

Where is Dead Zero?
- SIDE QUEST -

Written by

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INT. THE "GRIFF-INN" - DAY

The INN of a **16-bit RPG World**. 3 Adventurers are gathered at the bar, a knight, a mage, and some kind of pink cat-beast. They sip brew, speed-bragging their past exploits.

KITTENLOVER (LVL-3 ARCHER)

-then I passed the monkey wizards
of flying forest, winning the MAGIC
ACORN!

She proudly raises a giant acorn, glowing gold.

KITTENLOVER (CONT'D)

It lets me breathe underwater!

B SMITH (LVL-12 KNIGHT)

A basic item fuzzy sir, I've won
many. Talk to me in a few levels
when you win your first SONG STONE!

He shows off his SONG STONE then casually tosses it into his incredibly vast collection of ITEMS. One space is empty.

B SMITH (CONT'D)

I've all the worlds items but
one...Where is DEAD ZERO?

DACRONIX (LVL-8 MAGE)

WhAt pLaYA aiNt lOoKing fo dat
bLAYDe?! Doubt itz even ReAl.

GRIZZLED VOICE (O.S.)

Oh...it's real.

Down the bar, a gray haired warrior with one blue eye sips his brew then pulls out the ghastly glowing blade DEAD ZERO.

ALL

GASP!!!

BLINKY (LVL-99 ???)

Aint as good as they say though.

B SMITH oogles it with jealous awe.

B SMITH

Forged from the fangs of haunted
werewolves! One swing reduces all
enemy HP to zero...DEAD zero.

B SMITH turns, pleading on one knee to BLINKY who mostly ignores him.

B SMITH (CONT'D)

Tell us dirty sir! What quest won you such an item?!

BLINKY

I can tell you...but it wont make you happy.

B SMITH

I doubt that dirty sir.

BLINKY sips his brew, raising an eyebrow.

BLINKY

Let's wager. If I tell you how I won Dead Zero and you still need to hear more, you buy me another Brew.

B SMITH

DEAL...my dirty sir.

BLINKY

Stop calling me that.

FLASHBACK:

EXT - GOLDEN FALLS CASTLE - DAY

BLINKY (NARRATION)

I took a quest to save the princess of Golden falls...

At the gates, a young Blinky with both of his eyes and fire-red hair kneels before a sobbing king and queen.

KING

Save our Princess, and win DEAD ZERO!

YOUNG BLINKY

.....ok.

BLINKY (NARRATION)

That was the quest that changed everything.

TITLE: WHERE IS DEAD ZERO? - "SIDE QUEST"

MONTAGE: Young blinky makes his way through countless WORLDS, defeating MONSTERS and winning ITEMS.

BLINKY (NARRATION)

I'd won every item there was. No quest could challenge me! With my HONEY BADGER CLOAK I endured the Warlock turtles of Haunted wood!

POOF! Blinky deflects fireballs thrown by the flying turtles.

BLINKY (NARRATION) (CONT'D)

With my WINGED SANDALS I evaded the sand-giants of the blind desert.

ZOOM! Blinky dashes expertly between the monsters.

BLINKY (NARRATION) (CONT'D)

And with my SCARF of EAGLE CLAWS, I outsoared the sea of shock, to the peak of reek.

KRACKABOOM! Over a sea of shocktopi, he makes his way toward an ominous island volcano blasting its endless molten spire!

BLINKY (NARRATION) (CONT'D)

There, I used at long last the ICE CLOCK to freeze the volcano, entering its magmatic depths.

SHOOoo... Time stops. Blinky navigates the frozen magma of the volcano down to its deepest depths of dungeon doom.

BLINKY (NARRATION) (CONT'D)

It was here I confronted my foe, the 'Boot Bear'.

BOOT BEAR (L-66 BOSS)

Bwa ha ha. BOOT BEAM!!!

Boot Bear fires a raging boot beam at Young Blinky. Young Blinky gasps, searching for an item to counter with.

YOUNG BLINKY

BOOT SHIELD!

The shield deflects the beam back at the bear, blasting him to bytes! Fanfare plays as the dungeon vault begins to open.

BLINKY (NARRATION)

Simple enough. I thought my quest was over, but it had only just begun.

Vault opens fully revealing the princess is...an infant?! She cries out.

