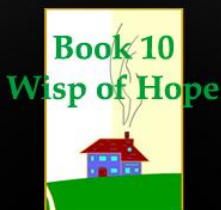


# EPIC FAIL

The Journal of a Homeless Gamer



by rabb1t  
aka  
Eric Stryker



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**Epic Fail**  
**The Journal of a Homeless Gamer**

Book 10  
Wisp of Hope

By rabb1t  
aka Eric Stryker

First .pdf, e-published July, 2017

This is version 0.491, e-published November, 2017

First web published in July, 2008, at  
<http://www.rabb1t.com/epicfail/>



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*Where did I see it?*



## Glossary and Links

**Blu-ray** - The next-generation format for DVD capable of 1080p video resolution and uncompressed audio.

**Elder Scrolls Online or ESO** - A MMORPG set in the Elder Scrolls universe created by ZeniMax Online Studios in partnership with Bethesda Softworks.

**Hearthstone** - A collectable (digital) card game by Blizzard Entertainment.

**Live Action Role Playing or LARP** - A live action version where players act out what the characters are doing, creating sort of a mix of acting and game playing.

**Min/Maxing or Minimizing/Maximizing** - The act of selecting talents, skills, abilities, or spells, for your character in a way that gets you the most effect for the smallest (point) cost in order to match your play style and desired build. When I say I am 'tweaking my character' this is most often what I'm doing.

**MMOG** - Massively multiplayer online game. A game where thousands of players log on at the same time and play together. Typically these have a monthly subscription fee.

**MOBA** - Multiplayer Online Battle Arena.

**monies** - lolspeak/leetspeak for "money".

**noob, n00b, or newb** - Short for "newbie". A person new (and unfamiliar) in a particular field or task.

**Theorycrafting** - The act of contemplating statistics in a game which are mostly invisible to a player in order to maximize your efficiency (without going beyond to a point where you are gaining too little.) When I say I am 'tweaking my character' only on very rare occasion am I theorycrafting. See related concept: Min/Maxing.

**uber** - lolspeak/leetspeak for someone who is superior. (Originated from the German language.)

**Year 10**  
**Week 470**

**Day 3287 - 7/1/2017**  
**A passing**

Today was strange. Last night when I did my writing I didn't realize year 9 was closing. Today didn't seem like a year starting either. It was a gentle passing of another homeless weekend day. I suppose nothing more, or less.

It was extremely quiet at the library. I expect because most schools will have the next few days off for the fourth, so people are out on vacation, or meeting with friends for BBQs and whatnot. As a very quiet day I was left alone with my thoughts, checking things online, and the game I spent most of the day playing.

I suppose today my mind lived in the future, again pondering what I will eat to try and get back in shape, and what level of exercises I will do to build my body back to at least not being in so much pain all the time. But that future depends on having a place to live. And in that place, freedom and peace to do so.

But I suppose it could be said my mind did, and by doing so it must still hold hope. And so I try to remember I live for yet another day, and in spite of how exhausted and sad I feel, there must still be some hope within me.

**Day 3288 - 7/2**  
**Quiet again**

Today was pretty quiet again. I was super super sleepy, so the day passed very quickly. Nothing really new or special happened, though I suppose nothing bad happened either. The day passed as a usual homeless sleepy day would.

I continue to try to hang on and hope for better days.

## Day 3288 - 7/3

### In body, but not mind

Today was pretty weird. It wound up being split between school and the public library. The morning was very slow. No one was around but three who were doing a shoot. By the early afternoon it was apparent my regular lab spot wasn't going to open and my back was starting to hurt pretty badly sitting on the floor. (Which is odd because I do that all the time). So since that was not going to happen I decided to go to the library. I got a proper-ish chair, though I'd forgotten how cold it could get in there. It was a pretty stark contrast to what maybe was in the low 80s outside.

Being at school was strange. With no one around and the lab not open I was there in body, but not mind. Everything my eyes saw said I was at school, but everything I observed in others said I was not. There were barely any people, and I didn't do normal things.

