

Chaos Hearts

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Worlds are in danger from a new threat. But Sora is busy with the old threat of Xehanort! It's up to a new Keyblade master, setting forth from the fanfic world of Sonic GeneX, to help protect these worlds from the forces of darkness...and chaos!

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1 - Beyond the Door

Chaos Hearts

Chapter 1 - Beyond the Door

World - GeneX Prime

Note: Sonic the Hedgehog and related characters are (c) SEGA and Sonic Team. You knew that, right?

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A dream. Endless falling. Some sort of stained glass structure below. "Don't be afraid!" a voice says. Lucky the cat is terrified. He braces for impact. "HEY! Wake up!!" "MEEE-yow!!" Lucky jumped as Zeke the dragon stood over his bed, looking frustrated with him. "You've been dozing since the war with Eggman ended." he said in his raspy voice. Lucky sat up. "Well, gee, I'm a cat. Isn't napping what cats do?" he said sleepily. Zeke pointed defiantly at him. "I hereby challenge you to a duel! You don't get to keep being useless, kid! If Eggman or GUN comes bangin' at our door, you'd best be ready to fight!" he warned. Lucky laid back down. "Maybe later... I'm drowsy right now..." he sighed. Zeke crossed his arms and rolled his eyes. "Did you have time to be drowsy when Robians were banging down our doors!? Get up!" he snapped. "You'll take care of it. You love that fighting and stuff." Lucky murmured. Zeke yanked his tail and started to drag him. "Yow!! Oww!! Lemme go!! Alright, I'm coming!!" Lucky yelped, jumping out of bed while holding his poor hurt tail. "C'mon. I'll try not to burn you to cinders." Zeke grunted. "You're enjoying this. Admit it!" Lucky whined. "Yes I am. I spent that stint in the Hopebringer Center 'cuz of you and Tails, remember?" he growled. "That was more Zipp's fault, wasn't it?" Lucky wondered. Zeke smacked him in the back of the head. "They only stepped in because you were fool enough to be in my way! I was after the bounty on Sonic, and Tails woulda led me to it... Not that it matters, I heard it was bogus anyway..." Zeke groaned. Lucky rubbed his head. "I think I'd rather Tails was training me..." he muttered.

Outside, somewhere above the Mystic Ruins, a small, blocky-looking ship shakily flew across the sky. "Mayday, mayday! We're goin' down! Ughhh!! Heeelp!!!" a voice cried from within the cockpit. The ship was smoking. It swerved, heading for the jungle, and then it dropped, crashing amidst the trees and startling the main resident of the area; Big the cat. "...What's that thing? A ship? ...Think there are people hurt inside, Froggy?" Big mumbled, cautiously approaching. Inside the ship, a tiny creature with wings and a big pom-pom over its head was stumbling about, holding its nose. "Some air bags... Looks like I'll have to make some repairs, kupo." the creature groaned, glancing over at a person wearing a black coat and hood. He glanced at the small creature. "You do that, Winston. I'll take a look around this world we've landed in." he stated. Winston looked up at him. "You sure that's wise? That coat isn't exactly inconspicuous. What about the world order?" he questioned. "If it's the wrong kind of world, this face might be more troublesome." he said, taking off his hood to reveal the face of Miles "Tails" Prower. "Don't you think?" he asked. Winston shrugged. "Dunno, kupo. Just be careful. My world's riding on your success, too." he said. Tails walked out of the ship before putting his hood on, which gave Big cause for

confusion. "...Tails? ...Why's he wearin' a disguise? Well...at least he seems to be okay..." he murmured, figuring he'd probably best leave the situation alone.

Lucky was busy dodging Zeke's flame breath in the room used as Shadow Arcangel's entry hall when it was buried in the earth. "You said you wouldn't use fire!!" he cried. During this, Whisk the Divine was walking in. She glanced at them. "Need help, Lucky?" she called. "This is a training exercise!" Zeke insisted. Bucky the rat and Vortex the chameleon were quick to meet Whisk. "I-it'sss great to ssssee you! I feared you lossst during the war..." Vortex stammered awkwardly. Bucky nodded. "Are you alright, Whisk? Can you remember anything?" he asked. Whisk nodded. "Yes... I do remember. I'm here for a place to stay... During the war... I was taken in by these...other divines. They went by Zodiac names, and they wanted to train me to join their ranks; become their 'Virgo.' They figured since I was a divine, their type of power would come easy to me..." she stated. Bucky nodded. "It didn't, because I made you..." he realized. Whisk nodded back. "But they helped me a lot. Their magic fixed my memory... or at least, I don't forget anymore. They also taught me wand magic!" she said, taking a Chaos-Stone Wand from her pocket. It was like Gemini's, but with a yellow gem on the tip. "But since I couldn't learn magic without the wand, they cast me out..." she sighed. Vortex pat her shoulder. "We're happy to have you back, Whisssk..." he smiled. "This is temporary, Vortex. I haven't forgotten why I left!" she said, swatting his hand away. "Blasst..." Vortex sighed. "Do you remember whippin' Zeke's butt!? Care to help me?" Lucky shouted, yelping as his tail was singed by fire. "Umm... I don't remember that, really. But maybe I could tag in to train you instead?" she asked. "Don't go easy on the wimp!" Zeke grunted. "No, please go easy on the wimp!" Lucky chuckled awkwardly.

Bucky had left while they were talking. He was actually in the middle of something when Whisk had arrived. By now he'd combed every inch of Shadow Arcangel, and knew it pretty well. However, something had appeared in the containment cell that everyone would know full well wasn't there before. Bucky walked past the remnants of the makeshift war room that was still left in there and crept into the cell, finding a door placed at the back of the cell, with a large keyhole in the center of it. This door wasn't there before, and more curious, Bucky knew there was no sign of this door on the other side of the containment cell wall. What was the door's purpose? Was it a sort of interdimensional gateway? Such a thing seemed preposterous a few years ago, but the rat had seen much ever since he created his experiments. "No doorknob... No key... Where did you come from, and why are you here?" he whispered, grasping at the edge of the door. He had to see if there was anything beyond it. Something compelled him to find out. Pulling the door open, he immediately felt a sense of dread, like it was a mistake. It seemed to become darker around him. Out of the shadows, small faces with yellow lights for eyes emerged! "Well, that triggered something..." he grunted, spinning around and zapping the creatures with his lightning! "...I have a bad feeling about this..." he murmured.

Zavok had had enough of his self-appointed understudy, Zim the Zeti. The little blue nuisance had gotten it in his head that he could actually join the Deadly Six somehow. It was laughable, as far as Zavok was concerned, but the humor had passed. He lifted Zim up and glared at him. "Hehe, hey boss!" Zim grinned. "While you've followed us, we've been bested time and again. We've been enslaved by Eggman twice. These things didn't happen before you came along." he growled. "Kinda makes you glad I'm here helpin', huh?" Zim chuckled. Zavok wound him up like a ball and threw him into the distance. "Get out of my sight, and don't come back!!" he shouted. Zim tumbled a distance away, finding himself just outside the Mystic Ruins jungle. Dizzily picking himself up, he spotted a cloaked figure sneaking out

of the woods, a familiar pair of tails trailing under his coat. "Hm? ...Two tailed mutt... Where do I know a two-tailed... Oh!" Zim gasped, "Master Zavok must've tossed me here as part of a secret mission! The hood, the tails, the mystery... I'm to follow him and find out what he's up to! For the glory of the Zeti!" he shouted before noticing that the hooded fox was getting away from him. "Egad! He's on to me! I must follow in stealth and secret!" he whispered, scampering after the fox while darting from bush to bush, trying to stay out of sight. Tails scratched his head and kept moving. He was sure a little critter like Zim couldn't make too much trouble...

In the meantime, the strange shadow creatures had spread through Shadow Arcangel, forcing those aboard to fight back against them. Vortex teamed up with Zipp the hornet, and were soon making their way to the control room, blasting any shadows in their path with Chaos-based attacks and guns, respectively. "Where'd these critters come from? Are they some new breed of Lost One??" Zipp shouted. "Who caresss, they're not taking thiss ssship!" Vortex hissed. Whisk was back with Lucky and Zeke. Their training session would have to wait, as she turned her new wand on the shadows. "Leave us alone, creatures! Fire!!" she cried, casting a bolt of flame to eliminate a shadow. Zeke watched the twitching masses of darkness curiously. "What's that little guy? You wanna be my minion?" the dragon mumbled. "Hey, Zeke! Help, before they eat me! They look like they wanna eat me!!" Lucky stammered, looking around for anything he could fight back with. Zeke sighed and took to the air, dropping flames on the nearby shadows. However, they slipped into the ground itself and hurried towards Lucky! He stumbled backwards, but crawled back a bit. "Wh-what do these things want??" he yelped. "Maybe a hug?" Zeke chortled, "Well, nice knowin' ya, Luckless!" the dragon snickered while Whisk was too distracted to notice his plight.

