

# Chapter XVII: All Hallows' Steve

*The Heptad continued their way through the hills with the intention of soon coming across Notch, and they were left to ponder the title of Null's project (Null's Hypothesis- The Last Zero).*

**Notch:** Null's Hypothesis is obviously a play on the term "null hypothesis", but what is the meaning of "the last zero"?

**Herobrine:** What needs an extra zero?

**Boss Steve:** A teacher's paycheck.

**Notch:** They say zero times zero times zero is nothing, so-

**Boss Steve:** So you want to shove him into a calculus equation?

**Light Steve:** Simple multiplication is not calculus, and if you don't want me to start using words that quit publicly existing 120 years ago, then get real!

**Alex:** Guys the glass box is summoning more boxes.

**Steve:** "Extreme danger alert, evacuation in order. Possibly originating at the scene of the gas combustion, a bodily and mental infection has broken out. Symptoms include an absence of self-control, black flecks on the skin, and highly likely death, some have been cured with zero consequence. Less weakness has been recognized when mixed with sunlight!"

**Herobrine:** See, the only way to slow it down is to expose yourself to the action.

**Boss Steve:** Earth does the same thing though, they kill the good intending to kill the bad.

**Notch:** Let's stop making fun of Earth's unprogressed technology, after all, they are theorized to have a pandemic; a virus outbreak in 2020. Null's presence is messing with their world, and this infection is spreading faster than water flows. Now, let's get moving or we'll be nothing but-

**Steve:** Them.

*A group of Shadow infected people had come around the corner, they had deep gray skin, the eyes of a great white, dead black hair, they had ripped clothes and were desperate for either passing the infection or blood! Zombies.*

**Notch:** Herobrine. How contagious is it?

**Herobrine:** Airborne. Breathable.

**Boss Steve:** Any ideas for us not breathing it?

**Herobrine:** It would help if you had artificial lungs.

...

**Alex:** Any other ways to evade it?

**Herobrine:** Kill the host and it dies nearly instantly.

**Notch:** You want us to kill these innocent people?

**Herobrine:** They are rather expendable.

...?

**Herobrine:** Sorry, still working on that.

**Alex:** I've never killed anyone in my life.

**Herobrine:** You've killed 338 cows, 457 sheep, 504 chickens, and 622 pigs. I think you can handle killing 6 humans.

**Alex:** First of all, that was necessary to start civilization, and to practice our fighting skills to attempt to kill you.

**Herobrine:** They've clearly already had the infection for 36 hours, at that point chances of survival are pi out of 100.

**Steve:** Hey, I do know that that's actually a number.

**Herobrine:** KILL THEM!!

*They held bows, and swords...but the zombies dropped.*

**Herobrine:** Oh, I was off by about 12 hours.

**Notch:** Are they dead??

**Herobrine:** Not for another 48 hours... because first, it gives them their zombie-ism, up next it cuts off their entire nervous system- so paralysis. And to top it all off we have a wonderful offer of a devastating eventual coma for a wonderful ride on Death's Tunnel to the Underworld.

**Light Steve:** Okay "Brat" Sajak, I think there are different ways to exclaim a situation.

**Steve:** Guys look! A fence!

**Boss Steve:** What about the fence?

**Steve:** Notice how it's on a hill, considering a hill is already an... obstruction.

**Notch:** Are you saying that there's something on the other side of that fence and hill?

**Steve:** I imagine, then again this costume has probably given me like 3 extra senses.

**Alex:** Like what?

**Steve:** Well, I can sense your fear, I can sense if trees are more than 100 years old, and I can sense a baby being born from 20 miles away.

...

**Herobrine:** I'm praying that that is the costume.

*They marched up the hill and found themselves staring upon the grandest valley ever.*

**Steve:** Now this... this is the real fat cat club!

**Herobrine:** Surprising the infection hasn't gotten here yet.

**Boss Steve:** These playboys probably got a whole country's worth of military each.

**Light Steve:** Show some respect, these are the people who... well I guess you're only half wrong.

*They strolled down into the streets, trying to guess where to pick first, it's like randomly guessing the amount of "w"'s in the Bible.*

**Alex:** This is probably as far as a map will take us.

**Notch:** Yeah, we definitely do need a new navigation system.

**Rainbow Steve:** Why isn't anyone staring at us like yesterday?

**Steve:** It's Halloween!

**Boss Steve:** It's what?

**Steve:** No, it's a celebration they have in honor of ghosts.

**Notch:** That's nice... why?

**Steve:** They also have a celebration for a man killed by a wooden plus sign, one for a priest who was arrested for marrying people, and one for a rabbit that lays eggs. Well, not lays- like he doesn't lay them himself- lay like- as in he sets the eggs down on-

**Alex:** -Stop talking.

**Steve:** Yeah okay.

**Notch:** And this is why we stick to celebrations with high profit...

**Rainbow Steve:** I like the detailed use of iron bars to signal this main road, and all the decorations along it too.

**Light Steve:** Wait, if those roads were blocked off, and this road looks like a runway for an incursion of rainbow fireworks, is something coming?