I suppose overall it was ok though. It was quiet, and I was a bit sad, but I was warm enough, and I had ok foods.

I still haven't heard from my dad. (That makes it since like Xmas when I last heard from him.) I suppose the place the e-card would go, and the email I mailed to do go to the same place. I suppose it's possible he's lost that, or the ability to get to it. Though that seems unlikely. When I get a bit more flexibility I may have to send a physical card. With roughly 10 years left it's very possible he's passed early. Though I'd think his new wife, lawyer, or my aunt, would have informed me if that were the case, even if I didn't have any inheritance. All these homeless years I'd thought it might be nice to try and patch things up, make a stronger connection. (Than the twice or three times a year contact we have.) But I know he views me in a certain way, and he was stubborn even when his mind wasn't clouded with age. So while I'm homeless that would be a nearly impossible view to change. Though I would not regret such a lost chance, as he's had these past roughly 25 years to reach out to me, and he has not.

I expect tomorrow will be rough. I'll probably spend too many monies on getting a hot chocolate to be at the coffee shop. Unless I sat outside of school and parked across the street, as that's my only other real option as almost everything will be closed. But of all

the holidays tomorrow is one I don't want to stand out like that, so I guess it's good I have a teeny bit to spare to do the coffee shop.

But for now I try to hang on. I'm sure tomorrow will be very difficult. But I hope it will be a passable day. And I hope things are at least moderately ok. I have two movies from the library, so there is that at least. But I hope it will be ok, and hope there are better days ahead.

## Day 3290 - 7/4 Uncomfortable

Today is starting feeling uncomfortable, but hopefully that will change. I came to the coffee shop and saw a few regulars there, though much less than the normal number. There was the manager I knew from before and some person who looked like she was still pretty new. I settled in and noticed the network is now password locked. I asked the password and, in his old ass-like fashion he said "freeloaders". I walked away not knowing if he was serious or not. It certainly instantly threw me back to several years ago when he was being an ass to me (thinking I wasn't spending anything when I was, in fact, spending \$5-7 a day.) For a coffee shop which is literally right across the street from the college they still, for more than five years now, have the completely wrong attitude towards students who would come here to study and be with friends and may not always have money for drinks or food.

So now, even if it's only a joke password, I feel uncomfortable. 🙄 The food store is apparently not closing today, so if the feeling get too bad I may just leave earlier than planned. I did plan on maybe not having a connection today (and the food store is about a 50/50 chance on that), so I have two movies that should last about four hours if I need to do that.

I am worried about gas too. I only have a teeny bit of money left, though the registration is covered. But there are two weeks of gas and that's about it. But for now I will try to relax. I will try to think that things will be ok. I will try to remember it is just one very tough day and then it's back to as much of a homeless normal as can be and things will be better. And all I can do is hope that I can hang on.

## **Day 3296 - 7/10**

### **So exhausted**

Today I am so exhausted I can't think straight. Which I guess is fine, as there was no one around all day. It was really just me on the floor until about 5 when a few started to show up for the 6:00 class which is across the hall from where I sit.

I played a couple of quick games today, and watched a couple of shows, but that was really it. Because I was so exhausted I couldn't focus on anything for more than five minutes at a time. If this exhaustion continues I'll be forced to nap at school or on weekends before the library is open. I guess its stress related, but I'm jumpy at everything and not sleeping for hours while I'm laying there trying to sleep.

I guess besides my exhaustion, besides worry about my being nearly out of gas, today wasn't too terrible. And still, I try to remain hopeful for the future.

## **Day 3297 - 7/11**

### **Super sad changes**

Today it seems there must be super sad changes. I got word from the nice professor I TA for that some were still grumping at her that I help. Two quarters ago they got all mad and bumped the unpaid TA helper people like me. But because I'm so very super helpful my professor kept me around on the low-down. Every quarter several tell me how helpful I was, and last quarter someone told me his reading my tips page every week, and seeing me walking around and being a generally helpful and friendly guy was the only way he managed to keep his anxiety low enough to get through the class and do his assignments.