Tails had boarded Shadow Arc during the ruckus. "I'm detecting darkness here... Heartless??" he gasped, stepping into the room with Whisk, Zeke and Lucky. His gaze fixed on Lucky, who was nearly surrounded. "I... I'd better help!" he gasped, running after the Heartless. However, as Lucky raised his hands to protect himself, there was a flash of light, and a large key-shaped weapon appeared in his hand! "H-huh?? What's this??" he stammered. The light seemed to startle the Heartless for a moment, and Lucky could swear he heard voices repeating "Keyblade... Keyblade..." However, he didn't seem to understand what to do with a Keyblade, and the Heartless started coming for him again. So, Tails jumped between them, holding a small metal handle that, with a click of a switch, extended pieces of a shield from each side, emitting a bit of energy to power it up. "Stay back, cat! I got this!" Tails said, tossing the shield like a frisbee, which cut down the Heartless before arcing back to be caught by him! As Zeke watched in surprise, Zim stepped next to him. "Well, that's a cool gizmo." the Zeti remarked. "Yeah, I didn't know Tails had a thing like that... Hey, where'd you come from??" Zeke stammered. "Uh oh! Gotta regain my cover!" Zim gasped, dashing into the ship's corridors. "Get back here, runt!" Zeke shouted. Tails pulled the hood over his face and headed for the same corridor. "Come with me, kid! Bring that key! We'll need it!" he said. Lucky nodded. "Uhhh, sure, Tails!" he stammered, following him. Whisk turned to see everyone leaving. "Huh? Hey! Come back!" she cried, teleporting over to them and joining in the rush.

They arrived at the containment room, where Bucky was struggling to pull the door closed again between stopping to zap Heartless. "I don't have to be a genius to realize we don't want those things getting in this door!" he said. Tails had a sort of smart-watch on his wrist, which he examined now. "According to my readings, the Heartless haven't touched the heart of your world yet. Cat! You have to seal the door with that Keyblade!" he said. Lucky looked at Tails funny. "I'm Lucky... You know me,

Tails..." he murmured, holding up the Keyblade. "There's no time to explain, but I don't know you. I'm not the Tails you know." the fox stated. Whisk scratched her head. "Are you the Tails I know?" she questioned. Lucky gasped as the Keyblade tugged him towards the door. The tip of the Keyblade glowed, and emitted a beam that struck the door, causing it to shut suddenly as the large keyhole on it sparkled and disappeared! "Gah! ...What in...? Lucky, I'd like to examine that key..." Bucky stammered. "Can I borrow it?" Zeke asked as he and Zim arrived, "I bet it could open as good as it could close, hehe..." the dragon snickered. "No way, it poofed into MY hand!" Lucky stammered, "I'm not gonna let you rob a bank with it!" Tails sighed. "That wouldn't work anyway. Only you can use it." he stated. With the door sealed, the Heartless had apparently fled. Everything seemed okay now. Until the door burst back open!

Bucky was quick to grab the edge of the containment cell as the door started to suck everyone into it like a vacuum! Lucky was the first to lose his footing. "Meee-yooooow!! Now the DOOR wants to eat meeee!!" he wailed. "Hang on, Lucky!!" Whisk cried, flying in after him only to have Tails smack into her head as he was drawn in, too! Knocked out, Whisk couldn't teleport away! Zim dove into the door after them. "You won't get away from me, foxy! I'll find out your secrets for Zavok!!" he proclaimed. Zeke was desperately trying to fly away, but he heard a voice call to him. "Meet me on the other side... Power and fortune awaits you..." Hearing this, Zeke calmly ceased resisting and let the door pull him in. "Bye bye, Bucky! See ya!" he chuckled before the door shut on his nose! "Ow!!" he could be heard groaning. The door then vanished as Bucky watched in astonishment. "M-my experiments..." he babbled. Winston came scampering into the room the next moment, pursued by Vortex and Zipp. "Hold still ya little stuffed animal!" Zipp warned. "I'm a Moogles, kupo!" Winston protested, "Oh, dear! Where's Tails?" he gasped. Bucky glanced back. "Sucked into a door... Who are you?" he questioned. "Where'ssss Whissk?? I thought I heard her voice on the way here..." Vortex murmured. Winston cleared his throat. "Don't worry... Your companions are okay, as is mine. But I'd best get back to my ship, or they'll be stranded..." he babbled. "Stranded WHERE?" Bucky asked, "What exactly was that door?" Winston looked up at the intense eyes of the rat and shivered. "W-well, that's a long story. But once it was sealed, I surmise it became a portal of sorts..." he muttered. "I'll ask again...to WHERE??" Bucky grunted.

Lucky and Whisk awakened in a strange place. Certainly different from anywhere they'd been. They were in a quaint little town, which seemed maybe a tad old-fashioned at face value. A bell could be heard ringing in the distance. "Well, guys... Welcome to Traverse Town." they heard Tails say. Sitting up, they found him standing near a crooked looking street light. "Traverse Town? What happened to the Mystic Ruins...?" Lucky murmured. "And who hit my head?" Whisk sighed, rubbing it. Tails looked a bit bashful about that. He wasn't wearing a cloak anymore, and it was a bit more clear that he wasn't exactly their Tails. A belt held his shield handle, his shoes and gloves were a tad more colorful, and there was that smart watch on his wrist. "Yeah... That door pulled us into another world. I hope my ride can find us. And I'm sorry you got dragged into this..." he muttered. "Dragged into what exactly?" Whisk asked. "ANOTHER WORLD?!" Lucky yelled. Tails nodded. "There's lots of other worlds. I'm from a different world from yours...and I've been searching the worlds for our Sonic. He's...missing." he explained, looking a bit sad. Lucky and Whisk glanced at each other, and then at Tails. "Well, since we're here, guess we'll help find him for you!" Lucky offered. "Aw, gee...thanks guys." Tails smiled. "No problemo... Except if we're stranded here." Whisk chuckled. Tails offered his hand out. "So, I'm Tails..." he said. "I know...and I'm Lucky!" Lucky added, putting his hand on top. "And I'm Whisk!" Whisk added, putting her hand on top of Lucky's. "Guess we're a team now! ...Anybody hungry?" Whisk chuckled.

Zeke and Zim landed together in a nearby district. Zim was peering through the door at them. "A conspiracy!" he declared. "Aw, shut up! Now, where was that guy? ...I hope I didn't imagine that voice..." Zeke groaned. "Oh, you didn't..." Zim and Zeke both turned and gulped to see a large man in full medieval armor, with a flowing cape trailing behind him. He was an imposing figure. "My name... is Garland. I require some...minions... to help command my forces across various worlds." he stated, raising his hand to summon dozens of soldier Heartless behind him. "You will gain command over dark power beyond your wildest dreams... So, what do you say?" he offered. Zim stepped over beside Zeke, both of them smirking. It appeared a second team had been created at Traverse Town as well...

To be continued...

2 - Keyblade Training

Chaos Hearts

Chapter 2 - Keyblade Training

World - Traverse Town; Neverland

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"Trust in me, just in me...

Shut your eyes, and trust in me." - The Jungle Book

Thinking of you, wherever you are...

Last time, while Lucky the Cat was undergoing training in case Dr. Eggman puts the world in jeopardy again, Whisk the divine arrived home to Shadow Arcangel, where she explained what had happened to her the past several months. She'd been taken in by the Zodiac Council, who intended to train her as their new Virgo. They gave up on her, though, when it was found she could only use wand magic. Meanwhile, a ship crash-landed in the Mystic Ruins, carrying a Moogle named Winston and an alternate version of Tails. As this alternate Tails roamed around, Zim the Zeti spotted him and decided to tail him, thinking Zavok would want intel on what Sonic's sidekick was up to.

During all this, Bucky found a strange door in the containment cell of Shadow Arcangel. Opening it, he somehow caused a swarm of Shadows to invade the ship! While Lucky and Whisk were trying to fend them off, a Keyblade appeared in Lucky's hands, just in time for Tails to arrive on the scene. Using the Keyblade, Lucky sealed his world's keyhole, but then the door pulled in Lucky, Whisk, Tails, Zeke and Zim, dropping them in Traverse Town! While Lucky, Whisk and Tails get their bearings, Zeke and Zim encounter a man named Garland...

Now, let us journey to a new world...

