

Kingdom Hearts: Hall of Abandon: Part Two

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After encountering a Heartless, Sora and crew come across the Hall of Abandon and their journey begins!

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1 - Rebirth of Darkness

--{Whoever seeks the Door, whether for power or eternity, shall be bound to it, so tightly, so closely, that there be no escape. Such is the power of Kingdom Hearts...}--

Adam stood before the wooden door, gazing at its smooth grain, its intricate simplicity. The cave, in its serenity, was illuminated by sunlight that flooded through a hole in the ceiling, revealing drawings on many of the rocks and walls that lined it. He looked over them with mock interest, when, out of the corner of his eye, he saw a drawing of a boy with long hair. The boy had a serious look on his face, while to other children, a boy and a girl, were smiling. Hearing footsteps, Adam turned to face the entrance of the cavern. Slowly approaching him was a creature of darkness known as a Neoshadow. Adam spoke to it.

"Have you done what I have requested?"

The Heartless looked from side to side, then nodded quickly. Adam smirked.

"Good, good."

The shadow held out its hands. Adam eyed them with derision.

"Very well, I will hold to my promise."

He pulled out a Keyblade with a handle in the shape of a heart, the blade itself being black.

"I hereby release you from darkness... for eternity."

The creature hissed and lunged at him, but too late, for the sword had already effected its lethal bite. After the blade tore through the dark flesh, the shadow dissolved into the air, releasing a bright almost crystalline heart that began to float upward. Dismissing the Keyblade, Adam reached out with both hands and grasped the heart. Gazing into it, he began to see images of a boy with long blonde hair. The heart thrummed rhythmically, glowing in its unique beauty. Adam carried the heart to the wooden door and stood facing it, waiting, quietly...

Riku stood up and brushed himself off. He strode forward into the cavern looking at the illustrations on the walls. Without warning, a voice spoke out of nowhere.

"Ah, the heart is an amazing thing isn't it... So powerful, yet so fragile to emotion and pain."

Riku whirled towards the source. He saw a boy with spiky red hair facing the wooden door at the end.

"Who are you?"

"This is but the first time, however, that I've actually held one in the palm of my hand."

The boy turned to face Riku. Riku was breathless at what he saw. Standing before him, in a red jacket, with dark blue jeans, and black sunglasses, was the same boy from his dream. In his hand was a large gleaming heart. Ichigo walked up next to Riku.

"Who's that?"

Stuttering in shock Riku spoke.

"You-you're the guy from m-my dream!"

The boy smiled.

"I don't know what you are talking about. But, my name is Adam. Tell, me, Warriors of Heart, where is the other one?"

Confused, Riku prepared to speak when he heard steps behind him.

"We are the other two! Not one!"

Sora and Kairi joined Riku and Ichigo. Sora pulled out his Keyblade.

"Give back Tidus's heart!"

Adam frowned.

"That's not very polite, seeing as it's not Tidus's heart anymore."

Sora growled in anger and ran at Adam. He slashed but as he did Adam disappeared.

"You need to work on your manners. For now, I have other things to deal with. Goodbye Keyblader."

There was a rush of wind as the voice faded.

Sora went to his knees.

"No... he had Tidus's heart..."

The others walked up behind him. Riku patted him on the back.

"It's alright, we'll find him, and when we do, we'll get that heart."

2 - Dawn of Destiny

Sora got to his feet and brushed himself off.

"Why does it always have to be difficult." he said frustratedly.

For some reason a familiar voice in his head said, 'Maybe it's destiny...'

"Destiny." he mumbled.

Sora summoned the Keyblade.

"This is my destiny."

He dropped the Keyblade, only to have it reappear in his hands before it hit the ground. He looked over to Riku, who was watching him.

"Sora, if we stick together, we can end this once and for all. It's like that hooded guy said, we just have to find the last door to Kingdom Hearts and lock it. We can do it, all we have to do is believe.

Sora nodded. Kairi and Ichigo approached them. Grasping Sora's hand, Kairi spoke.

