo held up her hand and her keyblade appeared in it. Sora did the same.

More and more shadows began to appear, but the siblings fought them off, continually swiping, dodging, hitting.

Eventually, there were no heartless left and the mans heart returned. He stood up and run off, quickly.

"You're welcome!" called Ichigo, sarcastically.

"Hey...what's this?" asked Sora. He picked up a blue crystal.

A spherical blue crystal.

The siblings exchanged glances.

"Oh no! If there's heartless and Alsce's lost her crystal..."

"That means she's got no protection! We have to find her!"

So, the siblings ran off.

---

Alsce wandered aimlessly through the second district, looking around. There was no-one but her there.

She felt a breeze behind her, and turned. Nothing. She kept going.

Suddenly, she felt a tap on the back. She turned, quicker this time, and saw a heartless go into the floor. It was different. This heartless had...armour!

Alsce let her instincts take over and ran as fast as her legs could allow. There was once place she could see to get into. A mansion. What was in there? Should she chance it?

Alsce turned to see more and more of those shadows with armour were appearing behind her, moving very fast.

Yup. She'd chance it.

Alsce jumped through the mansion door and slammed it shut behind her.

---

Caitlee sat up, gasping.

She looked around. No-one. Where was she? How-how?!

She couldn't remember anything of the meeting with the cloaked man.

"What do I remember?" she asked herself, and thought.

She was running out of her house in the storm to see if the others were all right...she saw a huge black vortex on the island with the horizontal palm...Riku was there...and he wanted her to go with him...so she did.

Caitlee rubbed her head and looked around. She was on a table under a building that jutted out of the wall next to her, and past that there was a little village.

It was kinda nice.

Caitlee got up, her legs surprisingly able to take her weight even when she had been unconscious for a long time.

"Hey, kid!" called a voice. Caitlee turned to see a woman coming out of one of the doors leading off the area she was in. That was full of tables. For some unknown reason, Caitlee's instincts told her one thing: RUN!

Using all the balance she could muster, Caitlee turned and ran as fast as she could.

"Kid, wait!" called the woman, but the girl didn't listen. She was suddenly overcome by a giant panic. Where was she? Where was Riku? WHERE WERE HER FRIENDS!?

Caitlee walked into a door, big and heavy. Reaching out she grabbed a handle and pulled it open, then ran to the other side.

---

Ichigo and Sora scouted round the second district, then headed to the third.

---

Caitlee entered the second district.

---

The siblings looked around the wide courtyard of the third district, then on realizing there was nothing there, went up the ramp.

---

Donald, Goofy and Marie entered the third district, looked around, and went the opposite way to Sora and Ichigo.

---

Alsce slid down the door and looked around her. She was in a nice room with a dining table, large windows and...Dalmatians.

---

Ichigo and Sora looked round one last time, still seeing no-one was there, went back to the first district.

---

Donald, Goofy and Marie sighed and went back to the second district.

---

Caitlee shortly followed them.

---

Alsce went up to the dogs. One was male, one was female and there were three puppies.

"Hey boy." she said to the male. The dog licked her hand and Alsce giggled.

"You don't mind if I stay here until the things outside have gone, do you?" asked Alsce. The dog shook its head.

Suddenly, the female dropped something at Alsce's feet. Alsce picked it up and stared into the female's eyes-that showed an emotion she couldn't quite put her finger on.

Alsce picked up the object. It was a book, entitled : "Diary".

---

Ichigo and Sora sighed and headed back to the accessory shop, seeing that their quest had been unsuccessful.

---

Caitlee looked around and a shadow suddenly appeared in front of her. She screamed as it was quite sudden.

---

Donald, Goofy and Marie turned on a sudden scream.

"Let's go." Said Donald. Marie's keyblade appeared in her hand.

---

Alsce opened and read. It was kinda hard to read, the writing was scrawly on the page, but Alsce picked up enough words to understand why the dog had been so solemn:

"Puppies" "99" "Lost" and "Worlds".

Alsce looked up. Three puppies were there. That meant there had been 101.

"You...need me to get them back?" she asked. The dog nodded.

Alsce smiled. Then she understood...in the dog's eyes...there was pleading and sadness, but most of all...hope. Alsce couldn't let her down.

"Sure. I'll get them all back!" she said. The dog bounded on her and licked her face.

"Whoa! Ok, ok, now which way can I go to get away from the shadows?"

The male led her through the house until she got to a big door. Alsce opened it and walked out.

---

Ichigo and Sora walked into the accessory shop.

"Haven't found 'em? Keep your chin up. Take another look round town-hey, what's in your hand?"

Sora looked at the crystal.

"Oh. Alsce's crystal."

"No, that's Orichalcum. Used in synthesizing."

"Huh?"

Cid explained about synthesizing.

"Oh! That's cool!" said Ichigo.

"Yeh. Well. Keep that at hand." said Cid.

Sora and Ichigo walked out of the shop.

---

Caitlee pushed the shadow away, but it kept running after her. She grabbed her flute. There was One hope. She prayed it worked.

Slowly, she raised the flute to her lips and played. The Shdow stopped.

Marie got to the top of the steps first.

"What the-?! MEEP!"

Donald and Goofy ran into her, pushing her over.

Caitlee panicked. She played a fast-paced tune and the shadow turned and started attacking the newcomers.

Wait-could she control these things?

She had no timt to wonder. She turned and ran through one of the doors to the first district-into Riku's arms.

"Riku!" she said.

"Let's go." he whispered. Shadows wrapped around the pair as Riku put his head closer to Caitlee's and the disappeared.

## 11. Departure

Alsce breathed in the fresh air. Ah, how nice to be away from evil things that wanted to rip out her heart.

A man walked across the courtyard on the opposite side of where she was standing. He was looking around.

Wait! That mad brown hair...she recognised it.

"LEON!" screamed Alsce. Leon turned and Alsce ran over to him, super quick.

"Oh. Though I'd lost you." said Leon.

"You can't get rid of me that easily!" laughed Alsce.

Leon kept walking and Alsce followed him.

"Werre you looking for me?"

"No."

"I think you were."

"You though wrong."

That was the extent of the conversation that passed between them until they got back to the first district.

"Hey, where are we-" began Alsce, still walking as Leon stopped. He held an arm out in front of her and she walked into it, stopping instantly.

"Stay here." he said, walking over to one of the shops. Two figures walked out of it.

"But-that's Ichigo and Sora!" said Alsce, in excitement.

Leon pushed her back and walked forwards, knowing Alsce was coming after him. He sighed and concentrated. Suddenly, Alsce's feet stuck to the ground.

"Hey!" she called, but Leon didn't turn back. He just went up the stairs, and stopped a few feet away from Ichigo and Sora.

---

Ichigo sighed.

"Well, we'd better take another look." she said.

"They'll come out of nowhere." said a voice. The sibling turned to see a man with leatherwear, a spikey hair-do and a giant sword infused with a gun.

"What?" asked Ichigo.

"The shadows. So long as you have the keyblades, they'll keep coming. I wonder why they chose you...you look even more worthless than your friend."