So it seems I am being pushed out of my happy place. And while I am not currently a student I can't push back in any way. If I had classes I could at least say I had a right to be on the floor if I wanted. So I don't know how the rest of my day will go. The next few hours will be chaotic as I test different places on campus for possible places to be and what permission levels the connections have. (It seems though a quick test in the writing labs different areas might be set differently.) I may have to find a new place to be.

☹️ That probably would be the public library if I can't be somewhere at school. The good news there is that it's the same distance from my sleeping spot if I go directly there. Maybe even very very slightly closer. So gas would not change. But my habit and life would. There would be no micro at the public library. There would be no showers. There would be no students to help, and as such no purpose greater than me to serve. And I suppose the worst thing is I feel without that greater purpose I may no longer have possible career paths, nor any direct contacts to finding them.

But I suppose what must be done must be done. I have little to no choice today as it is already in motion, and the dust will need to settle before new patterns take place. So it seems this week ends on a sadder note. I have my normal sad life things such as gas and other bills to worry about, all other sad things that come with no home; and now too I have, at least temporarily, lost my greatest happiness and purpose in life greater than me. And while I feel ok right now I have a feeling I may very soon be feeling more alone and lost than I have in many years, possibly than ever before. ☹️

I still live. I still have some food. I still have a few things. So, for the moment, I try to hang on to hope.

## Week 472

### Day 3298 - 7/12 Worried about me

Today was the first of a long string of days at the public library. I've been pondering what to do about my forced schedule change. When I was testing the school library connection it seemed to have the same permissions, so that was fine, but it was actually a bit slow. Not so slow I couldn't do anything, but slow enough that I worried if more people than the dozen that were there showed up it would become too slow to do anything.

So I thought about that and if it would be worth the couple of microed meals a day to cripple my connection. And I thought too about how I'd feel being there since I, at least for the moment, have no classes, nor connections to classes. And I think it would feel weird to stick around. I will still shower and micro an early lunch, but I think I'll not stick around after that. Tomorrow I'll need to stick around for a bit to get the lend copy of the class book back to the professor, but I'll go after that.

I will miss many things. As I was leaving on Tuesday I saw a beautiful blonde girl coming in. I'd seen her pass by me before on Monday when I was sitting in my spot. She had a bit of pink in her hair I didn't notice before. It made me sad I won't see girls like that. And in a way it feels like by not seeing them I will never find love again. I know that isn't really true. They will still be around. And really my odds of finding a sweetie likely won't increase at all at school. But it feels like that. And it makes me sad.

The bigger thing is I don't get to help. I don't get to see people that I've helped improve and learn stuff and get better based on suggestions. And without that I feel I have no purpose. I am living just for me. And I would like to be more. I would like what I do to matter to some. Again, this may only be temporary, and I am only out this quarter, which is four more weeks. If it is temporary, I guess that's not much. But still.

So I worry about me. I am worried I will be sad emotionally. I am worried I will feel lost again. I am worried when I am on campus I will feel out of place and

unwelcome. And I am worried just living and hanging on one day at a time will begin to feel like a prison sentence, and that I am just passing time until I'm up for parole.

But it's all I can do. The few dollars of gas I have in the car is what it is. My options on where to be are what they are. My options for relationships are as they have been.

All I can do is look at what is positive about my options. I try to consider how much I should still have ahead. And I try to hold on until I have the opportunity to get through.

## **Day 3299 - 7/13**

### **The bunny is gone**

Today was a bit more sad than I originally thought it would be. I started the morning at school. I needed a shower and figured I'd micro and stay a bit since I said I'd get the book back to my professor. It was kind of funny that I ran into someone who was also visiting. She begged us to stay and visit for a bit. So I did.

It was strange to be in class, hiding among the fewer than 20 students. I could tell many had already forgotten who I was. I don't blame them. They only saw me twice and those were the first days. One did say he was surprised he hadn't seen me, as he got the impression I was a paid TA. I said 'sadly it is the opposite. I am both unpaid and the dean of the department has been pushing people like me out.'