"I'm coming with you guys, so don't try to tell me to stay behind this time, because it's just not going to happen!"

Suddenly, before them, an intense light shone forth, forcing them to cover their eyes. When the light ceased, they uncovered their eyes and looked forward. Ahead of them, the wooden door, the one that always looked over their quiet cavern, had morphed to reveal a keyhole. Sora approached it with keyblade in hand.

"What's that?" asked Ichigo curiously.

Riku turned to her, summoning Way to Dawn.

"The beginning of our adventure... We might not be back for a while, so, could you tell my mother that I love her?"

Ichigo nodded.

Sora looked back at her.

"Bye Sis!"

She smiled.

"Bye lil' bro!"

Kairi giggled and summoned her keyblade. Sora returned his focus to the keyhole, raising the Kingdom Key. Riku and Kairi did the same. Beams of light shot from the tips of the keys and into the keyhole.

Lowering their swords, they waited. Nothing happened. Riku looked over to Sora and Kairi who, in turn, shrugged at him. They raised their keyblades and tried again.

Still nothing. Sora lowered his keyblade.

"Why isn't it working?"

"I don't know..." said Riku.

"Maybe it's broken." added Kairi

Ichigo, who stood back and looked on, thought quietly to herself. An idea struck her.

"Try it one more time." she told them.

Sora, Riku, and Kairi raised their respective keyblades and aimed at the hole. The beams of light shot out and into it.

Unexpectedly a fourth beam of light came from behind them and entered the hole. There was a bright flash of light, and then, the door swung open on invisible hinges.

Sora looked forward, shocked, and then back at Ichigo. She grinned, holding a keyblade with a butterfly shaped handle and blue designs on the blade.

"I wasn't kidding when I said that I have a keyblade."

"I forgot." he replied.

She walked forward with her keyblade.

"Well it looks like I'm coming too. You didn't think you were gonna leave your one and only sister out of the fun did you?"

Sora toed the ground awkwardly.

"I guess not."

Riku stepped towards the open door.

"Come on, destiny awaits!"

He fearlessly stepped into the room beyond it. Kairi followed, then Ichigo.

Sora took a step forward, hesitated then continued into the doorway.

"SORA!! WAIT!!!" called a pair of familiar voices from back in the cave. Sora turned around to see Donald Duck and Goofy running to the door, which he saw, began to close.

"Donald! Goofy!" he cried, running back to the door.

But too late. Just as he reached it, it snapped shut.

3 - The Hall of Abandon

Sora clenched his fist and struck the door several times, making his hand go numb. The door dissolved into the air, letting Sora's hand fall through nothing. He stood up and turned around.

"Crap! I wanted to see them before we..."

His jaw dropped.

Before him and his friends, in the room ahead were stacked hundreds of thousands of Keyblades, some piles stretching to the ceiling. The room itself was enormous, at least a mile long and a fourth as wide, with teeming marble columns extending from the ground to the ceiling. The walls and floors were laced with etchings and depressions that seemed as though they were once resemblances of something. The hall had an ancient feel to it. In the center of the ceiling, was a dome of stained glass, presenting a picture of a heart. Riku approached one of the looming monoliths and picked up a Keyblade. Suddenly, images of unknown people flooded his vision. He dropped the key.

"Memories..." he mumbled.

Kairi looked at Sora and then back at Riku.

"What do you mean?" she asked.

Riku turned to them.

"Memories are some of the most important pieces of the heart. Remember what that guy said? When you lose your Keyblade, you lose half of your heart. Memories are that part that is lost. And we know that once you lose your memories it's like losing your identity..."

Sora and Kairi approached Riku, gazing at all of the Keyblades before them.

"Why would there be so many?" asked Kairi.

Riku looked around.

"I don't know, but I think it's a puzzle that we are meant to solve."

There was a low rumble that echoed throughout the gargantuan hall. It grew louder and louder causing the room to shake with escalating intensity. Keyblades shook loose from the tops of the piles and cascaded down on Riku who was closest. Sora ran forward and yanked an unsuspecting Riku out of range of the deadly avalanche. One particularly large Keyblade cleaved into the floor where Riku had been standing. Riku stared at it, wide-eyed.