"Friend? You mean-Alsce?!"

"Never mind. Give me those keyblades."

The kids jumped back as Leon stepped forward and held their keyblades in a defensive manner.

"What? No! You arent; gonna get these!" said Sora.

"Fine. We'll do this the hard way." said Leon, and jumped at the duo.

The kids did their best to fight him off, but they couldn't. Leon was too strong and too fast.

Leon flipped back and landed on one knee.

The kids were exhausted, but they tried not to show it.

"Now you're gonna-gonna-" said Sora, then fell over, unconscious. Ichigo did the same.

---

Marie was very fascinated about the girl. Who was she? Where had she gone? At least it was a nice town.

"Hey, it's really empty. Kinda spooky." said Marie, in a warbling voice. Donald frowned.

"Phooey! I'm not scared!" he said.

Donald felt a tap on the should, yelling in fright, he jumped onto Goofy.

The three turned to see a young woman in pink and red with two plaits.

"Excuse me, did the king send you?" she asked.

---

Alsce called for someone to help. Leon had gone, taking Sora and Ichigo with him. But had he unstuck her? NO!?

"LEON! GET BACK HERE, YOU-"

"Hey, hey!" said a voice. Alsce turned as far as she could. The voice had come from Yuffie.

"Oh, hey. Can you help me, here?" she asked.

Yuffie clicked her fingers and Alsce became unstuck.

"Sorry. My fault. I'm covering for Leon and had to make sure you didn't stop his plans. That's why I froze you."

Alsce sighed.

"Oh, well. Let's just go after them. I need to find my friends!"

---

LATER

---

"Sora? Sora, wake up, you lazy bum!" said Kairim hovering over Sora. Sora blinked to get his vision straight as he woke up. He seemed to be...in a hotel room.

"Are you ok?"

"I think...what about Ichigo?"

"She's fine. These creatures-the shadows? They're after your keybalde, y'know."

Sora breathed a sigh of relief, not really listening. \*

(\* Not that he ever did. He is a boy)

"I'm so glad your OK, Kairi."

"Who? No, I'm the great Ninja Yuffie!"

Sora's vision cleared and he could see Yuffie above him.

"Oh." he said.

"I think you may have overdone it, Squall. How many fingers am I holding up?"

"Uh...six?"

"Two."

"Leon." said Leon, sharply.

"Sorry about that. We needed to get the keyblade. The Heartless were tracking you off it." explained Yuffie, as Sora got up, seeing his sister next to him.

"That was the only way to conceal your heart. It won't work for long...especially as there are three keyblade holders in one place."

"Three?" asked Sora, looking at an open door that seemed to lead to the balcony, "That means...Alsce is here too!"

Before they could object, Sora ran to the open balcony window and out the other side.

---

Alsce sighed and looked down onto the empty street below and sighed, wondering how long it would take Sora to wake up.

Suddenly, she felt a hand either side of her waist and gave a jump. She summoned her keybalde-but then collapsed in giggles. Whoever it was was tickling her.

Alsce looked up.

"Sora!" she said, as she saw his grinning face.

"I'm awake!" he siad, helping her up.

"Good. I was getting worried. Leon gave you a whupping." said Alsce.

"And where were you when I so desperately needed saving?" Sora asked, mockingly.  
"Ask ninja girl." sighed Alsce, an anime vein appearing on her head.  
The pair headed back inside. As they got in, Leon snatched Alsce's keyblade from her hand.  
"Hey-" she said, stepping forward to stop him.  
The keyblade disappeared and reappeared in Alsce's hand.  
"So I thought." said Leon. he pointed to the bed, where Ichigo was stirring, "Sit down."

---

"There are many other worlds except this one." explained Aerith.  
"Really?" asked Marie.  
"Yes."  
"We know. They're supposed to be secrets." sighed Donald, guessing the word had got out.  
"Yes. They were. That's because, before the Heartless came, they weren't connected."

---

"Heartless?" asked Ichigo.  
"Can you let me talk?" snapped Leon. Yuffie gave him a warning look.  
"They are the ones who have been following you-the shadows."  
"The ones who destroyed my home!" gasped Alsce.  
Yuffie nodded.  
"They don't have hearts. But the darkness within other's...that's why they are drawn to people."  
explained Leon.  
"Have you heard of a man named Ansem?" asked Yuffie to the teenagers.

---

"Ansem?" asked Marie, now really confused.  
"Yes. He was a great man who devoted his life to studying the Heartless. He recorded everything he found out about them in a report."  
"Gawrsh, uh, Can we see it?" asked Goofy.  
"Yeh, i'm guessing it would really help!" said Marie. Aerith shook her head and sighed:  
"No. It was lost and scattered."  
"Scattered?" asked Donald.  
"Throughout the other worlds."  
Something occurred to Goofy.  
"Maybe the king went to try and find 'em!"  
"Yes...that's what I thought, too." said Aerith, nodding.  
"Then we'd better go after him!" said Marie, wanting this to be over so she could go home.  
"Wait! We need the 'Keys'." said Donald.  
"Yes. The Keyblades." replied Aerith.

---

"So...that's what we have. Keys." said Sora.  
"Blades." continued Ichigo.  
"Keyblades." finished Alsce.  
"Exactly!" chirped Yuffie. The three of them fell over and laid on the bed, finally understanding what was going on.  
"Don't worry. The Heartless fear them. So they'll keep coming after you-if they can destroy them, there's nothing to stand in their way."  
There was silence.  
"We didn't ask for this," whispered Alsce, after a while, "I lost my home in Spira. That was horrible-I lost everything I held dear to me. But then I finally settled in a new home and made myself a new life. And then I lost it again. That was worse-it was bad enough the first time. Do you know what it's like, the darkness following you? You never feel safe. And so alone."

Yuffie put a hand on Alsce's shoulder.

"You're the only one with the power to stop it happening to other people-besides, the keyblade chooses it's own master. It chose you!"

"So tough luck." said Leon.

Sora shook his head.

"How did this happen? The last I remember, I was in my room and I went to get Ichigo and Alsce because of the storm-"

He stopped, abruptly.

"Wait! What happened to the islands? Riku?! Kairi?!"

"Caitlee?!" asked Alsce.

"I don't know." said Leon, looking down, obviously ashamed about not being able to answer their questions.

Nothing happened for a while, then Leon said:

"The Heartless will easily find you. Prepare yourselves."

"Prepare for what?" asked Ichigo.

"To fight for your lives. Ready?"

"Ready." the three said, confidently.

"Let's go get Aerith. I guess she's here by now, with the others."

"LEON!" said Yuffie, suddenly. A heartless with armour appeared next to Leon.

"Yuffie! Go!" he said, picking up his Gunblade.

Yuffie ran out the door, throwing it wide open, consequently flattening Donald between the wall and the door.

"Aerith." she said, catching sight of her friend, "C'mon!"

Leon, Sora, Ichigo and Alsce readied their weapons.

"Let's go!" he said, jumping out onto the balcony, then onto the street. The others followed.

