

Nolan Nexus and the Evil of LiveCorp

Once upon a time, in the year of 50,027 A.J.D (After Judgement Day), there lived a boy named Nolan Nexus. Nolan Nexus was 16 years old, and lived by himself in a rickety old HoverHouse. Nolan was a scrawny kid, with dark hair and unusual blue eyes. His HoverHouse was nothing more than a rusty old tin can to most of his neighbors, but he was always thankful that he had anywhere to live at all. His parents had both died when he was just three, and he was used to being alone. His parents worked for the biggest company in the world: LiveCorp, but no one knows how they died. It seemed as if they committed suicide, and their bodies were found inside of their offices in LiveCorp tower. This all took place in Silica City, the largest and most populated city in the entire world. It was the capital of the world, and was prosperous with the world's most important economic resource at the time: video games!

On a gloomy autumn afternoon, Nolan was in deep thought about how he could make money. He wasn't doing very well these days, though. He didn't have a job, and he was about to lose the only place he called home to the evil mastermind of LiveCorp: L.J Live. L.J was infamous for his cruelty and strictness, but he was so rich because he was a gaming pro, who created the largest video game company in the world! Nolan knew he had to find a way to make money so he could pay his bills, but he had no way to do so. The reason for that was because almost every job in Silica City involves video games, but Nolan was one of the few people in the world who was *terrible* at playing games!

"Ugh, I wish I could play games better! I practice day and night, but I never get any better," said Nolan to himself over a dinner of (I'm not kidding) Tofu burgers and three-bean goulash. The LiveCorp henchmen would arrive at his HoverHouse in three days to take him and his house away, and he had to find a way to pay the heavy price that LiveCorp put over his head: \$7,000!

The next day, Nolan was starting to panic. The night before, he had gone from door to door, asking for work and selling things. He was so tired when he got home, he didn't even bother undressing. He fell asleep before his head even hit the pillow. Now he was really in trouble.

The next morning, he woke with a start after a disturbing dream. "Ah! The LiveCorp people will be here in two days! There must be some way to make that \$7,000!" Nolan cried.

He was so upset that he threw anything he could make money with into a box, even his father's last possession, and started hauling it outside and into town to sell it. As he was leaving, he remembered something: when he received his father's last possession, his father told him to only use it in case of a real

emergency. Nolan put down the box of stuff and fished out the item: a small, portable U.S.B flash drive, with a marking Nolan had never seen before.

“This *is* an emergency, kind of...” muttered Nolan to himself. He took the flash drive and plugged it into his small, beat-up, run-down computer.

At that moment, a blinding flash came from the screen of the computer! It grew brighter and brighter until finally, it lit up the entire house for a few seconds until it died away.

“Ah..my eyes...!” Grumbled Nolan. “What...how...?”

Just then, a message pops up on his computer. The machine said “your emergency has now been acknowledged. Please stand by for awakening.”

“Huh?!? Awakening? What is this thing??? What’s happening?!?” Nolan yelled.

The next thing he knew, there was another bright flash of light (but this time it was blue light) and Nolan felt a strange surge of energy go through his body. It ran through his body like a tornado on steroids, pulsing through his heart and being pumped through his veins and fingers. This all lasted for about a minute, and then it died away. The final touch was when he heard a faint voice, sounding faraway in his head. “Nolan Nexus...My son...” the voice said in an ominous tone.

“Who are you?” Nolan thought. “How are you talking to me in my head...?”

But the voice was now silent. Nolan tried again and again to find the voice in his head, but try as he might, the mysterious being was gone. Nolan looked over to his computer, hoping to find a trace of the odd sensation that pulsed through his body. Instead, he found another message on the screen, blinking red and white. It read “Test your powers! :)” Nolan was shaken up from the weird energy that went through him, but some odd, mystical force inside of him compelled him to click the blinking words on the screen. He then grabbed the mouse, which felt surprisingly comfortable in his hand, and clicked the flashing words. An old-fashioned game popped up on his screen: Space Invaders X. He knew the game well; his father had played it for a living before he died.

“Hoo boy. I’ve never been good at this game. I’m not playing this! It’s hard for even the most advanced gamers!” Exclaimed Nolan.

He tried to shut down his computer and bring the box of stuff outside, but his arm wouldn’t move! He tried and tried, but nothing happened.

Then something crazy happened: he could feel his arm moving on it’s own, almost like it was remote-controlled. “Ah! What’s happening to me!?” Yelled Nolan. His arm moved the mouse cursor closer and closer to the start button, and then...

“Click!”