Lucky, Whisk and Tails looked around the First District of Traverse Town for a bit, and soon came across a pair of humans. Lucky recognized one of them as Gator, the goofy guy in the alligator costume that occasionally butted in on people's adventures back in his own world. With him was a young man with messy dark blue hair, brown eyes and a tan coat with black pants and a light green cape. "What are...you doing here?" Lucky asked Gator curiously. "Did you get sucked into a weird door, too?" Whisk asked. Gator tilted his head. "Uhh... Not in the last eight minutes..." he babbled. The other man cleared his throat. "Don't mind him. My name is Travis. I was sent here by Master Yen Sid to meet you. He was responsible for your arrival here. He apologizes that he couldn't draw you all the way to him, but the distance to your world was far." he stated. Tails scratched his head. "Yen Sid... Why do I know that name?" he murmured. Travis pointed to Lucky. "It should hold meaning for him, as he has been chosen by a Keyblade. You see, Master Yen Sid was also a Keyblade master long ago, and now he acts as a bit of a mentor for new Keyblade masters." he stated. Lucky materialized his Keyblade and looked at it.

"This thing...chose me?" he murmured. Travis nodded. "Lucky... There's a war coming. A Keyblade war..." he stated. Lucky jumped. "Seriously!?! But I just finished fighting in a war back home!" he whined. Gator shared his sentiment. "Me too... Except that's not really my home, and YOU locked me in a bunker!" he said, pointing at Tails. "What? No I didn't!" the fox babbled. "Different Tails, I think." Whisk stated. Travis loudly cleared his throat to regain their attention. "No one expects you to fight the Keyblade war. You're too new to the Keyblade, and there's no time to give you a Mark of Mastery exam." he stated. "A what?" Lucky murmured. "Never mind. Despite that...the other Keyblade wielders are going to be busy. Thus, cat... You may be the only one who can defend countless worlds from darkness as it attempts to take advantage of the diversion of the Keyblade war. We need your help." he said gravely. Lucky stared at his Keyblade in disbelief. What was he getting himself into now?

"I knew you would be here...for I have come back from the future, and seen events unfold." Garland said to Zeke the dragon and Zim the zeti. Zeke groaned. "Ugh, time travel? I've been through that. Can I go home?" he grumbled. Garland stabbed his sword into the ground hard, his eyes glaring from under his helmet. "I took great pains to be here, and see that you begin on your destined path ahead of schedule. For my plans to succeed, I need you both to embrace the darkness, and find me in the present day..." he said insistently. Zim looked up at him with a smirk. "Embrace the darkness? I think I've done that!" he sniggered. Zeke scoffed. "Destined path? What's this rubbish?" he grumbled. Garland's body was starting to fade before their eyes. "I cannot linger in this time much longer. You may not believe me now, but I promise you that your destiny is set. Before I leave you... I grant you power...to summon the heartless." he said, extending his hand and covering Zeke and Zim in a dark energy. As the pair of them gasped and basked in the darkness, Garland's eyes were beaming. "One last thing... Our enemies are here... The feline with the key and his friends. I suggest you try to deal with them..." he said before fading away. Zim jumped and waved as Garland vanished. "Hey, thanks, knight dude! Zim feels mightier already!" he cackled. Zeke stared at him. "You're not gonna refer to yourself in the third person the whole way, are you? Ehh... Well, let's see about these heartless that guy mentioned..." he smirked.

Lucky pushed open the gate leading out of the first district and into an area outside of town. "I don't want to fight a war, or whatever it is you're actually asking of me. C'mon, Tails, I'll still help you find your world's Sonic. He'd probably love to take this Keyblade off my hands and do all the fighting for me!" he stated, glancing back at the group. "You can't simply give the Keyblade away. It chose you, and you alone. It's going to stay with you no matter what." Travis told him. Tails sighed. "Lucky... If we go looking for Sonic, we may get caught up in more heartless trouble anyway. It's best if you're prepared to use that key. Our lives may depend on it." he said seriously. Lucky turned around, letting the gate close behind him. "What...are the heartless going to chase us?" he asked. Travis shrugged. "They seek the heart of Keyblade wielders above all others. They are the only ones that can destroy heartless, truly... Others who destroy heartless simply cause the hearts within to respawn as heartless elsewhere." he said. "So...it was useless for me to destroy some with my magic back home?" Whisk sighed. "Not really... they tend to respawn in another location entirely. It at least gets them off your back." Travis stated, "When you destroy a heartless with a Keyblade, though, the heart inside is freed." Lucky still seemed overwhelmed with all of this. "Quit being mopey! We're gonna train you, kid!" Gator said with a goofy grin. "What do you know about Keyblades, Gator?" Lucky asked. Gator held out his hand, and a green Keyblade appeared in his grip! "I had some training from an old guy... Merlin! He had to use some weird time trick to get my training done this millennium, though..." he stated. Travis chuckled softly. "I'll try to help as well. Why don't we get started straight away?" he asked. Tails nodded. "We might as well... We

can't go anywhere until my friend finds us and brings his ship here..." he said. "Friend? Ship? ...I thought we were traveling through warp doors." Lucky babbled. "Focus, kitty! Get out that key and let's practice the basics!" Gator ordered.

Zeke and Zim were now in the second district, across from the fountain that once concealed the world's keyhole. They had been experimenting with summoning heartless now that Garland had given them the ability to do so, but hadn't called forth much beyond some shadows and soldiers. "These little guys aren't that impressive." Zim murmured. "One might say that about you..." Zeke scoffed, "But, yeah, we need more darkness... Maybe we can call something with more oomph!" he smirked. In the meantime, Lucky was practicing his Keyblade swings, while Tails held up a beeping device, a look of alarm on his face. "What's that? Are you late for an important date?" Whisk asked. Tails shook his head. "This is a darkometer. I can detect the presence of the heartless with it... and it's going crazy! There's heartless here in Traverse Town!" he stammered. Travis glanced in his direction. "Where? This could be a chance for some practical training!" he said. "Ulp... Do I have to?" Lucky gulped. The group were led by Lucky into second district, where they found Zeke and Zim surrounded by shadows, soldiers and tornado steps! "Oh no! They were pulled into the door with us, and now they're in trouble!" Whisk cried. Zeke glanced in their direction and flew up above the action. "Oh... The cat with the key is here to mess up my new friends, huh? We'll see who gets messed up, luckless! Get 'em, heartless!" he ordered. "...Hey, half of these heartless are MINE!" Zim protested. Travis produced a spear while Gator clutched his Keyblade. "They're bad guys! Don't worry, kitty cats! I'll tackle 'em!" Gator cried, running in to attack the heartless with Travis behind him. "Was Zeke always able to call the heartless?" Lucky wondered. Whisk pulled out her wand. "Who cares! We should try convincing him it's a bad idea! Fire!!" she shouted, flinging a fireball from her wand to destroy a soldier as it came at them! "...I hope it doesn't pop back up nearby..." she babbled. "Travis said it doesn't work like that! Don't worry, just fight!" Tails said, getting his shield ready.

Zeke growled as his heartless minions were getting destroyed. "You punk! You think you're so big now that you got that key? Well... How's THIS for big!!" he snarled, a dark aura surrounding him before suddenly, a heartless comprised of several parts crashed down from the sky! Its hands, feet and head separated from its body and approached each member of the group separately. It was a guard armor! Travis struck the body with his spear. "Lucky! Gator! Deal with his limbs!" he shouted. Gator blocked with his Keyblade as the heartless' feet kicked at him. "Stupid shoes! I'll give you the boot!" he shouted. Lucky ran in terror as the hands formed a crazy propeller to try and attack him. "Meee-yow!! This is too much, too soon! L-little help, guys!?" he shouted. Tails was busy with the remaining smaller heartless, while Whisk was trying to zap the guard armor's head as it stalked around her. "You creep! What are you staring at!?" she growled. Those hands were closing in on Lucky, looking ready to grab him, so he had no choice. He slashed his Keyblade at them, and they vanished with ease. "Huh...? Hmm... That was easy!" he babbled. Gator was just finishing up with the feet at that moment, too. "Don't get too excited, the hands are the weakest part!" he stated. Lucky frowned, but then joined Gator and Travis in taking on the body as the head joined it, and it started firing large bolts of energy at them! Meanwhile overhead, the Gummi Ship was arriving, piloted by Winston the Moogle. He could see the battle below through his window. "Well, I'm not landing there... Dear me, that's a big heartless..." he babbled. Tails noticed the ship overhead, too. "Great, our ride's here. Let's wrap this up, then. Whisk! Do you know Stop magic?" he asked, glancing at Zeke and Zim. "Hey, what are they up to?" Zim murmured. "Stop!!" Whisk cried, freezing the dragon and Zeti in place! Meanwhile, Lucky and Gator slashed at the guard armor together, causing it to collapse and release its captive heart. "Well done!" Travis sighed, "We'll make a master of you yet... Or at least a hero." he said.