Heartless jumped up at them and the children tried to hit them off.

"Don't bother-these are small fry! We need to find the boss!" said Leon, grabbing Alsce's hand and pulling her, Sora and Ichigo following.

Alsce kept hitting the Heartless, following Sora and Ichigo as Leon got separated.

"I don't like this." she gasped, backing off from four heartless coming towards her at once. She went back to back with Ichigo, who was doing the same.

"Alsce, link your arm through mine." she said. Alsce did what Ichigo said.

"When I say kick, kick." she said.

Ichigo began to spin round, fast. Alsce felt herself being lifted from the ground.

"KICK!" said Ichigo. Alsce thrust out her legs and kicked all the Heartless towards Sora, who finished them off. When it was clear, they continued.

After much fighting, they got to the third district.

"I'm tired." said Alsce, who had gotten out of practice of fighting properly.

"C'mon, there are more!" said Ichigo as more shadows appeared.

The trio kept hitting the Heartless away, making them disappear eventually.

---

Marie, Donald and Goofy stood on the roof of one of the buildings.

"These are the Heartless?" asked Marie, worrying.

"Let's get 'em!" said Donald. The Heartless all jumped on the trio and they fell into the third district, onto Sora, Alsce and Ichigo.

They gasped.

"The keys!" they said.

"No time!" said Ichigo. They all got up as more Heartless came. The fight became much easier with the extra three helpers.

Donald threw his staff up and made lightning come down and zap the Heartless as Goofy hit them repeatedly with his shield. Sora and Alsce stayed together in a tag team and they hit the Heartless fast, and Marie and Ichigo stayed together hitting them slower, but taking one out with every hit.

Eventually, there were no Heartless left.

"Wow!" said Marie, relieved they had finished.

"So, who are you?" asked Ichigo. But before they could say, there was a rumble. A huge suit of purple armour assembled itself and looked straight at the group.

"DUCK!" said Sora, pushing his sister over and jumping with the others as it fired a fist at them.

They got up and stared at it.

"You two, take the legs!" said Alsce, gesturing to Donald and Goofy. They looked at each other and nodded.

"Ichigo, um...I dunno your name, take the arms!"

Ichigo and Marie nodded.

"Sora, after they've weakened it, you take the torso."

"What about you?"

Alsce sighed.

"I'll go for the head."

The small army got in a line.

"GO!" screamed Marie, and five of them ran towards the armour while Alsce ran up the stairs to above the fountain, waiting to get a good shot.

But she was very surprised to see who was there.

"Caitlee?!" she gasped, seeing the girl sitting in a corner, flute tightly pressed to her lips.

"Alsce!" she said, and jumped to give her friend a hug.

"Caitlee, why are you here?" she asked.

Caitlee looked over the side, as to where Alsce's new friends were fighting a losing battle.

"I'll tell you when I've finished with these pests." she scowled.

Alsce gaped.

"Caitlee. Sora and Ichigo are down there!"

Caitlee looked up, confused.

"But...I have to get rid of the keyblades..."

Then she noticed what Alsce had in her hand.

"No. Not you too." she whimpered.

"Caitlee..." said Alsce, reaching out.

"NO!" said Caitlee. She put her flute to her lips and started playing again.

---

Donald cast a fire at the armour's left foot, while Goofy tackled it's right. It fell and Ichigo and Marie started wildly slashing at the metal hands, and Sora pummeled his blade into it's stomach.

"ALSCE! GO NOW!" he called.

---

Alsce looked at Caitlee, and as she started playing more frantically, she heard a rumble.

---

The armour started moving, trying to get up.

"ALSCE! WE CAN'T HOLD IT FOR MUCH LONGER!" screamed Ichigo.

---

Alsce looked at Caitlee.

"You control them." she whispered, but couldn't wait any longer. She jumped over the wall, onto the Heartless's shoulders.

At that moment, it threw it's attackers off and started twirling wildly, trying to shake Alsce off.

"BWAHH!" she screamed, grabbing round it's neck to stay on.

---

Donald sighed and aimed his staff.

"Donald, what're ya doin'?" asked Goofy.

"Helping." quacked Donald, and sent a freeze spell to stop the giant.

---

Alsce was almost thrown off, seeing the giant had stopped and the others were coming back to help her.

She stood up, now getting a bearing, got her Keyblade to one side, and SMASH! Hit it's head off.

It flew over to the wall and smashed into pieces. The armour trembled, then fell into pieces.

Alsce hit the floor and bounced, stunned.

"You ok?" asked Sora, coming over.

"I'm fine." she said, getting up.

---

Caitlee stared over the side. How dare they stop her armour! How dare they?!

She started playing again.

---

"What's that?" asked Alsce.

Suddenly, the head came back to pieces. then it flew over to where the other pieces of armour were, and it re-assembled, but in a different way this time.

"Crap." said Ichigo. The armour brought a fist down on them, and they jumped.

"Whadda we do this time?" called Sora.

"I dunno!" called Alsce.

"Fight!" said Marie. The six rushed towards the armour.

Donald cast various spell on it's legs and Goofy hit them after, until eventually they broke. Marie and Ichigo managed to climb up the fountain, jump onto it's back, then hit the arms from behind. Sora and Alsce were left for the torso. Alsce decided what to do.

"I'll climb inside it and hit it from there, and you take the head." she said, and running under the armour and jumping before Sora could object.

It was dark and cramped in the armour, but Alsce had had worse. Using what room she could find, she flung her keyblade about hard. It made a difference, the armour was weakening.

Sora jumped from the broken foot, to the arms, to the shoulders. He kicked the head out the way and put a hand down it's neck, then helped Alsce up. The two of them nodded at each other as the head flew back.

"On three." said Alsce.

"One...two..THREE!" called Sora, and they brought their keyblade to either side of the sphere, really destroying it this time. The whole suit disappeared.

And a heart flew from where it was, high, high into the sky.

Obtained: Brave warrior

---

"You were looking for us?" asked Ichigo, after they were all safe in the first district. Leon, Aerith and Yuffie were there.

"Uh huh." said Donald and Goofy.

"They were after the other holders of the keys." said Leon.

"Then, you can come with us! To other worlds!" said Goofy.

"On this spaceship...it's so cool!" said Marie.

"Could I find my friends?" asked Sora.

"Or my sister?" asked Alsce.

"Yeh! Of course!" said Donald.

"Are you sure?" whispered Goofy.

"No. But we need them to find the king."

Marie heard this and sighed. She knew it was wrong, but she didn't care how many lies they had to tell, how many tricks they had to pull, she just wanted it over and to go back home.

"Go with them if you want to find your sister." said Leon, placing a hand on Alsce's shoulder.

"Or your friends." said Yuffie.

"I guess." sighed Sora, frowning.

"C'mon, if you want to come with us, you can't look like that! No sad face, okay?" said Donald.

"Yeh, look funny-like us!" said Goofy.

Marie was about to object by saying she didn't look funny, but bit her tongue.

"This boat runs on happy faces!" said Donald.

Sora looked down.