"Thanks Sora, I didn't see it coming."

Sora breathed hard.

"Yeah, you woulda been toast!"

Suddenly Kairi looked around frantically.

"Hey! Where's Ichigo?!"

Riku and Sora scanned the surroundings.

"I don't see her.." said Sora.

The three friends looked at each other drastically.

"We need to find her." said Riku, "Even though she has a Keyblade, she doesn't know how to use it to defend herself."

"True." said Sora, "We had better split up and look for her."

He took out his Keyblade.

"If we get lost or attacked we will send up a red ball of light. That way we can find each other. If one of us finds my sister, send up a blue ball of light."

The others nodded. The troop separated and entered the mountains of Keyblades. Sora ran through the

twisting maze until he reached a wide open space right beneath the stained glass dome. Light flooded through and fell upon the floor, illuminating it with a spectrum of colors.

"So, Sora, you've finally arrived to the Hall of Abandon!"

Sora looked for the source of the familiar voice that spoke. Turning around, he saw a figure hooded and robed in white, and wrapped in his arms with a hand over her mouth, was Ichigo.

4 - The Test

"I thought you were on our side!" shouted Sora at the mysterious man.

The figure laughed as Ichigo struggled against his firm grip.

"I am on no side. I lean towards doing what's necessary."

"You think this is necessary?" Sora yelled. "Maybe you should let go of my sister! Then we'll decide what's necessary!"

Seeing something out of the corner of his eye, he turned to his left. Rising up to the ceiling, was a red ball of light in the distance. Another appeared to his right.

"Riku! Kairi!"

He looked back to the man, pulling out the Kingdom Key.

"Give me back my sister!"

He ran at them and thrust at the stranger's face, but before the blade hit home, he disappeared.

"I would help my friends if I were you. They could be in grave danger."

The man had reappeared some twenty feet behind Sora, who turned around to face him.

"Give me my sister first!" he shouted.

A portal suddenly appeared behind the hooded man.

"I will free her once you help your friends."

Sora glared at him.

"How can I trust you! What proof do I have that you will hold to your promise!"

"You have no proof just my word."

And with that he disappeared into the portal. Sora ran towards it but it disappeared.

"You have little time!" boomed the man's voice. "How will you save them both? More importantly, which will you save first?"

His voice echoed in Sora's mind. As crucial time passed, Sora panicked.

"How can I decide! I'm running out of time!"

He knew that Kairi had gone to the left and Riku had gone to the right, but he didn't want to lose either of them. Suddenly an idea popped into his head. He remembered from his times with Peter pan and how he had learned to fly. The only problem was that he didn't have Tinkerbell with him to give him that ability.

'BELIEVE'

The words reverberated through his mind.

"That's it! I have to believe if I want to do it."

Sora closed his eyes and imagined that he could fly.

'I believe I can fly. I believe I can fly. I believe I can fly.'

Nothing happened. He thought harder.

'I believe I can fly! I BELIEVE I CAN FLY!!'

Without warning, his Keyblade gave a lurch in his hand. Sora held on for dear life as the Key lifted him into the air.

'Go to Kairi!' he thought. 'Riku can at least hold out for a while.'

The Keyblade, with Sora in tow, flew towards the light on the left. When he reached it he looked down and saw Kairi surrounded by a plethora of Dusks.

"Kairi!" he shouted.

Sora took the Keyblade and threw it downward at the mass of Nobodies, which scattered at the sound of

his shout. The key whirled about the Dusks, slicing through them with efficiency. Sora landed on the ground and ran to Kairi summoning the Kingdom Key back to him. He grabbed her wrist, screamed, "Hold on!", and commanded the Key to fly again.

The Keyblade ascended a hundred feet into the air, out of reach of the Nobodies, while Kairi, who was latched around Sora's waist, watched the Dusks fade back into darkness.

"Where is Riku?" she asked, short of breath.