It was sad being there. I didn't really say any comments to help. It would have felt wrong. I don't need to prove to them I am helpful. I know I am. It's the dean who doesn't want me. So I felt it was better not to confuse them since I wouldn't be there in the future.

The bunny is gone. I draw a cute bunny on the board in the corner in classrooms I help in. And over the past three years the teachers know I'll just redraw it if they erase him. Lately a new teacher has been in the room erasing him. When I thought to look he was indeed gone. Like I am not there. And it made me sad. It made me wonder if I would be remembered if I can't help. Or if I didn't make it, and was gone from the world.



In the time I was there in the cafeteria it felt ok to be there. I felt like I could have gone back, or could be there in the future. But at the same time it felt wrong. Like I could be there, but there is nowhere I belong.

I went to the public library in the early afternoon. And I will likely just be there all the time, save for a shower and single micro meal twice a week. I suppose it's better than school in that it's fairly empty these days, the connection is in general better than the school cafeteria and library were. And I suppose, realistically, it really doesn't change my odds of finding love or friends, as those at school have only been friends when they saw me there. I've never been invited to hang out or do things.

I don't really feel like playing. Yet oddly I want to have a new game to do new things and have new distractions. Checking the new old game it actually only has the same content as when I left five years ago. So I've actually basically stopped playing that and don't know if it's worth playing since everything I'd see I've already seen. My favorite MMO has a new expansion I haven't been able to afford. And there is another expansion to a favorite single player game just after my birthday in late August. And the game I'd love to play in October. So maybe one of those will be a nice birthday present. And hopefully my system will be able to run them ok if I do manage to get one.

So today was extra sad. My professor obviously doesn't want to lose me, and she struggles to let go. So that is sad for both of us. My gas continues to dwindle and run low. And very soon I may be forced to walk. And my tummy is still very sad that simple thoughts of things like Chinese food or pizza seem like distant memories that I can't recall when I could last afford them.

But I try to hang on. I try to play my games that seem ok to play and watch the shows my brain wants to watch. And I try to stay distracted and hope for better days ahead.

## **Day 3300 - 7/14** **OKish**

Today was an okish day. I started at the food store and did most of my forum and social site stuff for the day. The connection was decent, so I'm glad I got the extra time

for that. The bulk of the day was spent at the library. I wanted to play games for a bit, so that was something in that I felt in a good enough mood to do that. I did spend more than half the day watching shows though. And after leaving the library and going back to the food store I watched a few more.

So overall the day was ok. It had nothing new that was sad, but my current sad feelings and worries about things like as and bills just around the corner worried me. But overall I felt ok. Nothing dragged me down too far.

So I try to hang on to the happy things. I try to think if I can do more to be happy, or at least at peace with the sad things that I can't control. And I try to remain hopeful for better days ahead.

## **Day 3301 - 7/15**

### **Not terrible**

Today was emotionally not terrible. I was in the library most of the day. And when I was not and was at the food store there was a good connection. I mostly watched my shows. As always I helped on forums for a bit. I even felt ok enough to play games. Though again I'm not really sure why I'm playing the two I'm playing. I'll probably try to go back to my old MMO, though with noone I group with and no access to the newest content I'm afraid that would just feel sad.

Nothing bad happened, but I also didn't get any help or donations. So I am still extremely worried about all the short term, and slightly longer term, things. 😞

But I survived the day emotionally, and I didn't lose any of the few things I have left, so it seems like it was not a terrible day. All I can do is try to get decent sleep and hope tomorrow is a better day.

## Day 3302 - 7/16

### Super hot

Today was super hot. When I was going to the food store at 9 in the morning it was already too hot. I think I heard from someone that around 8 PM it was barely cooled down to the low 80s.

I guess thankfully I was in the cool library most of the day. I mean, sure, it was the best place to be, but if I had a regular life maybe I could have gone to a pool, or invited people over for BBQ and gaming.