"Happy...?" she asked.

Sora looked up, with his face stretched into a huge smile that was hard to hold. There was silence. Then Goofy, Donald, Marie, Ichigo and Alsce all broke into gales of laughter.

"That's one funny face!" laughed Goofy.

Sora joined in laughing.

"Ok, we'll go." he said, Alsce and Ichigo nodding.

"Donald duck." said Donald, putting his hand out.

"Name's Goofy." said Goofy, doing likewise.

"I'm Marie!" beamed Marie, following the example.

"I'm Sora."

"I'm his sister, Ichigo."

"And Alsce!"

The others put their hands in the middle.

"All for one, and one for all!" said Goofy, and they all raised their hands.

Suddenly, from Alsce's gil pouch, there shone a blue light.

"Wha-?!" they all said.

The blue crystal flew out and started changing. It wasn't a crystal...it was a boy. A teen.

"Tidus!" gasped Alsce.

"Hey kid." he greeted.

"But-why? How?"

"I just thought I'd say good luck. You'll need it."

Alsce ran into his arms and threw hers round his waist.

"I'm so glad! Your back! Oh, thank you so much!" she wept.

Tidus put his hands on her shoulders and slowly pushed her away.

"My energy is low. I have to go back now. Good luck." he said, tapping her lightly on the chin with his fist. Then, in a flash of light, he turned back into a crystal in Alsce's palm. In there, he was a tiny figure.

Alsce turned and smiled.

"Ok." she said, "I'm cool."

---

Somewhere...in a dark room...shadowed figures stood round a table.

"Those kids took down the Heartless!" gasped a man's voice.

"Their strength comes from their weapons, not themselves." said another.

"Just turn them into Heartless. We know that girl has the power to do it." sighed a woman.

"Yes, well, three of them are the king's lackeys. Swoggle me eyes, thy're all bilge rats by the look of 'em." said another man.

"You're no prize yourself!" laughed another.

"Shut up!" said the one before.

"Enough." said another woman, "They keyblades have chosen their masters. They may be able to conwuer the darkness. Or will the darkness take them? Either way, this will be entertaining..."

---

"Make sure you're prepared for the journey ahead." said Leon.

"And check out the shops here. They're neat!" said Yuffie.

"This is from all of us." said Aerith.

Obtained: 100 munny

"Spend it how you like. This is from Leon."

Obtained: Elixir

"Good luck!" siad Yuffie.

"I pray you find your friends and sister." said Aerith.

"Look out for each other. We know that from experience," Leon looked at Yuffie and Aerith,

"Keep your spirits up. Remember, we'll always be here in Traverse town."

The six walked away.

"Our gummi ship is outside that gate." said Donald.

"The what now?" asked Alsce.

"Our ship. It's so cool! You've gotta see it!" said Marie.

"Wait-this is for you." said Donald. He reached into his pocket\*\* and pulled out a small fireball. It split into four and went into Ichigo, Sora and Marie's keyblades. It went into Alsce' crystal.

"Now you can use magic-that lets you use fire." said Donald.

"Oh, and take this too." said Goofy. He picked up a small pouch of gold lliquid, picking some up on his fingertips he threw it over the four.

"That's an ability-dodge roll. They let you do all sorts of things! We'd better keep an eye out for them on the way." he explained.

"Okay, let's get going." said Marie.

"Not til we're ready." said Donald, hitting Marie on the head with his staff.

"I see big adventures coming their way...better keep track of it in my journal!"

They went to say goodbye to Cid and to get some itmes.

"Bye, Cid." said Ichigo, after getting their purachses.

"Bye, kid. See ya found your friend." he remarked.

Alsce blinked.

"You're called...Cid?" she asked.

"Yeh."

"This is random, but-did you have a daughter?"

"Yeh. Little Rikku. Lst her when the Heartless came." he sighed.

Alsce said nothing.

"Ok. Bye then."

"Bye!"

They walked out the shop.

"Are we gonna go now?" asked Sora.

"Sure." said Donald. They went to the exit gate and opened it, walking into the Gummi sip.

---

"Wow!" said Alsce, sitting down.

"We're riding in this?" asked Ichigo, agog.

"Yep. Now put on your seatbelts!" snapped Donald.

They did.

"Off we go!" said Goofy, and the gummi ship sped away a full speed, leaving traverse town once again boring, quiet, and peaceful.

## 12. Wonderland #1

"This is so cool!" remarked Alsce, staring out the window.

"So many stars..." muttered Ichigo.

"What's that?" asked Sora.

There was a giant red spherical...thing in front of them.

"It's another world." replied Marie, both her hands on the controls of the gummi ship, steering it carefully.

"Are we gonna land there?" Alsce asked the eighteen year old.

"Donald?" asked Marie.

"Yeh. The king could be there." replied Donald. Marie put her foot on the accelerator and sped off towards the planet.

---

The gummi ship touched down, making a sleeping Goofy fall off his chair.

"C'mon, Goofy, we're gonna take a look around this land." said Donald.

The six of them walked out of the door into a white light.

Suddenly they were all standing on a green circle in the ground.

"What happened?" asked Alsce.

"Gummi telelport." replied Donald. The group were in hall, surrounded by paintings and mirrors.

The tile floor beneath them resembled a tea party-table.

"Oh, my fur and whiskers!" gasped a voice. They turned. A small white rabbit run along the corridor saying: "I'm late, I'm late, I'm late! Oh dear, oh dear, oh dear! I'm here, I should be there! I'm late, I'm late, I'm late! The queen, she'll have my head for sure!"

"Hey, wait!" called Alsce. They ran down the hall after him.

They walked into a weird room. There was a table with two bottles on it, a bed that seemed to be stuck in the wall, some display cases with china dishes in them and a fireplace in the corner.

In front of them, a door slammed shut. There was a face in the door. It was sleeping. They wanted to go through-but there was one problem. The door was less than a foot high.

"How did he get so small?!" asked Ichigo.

"He isn't too small," sighed the doorknob, waking up, "You are too big."

Everyone jumped back.

"Did the door just talk?" asked Sora.

"I think so..." muttered Donald.

The doorknob was slowly falling back to sleep.

"Hey!" said Marie, tapping the floor in front of it with her keybalde.

"Must you be so loud?! I am trying to sleep!" it snapped.

"Tell us how to get small and we'll leave you alone." she retorted.

"Try one of the bottles over there." sighed the doorknob, looking at the table, then falling back to sleep.

They all turned.

"You try it, Sora." said Ichigo.

"Ladies first." replied Sora.

"Oh, man." sighed Alsce, grabbing the bottle and drinking some. Nothing happened.

"Well?" asked Goofy.

"Nothing." pondered Alsce. Suddenly, she began to shake and feel dizzy...the whole world

shook around her, then began to grow.

"Oh wow!" gasped the tiny Alsce, "You're so big!"

"No, you're just small." giggled Ichigo, drinking some of the liquid.

After a while, all of the group were that size.

"Well, we can't go through the door." stated Alsce.

"We could go through there." remarked Donald, pointing at a mousehole in the floorboards.

