# Prologue

There’s a saying that goes: “Laughter is the best medicine”. It implies that laughter, or cheerfulness in general, is known to improve people’s wellbeing. But what if laughter itself… is what’s killing you?

I don’t even know when everything started. From what I’ve heard from my overseas colleagues, one day, in a certain rural town, a man starts laughing hysterically. Passerby wouldn’t thing much of him, but little did they know, he’s been like that for 7 hours, and he can’t stop. A week later, a group of young adults going to visit their relatives were horrified to find out that two-thirds of the town’s population were dead, and the remaining people were either in stiches (When someone is in stitches, they have been laughing for so long that they are physically in pain) or wheezing, gasping for air. After being put under an unhealthy amount of anesthesia, some of the Hyperwhoopers, as they would later be called, were able to calm down and retell the story to rescuers, all while giggling between their lines. The whole town had been laughing non-stop, regardless of day or night, wherever they are and whatever they were doing beforehand. Then people start dying, either from hypoxia or exhaustion, some even had heart attacks. They literally laughed themselves to death. Chaos ensues. They lost connection to the Internet cause the manager was busy howling with laughter, and the phone service and electricity provider followed suit.

Unfortunately, that would not be the only incident of mass Hyperesctasy – the name given to the “disease” by scientists. In the following months, several small towns and suburban areas were struck with the same catastrophe. Then the major cities got affected also. Soon enough, almost everyone was laughing in agony, and the world was in shambles.

Now, here I am, with my team in a laboratory in the middle of nowhere, is one of the last standing research facilities on the planet. We, along with our friends and colleagues, must save humanity from this ironic ailment.