BABY PRINCESS

WHAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA!!!

YOUNG BLINKY

Princess stop crying! You're saved!

The crying only gets louder.

BLINKY (NARRATION)

She cried louder than a thousand HOWL HOUNDS. I know, because that's what attacked us first!

HOWOO! Countless eyes light up the darkness. Hordes of enraged hounds emerge. Blinky grabs the princess and runs.

BLINKY (NARRATION) (CONT'D)

The more she cried, the more that came, enraged and stronger. I was completely overwhelmed. I never fought this hard in all my levels!

A hound catches up. Blinky is clawed, losing a heart.

BLINKY (NARRATION) (CONT'D)

DAMAGE! I'd forgotten what that felt like!

Blinky soars off escaping the hounds, but into a sea of shocktopi - Zap-za-zap-zap!!! Crashing into the waves. Drowning. Heart meter down to 1. He struggles to keep the princess above water.

BLINKY (NARRATION) (CONT'D)

I needed the DEAD ZERO! But that was a long way off.

MAP VIEW: An entire world separates him from his prize. Her crying only increases drawing more enemies to pursue them.

YOUNG BLINKY

I've won more magic items than you have pixels in your body!

Using a MAGIC CLAM Blinky becomes a Merman, traversing the long sea and barely escaping the end of both their lives.

INT - HARBOR TOWN RUINS - NIGHT

Blinky hides out with the princess in a ruined shack. He uses up his last potion to restore health. Whatever they do next, it had better work.

MONTAGE: Desperate he goes through each of his items, all powerful and valuable for questing, but useless for a baby.

BLINKY (NARRATION)

*My SONG STONE could make it rain
fire, but it couldn't change a
simple diaper.*

Princess continues crying. Blinky grabs whatever is next.

BLINKY (NARRATION) (CONT'D)

*The BEAST FIDDLE could summon
creatures of any element. They
could take out an entire army of
robo-gres!! But they couldn't feed
a baby.*

Still the princess cries. WAAAAAAAAAAAA!!!! The elementals leave in shame. Blinky is lost. The cries grow louder attracting and enraging some VAMBOARS (vampire boars).

Blinky and the princess are chased into the forest.

BLINKY (NARRATION) (CONT'D)

*All my levels, quests, items,
experience points - it all suddenly
seemed so...useless.*

EXT. - BANDIT'S GROVE - MORNING

Surrounded, Blinky hides in some bushes under a tree.

VAMBOAR LEADER

I can hear they're close! Keep
looking!

The princess keeps crying. It's only a matter of time before they're found. Suddenly, two eyes appear in the tree's hole.

TREE EYES

Pssst.

YOUNG BLINKY

(whispering) ...Who are you?!

TREE EYES

Would you like to buy some items?

The tree is a secret shop offering to BUY, SELL, or TRADE.

YOUNG BLINKY

Are you kidding? This isn't the
best time for -

Blinky spots an item for sale he's never seen. BABY BOTTLE.

YOUNG BLINK

Wait! You have BABY BOTTLE?

TREE EYES

Sure! It's yours for just 30,000gp.

YOUNG BLINKY

For a BABY BOTTLE?! I don't have that kind of money!

TREE EYES

That's ok. You can trade one of your items for one of mine.

Blinky is stunned and offended. He begins to turn red.

BLINKY (NARRATION)

Was he insane? I'd quested for 28 levels to get these items! I was SAVING this princess to GET another item! Did he understand how this world even worked?!

YOUNG BLINKY

What kind of sucker trades MAGIC ITEMS for MILK?

BABY PRINCESS

WAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA!!!!

The Tree looks away. Blinky tries to ignore the crying but he sees the baby is scared. Blinky feels bad. He resists, then -

CUT TO:

Blinky has traded a MAGIC ITEM for a BOTTLE.

TREE EYES

Thanks! I also got Diapers, wipes, cribs n more! Just knock!

Blinky sits there grumpily watching the baby drink away his hard won item. He realizes though that she's quiet. There's no enemies around.

YOUNG BLINKY

Well, at least your'e quiet now. Maybe we can make a break for it.

Blinky takes one step out of the bushes, then -

BABY PRINCESS

WAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA!!!

The bottle is empty.