The six of them went up to the hole and walked into it.

They stood in a garden with high hedges. Past them, a young blonde girl stood on a podium in front of a large woman, surrounded by walking cards that seemed to be guards. The white rabbit-out of somewhere-came and stood by the side of this and blew his trumpet.

"Court is now in session!" he announced.

"I'm on trial?" asked the girl, confused.

"Hey Majesty, The Queen of hearts, presiding!"

"The girl is the culprit. I know for a fact!" said the Queen.

Alsce was confused as much as the girls, but she knew something was going on and it was wrong. She walked up to beside the girl.

"On what charges?" she asked.

"Who are you?!" asked the queen.

"I am..." Alsce glanced at Alice.

"Alice." muttered Alice.

"I am Alice's defense!"

"Oh, are you?"

"Yes, I am Alsce, you majesty. Now, what are the charges?"

"She attempted to attack me!"

Alsce looked at Alice.

"Really? I think not."

"She is the culprit! I know because...I say so!"

"That is hardly fair!" objected Alice.

"Defense, speak for the culprit."

"The girl hasn't done anything-" began Alsce, but she was interrupted:

"Of course I haven't! I would never attack you! You are queen, but that doesn't give you the right to be...so mean!"

"Silence!"

Alsce frowned.

"You majesty, please..."

Behind her, Donald sighed.

"She shouldn't be doing this."

"Why?" asked Sora.

"We're outsiders. It's muddling." said Goofy, knowingly.

"Meddling." corrected Donald.

"Well, it's against the rules, whatever ya call it."

But the conversation got no further.

"The court finds the denefndant..."

"Even it I am found guilty, thank-you for trying." whispered Alice. Alsce gave her hand a reassuring squeeze.

"Don't worry. You can't be found guilty. You've done nothing wrong."

"...GUILTY, AS CHARGED!"

Alsce and Alice gaped.

"What?!"

"On the ground of assault and attempted...theft of my heart!"  
The queen looked at a card guard.  
"Off with her head!"  
Alsce leapt in front of her new friend and her keyblade appeared.  
"You'll have to get through me first!"  
"Alsce!" said Sora, rushing forward, not wanting to see her hurt.  
"What?" asked the queen.  
"We know who the real culprit is!" continued Ichigo, coming forward.  
"It's the Heart!" began Goofy, but Donald covered his mouth.  
"She's innocent." said Sora.  
"That's what I said!" moaned Alsce.  
"That's nonsense. There is no proof to that effect."  
Sora and Ichigo looked at each other, while a guard sneaked up behind Alice and grabbed her, pulling her into a cage.  
"Hey-!" said Alsce.  
"Bring me evidence of her innocence and I shall let her go! Gather as much evidence as you please."  
Sora and Ichigo went back to the group, and Alsce slowly went to join them.  
"I am going to play croquet. You, girl." she said, pointing to Alsce, "Come with me. I wish for you to join me."  
Alsce looked at Sora and shrugged.  
"Ok."  
She went back to the Queen.  
"Guys, go into there and gather evidence!" said Alsce, "I'll meet you back here."  
The five nodded and ran into the lotus garden.  
"Very well. What is your name, girl?"  
"Alsce."  
"Hmm," the Queen stepped down from her box, "Where is your croquet mallet?"  
"Right here." grinned Alsce, twirling her keyblade.  
"Fine. Come with me." she said, walking behind the box, out of the court, into a croquet garden.

## 13. Wonderland #2

Ichigo and Sora were first in the Lotus forest. They were followed by Goofy, Donald then Marie.

"Wow!" gasped Ichigo, amazed.

"The flowers are huge!" continued Donald.

Suddenly, Marie screamed. They turned. A giant cat was in front of her on one of the plant stalks.

"Who're you?!" asked Sora.

"Who am I? Who are you? Who is Alice? Alice is the innocent culprit. Soon to lose her head, not guilty of a thing!"

"Do you know the culprit?" asked Ichigo, starting forward. Marie stopped her.

The cat grinned.

"The cheshire cat knows things, but never always tells! The answer, culprit and cat all lie in darknes..."

He grinned and started to fade into nothing, until all that was left was his smile, then not even that.

"The culprit has left here. There are many exts-you find out which one. There are four pieces of evidence all in all. Three are obvious. The other, not so much. Good luck finding them!" called his voice.

"Ok, I'll go one way, Sora the other, Marie the other and Donald and Goofy make a tag team." said Ichigo.

Marie, being the oldest, felt OK with this and ran off towards the first part of the forest.

"Meet back when we all had one piece of evidence!" called Sora, running off.

Ichigo nodded and went away too.

Donald and Goofy left by the last part of the forest.

---

Alsce looked at the large grass pitch.

"Um...where are the hoops?" she asked.

"Guards!" called the Queen.

The cards walked onto the pitch, put their heads on the ground and made 'hoop'.

"Where is your mallet?"

The Queen sighed and picked up a flamingo by its legs. Its head stood on the floor.

"Um...the ball?"

Then she noticed a curled up hedgehog by her feet.

"Shall I start?"

"Why don't you just get on and stop asking so many questions?"

Alsce looked at her, but got her keyblade ready and hit the ball through the first hoop.

"Hmm." muttered the Queen, and got another hedgehog ready. She hit it and it went to the left of the card.

"Guard!" she called.

The guard who was making the hoop shuffled over the ball so it was on the other side of it.

"But that isn't fair!" gasped Alsce.

"I never said it was fair. I am Queen. I make the rules. Now do you want to play my way and not lose your head or complain and lose your head?!"

Alsce said nothing. She just went to take her next turn.

---

Ichigo found her evidence easily. She was walking through the lotus gardens when she fell over something. Looking down, she saw she had tripped over a pink box.

"I guess...evidence?" she muttered, picked it up, and walked off. She briefly looked in and saw some footprints.

On her way she walked past an empty clearing. She looked in.

"What the-?!"

There was a chest there. Ichigo summoned her keyblade and tapped it.

Something jumped out onto her face, and Ichigo screamed.

It was furry and soft, and puppy-shaped....

Oh, it was a puppy.

Ichigo looked at it. Ten others jumped out the box, They were dalmations.

"Weird. But we can't leave you here. C'mon."

She picked up the box and went to the nearest gummi teleport, then put the box on it. It zapped up into the gummi ship.

Another, last puppy bounded to her feet. It was the one that had jumped out the box.

"Ok, you stay with me." she said, grinning. The puppy barked.

---

Sora looked at the three large mushrooms in front of him. He jumped up to the first one, then the second one on the right. There was a pink box there. Inside it was a pair of antlers.

"Piece of cake!" he laughed, and went to find his sister.

---

Donald scrambled, trying to get on top of another mushroom.

"Gawrsh, need some help?" asked Goofy, helping Donald up.

"Thank you." squawked the duck.

The duo jumped to the next mushroom and saw an entrance in the tall grass in front of them.

Walking through it, they came to and entrance in the bizarre room.

"We're on the wall!" gasped Donald, seeing they were standing on a horizontal wall.

