

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.

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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?

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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?

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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!