YOUNG BLINKY

How fast did you drink that?! This
cost me a SONG STONE!

SNORT! HISS! The Vamboars spot them and ensue in even greater numbers. The crying continues to attract more. Blinky tries to use his items but is overwhelmed. He begins taking a beating to protect the princess, losing all of his health.

BLINKY (NARRATION)

*I remember feeling angry. Angry
that my items weren't enough.
Stupid that I'd wasted my lives to
get them. And sad that this poor
kid was stuck with a useless idiot
to protect her.*

No potions left. Blinky loses an eye! Vamboars move in for the kill.

BLINKY (NARRATION) (CONT'D)

*I learned the real value of my
items that day. But I also learned
there's something even better.*

SQUIRT! Baby Princess pees on a Vamboar, dispatching him
POOF! 3xp. Blinky and the Vamboar's are all in shock.

Then something incredible - Baby Princess' giggles, magically healing one of Blinky's hearts! The Vamboars get mad.

VAMBOAR LEADER

GET THEM!!!

Blinky then equips Baby Princess as an item and uses her like a pee-blaster, giggle-zapping all the Vamboars around them.

Before you know it - not only is Blinky's health refilled, but the overwhelming giggles double his health. LIFE X 2!

Blinky smiles. Baby smiles, but then frowns.

BABY PRINCESS

WAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA!!!

BLINKY

YOU NEED MORE MILK!

Blinky dashes to the hidden tree shop.

TREE EYES

Would you like to buy some items?

BLINKY (NARRATION)

For the first time I didn't care about items. I had a friend, and we had a quest.

Blinky trades ALL OF HIS ITEMS for an endless supply of BABY BOTTLES. Baby drinks. Enemies attack. Snack n load.

MONTAGE: Blinky and Baby Princess blast their way through worlds with ease. Blinky takes care of feeding and burping her. She in turn takes care of blasting baddies, her giggles keep him invincible to anything that tries to stop them. They are an unstoppable duo.

BLINKY (NARRATION) (CONT'D)

Sooner or later though - all quests come to an end.

Blinky sees The castle on the horizon. Time to take her home.

EXT - GOLDEN FALLS CASTLE - MAGIC HOUR

The princess is returned to the King and Queen, all so happy.

KING

You have saved the princess! Now take your prize, DEAD ZERO!!!

The massive waterfall parts behind the castle revealing the ultimate Item, DEAD ZERO!

Blinky takes the sword but he feels empty, and it's not just the missing eye. He sees the baby princess happy with her parents, then turns to leave with his prize. His LIFE x2 breaks away leaving just what he had before.

Blinky wanders away into the cold unknown alone.

BLINKY (NARRATION)

And that's how I won Dead Zero...

END FLASHBACK:

INT - GRIFF INN - DAYB SMITH

WHAT?! Did you ever see the kid again?

The crowd of adventurers is huddled around Blinky at the bar.

BLINKY

You askin for more?

B SMITH

Curses! I give up! Please tell us dirty sir! You must have seen her again!

The Knight passes Blinky a new drink.

BLINKY

I did, years later. But, I was afraid she wouldn't remember me.

RESUME FLASHBACK:

EXT - GOLDEN FALLS CASTLE - MORNING

The princess is a little girl now. A middle-aged Blinky sees her on the castle wall, flying a kite. She turns to look but doesn't recognize him. Hope fades from Blinky's face. Then, her eyes light up.

BLINKY (NARRATION)

She remembered!

INSERT: King and Queen telling baby Princess bedtime stories.

BLINKY (NARRATION) (CONT'D)

Each night her folks told her this same story.

Kid Princess approaches Blinky with a handshake.

BLINKY (NARRATION) (CONT'D)

Dumb kid told me she was sorry I lost all my items. I said I was sorry too, but I'd do it again without a pause. Then she asked me a favor.

MONTAGE: Princess growing older and training with Blinky.

END FLASHBACK:

PRINCESS (L1-WARRIOR)

I'd help you win em all back.

Princess enters the Inn, a fully grown first level warrior. Blinky tosses her the brew and hands DEAD ZERO to the inquisitive knight

B SMITH

Dirty sir?!

Blinky and Princess make their way to the door.

BLINKY

Keep it. We'll get another one.