In front of them was a pink box.

Goofy picked it up and opened it. There was nothing in there. But an odd smell drifted out, almost a weird smell of roses and salmon...

"Well, we got our evidence."

---

Marie looked at the yellow flower bud in front of her. She swore it had just said: "give me a potion and i'll make you bigger!"

So, she took a potion from her belt and poured it onto a yellow petal.

The flower opened. As it did, a weird feeling overcome her as she grew bigger, until everything in the room was a normal size. She looked around and her head hit a tree. On the tree was a nut. She reached out to get it. Darn, too far! She hit the tree in frustration. It span round so the nut was facing her. Grinning, she took the nut and bit it. Mmm, sweet and cruchy....

"WHOA!"

The world span and mutated around Marie until she was small again.

"Hey Marie!" said a voice. Donald and Goofy were behind her.

"Oh, hey guys." she said.

"It was weird, we just go out of the room we came into first when a tree blocked the entrance!" he exclaimed.

"Oh , really?" she muttered.

"We saw another opening, though. Wanna have a look?"

"Sure."

So they walked up to the mushrooms and jumped to the left mushroom this time, walking into

the new entrance.

Marie fell. She fell and landed hard. On a giant tap.

"What?" she asked. Donald and Goofy were hanging onto the hole in the wall where they had fallen out.

Next to her was a pink box.

"Oh!" she exclaimed, picking it up.

"I got it!"

"Great." muttered Donald.

"How...how do I get up?"

"Jump down and go into the Queens castle, we'll meet you in the Lotus Forest!"

"Okay!"

Marie jumped, landed, and went into the hole that lead to the castle.

---

Alsce was on the last hole now and the Queen hadn't been playing fairly. She made the cards move to make her move correct.

"Your go." said the Queen.

Alsce gripped her keyblade tight and slammed it against the hedgehog, sending the animal hurtling through the hoop.

"Good shot." said the card who was the last hoop.

"Thanks."

The Queen hit her ball through the hoop.

"Final scores:" read the guard, "Alsce Six," (Alsce grinned as she had hit all the balls through and gotten a point for every hit), "And the Queen of hearts....Nine hundred and eighty-three."

"What?!"

The Queen laughed.

"YOU CAN'T GET THAT MANY POINTS IN CROQUET!"

"Yes you can. I'm the Queen, so I can."

There was a trumpet sound from the other room.

"They are back." said The Queen. They shuffled back into the courtroom, where four boxes were placed out.

"Is this all the evidence?" asked the Queen.

"Yes." said Ichigo.

"Very well. Bring forth my evidence."

A card added another box as Alsce walked up to Sora.

"Wow, good job."

"Thanks for stalling her."

"Very well. Now choose on box of evidence for me to check!" announced the Queen.

"One? After we got it all?"

"Don't object! ONE!"

Sora pointed at a box. It flew open and a heartless came out.

"What is that?!" gasped the Queen.

"The culprit! Alice is innocent!" cried Alsce. She noticed a cover had been put round Alice's cage.

The Queen growled.

"MY law states under article 29 that anyone who defies me is guilty! GUARDS! OFF WITH THEIR HEADS!"

The cards came out as a castle rose from the floor. A seven of spades cranks it and the cage rose up.

The keybladers made their weapons appear.

"Ichigo, Sora! Take the guards with Donald and Goofy! Marie, go for the Queen! I'll take the tower!" commanded Alsce.

They jumped.

Alsce hit the castle hard and fast as four of the other kept the guards off while Marie kept the Queen busy.

Eventually all the guards were exhausted and the tower shattered. The cage fell.

"Alice!" said Alsce, and ran to the cage, opening the cloth. She jumped back.

The cage was empty.

Alice was gone.

---

Alsce wasted no time and run into the lotus forset with the others. The Cheshire cat was in the same place.

"Where is she?" asked Sora.

"Who?"

"Alice! Have you seen her?"

"No, not the girl. But the shadows!"

"Where?"

"Does it matter? Go into the forest and find the upside down room...they are most likely there."

Once again, he disappeared.

The group found one entrance no-one had been into. They walked through it and found themselves upside-down in the Bizzare room. On the ceiling.

"Want to find the shadows? Turn on the light." called the cheshire cat.

Marie and Donald cast fire on the two lamps in front of them quickly.

The cat appeared.

"The lights are on. The shadows come. Go back to the right way up...then you'll find them." he laughed, and went.

Alsce scowled, not bothered to go back to an exit. Instead she jumped and turned in mid-air, landing on the table on the right way up. She looked at the ceiling where the others were.

"Come on!"

One by one the others jumped down.

"Are you prepared for the worse?" called his voice. Donald opened his mouth to answer, but it interuppted:

"If not, too bad!"

A shadow was cast on the floor, long and tall. It sprouted out the ground. It was big, dressed in yellow and black and red.

The Keybladers held their keyblades.

"Ready?" asked Sora.

"Ready."

They jumped at the Trickmaster, battering it. It took off health, but not that much.

"Marie, Ichigo, Donald, we attack, you cast!" said Alsce. Her, Sora and Goofy slammed their weapons into the shadow's stomach.

Ichigo, marie and Donald casted Fire into the weak point.

The Trickmaster fell. A heart flew out of it and it sank into the floor.

There was a yawning.

"Can't I get any sleep?" moaned the doorknob as the gang jumped to the floor.

Suddenly, a keyhold appeared in the Doorknob's mouth.

The keyblades suddenly glowed and made a beam that flew into the keyhole's mouth. Something clicked.

"What was that?" asked ichigo.

"Sounded like something closed." replied Sora.

Suddenly, a piece of gummi fell to the floor. Ichigo went to pick it up, but something fell put of her top and ran to get it. It was the puppy.

"Ichigo, why is there a puppy in you top?" asked Alsce, suspiciously.

"Um....what puppy?"

"How many others were there?"

"About ten..."

Ichigo explained it all.

Alsce clapped and told them all about the dalmations.

"Oh!" exclaimed Marie, who liked dogs.

The puppy left the gummi at Goofy's feet.

"This ain't like other gummis." he said.

"Well, we'll hold onto it." sighed Donald.

Goofy put the gummi in his pocket.

"Well, you are quite the heroes!" called the cats voice, "Take this."

The keyblades frosted over for a second, then returned to normal.

"The power of ice. Now Alice...Alice has gone, gone with the shadows! Goodbye!"

The voice stopped.

"Lets get back to the ship." said Alsce, knowing Pongo and Perda would want to see their puppies.

So the six left and disappeared in the Gummi-telport.

---

Caitlee looked down on the scene as they disappeared. She had a KO'd alice over her shoulder and stared at nothing. The cheshire cat appeared next to her.

"Thanks you for not telling them about me." she said.

"I could have. I wanted to, however I do respect your privacy."

Caitlee nodded and turned, opening a porthole which she walked through, one thought crossing her mind:

Why did she drop that Navi-gummi to them?

Alsce stopped at the doors of the gummi-ship.

"Are you gonna go?" asked Donald.