Zeke and Zim were soon tied up aboard Winston's ship, the Galestrom. Travis scratched his head awkwardly. "You sure you wouldn't rather I take them? I'm going to see Master Yen Sid to update him on your progress. He'll know what to do with those two." he said. "No prison can hold ZIM!!" the Zeti howled. Lucky shrugged. "They belong in my world. I should take them home next time I'm there." he said. "Whenever that'll be..." Whisk sighed. Tails nodded. "Apparently we're quite far from your home now. We might as well look for Sonic on the way." he stated. Winston stood at the entrance to his ship. "It's going to be awfully crowded in here if you're all coming. I wonder if this town still has a gummi business so I can expand the ship a bit..." he murmured. "It'll be fine, Winston. Besides, we need Lucky. His key will come in handy." Tails stated. Travis nodded and started to leave, but Gator stuck around. "You kids still need more training! I can't send you out like you are now!" he babbled. Travis glanced back at Gator to see where he was going with this. "No offense, but I think I can practice random swinging all on my own." Lucky said. Gator didn't seem like a really good teacher in all seriousness. "Now, now! It'll be fun! I'll train you like a proper pirate! And I know just the world to do it!" he grinned. Whisk looked intrigued. "You'll take us to another world? Sounds interesting...maybe we should give it a shot!" she said to Lucky. Travis nodded. "Alright, I know where HE wants to go. I'll pick him up with my ship after I've been to see Yen Sid so...do me a favor and leave him there." he said, heading off. "Wait! Where are we going?? You can't just hijack my ship!" Winston babbled as Gator stormed into his ship anyway. "I'm captain now! Hey, you don't have a warp gummi? Well, I was gonna eat mine, but I guess you can have it..." Gator babbled. Tails, Whisk and Lucky squeezed onto the ship, too, Lucky looking somewhat bewildered by everything that was happening. "Don't lose your head, kid... Because then the heartless get your heart!" Zeke grinned. Lucky inched away from him in his seat. "Don't make us regret not sending you to get punished by a wizard." he muttered, "Hey, what's a warp gummi, anyway?" he asked...

The warp gummi sped them to their destination, those unprepared for the speed of the trip letting out screams as they were thrown from their seats! The ship arrived at a beautiful collection of islands surrounded by clear waters. "Neverland ahoy! Drop anchor, poof-head!" Gator said to Winston. "...Anchor?" Winston mumbled. Lucky groaned as he struggled to get out from under Tails and Whisk, who'd fallen on him. "Why doesn't this thing have seat belts?" he groaned, "And, uh... if we can go that fast, what's to stop us from taking Zeke straight home?" he asked. Gator shrugged. "Not a thing! But since we're here, we might as well get some training in!" he grinned. As the ship landed, Tails turned to Winston. "Guard the prisoners, I guess..." he said. Winston had an awkward look. "Seriously? You need to start paying me munny, kupo..." he muttered.

Gator led the group to a grand looking pirate ship. He was quick to bring them aboard, where they found the captain looking rather indignant to find intruders aboard his vessel. "James Hook, old pal! Are you taking good care of my ship??" Gator giggled, shaking the red coated pirate's hook hand. Lucky stared at him awkwardly. Captain hook had both a comical and imposing image all at once, with frilly, fancy clothes, a pointy mustache, and a hook hand along with a sword at his hip. The captain looked pretty miffed at Gator, too. "YOUR ship?! How dare you! Smee!! Help me with these-" Before he could finish speaking, Gator continued. "I've brought these kids here, they're wet behind the ears but I figured some good 'ol pirate training would get them in fighting shape!" he stated, elbowing the captain much to his annoyance. The paunchy Mr. Smee rushed out. He was an even more comical-looking fellow with his striped shirt and bulbous nose. "Capp'n? Should I get the boys an' have this riff-raff walk the plank?" he asked. Hook rubbed his head under his hat with his good hand. "Hold, Smee... Fighting shape, you say?" he asked, the wheels in his head turning. Lucky turned to Whisk. "Does he look like a guy who'd

be a good trainer to you?" he asked. Whisk shrugged. "Better than Gator, maybe." she reasoned. Hook got a wide grin as an idea formed. "Right, mates! What say we go ashore and you show me what you can do? Maybe by joining forces we can take care of a little problem I've been having for quite some time..." he said, glancing at Smee with a knowing wink, "Some extra help could be the end of that blasted Peter Pan!" he whispered to his first mate, who nodded in agreement.

However, once they went ashore, it quickly became apparent that Captain Hook wasn't too interested in having anything to do with Lucky and company's training. He instead put that task to Mr. Smee, while he went off to "secure the perimeter," which could be code for any number of other pirate shenanigans. Smee set up some dummy targets for Lucky to train against, all oddly dolled up in green outfits with feathered caps. "Let's practice some swashbuckling basics. Your friends can borrow some of our swords, too. Let's start off with some simple thrusts! Aim for the heart and...begin!" Smee instructed. Tails held a pirate sword awkwardly. "I don't wanna be a pirate..." he muttered. "What kinda attitude is that!? Go on, matey, get stabby!" Gator said, pushing him forward. Lucky bashed the target clumsily with his Keyblade. "No, no, no! That's not right! Like this!" Smee shouted, comically flailing his arms without a sword to properly show anything. During all of this, a red-headed boy was looking down on the action, held up only by happy thoughts. He wore green clothes very similar to the targets Lucky was badly attacking. "Hmm... 'Ol Hook's found some new stooges. Not doing so well against fake Peter Pan, so I guess it'd be a yawn for me to go against them in person!" he muttered. A small fairy girl in a green dress flew up to Peter, glowing with the light of pixie dust. Her speech sounded like a light ringing, but Peter could understand her. "What's that, Tinker Bell? Prisoners? Tied up...? Hmm... Sounds like more of Hook's kinda trouble. Lead the way!"

The fairy soon led him to the Galestrom, and Peter landed near it with a curious look on his face. "This ship... Isn't it the same kinda ship Sora used? Hm, but not quite the same..." he said, checking inside. Winston was asleep at the controls, so Pan brought a finger to his lips, signalling Tinker Bell to be quiet. He whispered to Zeke and Zim upon finding them. "Are you two alright? Who did this to ya?" he asked. Zim was about to no doubt say something stupid when Zeke nudged him quiet. "Brave boy... We were captured by dark beings, seeking to bring evil to your world! But if you release us, we will help you stop them!" he said. "We will?" Zim babbled. Pan rubbed his chin. "Well, alright. Hook's bad enough without other bad guys. Help me out here, Tink!" So, Pan untied Zeke while Tink worked on Zim. Once freed, Zeke promptly tied up and gagged Winston! "Scout ahead, boy... We'll be along!" he told Pan. He nodded and left with Tinker Bell. "You stink, Zeke. I didn't know you were a HERO!" Zim snapped. Zeke rolled his eyes. "We're not heroes, I said that so he'd untie us! C'mon...it's time for some payback!" he grunted. Zim stared as though this were a revelation. "Ohhh... I have much to learn from you!" he said.

Hook had returned after a while, and was notably frustrated with the lack of progress Lucky's group was showing. "Come on, you bilge rats! Can't you do any better than that!? Why, if Peter Pan were here, he'd..." he babbled. "He'd probably do this!" came a voice before Hook leapt up with a yelp, his bottom poked by a small knife. "Yaaaah!! P-p-pan!! You meddling brat!! Boys, get him!!" the pirate shouted. Smee scrambled to the ship, aiming to rally Hook's actual pirate crew, but until then it was up to Lucky. "Wait a minute... This guy's just a kid." Lucky muttered. Just then, pirate heartless came charging into the area from behind Pan, making Hook jump in fright! "H-heartless, too!? I thought I was rid of those disgusting things!" he shivered, rushing toward his ship as well. Tails and Whisk parried the swords of the pirate heartless with their own training swords. "Yikes!! D-do you think that Pan kid summoned them?" Whisk stammered. Peter Pan ignored the heartless for the moment and flew over towards Lucky. "So...training to take me on, huh?" he asked in a taunting voice. Thinking he was going to attack, Lucky

struck with his Keyblade, only to be blocked by Pan's knife! "Hah! You gotta do better than that!" he smirked. "Call off the heartless!" Lucky shouted, pushing back against the knife and sending Pan tumbling backward! Tinker Bell flew up behind him and gave him a kick in the head. "Ow!! What the...fairy?" he babbled. More pirate heartless started bearing down on them, and Lucky and Pan stared at each other a moment with tense expressions before both turned and slashed their blades at the heartless, destroying a couple! "...You didn't call the heartless! Then who did?" Lucky wondered. "That's what I'd like to know!" shouted Hook, returning from his ship with Smee in tow. It seemed his crew was too afraid of the heartless to come ashore. "I'll deal with ye later, Pan... Expelling those beasts from Neverland takes precedence!" he declared. Pan crossed his arms. "Huh... Never thought I'd agree with you, Hook!" he chuckled. Tails scratched his head. "You don't think Zeke and Zim could've gotten loose?" he asked. Tinker Bell hid behind Peter with a look of sheepishness on her face. "Uhh... Were they tied up in a... funny-looking ship?" Pan asked. Hook scoffed before walking off. "Blast that Pan. I knew he'd be somehow responsible for this!" he grumbled.

