

# Chapter XII: The Firewall Extinguisher

*A cylinder of blue energy had whisked them away... and they woke up on the shore of a strange place, all that could be seen was a dense forest.*

**Shade:** Steve! You should suspect something when the supposedly retired supervillain asks to trade Runes!

**Light Alex:** Shade! You got the message!

**Shade:** I sure did.

**Notch:** How, how did you get us out of there?

**Shade:** Remember? Each of the 8 Runes exists in each and every dimension in the Universe. So I just went to Earth, snatched the Space Rune from Mammoth Cave, then cast my fishing pole into the space between dimensions and whisked you guys right here.

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**Alex:** Where is here?

**Shade:** Redmond, Washington.

*The home base of Microsoft; the current owner of Minecraft.*

**Notch:** Why would you bring us to a place that's almost 3000 miles from the nearest way back to Minecraft?

**Shade:** Well I don't think I've ever told you this, but ever since Null used me as a part of his... hypothesis, I've been able to see everything through his eyes. I can't remember which experiments he ran on me, but somehow his eyes are just a mega-high-definition security camera for me.

**Steve:** That means we can spy on their every move! Finally a Jack up our sleeve!

**Light Steve:** ...Steve, I think it's actually an ace.

**Steve:** You can't fit an airplane pilot in your sleeve!

**Notch:** ...So why did you bring us here?

**Shade:** They're too strong, they have 87.5% of the Runes, they have Bloodlust, and they just went rogue.

**Alex:** What do you mean they went rogue?

**Shade:** They killed Dreadlord.

**Everyone else:** What?!?

**Shade:** Yep, they flung a sword into his head and threw him through the glass into the void.

**Light Alex:** God!

**Steve:** You think it was part of the plan?

**Shade:** No! He's Bloodlust's servant. There's an unspoken side effect with Bloodlust.

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**Notch:** Shade!

**Shade:** Yeah?

**Notch:** Why are we here?

**Shade:** Oh right. This is the city that safekeeps your origins.

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**Light Steve:** Microsoft!

**Shade:** That's right!

**Notch:** Why would that help us?

**Shade:** Because now you can add a "2".

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**Shade:** It's coding humor, adding a "2" means deteriorating the entire code. Whatever.

**Light Alex:** You plan on having us break into one of the most technologically advanced corporations on Earth, and hacking into their system to shut down 3 entities from a different dimension?

**Shade:** I arranged my words a bit differently, but yes, shut em' out.

**Notch:** I'm intrigued...

*They walked by the dense and dark forest, only a few miles from Microsoft HQ.*

**Notch:** Shade?

**Shade:** What's up?

**Steve:** Not gravity.

**Notch:** ...When we saw you at that laboratory, we tried to ask you if you knew where the Rune of Darkness was. And if you were the entitled possessor?

**Shade:** And how do you think I knew that they had 87.5%?

*He waved his hands in weird patterns and summoned the Rune of Darkness.*

**Shade:** I am the possessor.

**Light Steve:** You've got it!

**Shade:** Yeah.

**Light Steve:** Alright now you have to destroy it.

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**Shade:** What??

**Light Steve:** If you destroy it, they could never use RICC!

**Shade:** I can't destroy it! The only reason I exist is to keep this thing safe.

**Steve:** Is it an "it doesn't exist, then you don't exist" kind of situation?

**Shade:** No, but there's-

**Light Steve:** Shut up and crush the damn thing!

**Shade:** Woah, what's with the 5th degree?

**Light Steve:** The situation is "it's in supreme danger either way!"

**Light Alex:** He's right Shade, you have to throw that thing in the fireplace.

**Shade:** Well we can't.

**Light Steve:** And that reason is?

**Shade:** We're... here, that's why.

*They were.*

**Notch:** You planned this?

**Shade:** Yep, I hate talking for more than 16 and a half minutes.

*They came over to the entrance of the visitor center; many people were walking through. And there's again no plan.*

**Notch:** Alright, what's the plan?

**Shade:** You're gonna beat up that security guard. I'm gonna tase that one. And once the rest of you get in, there's gonna be a 3 headed dog you have to beat up, along with some poisonous plants, a game of checkers, and a chamber of flying keys, then the guy with 2 souls will try to trick you into giving him the magic crystal. So you have to... think about the way he killed your mother and scarred you, then he disintegrates. However, the second soul will try to confuse you.