"No, gimme a sec." said Alsce, and ran back to the teleport that took her to Lotus Forest.

---

She stared at the flower.

"You heard me." it said.

"Yeah." replied Alsce, who has heard the flower call to her from the ship.

"I was given a potion."

"I know."

"Give me another and I'll give you something else."

Alsce tipped a potion over the flower. It spat out a crystal at her feet as it bloomed. Alsce gasped. It was orange.

"Wakka!" she gasped as she saw a figure appear in it.

The crystal glowed and turned hot to touch. She dropped it.

Out of the crystal grew a figure. Before long, Wakka was standing in front of her, grinning.

"Hey, Lesca." he said.

Alsce smiled and threw her arms round him. He picked her up and twirled her round, then let her go.

"Where ya been, ah? I was there forever waiting for you." he said.

"I know. Sorry. You're the only one i've found so far. Except Tidus." replied Alsce.

"Wanna play blitzball?"

"Yes!"

---

Marie tapped her foot impatiently.

"Will she hurry up?" she moaned.

"Look, me and Sora will go find her." said Ichigo, anxious to get away from the adoring puppies. She took her brothers hand and dragged him back into the forest.

---

"Where is she?" asked Ichigo.

"There." said Sora, pointing at the lake. They went over to it and saw Alsce and a ginger man hitting a ball to each other in complicated movements in the depths.

"ALSCE!" screamed Ichigo. Alsce looked up and her and the man swam to the surface.

"Hey, Ichigo. This is Wakka." she said.

"Oh, your friend?"

"Yeah."

Alsce and Wakka climbed out the waters.

"I'm sorry, but I gotta go back in the crystal." sighed Wakka.

"No! Why?"

"I just do. It's pulling me back. But hey, take this."

Wakka passed her his blitzball.

"What? No! I can't take it!" gasped Alsce.

"Just take it." he said, laying a hand on it then pushing the ball into her grasp.

In her hands, a feeling of heaviness came. Alsce saw a new keybalde had appeared in her grasp, with the blitzball as a keychain on the end. As Wakka went back into the crystal, it turned back into the Keycuffs. Alsce put the blue crystal into her purse then put the orange crystal in her keycuffs, making the blitzball blade appear. She grinned at Sora and Ichigo, then they walked back to the Gummi ship.

## 14. The Coliseum #1

Dani ripped at her face, pulling the heartless off that was clinging onto her, then threw it onto the floor in the other hundreds of heartless pursuing her. It was no use. She was going to die. She was going to die and she couldn't do anything about it at all. Soon the heartless would be on her, over her, then...nothing. She had seen that happen as her home was destroyed.

She fell to her knees as something tugged at her ankles. She turned her head to see the shadows coming. This was it-her last moment of life.

But then hope. From the corner of her eye came a glitter of light. She moved her whole body and saw a tiny, pinprick of white in the vast sea of black. Desperately, she pushed her self up again, kicking off her attackers, and ran to it. The light had given her new energy. As she got closer, it got brighter, until eventually it was right in front of her.

It was a heart. Not a human heart, but a heart-shaped heart, that was glowing with a weird pink glow. She reached out her hand and touched it.

The beam of light that followed was so bright she couldn't open her eyes. Dani felt a moment of weightlessness, then a hard floor under her back. She opened her eyes and looked around.

Still darkness. But this time she was in a room. A dark room, the only other thing in it a chest. The heart she had ran to earlier was above it, throbbing gently.

Dani got up again and walked over, carefully. She wasn't sure what would happen this time.

But the heart seemed allot more peaceful, less...aggressive. She wasn't sure how she could tell this, but as she touched the heart, a sense of relief came over her.

The heart changed suddenly. It shrunk until it was key-chain sized. It wrapped itself around her wait on a gold chain.

Dani was slightly stunned. She looked back at the chest, a brown box with a gold lock, and tried to open it. As she guessed, it didn't move. But then Dani noticed something very interesting. The keyhole for the lock was heart-shaped.

Dani took the heard keychain and placed it on the lock. The chest clicked and sprang open. Dani looked in and saw....

a key.

A tiny, dust-covered, brass key.

Dani flared her nostrils in distaste and picked up the tiny key.

Then, suddenly, it happened.

The key grew. Grew, grew , grew, until it resembled a sword, a key with a hilt.

She heard them. The shadows. They were behind her. They'd followed her.

She turned and scowled.

"Not this time," she growled at the six heartless in front of her, "not this time."

Dani ran at them, keyblade bared, hitting and slashing for all she was worth.

But there were six heartless. It was easy for them to overpower her. Before long, the heartless had her pinned down

Just as she was losing hope again, she felt two hands haul her up and the Heartless being pushed off. She was back on her feet suddenly, and felt a warm light on her back.

"Sometimes you have to embrace the darkness in order that you may find the light." whispered a voice, and Dani was drawn back from the shadows, into a whirlwind of light.

---

"Herc? Where are ya?" called Phil, stomping through the grounds outside the coliseum entrance. He really needed help right now and Hercules was nowhere to be found.

He spotted a figure in front of a pillar near the end of the dust-covered area.

"Hey!" He called, "You ain't supposed to be here!"

But then he noticed how the figure....girl....was slumped against the pillar, cuts all over her face, barely breathing.

"Oh man." muttered Phil, checking her for a pulse, "Kid, you okay?"

Dani murmured something.

"Okay, come with me." he sighed, grabbing Dani's wrist and pulling her into the coliseum.

---

The Gummi ship whizzed through the stars at high speed in a straight line.

"Where are we going?" called Alsce.

"Where ever we end up." replied Donald. The Gummi ship slowed. Everyone looked out the front window to see what looked like a greek building of some sort on a ball of sand.

"Ready to land?" asked Donald. Everyone nodded.

---

Alsce appeared on the Gummi Teleport, followed by Ichigo, then Marie, then Sora, then Donald, then Goofy.

They were right. It was a huge monumenous building. The group walked towards it, looking at the stone warriors either side with their swords touching as if in battle over the opening doors.

Slowly, they proceeded to the opening.

A bark came from Ichigo's top. Everyone looked at her and raised their eyebrows. A puppy jumped from the bottom folds of her top into her arms.

"Ichigo..." said Sora.

"What? He won't leave me alone, will you, Spots?"

"You named it?"

"Well, he's mine, isn't he?"

Everyone exchanged glances and shrugged, then went into the coliseum.

In side was a small lobby which they could just about fit in. A very short man with goat legs and horns had his back to them and seemed to be fixing something.

"Um, hel-" began Marie.

"Hey, good timing. Just fixing up some stuff for the games...can ya help? Move that pedestal over there for me."

Everyone saw the huge stone pedestal. They all tried to push it.

"It's so heavy!" gasped Ichigo.

They all gave up. Sora went over to the goat man.

"We can't move it, it's way too heavy!"

"Wha?! Too heavy?! Since when have you been such a-" He turned and stopped. "Oh, wrong guy."

"Apparently." muttered Donald under his breath.

"This is the world-famous Coliseum, for heroes only!"