Searching along with Peter Pan, Lucky's group eventually tracked Zeke and Zim to a skull shaped islet, where they were calling forth more pirate and air pirate heartless. "Ugh. You got away from the first wave. Well, we'll get you yet!" Zeke grunted. "Yeah, nobody ties us up!" Zim added. Pan crossed his arms as he floated above them. "Hey, boys, whatever happened to helping me stop the 'dark beings?' Looks to me like you're the ones bringing them here!" he noted. Zeke chuckled. "Bit slow, kiddo. Now we'll take you out, too!" he shouted. "Oh, no you won't!" came the voice of Hook, stepping out between Zeke and Pan. He drew his sword. "Peter Pan is MINE!!" he declared. Shrugging, Zeke began to flap his wings to fly off, Zim jumping on his back. "Catch us if you can, kids!" he chuckled, escaping through the eye of the giant skull. Lucky turned to chase them, but found heartless in his path. Tails brought out his shield and Whisk took out her wand. "Enough of this pirate stuff! Let's stop the heartless AND Hook!" the fox said. Hook was already locked in a sword battle with Pan. "Today's the day!! I feel it! Prepare to face revenge for feeding my hand to that crocodile, Peter Pan!!!" he declared. Lucky blocked an air pirate's kick with his Keyblade, and ran over to help Peter Pan with Captain Hook. His rage seemed to be drawing the heartless to their battle specifically, and Pan would need the backup. "No...ganging...up!!" Lucky yelled, swatting the swashbuckling heartless with his key while Pan maneuvered Hook off-balance with his airborne swordplay. "You think you have me cornered! Ha!!" The captain tried to keep Pan's knife blocked with his sword and strike with his hook, but Tinker Bell flew in and knocked off his hat, startling him! "Blighted pixie!! Stay out of this!!!" he growled, scrambling for his hat. Pan took the opportunity to poke his bottom again. "Yoooooww!! You scurvy cheating codfish!!!" he shouted. Lucky's group were taking out the last of the heartless at this point, and as the tide turned against him, Hook's mustache twitched as he swore he heard a ticking. "Tick...tock... Is that...the clock? Aaaaaahhh!! Th-the crocodile!!!" he shouted, leaping into a run for the exit to the cavern, where Gator was walking in. "Hey! I'm no croc!! Geez, what a jerk..." he grumbled, holding up a timer once Hook was gone. "Training time is up, guys! You'd better get a move on!" he said. Lucky panted and nodded. "Well, we've survived some fights with heartless... Maybe we'll be okay." he smiled. Pan lowered near him and patted him on the back. "You all did pretty good! For pirate-trained, that is!" he smirked. Lucky chuckled softly. "I think I'm done with pirates!" he grinned. Gator pouted. "Hmph! I see when I'm not wanted!" he snapped, prompting everyone to chuckle.

Zeke and Zim weren't sure how to leave Neverland. They couldn't fly the Galestrom even if they entertained the notion of stealing it. As they roamed the world, it seemed for a bit that they were stuck. However, they soon found Garland, looking over a breathtaking waterfall. "A place where children don't

grow. Where men don't wither and die. This is a world where time has stopped. In the grand scheme, what use is there for such a world? Where nothing can ever be changed..." Garland mused. Zim bowed before him. "Dark master! We've found you!" he said. Garland turned to them and stared. "...Who are you?" he asked. Zeke pulled Zim to his feet. "We're a couple of guys that can call the heartless, lookin' for a job." he smirked. Garland stood silent for a moment. "Pledge your service to me. There is much to do. Bow down, like your friend... Now!" he ordered, his piercing glare frightening Zeke enough to obey. Garland looked back out at the waterfall. "I require suitable sources of three powers. One of light... one of darkness... and one of chaos." he said, glancing at them. Zim tilted his head. "Uhhh... I think we only got darkness covered." he stated. Garland clasped his hands behind his back. "Not for what I'm planning. If we find suitable examples of each power... I shall use them to create a new power... one that can reshape all worlds to my will... I will call it... Chaos Hearts!"

To be continued...

3 - Power, Wisdom and Courage

Chaos Hearts

Chapter 3 - Power, Wisdom and Courage

World - Hyrule Kingdom

Note: Sonic the Hedgehog and related characters are (c) SEGA and Sonic Team. You knew that, right?

GeneX and related fanchars are (c) 2BIT (TheGreatGator), the author.

Kingdom Hearts is (c) Disney & Square Enix. Related elements belong to their respective companies.

The Legend of Zelda is (c) Nintendo.

"Like the sun, I run, into the heat of day!

Like a knight, I'll fight, until the fight is won!

In a rage, I'll save, each and every, each and every, each and everyone,

'till this war is won!" - Knight of the Wind, Sonic & the Black Knight

Thinking of you, wherever you are...

In Traverse Town, Lucky was informed that Master Yen Sid was the one who secured his transport to this new world. Travis and Gator, on Yen Sid's behalf, arrived to train Lucky to wield his keyblade, so that he can protect the worlds while the other keyblade masters deal with the looming threat of a Keyblade War.

After defeating a newly-darkness empowered Zeke and Zim, Gator brought Lucky's group to Neverland via Winston the Moogle's ship, the Galestrom. Once there, Gator convinced Captian Hook to help train Lucky in combat, but the pirate had his own plans for his trainees. Meanwhile, Peter Pan came across Zeke and Zim tied up and freed them, soon to regret it as they unleashed Heartless upon Neverland. As Lucky teamed with Pan to try and catch Zeke, Hook tried to take the opportunity to take out his nemesis, only to be defeated.

Zeke and Zim encountered Garland, whose future self traveled through time to imbue them with dark power and set them on their path. Finding present-day Garland, Zeke and Zim pledged themselves to his service in exchange for passage off Neverland. Garland needs three sources of power; one of light, one of darkness and one of chaos. Combined, he plans to use them to create a new power; Chaos Hearts!

Now, let us journey to a new world...

Garland sat upon a great throne as Zeke and Zim stood before him. "Seems pretty successful... What's he need us for?" Zim murmured. "Quiet, don't tick him off..." Zeke whispered. Garland glared at them from the darkness under his helmet. "You need to be focused for our task. I will send you to scout out worlds and sow chaos, while I seek openings to take what I need..." he told them, holding out his hand and using darkness to project an image. It appeared to be a trio of golden triangles, forming a yet larger triangle. "There is a great source of light in the world I am sending you to. It might be perfect for my designs... I want you to scout out this world. Seek out this 'Triforce...'" he commanded, raising his other

hand to open a corridor of darkness nearby for the pair of them to travel through. Zim hurried to the dark pathway with enthusiasm. "A new world for Zim of the Zeti to conquer! Gya ha ha ha!" he cackled. Zeke scoffed and headed over to join him. "Try not to get in my way, kid. But hey, without Lucky and his twerps to bother us, this should be cake." he snickered. Garland sneered at them. "Do not lower your guard. Darkness has a way of drawing in light to oppose it..." he warned as Zeke and Zim entered the portal. Garland then stood up, slowly approaching the portal himself. "The Triforce is likely too powerful... But this is a good test mission for those two fools..." he mused.