Sora pointed at the red ball of light.

"Over there!"

They flew towards it, and when they reached it, looked down to a horrid sight.

Hundreds of Heartless shadows surrounded Riku, who was collapsed on the ground, and began to jump upon him, smothering him in darkness. Sora and Kairi swooped down to the commotion.

"You're not getting Riku that easily!" shouted Sora.

He and Kairi landed on the ground. Sora walked to the mass of darkness and leveled the keyblade at it.

"HOLY!" he shouted.

An intense burst of white light erupted from the keyblade and cut through the teeming shadows. Cutting through the dark flesh of the Heartless, they disappeared. Riku lay on the ground unconscious. Sora kneeled beside him.

"Riku wake up!"

He shook Riku, who, after a few dreadful moments, eventually stirred. Riku's eyes opened and fell upon Sora.

"The-there was so much darkness..."

Sora spoke.

"It's gone. The darkness is gone. You're still in the light Riku, you're fine."

A tear slid down the side of Riku's face.

"I thought you had forgot about me..."

Kairi kneeled next to Sora.

"Forget?" said Sora, "About my best friend? No way! Besides, I still have to beat you in a swordfight!"

The three friends broke out in laughter. Out of the blue, a voice boomed.

"Well done Sora. You have passed the first test. As promised your sister is free."

"Sora! Riku! Kairi!" called a familiar voice.

They looked over to see Ichigo running towards them.

Sora got up.

"Sis! You're okay!"

5 - Dark Side

Adam stood upon a platform of stained glass which radiated with a calm and soothing light. Ahead he could see a shadow of a figure, which had the shape of a teen boy with familiar spiky hair.

'Sora...' a voice echoed.

The figure looked around.

'You are the one who shall open the door.'

Sora's silhouette answered.

"But I've already closed it!"

The sourceless voice continued.

'The door cannot be sealed forever, so long as light and dark coexist.'

Adam approached Sora and tried to place a hand on his shoulder, but it fell through, as if through air. Seeing something behind Adam, Sora approached it, walking straight through him. Turning, Adam saw light flooding from a point in the air, onto the floor. As Sora stepped into it the voice spoke.

'Remember, the closer that you come to light the greater your shadow becomes'

Sora, who was perfectly visible to Adam under the light, ran his eyes along his shadow, which had extended to Adam's feet. Suddenly, Sora looked straight at Adam.

Wide eyed, Sora stumbled backward away from Adam, who realized that he, himself, seemed to be growing taller. Looking down at the ground, he saw two large black feet. His hair grew long and black, flowing in front of his face. He gazed at his hands, which seemed to have transformed into claws of darkness.

'But don't be afraid.'

Adam stepped forward without control, his eyes focusing on Sora. He raised an arm as if to attack.

'But don't be afraid... for you hold the mightiest weapon of all...'

Sora ran to the edge of the platform, almost falling off. He turned around to face Adam.

Looking down at Sora, Adam could see the image formed by the stained glass. What he saw shocked him. It formed a large picture of him in a reclined position, resting the Half Heart Key, his Keyblade, on his lap. What shocked him was that there were four children sitting with him, four children that had been friends for a long time, and had been connected to each other for the rest of their lives. The children were Sora, Riku, Kairi, and Ichigo.

Unexpectedly, Adam was blinded by a flash. He switched back to the real Sora, who was now holding a Keyblade.

'The Keyblade...' said the voice.

Sora ran forward at Adam.

'Heartless have great fear of the Keyblade...'

He slashed Adam's leg.

'Keyblade...'

Adam went to one knee.

'Connected...'

Sora leapt forward.

'...five Keys...'

He slashed the Kingdom Key downward.

'...one destiny.'

Adam's vision went black.

'Remember, you are the last key to Kingdom Hearts.'