I did play my old MMO for just a teeny bit today, and I may play again in the coming days. But mostly I felt too sad to play. I am extremely low on gas. I have a party and game next weekend, but at the rate things are going I may be out of gas mid-week. And it seems unlikely with as few cans as I have in the car doing recycle would be more than just emergency gas, and the car would have to remain parked and I'd be on foot from then on. So I am very worried again. And very stressed about all the things. And there is no money for laundry, so I worry that I can't go much longer before I'm out of clean cloths. And there are always bigger things looming just a few months down the road. 😞

But I try to hang on until help comes. And I try to look at what I do have left. And I try to stay hopeful and as positive as I can. It's all I can do. 😊

## Day 3303 - 7/17

### Card from dad

Today was pretty quiet. I showered and got my parts clean and shaved at school. I got a micro lunch. Things there were very quiet. Even more so later as the library was extra quiet.

I think I pulled or pinched something when I was showering though. I've had this odd occasional tingling at the top of my head where a line back from my eye and over from my ear would cross. Kind of where the edge of my faux-hawk is (though there are no pictures so that doesn't help, heh.) It's almost like the hairs are poking my head, but

they aren't. It's like under the skin just a little bit. But it's not there all the time. It's hard to describe.

I finally heard back from dad. I guess he isn't sure if he'll have anything for my birthday in a month so he sent word he sent monies already, which is super good as I've gotten critical lately. It's a decent amount for my life, so I've though and thought and thought. I think, because I don't want it to just be wasted on gas and emergency food, I'll spare a bit of it and get myself an actual present - one of the game expansions I've been looking forward to. It actually will come out I think a week after my birthday, so that's good timing there.

After that part is gone I'll pay a bit of money to the phone, as they've been threatening to suspend my pay as I go phone account if I don't pay something soon. I guess they have a point in that it's probably been inactive and shut off for about 6 months since I haven't had spare to charge it at all. I'll also spare a bit for at least doing the critical needs of laundry. And then a little bit for the bank account monthly fee, and then the rest is about two weeks of gas. Which, while not amazing, should be enough to last until I get more to recycle (though that will probably only be a week of gas), in addition to any help that may come.

I guess today was ok. I felt very sad, I guess melancholy. My eyes had a hard time focusing again. It's almost like something is preventing them from focusing. I don't know if it's just physical exhaustion, or maybe the air conditioners constant ffffffff that's putting me into a sleep-like state. This sort of inability to focus only happens when I start my day at the library, and only when I'm there several days in a row. My eye doc did say I was at a point where I could use reading glasses, like a quarter step up from my normal prescription, so maybe that's it. But this seems like something deeper in the back of my mind. When it happens it feels like the whole back 1/3 of my brain is being forced to sleep and the rest struggles not to succumb to that sleep. Maybe it's just extreme depression combined with my exhaustion, as my mind may know if there is nothing that could be interesting, why try to stay alert.

I guess besides all my usual sadness things were ok. I tried to focus on the good things I have. I tried to focus on my upcoming b-day, and how tomorrow I will get to watch other people preview the game I want to get in October. (Though this is the console

version, as the PC version doesn't happen until August, which I'd be able to get in to.) So I try to stay positive. And I try to hang on until help comes, and make it to better days.

## **Day 3304 - 7/18**

### **Tingles on my head**

Today is a bit cooler. I'm outside the library in the morning and have my hoodie on because I'm a bit chilly. The past couple of days it's been so hot at this time I was practically sweating in just a T-shirt and had to leave my car, so it seems to be cooling off a bit, at least for the moment.

The funny tingling feeling on my head is either growing in scope or just more noticeable today. It's still right on top, but seems connected to the tendon and jaw muscles which control ear twitching. So I definitely must have tweaked a neck or shoulder muscle in the shower. It seems weird because I don't remember any odd moment.

I guess today will be a fairly regular sad day. Outside of dad's money settling in to my account I don't expect there to be anything different about today. I always hope for help though, maybe news of an opportunity, maybe even start down a path of new friendship or love. But the odds of those seem slight. I suppose I've always been a dreamer though and a romantic, so I will always hope those odds turn out. I guess today ends the week on a hopeful note, as I am not quite in as much of a panic. But until things are permanently better there will always be dangers ahead. And what I hold in my hands slowly crumbles to nothing. But I just have to keep trying to be as happy as I can in the moment, as we never know how long we have.