Lucky's group had landed in a vast and beautiful kingdom. Winston told them the name of the kingdom was Hyrule. The Moogle joined them as they roamed the vast field connecting the different areas of the kingdom, planning to gather supplies for their coming journeys. "The bushes here are often filled with Rupees, which I can exchange for Munny in certain places..." Winston stated. Tails was busy tweaking the device he used to detect the presence of darkness. "Too bad Gator had to leave us. I feel like we could've used more training... Wait, what am I saying?" he mumbled. Gator's training wasn't great. Whisk looked a bit overwhelmed by the vastness of their surroundings. "So...where do we go?" she asked. As if in response, heartless emerged to surround them! "Uhh, we stay here for now!" Lucky gulped. These heartless were like goblins, carrying great clubs and having a thorny heart symbol on their chests. Lucky gripped his keyblade and struck at one of their clubs, grunting as he pushed against it. "Yaaah! They're strong!" he yelped. Winston ducked into a bush to hide. "Have at it, kupo! I'm, uh... right here if you need me!" he stammered. Tails equipped his mechanical shield and blocked a club attack as it came at him. "Wanna try some impressive magic, Whisk??" he asked. Whisk twirled her wand. "Fire!!" she called, burning a nearby goblin and causing it to leap around in a panic as it tried to put the flame out. Lucky jumped away from the club strikes of the other goblin and gritted his teeth. "You gotta teach me magic, Whisk..." he sighed, "Meee-yow!! If I live!!" he gasped as a couple goblins came at him quickly! Before they could pummel him, someone dashed onto the scene, slicing a sword in a wide arc through both goblins! The blade seemed to glow briefly, and the goblins groaned before their darkness dispersed and the hearts they contained flew into the sky. Lucky glanced at the person who saved him; A human boy with blonde hair, wearing green clothes complete with a floppy hat. The hero then turned to the other goblins, a fairy flying ahead of him to suggest his next target. "Over here, Link!" the fairy called. With a crash of his sword, Link felled the beasts one by one, making Lucky's group look like amateurs in the process. "...I feel so inadequate..." Lucky sighed. "Aw, I'm sure you'll catch up." Whisk said, patting his shoulder. Tails picked the cowering Winston up out of the bush before glancing at Link. "Uhh, thanks... But who are you?" he asked. The fairy seemed eager to do all the talking. "My name is Navi, and the boy who rescued you is Link... Wielder of the Master Sword and hero of Hyrule!" she announced.

Link looked a bit bashful at how Navi played him up, but there was no time for that. "Um, so... Are heartless a common thing around here?" Whisk asked. Navi glanced at her. "Hmm, you mean those shadow creatures? No, they appeared quite recently, along with the revival of the King of Evil... Ganondorf." she said ominously. Winston gulped. "And with that, I'll wait at the ship now..." he said, rushing off. "King of Evil does sound pretty bad..." Tails said. Link nodded, and Navi continued. "Ganondorf seeks the ultimate power of the Triforce, a relic that can grant any wish its holder desires. But it was split in three pieces the last time he tried to use it, and Ganondorf only has the Triforce of Power. He needs all three pieces to complete the Triforce and make his evil wish...and to that end, he is hunting Hyrule's princess, Zelda." she explained. Lucky scratched his head. "Yeahhh... Sounds like a long story behind all of this, but the gist of it is that we gotta protect the princess, right? We'll do our best

to help you with that, Link!" he offered. Link looked a bit surprised, and Tails took Lucky aside. "Do we have time for that?" he asked. "Well, this Ganon...dork... is using the heartless, right? Shouldn't we put a stop to that?" Lucky reasoned. Navi seemed to be conferring with Link at the same time, and the verdict was in once Lucky turned back around. "Okay, we'd be glad for your help!" the fairy said, "We were just on our way to Death Mountain. A mysterious ninja named Sheik told us that the key to defeating Ganondorf might be there." she told them. Whisk let out an intrigued whistle. "Mysterious ninjas... This world is exciting!" she said. "Uhh... DEATH Mountain?" Lucky murmured. Link pointed off in the distance. A volcano with a ring of smoke around it could be seen. Tails nudged Lucky. "Still think this is a good idea?" he asked. Lucky watched as Link started in the direction of the volcano, and he steeled his nerves. "If a hero like Link is willing to go there, I should be willing to try too! Let's go!" he said, trying to sound tough as he followed after the hero of Hyrule. Whisk and Tails glanced at each other awkwardly. "Are we biting off more than we can chew?" Whisk asked. "Almost definitely... Hopefully Link can carry us..." Tails said.

The group passed through Kakariko Village on the way, earning stares from some of the villagers as they went. "Are we maybe supposed to be in disguise?" Lucky asked Tails. "Hmm, there is the whole world order thing, but I think we'll be good if we don't stay long." he stated. As they headed for the trail to Death Mountain, Zeke and Zim stood atop a cliff watching them. "Boss was right! Those twerps found us! Ugh!" Zim groaned. Zeke snickered. "Well, we can slow them down pretty easy... RAWR!!" The dragon's roar drew the group's attention and stopped them in their tracks. "Zeke? Oh, just what we need..." Whisk sighed. Goblin heartless appeared beside Zeke and Zim, each of them grabbing bombs that appeared to be growing out of the cliffside like flowers. "Uh oh... Watch out! Bomb flowers!" Navi warned. The group backed up as the bombs were detonated against the cliff, causing a rockslide that blocked their path forward! "Haha! Try to catch us now, losers!" Zeke taunted, flying away with Zim on his back! Lucky laughed. "Ha! We can just have Whisk teleport us across! Right?" he asked with a grin. Whisk's ears drooped. "I, uh... never learned that spell." she sighed. Tails frowned. "Well, now what?" he wondered. Link looked around curiously, and then gasped as he spotted something...or someONE standing atop the rubble! It was a girl in ninja attire, her face covered by bandages. "Hey...that must be Sheik!" Whisk gasped. Sheik was strumming a harp as the group looked at her. "The cruel march of time seems to take more than it gives. Doors close around us, and it becomes hard to uncover new opportunities sometimes..." she said. Link watched her, intently listening. He seemed like he almost knew who was behind those bandages, but couldn't put his finger on it. "The brave and clever do not dwell on these losses, but instead look to what they have." Sheik continued, "Hero... There is a passage to Death Mountain through the aquatic caverns of Zora's Domain. Alter your course and you will still reach your goal." she told them, "May we meet again safely..." With that, Sheik stowed her harp and tossed a deku seed, its blinding light distracting the group for an instant, long enough for her to vanish. "Wow... She is awesome!" Whisk smiled. "I feel MORE inadequate..." Lucky sighed. "Yeah... I don't think you'll ever be that cool." Tails shrugged.

Unfortunately, the heartless were already at Zora's Domain. Goblins and blue rhapsodies were chasing the fishlike Zora people to and fro as they panicked. Amidst the chaos was a dark man with wild red hair and a flowing cape. It was Ganondorf, and he let out a sadistic laugh as he watched the Zoras flee. "Your cowardice is amusing. But enough of that. Who among you desires to live enough to tell me what I wish to know? Where is Zelda!?" he shouted. Garland stood behind him in the shadows, looking unimpressed. "This show of power is pointless. If we try things my way, I can gather the pieces of the Triforce for you by the evening." he said, "...Besides, this show of force isn't working." Indeed, one Zora

among the rest had stood up to fight. Using attacks that were like dancing with the water itself, the Zora princess, Ruto, was pushing back the Goblin heartless to the best of her ability. Ganondorf smirked at this. "This is perfect... Someone important to make an example of." he sneered, glancing at Garland, "Leave me, vermin. There's room for only one King of Evil in this land... And I'm not fool enough to expect Hyrule handed to me on a platter for nothing!" he snarled. At that moment, Lucky and the others dashed into the area. "What the... the water is frozen!" Lucky stammered. "Link!!" Navi gasped, looking across to Ganondorf. "That must be them...whoa! The darkness detector is going haywire from those two!" Tails gulped. "Who's the other guy?" Whisk asked. Garland took the opportunity to duck into a corridor of darkness. "See you later, key bearer..." he whispered. Ruto looked to Link and gasped. "The Master Sword! ...Very well...let's work together!" she said. Ganondorf grunted and pointed straight at them. "My dark legions will devour you, boy! And your friends, as well!" he said with a heinous laugh. The heartless started coming at them, and Lucky gulped. "Well, if we stop him here, maybe we won't need to go to Death Mountain..." he muttered. Ganondorf smirked. "Death Mountain, is it? Could that be where your precious Zelda is?" he grinned. Whisk scowled at Lucky. "Uhh... Ooops..." he chuckled softly. Ganondorf started to walk away at this point, his escape covered by his heartless minions! Link began to strike at them with the Master Sword, but he couldn't destroy them fast enough to catch the evil king! Lucky batted his keyblade at the blue rhapsodies, having an easier time defeating them, and Whisk, Tails and Ruto also pitched in to make quick work of the heartless, but Ganondorf was already gone.