6 - Crossing of the Sixth

Kairi jerked awake. It was dark, but she could still see the outlines of the enormous piles that entrenched the room. She and her friends had figured out that the light that entered through the stained glass dome window on the ceiling was the only source. Their assumption of that light coming from the Sun seemed to be correct. She looked over at Sora, Ichigo, and Riku who were sound asleep on the strangely comfortable marble floor. A draft blew through Ichigo's ebony hair, which seemed to glow in the faint moonlight. Kairi paced slowly around the clearing in which they slept, looking at nothing in particular. Hearing a soft tap behind her, Kairi turned around to see what it was, but, seeing nothing, continued to make her way through the clearing. Again she observed a light tap, which reverberated twice in this instance.

"Hello?" said she, "Is anyone here? Sora? Riku?"

She waited for them to answer but the only ones that she received were several trademark snores of two boys sleeping.

"Is there anyone there?" she repeated after hearing the tapping for a third time.

Suddenly a warm feeling laced her shoulder, as if someone was there breathing on it. She turned, somewhat bewildered. All she saw was a moonlit floor. She heard what seemed to be a faint ringing which slowly, gradually grew louder. After further listening she could discern a melody within that ring. Peaceful, it seemed to her, as she closed her eyes and let the harmony of several invisible instruments and a background choir sweep her mind from reality. The voices of the choir lowered and rose, lowering again and suddenly peaking to a crescendo and going silent. The music continued quietly as Kairi opened her eyes, and, being assaulted with bright light as she did so, began to look around curiously. Surrounding her, on all sides, was, strangely enough, light. Everywhere, and, coming from everywhere was a soft, yet soundly pure, white glow. For no reason, Kairi smiled, letting the light flood her vision in its warm presence.

"Do you know where you are, Kairi?"

She had to think for a moment before realizing that the calm feminine voice was speaking to her.

"Hello...hello?"

Her voice echoed from her lips resounding in the invisible emptiness of the light.

"Where am I?" she continued.

Slowly a figure began to materialize in front of her. It had on a long white robe with sky blue trim. The hood on the figure was up, but Kairi could see lengthy blue hair trailing from beneath it. The figure removed its hood, revealing a beautiful face upon which sat two beautiful sapphire eyes. The young lady before Kairi smiled warmly.

"You happen to have stumbled upon what is known as the Realm of Light."

Kairi, stunned at the stranger's sudden appearance, took a step backwards.

"You... you're beautiful...Who are you?"

The blue haired lady hesitated, biting her lower lip softly. The expression in her eyes grew sad as she lowered her gaze to the ground.

"I..." she began, with reluctance in her voice, "I... don't know my name... It has been lost, as with the rest of my memories... I am still searching for them."

Kairi felt the pain in the girl's voice as she blinked a few tears away. The anonymous girl looked back up at Kairi.

"I woke up here one day, without a single clue as to who I was or where I came from, I've been

searching ever since, but this light has always led me astray. I am lost to it... But now I've finally found someone."

Her face brightened as she looked up. Kairi thought for a moment.

"If you have no memory, then how did you know my name? I don't think we've even met before..."

The girl looked at her confusedly.

"I don't know, it just came to me as I saw you... Can I come with you when you go back?"

Kairi nodded and smiled.

"Yes of course!"

The girl smiled back, but then her expression turned somewhat morose.

"But how will we get out of here? I haven't been able to find an exit."

Kairi looked left and right thinking of a way out.

Suddenly a familiar voice spoke in her mind.

"Believe..."

Kairi looked back at the girl.

"Take my hand."

"But why?" replied the girl.

Kairi grasped her hand.

"All we have to do... is believe that we can get out, and the light will show us the way. So... close your eyes."

Thus, she and the blue-haired girl closed their eyes and held on to each other's hands.

'Believe...'

Kairi repeated in her mind, over and over until she felt the light of the Realm begin to fade. Tightening her hand on the girl's Kairi felt them gliding down, once more into the Hall of Abandon. They seemed to have come straight from the light that flooded from the dome.

"Kairi!!!" called a familiar voice.