The game started!

Then that odd sensation came over Nolan once more. He felt as if his body was getting warmer and warmer and his heart felt like it was pumping that odd feeling around his body once again. His limbs moved, right to the keyboard's arrow keys, and BAM! He started playing.

The rest of the day, and deep into the night, Nolan played the game. He never died, he never took damage. He kept going and going and going, nothing could stop him! Finally, Nolan made it to the final boss of the game, which no one in the world had ever done. The feeling inside of him became more intense, almost engulfing his thoughts and overwhelming him with amazing strength. The final boss closed in to finish him off, but Nolan zipped and zigged and zagged all around him, never once failing. Finally, he made a final attempt to win: firing his super laser! He fired, and the blast killed the monster instantly.

The SECOND the final boss died, the feeling that came over him faded away into nothingness. Nolan stopped playing and looked at his clock. It was nearly Midnight, and he had started at 10 o'clock AM.

“Woah! I played for that long!? How? It only felt like a few seconds...”

Nolan was shocked at how good he was at the game, and he let go of his keyboard, astounded. He realized that whatever was inside of that USB flash drive made him good at games!

“Yes! That's it! I'll make enough money! I'll make money playing video games! This is great! I'll be the greatest gamer in the history of mankind!”

The next day, Nolan knew that he only had one day before the LiveCorp people came to collect his house, so he had to act fast. He got up at 8:00 and started researching different gaming competitions and companies. He looked on almost 100 websites, and he finally found one that was giving out \$10,000 to anyone who could beat “the one and only L.J Live” playing the game they were selling: Super Smash Bros. MegaUltra edition! Nolan knew that this was more than enough money to pay off his house, and it would help him eat and drink for awhile with the remaining \$3,000.

“Okay, I guess I'll enter this competition, but... L.J Live?? How will I be able to beat him???”
Well, these new powers are super neat, so I think it's my best shot.”

Nolan used his computer to enter the tournament, and everything in the competition was part of or associated with LiveCorp. This made Nolan very uncomfortable because his parents never really liked working for LiveCorp, and everything he did while entering the competition felt like doing shady business with shady people.

Later that day, Nolan showed up at the LiveCorp tower, eager to win the competition and get the money.

“Wow! This tower is so tall! Let’s see... the competition for Super Smash Bros. MegaUltra is on the 110th floor, so...” said Nolan as he walked into the elevator. Cheery elevator music played as the elevator rose up, higher and higher.

Eventually, he reached the 110th floor, which was a huge room LOADED with all kinds of gaming equipment. There were Nintendo Switch X’s, Xboxes, Wii’s and playstations!

“Woah... this place is huge...! How will I find my competition?” Muttered Nolan.

Just then, Nolan spotted a large sign that read “Contestants for the Super Smash Bros. UltraMega Competition wait here”. Nolan ran over to the line, then gasped in shock at what he saw.

The line was almost 200 feet long, with at least 100 or so people waiting in it. There were all kinds of people wearing all different kinds of gaming equipment. There were short people, tall people, fat people and skinny people, with a million different brands of gaming equipment and such. Nolan got in line, and he knew this would be a long wait...

A few hours later, Nolan finally reached the front of the line, but with nothing more than a gaming controller.

“Next!” Called the person letting people inside the “battle” arena (which was basically a really nice room with a large TV in it. Nolan stepped up from the large line. Everyone watching stared at the boy, looking at him like a lion looks at its first meal in weeks. Then, from behind a large, leather-feather swivel chair, a middle-aged man stood up.

“Who is challenging me this time? Do you actually think you can beat me, or are you just here to grovel at my feet?” Nolan was taken aback by this rude comment, so he snapped right back at the man. “I’ve come to beat you, L.J Live! I need the money!” Yelled Nolan in the best sarcastic and smug tone he could make.

Immediately after the man heard Nolan’s voice, he turned to look at his competition. His eyes showed a hint of surprise and frustration, but slowly faded. “Nolan Nexus! What a nice surprise! You dare to challenge me in my competition?” Said L.J in a tone that was WAY too friendly to be legitimate. He had an exaggerated smile on his face that was obviously fake, and he looked as if he wanted to explode. Tiny beads of sweat popped up on his forehead as he stared at Nolan, and little veins popped out on his temples.