**Herobrine:** I see a light coming around the corner. It's moving extremely slow!

**Light Steve:** That's misguided depth perception! It could be proceeding at us at the speed of sound!

*Herobrine looks up at the street sign on the traffic light...*

**Herobrine:** It's 2 streets away.

**Alex:** It's a Halloween parade!

**Light Steve:** You mean one of those things where they roll statues of giant animals or stages with impersonated band members that toss candy?

*The floats began to pass by.*

**Steve:** Hey, I bet we could sneak in without question.

**Notch:** Join the parade?

**Steve:** Maybe we can get some... clues. Or maybe even get an address.

*...Easier done than said.*

**Steve:** Simple, we just play along.

**Rainbow Steve:** Well where are we headed with this?

**Steve:** Forward. As long as we don't have to...

**Conductor:** Begin stunts!

*It was a long and... odd few minutes, but they snuck out at the prime time... less than a mile from Notch.*

**Boss Steve:** Okay, it is officially... illegal for you to have any more ideas.

**Rainbow Steve:** \*Yawn\* I know all the great heroes don't sleep for about 168 hours, but I'm about to gain an extra 20 kilos, and I'll forget how to spell singular letters.

**Notch:** He's right, we need a full 6- no let's just double that to be safe.

**Alex:** The skies look a little overcast, maybe we could sleep in there.

*12 hours in a gazebo.*

**Lawnmower Man:** Get the hell outta here you roleplayas!

*They all run out confused.*

**Herobrine:** That guy sounded a little faulty upstairs.

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**Steve:** This quest is like a puzzle, but where all the pieces are just squares, and the whole thing is the same color!

**Boss Steve:** Exactly! Nothing here helps.

**Alex:** For the love of the rotten cucumber on my face, why doesn't anything match up?!

**Random Guy:** You all know Halloween isn't till tonight right?

...

**Notch:** Uh... we just came out of the parade from last night.

**Random Guy:** Ah, that explains it.

**Notch:** If you could help us find this guy... his name is Notch.

**Random Guy:** Well nice to meet you, my name is Markus, and if you want a selfie... then download Photoshop because I don't have the smile to do that anymore.

**Notch:** Markus as in... Markus Alexej Persson?

**Markus:** Look I give out just as much candy as everyone else in the Hills.

**Notch:** You clearly don't recognize us right now, considering we all look like we've just come from one of those... what do you call them? Westerns?

...

**Markus:** Yeah, I think you all should get on your way. You sound a little beat from last night's parade.

*Rainbow Steve's wrapping came loose.*

**Markus:** Are you double costuming? That doesn't get you double the candy.

**Notch:** It's us.

*Notch took off his... rash.*

**Markus:** Are you, hold on I think I forgot to put in my contacts-

**Herobrine:** You didn't... well maybe you did... but you aren't being misled.

*They all removed their costumes.*

**Markus:** Notch, Herobrine, Alex, S-Steve, and... right.

**Light Steve:** What?

**Markus:** P- um. Please come in, we- we should talk.

*...They filled him in in less than an hour, from Herobrine's family crime to the spread of the Shadow Infection.*

**Markus:** I knew selling to Microsoft could have a risk.

**Steve:** I can't believe you gave us all up.

**Markus:** Well I wanted better for you all, and for those who love you, I couldn't do things as quickly and efficiently anymore. I knew that you would be stabler in the hands of a more superior industry.

**Light Steve:** So did we come into action before or after you sold us?

**Markus:** Certainly after.

**Herobrine:** Did you plan for add-ons like them.

**Markus:** I certainly didn't expect A.I.

**Herobrine:** But Notch and I are A.I.

**Markus:** Yes but you two are built into the undivided program, you establish the entire game.

**Notch:** That does make sense. Now about these interdimensional things.

**Markus:** I can't help you there, all this about Runes and Infinity and Evil Spirits... human civilization is a few hundred thousand years from figuring out material like that.

*\*Text incoming\**

**Herobrine:** Oh crap. Null found the Space Rune.

**Notch:** Are you serious?

**Herobrine:** Well who else but an evil genius would hack into our little all-knowing rectangle and send us a note that says “I’m a rune ahead of you again”

**Rainbow Steve:** But how do you know it’s the Space Rune?

**Herobrine:** He’s making a joke... in between the words “a” and “rune”, there are at least 5 extra spaces... That does it, I’m going after him.

**Light Steve:** How? You can’t get to him, and how are you gonna kill him?

**Herobrine:** Cheating in chess is plain cheating, but cheating in a war is as fair as it can get.

*Shwoop.*

**Markus:** What in God’s Green Earth!?

**Notch:** How did he just teleport away?

**Light Steve:** Did Null just kidnap him with the Space Rune?

**Steve:** ...I know how to trap Null.

**Boss Steve:** Did he steal it earlier- wait what??

**Alex:** You want to trap a shadow?

**Steve:** It’s Halloween, it’s time for Requiem!