He moved closer to the group who all stepped back.

"I've got my hands full with all the preparation. Run along, kids."

Nobody moved. The man sighed.

"Look. Heroes come here from all over the world to fight ferocious monsters inside the Coliseum."

"There are heroes standing right here!" squawked Donald, indignantly.

"Yup. These guys are keybalders. And we're heroes too!" explained Goofy.

"Heroes! These guys?!" asked the man, and started laughing so hard he collapsed.

Everyone scowled.

"It's not funny! We've fought loads of monsters!" said Sora.

"And I used to have proper battle back at home." sighed Alsce.

"If you can't move that, you ain't a hero!" laughed Phil. He tried to move the pedestal with his hands. he failed. He tried again by putting his back to it.

He fell over.

"Ok, so maybe it takes more than brawn..." he muttered. Everyone looked expectantly at him.

"Fine, let's see what you can do."

---

Sora came out of the arena, grinning. For him, the smashing barrels competition had been easy. The same was for Ichigo. As for Marie, well, she only had to look at the barrels for them to explode. Now it was Alsce's turn.

"You'll be fine." said Ichigo, seeing how nervous her friend was.

Alsce prayed that was true.

"Ready kid?" asked Phil.

Alsce made the Blitzball blade appear and nodded.

"Go."

Alsce ran into the arena.

In front of her there were loads of barrels. Barrels on platforms, barrels on the ground, barrels stacked.

"Your thirty seconds starts now." called Phil. Alsce started smashing the barrels with her keyblade. She had got about half the barrels destroyed when she saw something out the corner of her eye. She turned and saw a man standing alone in the seating at the back. He was wearing a red coat and sunglasses and had a high collar, and a very large Katana. His gaze was pointed into the distance.

Alsce stared.

"Auron?"

He looked at her, sharply.

"Time's up!" called Phil. Alsce turned to see the faun come into the arena, followed by the gang.

"What?!" she asked.

"You guys ain't heroes. You can't compete in the games." he said.

"But...up...there...man...AURON!" stuttered Alsce.

"A man?" asked Sora. Alsce nodded, desperately.

"We didn't see a man," sighed Ichigo, "All we saw was you looking at nothing."

"Please, you've gotta believe me!" choked Alsce, almost in tears by the fact her friends didn't believe her.

"I believe you." said Marie. Alsce looked at her.

"You do?"

"Sure, why would you lie? I think you should take the test again. But this time, look at the barrels. Don't let your attention wander."

"I dunno-" started Phil. Marie gave him the look.

"Okay, she can go again." he muttered. The group went to the seats in the Coliseum and sat down.

More barrels appeared around Alsce.

"Three, two, one, GO!" yelled Phil. Alsce smashed the barrels around her quickly, then she realised how she could go faster. She tore the Blitzball off the chain on the key and threw it upwards at the barrels on the platforms. The Blitzball threw itself around the barrels and

smashed them. Alsce finished off all the other single barrels. In front of her were six stacked ones- a quick blast of fire got rid of them, and then Alsce ran to the last stacks. Her Blitzball fell down and obliterated half of them while Alsce smashed the other.

The barrel trial was over in record time.

"Wow, good thinking!" complimented Ichigo.

Alsce looked up at her friends and grinned. then she noticed the red coated figure at the back. It was Auron. She looked at him. He nodded, approvingly, and disappeared.

"Alsce?" asked Goofy, who had seen her stare off into space. Alsce let her thought clear.

"Sorry about that. So, are we through?" she asked Phil.

"Well, I guess so." he sighed.

"Yay!" everyone cheered.

"Are we headed for the games?" asked Sora.

"No." replied Phil.

"What?! Why not?!" asked Ichigo.

"Two words: You guys aren't heroes. If you want to try harder, master this spell." he said. He reached out and plucked a ball of crackling electricity. It divided up and hit the four keyblades.

"The power of thunder." grinned Ichigo.

"Hey, Ichigo," said Marie, pointing her keyblade at her.

"Yes?"

"Are you a more magic-attacked based person?"

"I prefer it, yeah."

Marie blasted three balls of fire, ice and thunder at Ichigo's keyblade. It absorbed them.

"I'm a more physical attacker. You can have my magic, ok?"

"Sure, thanks!"

"C'mon, let's go. The king obviously isn't here." sighed Donald. They headed outside the lobby.

As they crossed the courtyard, the party felt a chill in the air behind them. They turned round to see a man, skin of grey, hair of a dark blue flame. He grinned, showing a set of sharp pointed teeth.

"He's a stubborn old goat, don't you think?" he asked.

"Who are you?" asked Donald.

"You don't need to ask questions like that. All you need to know is you want to enter the games. I can make that happen."

The man made a pass appear in his hand.

"An entry pass?" asked Alsce, as the man handed it to her.

"Yep. It's all yours. I'm pulling for ya!" he said, then disappeared.

The group went back into the lobby. Phil was standing idly there, adjusting a trophy. Also in the room was another girl, dusting the other ornaments. She had very short brown and pink hair, a brown skirt and shoes and top, black stockings and waistcoat and a pink scarf and sleeve. She had a keychain of a heart round her waist. She looked at them as they came in.

"Hey Phil." Said Alsce. Phil turned. Alsce showed him the pass. He eyed them suspiciously.

"How did you get this?" he asked.

"Um...doesn't matter. Can we enter now?" asked Ichigo.

"I guess so." he sighed. "We'll start with the preliminaries. Ready?"

"Naturally!" grinned Marie.

"Be careful- some real weirdoes signed up for these games."

The group entered the arena, and the fight began. It was against heartless- but they were no match for our heroes.

"You ain't doing bad. But you're still not heroes. Take a break while I prep up the next batch." said Phil.

As Phil left, a man walked past Sora. He had yellow hair and suspicious eyes.

He looked at the group, then went on his way.

"He'll be tough to beat." said Goofy.

"But who knows? Maybe we'll end up facing him." replied Donald.

Phil was running back at that moment.

"Ok, next match." he announced.

The second round of heartless went down as easy as the first.

"Wow, you're better than I thought!" applauded Phil after there were no heartless left, "I wish he was here to watch."

"Who?" asked Alsce.

"Hercules. The greatest champion in the world. But he's off visiting his father."

The group fought through the next few rounds in victory. Meanwhile, Hades was talking to the man with blonde hair-Cloud.

"They are your next opponents, Okay? Don't mess this up, they need to be taken care of."

"The God of the underworld afraid of a bunch of kids? Look, my contract says-"

"I know! I wrote the thing! It says you're only supposed to kill Hercules during this tournament. But get rid of the kids, and you'll get to him then. Okay?"

Cloud walked off.

Hades ran a hand through his hair.

"Geez. Stiffer than the stiffs back home. Still, suckers like him are hard to come by..."

"He realise soon." intervened a voice. Caitlee stood idly next to Hades.

"Shut up. You don't know anything about this, you're just a kid."

Caitlee shrugged, then disappeared back into the darkness, her voice calling:

"Don't say I didn't warn you."