## Week 473

### Day 3305 - 7/19 Long day

Today moved very slowly and it felt like a long day. When I was leaving I had a hard time remembering what happened more than just a few hours before. I guess it was an ok day. I helped on the forums. I watched stuff on a beta for a game I hope to get (in October). I actually felt like playing a bit, so I played a bit in three different games.

Oh, speaking of playing, an interesting discovery came upon me yesterday. I was doing something and did it in the normal way, a way which has been firewall blocked by the library. But I discovered it is no longer blocked. I tested the two game connections I knew were also firewall blocked, and those too are no longer blocked. So some time in the past probably four months it looks like the library has changed its firewall settings to basically no longer block anything. 😊 That's super good news for all future gaming I'll need to do at the library. I still won't be able to voice chat, but I really don't normally like to do that as most have horrid microphone quality and have a ton of annoying background music going on.

Nothing changed today, for good or bad, which I suppose overall is better than bad change. Really it was just another day of hanging on and trying to get by while hoping good change or opportunity comes, while hoping for better days ahead.

### Day 3306 - 7/20 In my head

Today I was alone in my head all day, which I guess is a good thing. The day started at school with a shower and micro. I think I passed by two people's side view who I knew and neither saw me or said hi. I guess it makes sense since I've been gone more than a week now. If they have been by my spots they would see I'm gone and not expect to see me. But it was weird, like I'm gone and just a ghost.

I played the games I don't know why I'm playing today. I may stop the PvP one. I just don't like PvP and today in the three games I played I wound up blocking 1-2 people each game, which is just ridiculous. With the other game I think I am just playing because I believe in the idea behind it. But class abilities are uninspired. There is no loot to speak of, and I still have yet to ever group. And what's more is in the like four or so hours I played I only saw about two people. So with no one to play with (that I know), and nothing to gain in the game, I really should focus my efforts on other games. Yeah, both are moderately fun time wasters, but I have several other games I could be playing through.

I guess I don't feel too bad emotionally, but I find myself looking forward and hoping for better days. I hope to get games I have more fun with, either new or expansions of ones I have. I hope for a place to belong again; at a job, with friends, in a home. And I hope for a future where I at least don't have to constantly worry and be afraid of bills or repercussions thereof. All I can do for now is try to hang on and hope such days do come eventually.

## **Day 3307 - 7/21**

### **Quiet day**

Today was a pretty quiet day. I didn't feel too much like playing, so I only played maybe two hours.

I don't really remember what I did instead. I know I tried again to watch the shows that are blocked, but they are still blocked. I looked for news of interesting things since there is a big comic convention this weekend, but I don't really recall much of the day. I think I did a lot of looking at posts in a social group, and a lot of just time killing things waiting for interesting things.

I started the day ok, but as it went on I got more and more tired. Now, in the evening, I feel pretty exhausted. I think it's a combination of lack of sleep and lack of stimulation. I'm still losing several hours a night not sleeping.

But I try to hang on to the good things I still have. I try to keep focused on the things ahead to look forward to. And I try to hang on until better days come.

## Day 3308 - 7/22

### Partyish

Today was different. The first part of the day was normal, except it did get super hot. I heard it was over 90F, which is crazy since it's only been in the mid 70s for about a week.

In the evening though I went over to some people's new apartment. Two people I do the every two to three week game with were basically doing a house warming. There were a few other people there, so it wasn't like an official party so much as a hanging out for a few hours thing. They may be new RL friends; I guess we'll see if that happens again or not. Outside of the regular game time this was the first time we've 'hung out'.

They had a super cute kitten too. She was a big sweetie and super playful. She wasn't too shy either, which is kind of surprising for such a young kitty. She was three months old and maybe half the size of a full grown kitty. Certainly not the only one handful big I expected when they said kitten. So I got lots of pets and even some kisses.