Tails sighed. "Next time, don't mention where we're going to the bad guy..." he told Lucky. The cat really felt down now. "Maybe I shoulda waited on the ship with Winston..." he sighed. "Don't despair." Ruto told them, "I can lead you to a shortcut to the Goron City in the heart of Death Mountain." she stated. Whisk smiled. "Great! Good thing we ran into you!" she said. Ruto gave Link a longing gaze. "It has been a long time... You do remember your vow to marry me, don't you?" she asked, making Link gasp and blush. Lucky had a completely stunned look as well. "Guuuh... He what?" the cat babbled. Navi fluttered about nonchalantly. "That, uh... is between the two of them." she stated. Link rubbed the back of his head awkwardly, and Ruto giggled at him. "I understand. Your destiny lies elsewhere. At least permit me to aid you on your quest... Take this, Link." she said, handing him something. It appeared to be a sort of spring-loaded...grappling hook? Link turned and lifted it over his head like it was an amazing, incredible prize, and Navi boldly proclaimed "You got the hookshot! Using this, you can grab onto faraway objects and pull yourself across chasms!" Lucky, Whisk and Tails glanced at each other like the hero and fairy were a little nuts, but Lucky shrugged. "He's the big hero." he said. Ruto then motioned for them to follow, taking them to the secret path that would lead them to Goron City. They had to swim a bit, which left Lucky and Whisk a bit annoyed. "Nobody told me I'd have to get wet..." Lucky groaned. "My wings are waterlogged..." Whisk sighed. Tails dried off his darkness detector once they were on the other side. "Good thing my gadgets are waterproof... Uh oh, I'm picking up a signal..." he gulped, "It seems like the heartless are already loose in the Goron City!" he warned. Link's eyes narrowed, and he ran off ahead. "Aaaand there he goes... Kid doesn't talk much, does he?" Lucky murmured. "Well, come on! He might need our help!" Whisk said, following after him. "...Your help, maybe..." Lucky sighed.

The Goron chief, Darunia, was busy whirling around a giant hammer to smash the Goblin heartless surrounding him. Sheik had joined the fray as well, using various ninja tricks to keep the heartless at bay. Link arrived to find that they were fighting on a high cliff of the multi-leveled Goron City, but the hero was pretty low. He pulled out the hookshot and fired it to pull himself higher while Lucky and co. arrived. "Hey! How are we supposed to follow!?" Lucky shouted. "...Take the stairs..." Tails sighed. "Sorry, the stairs are occupied!" shouted Zim, as he hopped out with an entourage of soldier heartless joining him!

Zeke dropped down with a pair of wyvern heartless at his side as well. "This city's ours, chumps! Why don't you run along home?" the dragon smirked. Lucky gripped his keyblade angrily. "I'm not going home without taking you with me!" he shouted. Tails charged at Zim with his shield, smacking aside soldiers on his way! Zim pushed back against the shield easily, demonstrating his deceptive strength. "Think I can't take you, pipsqueak?" the zeti smirked. "Thunder!!" Whisk cried, zapping Zim and enabling Tails to knock him over! "Who are you calling pipsqueak?" Tails muttered. Lucky leapt at the wyverns, trying to strike them with his keyblade only for them to rise out of reach and drop back down to kick him! "Ow!! Coward! Get down here and fight fair!" he yelled. Navi flew over to one of the wyverns at that moment. "Hey!" the fairy called to Link, who shot his hookshot to grab and pull the wyvern to him, slicing it apart easily! "...I wanna do iiiit!!" Lucky whined. The battle above seemed to be going well, with Link and Darunia proving to be real powerhouses together. "Ha! I had this covered, but well met, brother!" Darunia grinned, glancing at Link. Suddenly, everyone heard a shriek come from Skeik! "Okay, up those stairs!" Lucky grunted, running right past Zeke. "But, but... I'm the big, bad dragon... Don't ignore me!" Zeke growled. As Lucky arrived overhead, he saw Sheik entrapped in some sort of crystal, Ganondorf stepping behind her. "You thought you could conceal yourself, but I can smell the Triforce of Wisdom on you... Princess!" he said with a sneer. As Sheik struggled, a glowing triangle appeared on her hand, and in a flash, the ninja was replaced with a delicate-looking princess! Link stared in shock, and Navi responded in kind. "Sh-sheik is actually... Princess Zelda!?" she gasped. "...I knew that." Darunia remarked, though turning to see her trapped, his expression turned appropriately worried.

Link charged at Ganondorf. He couldn't let the evil king get away with this! The dark lord smirked and created a barrier of darkness before him. "Even the Master Sword can't contend with the Triforce of Power. Give it up, boy." he taunted. Link struck at the dark barrier, his blade bouncing off it. Frustrated, he struck again, shouting in desperation. His courage unwavering, a glowing triangle mark soon appeared on the back of his hand, too, empowering him to shatter the dark barrier! Ganondorf gasped, but then started to wear a wide grin. "The Triforce of Courage... right under my nose..." he smirked. The dark lord reached toward Link, but then noticed Darunia, Lucky, Whisk and Tails advancing on them. Fighting all of them in this confined space was not the most favorable odds he could gain. Ganondorf rose up into the air, taking Zelda's crystal with him. "Are you listening, boy? You have something I want, so I'll make you an offer. Make haste to my tower within the day. Do this, and you can prolong your precious Zelda's life!" he declared. With a great flash of dark energy, Ganondorf and Zelda were gone, leaving a worried Link behind. "...We need to hurry to Ganondorf's Tower! Quick, Link!" Navi said. Lucky looked around. "Hey, where'd Zeke go?" he asked. Whisk shrugged. "Maybe that Ganon-dude scared him off." she suggested. Darunia saw Link looking for the nearest exit and stepped after him, setting down his massive hammer. "Hold on, brother. You'll never make it in time like that. Zelda led you here for a reason. She'd entrusted me with something that I think will help you out a great deal now." he told him. Link turned to Darunia curiously, and he smirked. "This is the royal family's secret treasure! Guess Zelda thought only the Gorons were tough enough to keep it safe! Now I'm countin' on you to tough it out from here, brother!" he said, handing something to Link. Once again, the hero lifted it high over his head, so Lucky could see what it was. It...appeared to be some sort of fancy flute. Navi looked quite excited. "You've got the Ocarina of Time! Its melodies have special powers! Perhaps these powers will lead us to Ganondorf?" she asked. "...Everyone keeps giving him presents..." Lucky murmured. "Where does he keep all this stuff?" Whisk added.

Darunia got out some bongos in a moment. "Zelda also taught me a melody. It should get you to Ganondorf's Tower in a flash." he said, starting to teach Link the song. During the music lesson, Lucky and his friends got in a huddle. "We shouldn't let him go. He's playing right into Ganon-donk's hands."

Tails stated. Lucky frowned. "But we have to go! He's gonna kill Zelda! ...And without Link, what chance do we have of winning? I'm useless..." he sighed. Whisk patted him on the shoulder. "Cut it out!" she said before socking that same shoulder. "Ow!" Lucky yelped. "You're not useless. You can do things Link can't." she said. Lucky groaned, rubbing his shoulder. "Like get beat up by a girl?" he frowned. Tails sighed. "She's right, Lucky. Have more confidence. We need you, buddy." he said. Finally, Navi flew amidst the trio. "Are you coming? We're ready to go!" she said. Lucky nodded. "...We don't have to sing backup for you, do we?" he asked. Link shook his head and brought the Ocarina to his lips as the others came over. As he played a haunting melody, the group was whisked away by a magical light, carried off to Ganon's Tower, which they soon saw was a tall and foreboding tower on a dark and ominous mountain. They could faintly hear organ music within. "Not too late to turn back..." Tails murmured. Link clutched the Master Sword and approached the massive doors. Lucky raised his hand with a question. "Hey, we magicked ourselves here, how did Ganon-doofus get here so fast?" he asked. "...Uh...magic..." Whisk murmured with a dumbfounded expression. With that "plot hole" sorted, the group opened the doors and crept into Ganon's Tower...