L.J Live was tall and skinny, with a smug-looking expression. He had blonde, almost white hair, and was middle-aged. About 59, Nolan guessed. As he stood there, Nolan could tell that he had all the latest gadgets and cloths. L.J wore a long, odd-looking gamers’ red Xphandum sweatshirt, and a pair of long, blue-and-red striped sweatpants. He looked as if he wanted to go exercise at a gym, but Nolan knew

that gamers wore sweatshirts and sweatpants. The reason is this: if you are playing a very exciting game, you start to sweat, especially on your hands. The controller can slip out of your hands or make your finger slip off of the joystick. That's why gamers also wear gloves for controllers.

"How did he know my name? I've never met this guy before...unless... my parents knew him, so they must've told him about me..." thought Nolan.

L.J Live came up to Nolan and loomed over him. Nolan felt like a tiny bug, standing below such a towering person.

"Well, now! Before we start, I'd like to tell you something, Nolan. I knew your parents before you were born! Your parents were nice people, but I thought they were murdered by a terrorist! They were so happy about their child that they threw an office party in this very tower! So, Nolan... Nexus... how have you gotten by all this time?" Stuttered L.J., making it obvious that he wasn't really happy to see him. He said each word with about one syllable per second.

"That is irrelevant. I need the money, so I'm here to win." Nolan spat back.

"Now, now, let's not be too hasty." Said Mr. Live. "I know that you were never very good at video games, Nolan. What makes you think you can beat me now?"

"That's not important! None of this is important!" Shouted Nolan. "I've come to win at your game, and nothing else matters!"

"Oh, okay, okay, Nolan. Have it... your way." Echoed L.J, in a tone that was smug and nervous at the same time.

Nolan started walking over to where the game console was. L.J did the same. Once they were sitting in the gaming seats and were comfortable, Nolan heard Mr. Live mutter "this will be too easy...heh heh..." under his breath.

The director for the competition got up in front of them, and stated the rules. "This is a 1v1 Super Smash Bros. MegaUltra match. You may pick any character you would like. There are no items or assist trophies, and the match will be a stock match. This means that there is no time limit, and you will have to knock off your opponent a certain amount of times to win. Have fun, and happy smashing!"

Nolan readied himself for the match, as did L.J. The screen showed the character select. Nolan knew his best chance was to use a character that he at least knew from his parents, so after some thought, he decided he would play as Sonic the Hedgehog, because he was the fastest character in the game. L.J. Had picked a classic character he always used: Mario (of course) who has always been Sonic's rival. Nolan knew this was going to be a tough battle, but the moment the controller was in his hands, he felt that same strange energy that he had felt that morning reside inside of him one again. Nolan was going to win. He had to!

The match started. It took place in the final destination, on a platform flying through the universe. The second the match started, Nolan felt a sudden surge of that energy, and his hands started moving all on their own again. L.J made the first move, and charged at Nolan using Mario. Nolan, without even thinking, jumped over the attack, and while in the air, he slammed down onto Mario, inflicting some damage and punching Mario into the ground. L.J quickly got Mario out of the small ditch he was in and counterattacked. Mario threw a fireball and then punched at Sonic. Nolan was fast, and dodged everything, even the fireball. L.J. Looked frustrated, so he kicked it up a notch. He made Mario run toward Sonic, but then made him slip to the side and packed a powerful punch on Sonic! But to L.J.'s surprise, Nolan had blocked Mario's attack, as if he could read the future and block attacks before impact. As Mario recovered, Nolan, without thinking, made Sonic grab Mario and he threw him off the stage! That sent Mario flying out of range, and he was knocked out of the ring. Nolan was up, 1-0!

The match progressed, with the energy inside of Nolan getting stronger and stronger as he became closer and closer to winning. L.J was getting madder and madder. "How!? How is he so good at games all of a sudden? I have never lost a game of smash. I won't lose now!" Thought L.J.

They kept fighting, over and over, all over the platform. Lunges, flips, special attacks, Nolan could do it all! He never spun out, not even when the odds of dodging L.J.'s attacks were seemingly impossible. At 20 minutes, the game was still going strong, and Nolan and Mr. Live had attracted a large crowd. Over 100 people, watching the phenomenal match. The score was tied, 4-4, and whoever won would be victorious. If Nolan won, he would get \$10,000, and if L.J.won, he would keep playing other people and kick Nolan out. Nolan knew he couldn't lose.

"Cmon, weird energy...I need some backup..." thought Nolan. L.J was really at it now. He was in some kind of super video game concentration state, and was breathing shallow breaths and sweating profoundly. The final round started.

Nolan made Sonic rush at blinding speeds toward Mario, but L.J was too quick, and ducked and dodged to move out of the way. Then he countered with a charged punch! For the first time in the whole match, Nolan didn't have enough time to block the attack. The punch landed right in Sonic's gut, and he went flying!