**Light Steve:** ...Is this YOUR actual plan?

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**Shade:** No I'm looking for inspiration, that was the ending from Fantastic Beasts.

**Alex:** Do you have an actual plan?

**Shade:** Okay, there was this scene in... Home... Home by Myself 2, the two bad guys went into the store and hid in these dollhouses, they waited for everyone to lock up, and then tried to steal thousands of dollars.

**Notch:** That's pretty good. So we just hide out in there until they close.

**Shade:** Exactly! I mean, they both get outsmarted by a 10-year-old in the end... but, who knows!

*They followed along with the tour, then cut off and hid under some desks.*

**Light Steve:** This might just be a bad place to hide after all.

**Shade:** Look if someone catches us, just be sure you touch me.

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**Steve:** You know I had better plans for my last moments.

**Shade:** I can hide us in half a second.

**Notch:** Why don't you do that now??

**Shade:** Because it has a recharging interval.

**Light Alex:** Alright we got it, stop shouting.

*10:00. Night night.*

**Shade:** Okay, let's go.

*They snuck through the building into the main computer room, now they needed to find the coding for the 3 A.I. maniacs.*

**Shade:** Okay here we are.

**Notch:** How do we turn it on?

**Light Steve:** We probably need a key for that "on" switch.

**Steve:** Just break it.

**Light Alex:** That's made of-

*Bang!*

**Light Alex:** Polycarbonate.

**Light Steve:** We could use this.

*Shattered with minuscule force.*

**Light Steve:** Sun's rising early today.

*\*Powering on and awesome computers turning on noises\**

**Shade:** Password.

**Steve:** 1-2-3-4.

**Shade:** I think it's 8 characters. And it's not "Password" or "1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8".

**Notch:** It's probably a dog's name. Who owns this place?

**Shade:** You know that might be it, but I have a feeling it isn't.

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**Alex:** Try "Microsoft" but without the "t".

**Shade:** It has to be something unguessable.

**Steve:** How many combinations are there?

**Shade:** Well think about this, even if it was just numbers, there would be a hundred million combinations.

**Steve:** Sooooo, we start there.

*Light Alex pulled out a drawer with another keyboard in it, then felt the keys individually.*

**Shade:** Between every character... maybe 3 hundred and fiftyyyy- trillion.

**Light Alex:** The variables are "lowercase a", "3", "lowercase w", "backwards parenthesis", "lowercase q", "zero", "less than symbol", "lowercase h".

**Shade:** Are you sure?

**Light Alex:** Those keys are approximately 0.7 degrees warmer.

**Shade:** Well that would be... certainly less.

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**Steve:** So we have all the characters individually.

**Shade:** We probably only have like 3 chances.

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**Alex:** Would the last key typed be the warmest or would the first key typed be the warmest?

**Light Alex:** The first key, but I'm not that accurate.

**Notch:** Alright. Here's a new angle. Based on the average person, when they're typing they'll become gradually less aggressive at pressing the keys. The letter markings on this keyboard are all quite worn, but for those individual keys... the paint on the zero is the most worn.

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**Shade:** So you can figure it out?

**Notch:** Yep! The password to Microsoft's system is: "0-q-a-)-w-3-<-h"!

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**Shade:** It worked! We're in.

**Light Steve:** Holy icons.

**Shade:** Alright we've gotta find Minecraft in this mess.

**Steve:** Look there! "Inherited Programs"

**Shade:** That might be... scroll down to M. Oh my God, there it is.

**Notch:** Okay is there anything that says "A.I." or "assets"... or ludicrous idiots?

**Shade:** No, there isn't.

**Alex:** Wait. Characters.

**Shade:** Yeah, there's Notch, Alex, Steve, Herobrine. And there's a "bonus projects" folder!

And they have Null AND Entity 303!

**Notch:** Alright, now in the code should be the term "survival", try and change it to "adventure", or maybe "spectator".

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**Shade:** Doesn't work.

**Notch:** Dang.

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**Shade:** \*Snicker\*

**Alex:** What's so funny?

**Shade:** Look at this. The identity code can be moved around. Look, now Null's identity is his eye color. Haha

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**Notch:** Wait a minute. Can you copy that code?

**Shade:** Control C? Yep.

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**Notch:** Okay Steve don't be offended...