The tower was occupied by Ganondorf's own forces rather than the heartless. Skeletal Stalfos warriors were the primary threat as Link led the others through the tower. Lucky set his focus on downing the easier enemies, the Keese bats that would fly down to get in their way. "Don't just settle, Lucky. You won't improve if you don't take risks." Tails told him. As Link found his path barred by a trio of Stalfos, Lucky considered those words. "Alright, I guess I should try..." he said. However, before they could do anything, a group of Goblin heartless leapt on the Stalfos from behind and began to beat them into a pile of broken bones! "Huh...??" Whisk murmured, turning to find Zeke and Zim walking into the room. "No need to thank us, kids. Run along ahead..." Zeke grinned. Link gave them a confused look, but then turned to continue his trek up the tower. "Wait!" Lucky stammered, "...Why are you helping us, Zeke?" he asked. Zim took issue with that. "We're not helping YOU, you pitiful feline, we are working on a glorious scheme--" Before he could say more, Zeke picked him up and covered his mouth. "He's just hyper, ignore him. I've had a change of heart, buddy... Don't you believe me?" he smirked. Tails stared at him, eyes narrowing. "You guys must be after the Triforce for yourselves for some reason... So you want to make sure all three pieces come together. You're hoping if we beat Ganondorf, you can take the complete Triforce from us!" he reasoned out. Zeke dropped Zim and growled. "Why does every version of you gotta be so smart? Alright, let's smash 'em!" he growled. Whisk turned to Lucky. "...Go catch up to Link! We can handle these two clowns!" she told him. "You sure?" Lucky asked, a bit concerned. Whisk nodded. "Trust me, like I'm trusting you... Also, look out!" she yelped, teleporting aside as a Goblin came at them, whirling its club! Lucky jumped out of the way with a "Meee-yow" and started towards the stairs Link had gone up. Zeke cackled as he fled. "That's it, pipsqueak, run away! That's all you'll ever be good for!" he taunted. Whisk called back to him as he hesitated. "Go, Lucky! Don't listen to Zeke! You can help more at Link's side! Believe in yourself!" she told him. Lucky took a breath and nodded, going after the hero. He wasn't sure how he'd help against the King of Evil, but he knew he had to try.

Ganondorf was the one playing the organ when they arrived at the top of the tower. Zelda was trapped in the crystal near him. Lucky caught up to Link as he approached the Evil King slowly. "All right, you! You're gonna let the princess go!" Lucky shouted, clutching his keyblade. Ganondorf let out a chuckle, slowly getting up from his seat. "I have a counter-offer, kid... The hero will throw down the Master Sword right now, or he will watch me pry the Triforce of Wisdom from Zelda by snuffing out her life! Then, I will do the same to you... So think of your future. Give up the Triforce willingly and live, or put up a fight, and I promise you Zelda will die before you reach me!" he sneered. As Lucky listened to Ganondorf's threats, he looked around the room nervously. What could he do here? His eyes thought he saw an odd flash of

light for a moment... a keyhole. It was faint, but it seemed to be on the front of the crystal. Like it was calling out to him. Lucky defiantly pointed his keyblade. "Here's my counter-counter offer!" he said, a beam of light passing from his keyblade to the crystal, unlocking Zelda's prison and causing it to vanish! As Ganondorf looked in shock, Zelda lobbed a deku nut to distract him! In the next instant, she was by Link's side! "You've lost, Ganondorf! Now that we are united, it is two Triforce pieces against one! You can't overcome us!" Zelda warned him. Ganondorf wiped his eyes free of light and started to cackle wildly. "Heh heh heh... Heeeeh heh heh ha ha haaaa!! You foolish children! This changes nothing! I can still pry the Triforce from your cold dead bodies!" he shouted, raising his hand to show the glowing mark of the Triforce of Power! "I have more than just Power! I am fueled by darkness itself! So use all the trinkets you like! In the end, I will bring death and calamity to you all...and Hyrule will be MINE!!" Lucky backed up nervously, seeing darkness overtake Ganondorf's body, only the Triforce of Power glowing as a source of light upon him. From the darkness, Ganondorf began to transform, but also the tower started to rumble! "Th-this place is going to fall apart!" he yelped. "Link! Let's get out of here!" Navi suggested. Link and Zelda both nodded, and they all started to flee. "Whisk, Tails!! Run for your lives!!" Lucky called down. Ganondorf's voice roared after them. "There's no escape!! I will be your demise!!" he declared.

As everyone sped outside, the tower crumbled into a pile of rubble. Looking back, Lucky and Link saw Ganondorf emerge from the rubble, now taking a monstrous form! He was a massive beast, some sort of hulking boar clutching a pair of massive blades! Link and Lucky hurried back towards the beast despite Whisk and Tails' hesitation. "Th-that thing'll pound you into the dirt! Come back!" Tails gasped. Zelda went to join them, holding a great bow. "They'll need my help..." she said. Once they got close, a wall of flame blocked Whisk and Tails from approaching, as well as Zeke and Zim. "Well, guess we should watch the show..." Zeke sighed. Ganon snarled at Link and Lucky, swinging his huge blades at them and forcing them to block with their own blades, straining to hold him back. "Urrrrghhh!! Man, what do they feed you??" Lucky groaned. Zelda stood back and produced a glowing arrow of light, aiming it at Ganon's head. "This will weaken him..." she said, shooting the beast right between the eyes and causing him to double back, roaring in pain! Link took the opportunity to slash at his chest, while Ganon reacted by kicking him back! He then swatted Lucky with the broad side of his sword, knocking him over! "Yaaaahh!! Ughh... He's too big..." he groaned, holding his arm as he stood up. While Ganon and Link traded sword strikes, Lucky glanced over and saw something peculiar about the beast's tail. It seemed to be glowing. A weak spot? Lucky ran at him to try a strike at his tail, but Ganon swung his second sword at him, forcing him to leap backwards over it! Zelda saw what he was doing and nodded, adjusting her position to aim her arrow at his tail. "We'll see if this knocks him off-balance..." she said, letting her arrow fly! Ganon swiftly leapt into the air, kicking Link and swatting away the arrow with his blade! The arrow fell to the floor near Lucky while Link fell onto his back! "Hurry, Link! Get up!" Navi cried as Ganon raised his blades over him. Link positioned his sword to block as Ganon started to bring the blades down... Then, the beast roared in pain, falling to his knees! Lucky had plunged the light arrow into his glowing tail, wounding Ganon! "Now, Link! Strike Ganon with the Master Sword! And once he's weakened... I'll finish this!" Zelda cried. Link stood up and found Ganon struggling to do the same, the beast's eyes glaring with hate. It was now or never!

Moving fast, Link plunged the Master Sword into Ganon's forehead, making Tails and Whisk look away. "Eeew..." they grimaced. However, Ganon was so pulsing with dark power that he would not die. So, Zelda focused the magical power of the Triforce of Wisdom and set to her task. "With all the magic power I can muster... Ganondorf... I seal you away so that you may never threaten Hyrule again!!" With a brilliant flash of light, Ganondorf vanished, appearing somewhere else...somewhere he couldn't harm them... "Curse you, Zelda!! Do not think this seal...will hold me forever!!" he cried. As the wall of flame

died down and Zeke realized what had happened, a corridor of darkness appeared nearby to take him and Zim from Hyrule. "Aw, wait! We can fix this!" Zim protested. Zeke lifted him up and sighed. "No we can't. The Triforce is out of our reach now. We'll have to find another light source for Master Garland..." he murmured. Tails and Whisk ran to Lucky's side, looking relieved. "Boy, I thought you were a goner, Lucky!" Tails sighed. "Gee, thanks a lot!" Lucky chuckled. "No, I would've teleported him out if he got in real trouble..." Whisk chuckled. Lucky stared at her. "Why didn't you teleport in to HELP??" he stammered. Link chuckled softly, smiling at them. Zelda smiled as well. "Hyrule is grateful for your aid, travelers. You have proven yourselves heroes... Just like our hero." she said, looking at Link. "They could still use some guidance though!" Navi stated, "Maybe I should go with them now!" Lucky, Whisk and Tails chuckled awkwardly. "Uhh, I don't think that'll be necessary." Lucky said. "But speaking of, I think it's time to go..." Tails noted, "The darkness in this world has been defeated, and we still need to find Sonic." he pointed out. Zelda nodded. "We wish you safe travels. Do not worry for the fate of Hyrule... We can handle it from here." she smiled, as Link smiled next to her. Lucky grinned. "I'm sure the kingdom will tell legends, of its hero Link and its princess Zelda!" he said. "...Legend of Link...? Hmm... Ehh..." Whisk murmured, unimpressed with how that sounded.

Soon, Lucky and friends were back aboard Winston's Gummi ship, the Galestrom. As they soared away from Hyrule, Lucky looked out the window and sighed. "You guys think I'll ever be a great hero like Link?" he asked. "Nope." Winston blurted as he steered the ship. Lucky frowned. "Tell me what you REALLY think..." he sighed. Whisk placed her arm around him with a smile. "Aww, don't worry about it. I'm sure you'll do great, Lucky." she said. Tails sat back, tinkering with his shield weapon. "And if you never get any good, we can always turn to Sonic... If we ever find him..." he murmured. None of them were sure where their journey would take them next, but they'd do their best to follow Link's example and face their challenges with courage, like true heroes.

To be continued...