Sonic landed right on the edge of the platform, and was hanging by a thread. Mario/L.J. Walked over to Sonic/Nolan and was ready to make the final blow to end everything.

"You fought bravely, Nolan" L.J remarked, smirking at him. "I've never had a more worthy opponent, but now it's the end. Say goodbye to your precious house, and all your possessions."

"No, no...It can't be the end! IT CAN'T!! I need that money! No! I won't give in to—"

In that same moment, Nolan felt another, strange surge of energy inside of him, but this time, the feeling kept getting stronger and stronger, giving him more and more adrenaline in his fingers. Mario/L.J was about to preform the final blow: a super stomp and super fireball! But at the last second, right at the moment when Mario's food came down toward Sonic's hand, Nolan's fingers did an odd maneuver on the controller, seemingly hitting buttons at random. Then, in a blinding flash on the screen, Sonic shot up in front of Mario, and a golden glow from the screen lit up the entire room for a few seconds. When the light finally faded, Sonic was there, floating above Mario, his hair golden and a yellow aura surrounded him. Then, without warning, Nolan's fingers once again reacted on their own.

Sonic teleported Behind Mario, taking L.J by surprise. L.J quickly preformed an attack, another charged punch, but it bounced off the new, golden Sonic easily. Then, unexpectedly, a voice came from the game that everyone in the LiveCorp tower could hear. "Super Sonic style!" Said Sonic.

The new, "Super" Sonic started zipping and zagging all around the screen, hitting Mario almost 100 times a second and from every direction, inflicting heavy damage. L.J Live panicked and started just mashing the buttons on his controller, but Mario was locked in place, and just kept getting hit over and over.

Then, for the finishing blow, Super Sonic got right in front of Mario, and from his hands shot a blast of energy that covered the entire screen, destroying anything in it's path. Mario took over 1000 damage, and he flew off the screen at almost light speed! "GAME! PLAYER 2 WINS!" Said the game.

A lot happened after that phenomenal game of Smash...

First, of course, Nolan had been given \$10,000 right after he had won. L.J was stunned, and was so angry he tried to attack Nolan, but his guards held him back. Nolan came home just as the LiveCorp people were packing his things. He gave them all of the money, plus a little extra to pay for future rent. Once that was taken care of, he used his remaining money to research the strange U.S.B drive that his father had given him. As it turned out, it was a secret new invention that could transfer and store the conceousness, the being, the very spirit of a human or animal. His father had helped develop this while working with LiveCorp, and had put part of himself inside of it to give Nolan the gaming strength he needed.

Next, Nolan wanted to find the person responsible for his parent's death. He knew that it had to be someone who worked with LiveCorp, because that was the place where his parents were shot. He used the money he had to bribe some LiveCorp henchmen into letting him see some files on hiring people and old security camera footages. When he looked at a recording of the day his parents were killed, he

listened to what Mr. Live was doing before they were killed. As it turned out, L.J. was planning to kill them for a long time before it actually happened. The reason? Mr. Nexus had some information that could've destroyed LiveCorp if it got out to the public (but Nolan couldn't find exactly *what* his father wanted, though), so L.J decided that the easiest thing to do was to kill them.

Lastly, Nolan wanted to bring L.J. Live and his company to justice. He brought his case to the court of Silica City, and the trial lasted for over a year. The Jury couldn't decide on what to do about the case, so they forwarded the case to the Supreme Court of the United Federation. That trial lasted for almost *two* years, and once Nolan proved that LiveCorp was indeed the true murderers of his parents, the court eventually shut down LiveCorp completely, and sent all people involved with L.J Live and L.J himself to jail. Specifically Alcatraz 2.0, in Florida. They also found out that L.J.'s real name wasn't L.J. At all! In fact, "live" wasn't even his last name! His real, birth name was "Evil J.L." So basically he just changed his name backwards to make himself sound less threatening to people, Nolan found.

After this grand adventure Nolan had, the crazy energy inside of him began to fade, his father moving on to the next world. He could feel the energy getting smaller and smaller as the days went by, until he could feel nothing at all. He no longer played video games, but he found a job as a cartoonist and ideaman for video games, working for the second-best company in the world: AppleSoft (Apple + Microsoft).

Nolan eventually grew up, upgraded his house, and lived a better life than he ever could've imagined. He met and eventually married a girl named Laurene, raised a family, and lived a great life. He lived to the age of 269, but died looking at his family and smiling down on his great-great grandkids.

They (like any good fairytale) lived happily ever after.