7 - Pire of Ruin

After an introduction between Sora, Riku, Ichigo, and the mysterious girl, they continued onward through the Hall of Abandon, with little obstruction aside from the enormous piles of Keyblades. Ahead, the troop could finally see the end of the room. A well-known figure stood before a large door at the base of the wall. He turned to them as they approached.

"Well it seems you finally made it through!" the hooded figure said mock-happily.

Riku stepped forward.

"Please, we want to know your name. Could you tell us."

The man lowered his head.

"Why would you want to know the name of a Nobody... and why do you assume that I have one?"

Sora joined alongside Riku.

"Because we aren't from the darkness! We just want to know. Maybe we can help you find your other half!"

The man turned about halfway.

"You can't help me... because I do not want to be helped."

Riku persisted.

"At least show us your face! We want to see what's under the hood. That is what is important. Not what you are, but how you see yourself. Don't you remember what it was like to have a heart?"

The Nobody faced him.

"All I remember is that I lost something important, and then I found darkness. If you really wish to see my face and hear my name I suppose I could spare a few moments...my name..."

He undid the fastenings under the hood and slid it from over his face. Sora and Riku stood shocked. It wasn't the long silver hair or the tanned skin that suprised them, but the black blindfold that covered the man's eyes.

"...my name...is Xurik."

"No... way."

Riku stumbled. The long time that he wore the same blindfold hit him like a freight train. He knew all too well who's Nobody Xurik was... his own.

"How...?"

Xurik looked at him confusedly.

"Is there, something wrong?"

Riku muttered incomprehensibly looking at the floor.

"But... when did I... become a Heartless..."

Sora approached Xurik.

"You need to know something. You look exactly like Riku did after he was blinded by Kingdom Hearts. He wore a blindfold so he could become one with the darkness. I think you are his," he hesitated, "Nobody."

Xurik nodded and approached Riku, who looked up at him.

"I am not yet ready to return to you, Riku. I still have one last thing that I need to do before we merge as one heart, and that is to help you on your journey."

Riku stood and nodded. Xurik turned to the door once again.

"Beyond is a world ravaged by the forces of both darkness and light. It will try to lead you astray, try to force you to do the unthinkable."

Turning back to the group he continued.

"You must... I repeat, **MUST** not give in! Stay together and do not separate! The chaos will try to tear you apart. And Riku..."

Riku gazed at him.

".. stay with the light."

With that Xurik patted a hand on Riku's shoulder, turned away, and disappeared into the air.

8 - Oblivion...

Sora, Riku, and the others approached the large pearly door that rested upon the wall before them.

"I can't believe I have a Nobody..." stated Riku, "How?"

"I don't know, but we can't worry about it now." said Sora, "It wouldn't serve any purpose."

Riku nodded.

"Right."

Suddenly the blue haired girl stopped.

"Arona..."

Kairi and Ichigo turned around to look at her.

"What? Is something wrong?" asked Ichigo.

The girl furrowed her brow in thought.

"I... I'm not sure. Arona..."

She paused, her eyes widening, she looked excitedly to Ichigo and Kairi.

"My name! It's Arona! I remembered!"

She rushed forward and hugged the two girls tightly.

"I can't believe it! I feel so... so, happy, all of a sudden!"

Kairi and Ichigo smiled at her.

"Congratulations! That's such a pretty name!"

Suddenly a voice called from behind them.

"Good job with the name and all, but we need to keep going! Who knows when this door might disappear."

Arona, Ichigo, and Kairi laughed excitedly and met up with Sora and Riku.

They all faced the door. Sora grabbed the handle and pulled hard, expecting it to be heavy. It swung open with ease. He shrugged at the others and stepped through. Riku looked at the others and called to Sora.

"Wait up!"

He walked through, but as he did so, something large and heavy hit him across the back, sending him sprawling on the floor. He looked back just in time to see the girls' faces vanish behind the closing door.

"Kairi! Ichigo! Arona!"

Sora turned to him.

"What happened!?"

Riku got up and faced him.

"The door closed on them!"

Sora crossed his arms.

"Great! Now what do we do. We can't just go on without them."

Riku walked up to the door and tried to shoulder it open. It didn't budge.

"Unfortunately, I don't think we have a choice."

He circled around to view the room, if you could call it that. There seemed to be no defined walls, ceiling or floor to the black velvet-like enclosure. Though Sora and Riku seemed to be standing on something solid, ripples and creases moved along the floor as if it were fluid. In what seemed to be the center of the room, there was a dark spire that emitted a bright concentrated light from it's apex. The light laced upward towards the nonexistent ceiling of the shadowy room, and faded into the void. After a closer look, Riku could see strange bursts of explosions occurring some distance past the invisible walls of the

room.

"Hey, Sora do you see those explosions?" no reply, "Sora?"

Riku rotated to see Sora facing away from him gazing at the spire of light.

"Sora?"

Sora turned towards Riku, who was shocked when he looked at him. Sora's eyes seemed to be shrouded in a translucent gray mist, his facial expression blank. Riku stepped forward.

"Are you okay?"

Sora's face contorted.

"What do you care!?" he yelled.

Riku hesitated.

"What?"

Sora continued.

"When have you cared about me, or anyone else around you?"

Baffled, Riku uttered.

"What are you talking about?"

Sora took a step towards Riku.

"You only ever care how you feel, not about me or anybody else! I'm tired of being your shadow! You've always tried to be better than me and put me down!"

Riku hesitated.

"S-Sora! What do you mean? Snap out of it!"

Sora pulled out his keyblade and began a slow advance on Riku.

"You know exactly what I mean! You even tried to take Kairi away from me! You know how that made me feel?"

Frightened at Sora's behavior Riku replied.

"Sora, cut it out! You know I was taken by the darkness! I'm not in the darkness anymore!"

Ignoring this Sora ran at Riku slashing the Keyblade in an arc. Riku dodged and summoned Way to Dawn.

"Sora! Stop! Don't do this! We're best friends!"

Sora snarled and charged Riku once more, swinging his blade forcefully. Riku blocked the attack. Sora attacked viciously, slashing, thrusting, smashing, while Riku frantically defended each blow. Suddenly, in a concluding swing, Sora struck Way to Dawn out of Riku's hand. He tried an overhead slash, but Riku caught the blade.

"Sora please it's me! Riku! Can't you see that I'm on your side?"

Sora bore down his entire weight on the keyblade sending Riku to one knee. He then proceeded to kick Riku to the ground.

"This is where the nonsense ends Riku. You're not going to bully me any more!"

Sora raised the Keyblade ominously. Riku panicked.

"Sora! Stop! You're not yourself!!!"

Time seemed to slow as the blade descended towards Riku's chest. He held his hands in front of himself as if to guard the attack. Riku closed his eyes preparing for the worst. He gave one last shout.

"SSOOORRRRAAAA!!!!"

There was a bright flash of light, a yell, and then silence. Riku opened his eyes to see a dazed Sora standing above him.

"What... happened? Riku? What's going on?"

Sora realized that he was holding the Keyblade. He looked down at Riku who still had his hands over him in defense.

"You went nuts, and started attacking me! I tried to make you snap out of it but it was like you were

hypnotized."

Sora's eyes widened in shock.

"Wh-what happened to me?"

He took a step backward, his head spinning.

"I, I, don't know what went wrong with me."

Sora looked around frantically.

"I can't... I'm not fit to do this..."

Tears began streaming down his face. Riku watched him worriedly.

"Sora. It's okay! I'm fine, you didn't hurt me."

Sora wheeled mindlessly his face flooded with tears. He broke down.

"I...I can't do this."

He gazed down at the Keyblade in his hand.

"I can't do this anymore..."

Hefting the Kingdom Key, Sora looked over to Riku, then tossed the blade to the floor. A bright flash of light, and Sora was knocked to the ground.

9 - The Clash

Riku ran over to Sora, who lay still on the ground. He stirred, blinked several times, and looked at Riku.

"What happened?"

Riku shrugged and grinned.

"So you're okay then?"

Sora looked around.

"Where am I?"

Puzzled Riku gzed at him.

"We're in a strange room. You tried to attack me and got upset remember?"

Sora looked around in amazement.

"Woow! Cool! This place is neat."

The tears from a few moments ago were drying unnoticed. Soras gaze met Riku's.

"Sora?" said Riku confusedly.

Sora looked around.

"Who's Sora? What's your name?" he thought for a moment, "What's my name?"

Riku grinned in amusement.

"Okay Sora you can cut the joke! I know you're..." suddenly realization hit Riku as he watched Sora's blank look. Familiar words echoed through his mind.

...by leaving your Keyblade, you leave part of your heart...

Riku looked for the Sora's Keyblade which was thrown to the ground. It wasn't there.

"The power of the Keyblade is remarkable isn't it, *brother?*"

Riku searched around for the source of the voice and his eyes fell upon a familiar sight. Adam stood a good distance away hefting the gold and silver Kigdom Key in his hands. Riku took a step forward, calling upon his Keyblade.

"Give it back, Adam!" he thought about what Adam said. "And I don't have a brother!"

Adam smiled, adjusting his dark sunglasses.

"I looked for information as to my birth and where I came from. The results were interesting. My father, it turns out, was a scientist that worked on a quaint, peaceful planet known as Radiant Garden. Has your friend ever told you of this place?"

Riku glared at him.

"Yeah, a little."

"Well, it also turns out that my father was the ruler of this world, and was someone that you were quite familiar with. Does, *Ansem*, ring a bell?"

Riku clenched a fist.

"No way! That's not true! And that doesn't explain how we're brothers!"

Adam aproached Riku slowly an cautiously.

A long time ago, Ansem, my father, traveled to a planet deep in space, after being kindly acquainted to the Gummi and buildig his own ship. The planet was a gentle one, clear warm oceans and a few islands that dotted it's surface. He landed on one of these islands with a few dozen villagers and assistants at his wake. He had the island explored and established sort of a colony on it, dubbing the group of islands, the Destiny Islands.

Riku clenched his fist tighter.

"Ansem discovered the Desiny Islands!?"

Riku turned to check on Sora, who was running around the bright light in the center of the void.

Adam continued.

While he was there, my father fell in love with one of his assistants and not long after, she was pregnant with twins. Being an honest and faithful man he stayed behind with her through the birth. They named the twins Adam, and *Riku*.

Riku clutched his Keyblade.

"Liar!"

He ran at Adam, who disappeared in the darkness. Riku's head reeled with shock.

"What I tell you is the truth!" Adam had appeared a few dozen feet behind him. "My mother's name is Evelyn! So is yours, right? Our parents are one in the same. I didn't want to believe it either, but what I'm telling you is real and true!" he continued his story as Riku faced him. "Sadly Ansem was forced to leave our mother behind and return to Radiant Garden. He took one of us with him, and that was me. Over the course of a few months, he fell in love with another woman, Elysia, and later on, two girls were born. Elysia died at childbirth, leaving Ansem completely devastated. Having no extra time to take care of me and the girls and rule Radiant Garden, I was put up for adoption. He took one of the girls, named Arona, as his heir and princess, and the other with him on his ship and traveled once more to the Destiny Islands, where he sought our mother. As he showed up on her doorstep with the baby in his arms, she greeted him sourly, for he had left her behind with a child to raise, alone. He begged for her forgiveness and in his shame, held out the baby to her. He asked her to take the girl in and give her a home, but she at first turned it away, saying that she couldn't take care of her. Seeing his dedication to the welfare of the girl, Evelyn offered to give her to one of her dear friends, who she was certain would take care of the child. Our father appreciated this and offered to help our mother raise you, but she refused, and he left to return to Radiant Garden, where he ruled as King and continued his research, while raising Arona." There was a long silence as he and Riku watched each other. Riku spoke.

"But then... who was the other girl?"

Adam chuckled.

"Think hard. Who's one person that you know that could possibly be a princess?"

Riku thought for a moment, then it hit him.

"... Kairi."

End of Part II