That was really it. I played a little at the library, but my pre-party time passed quickly. I suppose today was a better day. A day until my dad sent money I thought I would have to cancel, so it's good I didn't need to. So today was a rare day.

## Day 3309 - 7/23

### Half laundry

Today was happy and sad. In the morning I had a bit of time at the food store and there was a stable connection, so I was able to do forum helping things and play for about an hour and a half.

After that I went to micro my lunch at the game store, as the every two to three week game as today. It was super fun, but also sad driving back, as I have maybe a week and a half of gas before I'm out again. So that was sad and worrisome.

In the evening I went to do laundry. I had the normal amount of money, as it was already more than I could afford. But since I had too much laundry to do I was barely able



to do half. I suppose the good news is the half I didn't do was pants and outer shirts, things I won't need while we are in days like today which was 85-90F or hotter. Those items don't smell freshly cleaned, but they also don't smell terrible. At least not yet. Having to sit unwashed for a while that may change in the coming days. Hopefully I'll get more for gas and laundry and can catch up soon. But at least for the moment it is ok and I can get by.

So today was both happy and sad. There is still some time left in the evening as I finish laundry, but I expect it to go normally. And as such all I can really do is hope for better days ahead.

## **Day 3310 - 7/24**

### **Hot chilly**

Today's weather was odd. At first it was pretty hot, but once the sun went down it got chilly quickly. I would guess that means overall things will be turning towards chillier weather, or at least cooling off to normal summer temperatures from super hot.

Other than that it was a pretty typical day. I started at school getting a shower and shaving all my parts. I think I heard a janitor cleaning up the girl's side around 9, which is unusual. But the morning swim practice hasn't been there lately, so they may be changing their schedule to summer kid swim lessons soon.

After the shower I had some time to kill, so I chilled in my car and ate in the parking lot instead of going to the library extra early. It felt... peaceful. I still feel... better on campus. I have always, regardless of which college it's been. I think because it represents opportunity, hope, maybe dreams, and in a way youth, and for those not young, possibly renewal. I still get stressed and worried the dean would see me (even though she never comes out of her office and I don't even think she's there this quarter), so even just walking to do my micro seems a bit stressful. But I do need to try and eat at least a few micro meals a week.

The time at the public library was pretty regular. I did feel like playing, so I did that. It seemed sad, as I was online and not grouped. But I don't know if I really wanted

people with me. I am still very sad about all the things all the time and often I think things are better if I'm alone. 😞

But I try to hang on. I try to stay positive. And I continue to hope better days are ahead.

## Day 3311 - 7/25

### Quiet and slow

Things seem quiet and slow today. Though I don't know if I've gotten a fair sampling of it with it just now being morning and still 45 minutes before the library is open. I guess, even though I still have a few weeks I can visit school, in my brain I have already surrendered that and shifted to 'off for the summer mode', where I have nothing to do and I am not wanted or needed. While it's nice to just 'live for me', without that I feel unfulfilled.

I know it's not true in that I am still the voice of tech support on the forums at the very least. (Though even my free virtual con ticket stopped a few years ago and I've gotten nothing at all these past couple years. 😞) But I also know there are always those who could do that if I left. And I suppose on the social pages there are those who laugh at things I say, or are helped. But again, without confirmation I feel like I'm lost floating down a river just shouting things to campers along the shore who are there for vacation.

I hope I do not wind up like a new homeless at the food store. I call him 'the castaway' as he looks like he was in a boat wreck and has been on a deserted island for about a year. He's got a busted hoodie he wears open, with no shirt, which is a dirty gray black in color, sweats of a similar color, shredded at the bottom of the legs. That's all he has. His hair is maybe 12" long and wild, as is his beard. He's maybe in his late 60s or early 70s. I saw him this morning, and as he walked he would put his hand out to the side in a dismissive fashion, towards no one. And after he sat down, he stretched out his arms in front of him and waved them around as if rotating an invisible ball.

I suppose I could never be that out of touch. Even as my gas dwindles to less than a week's worth, and the few things I have remaining get closer to functional death, I still want the things of the world. I want friends to play and hang out with. I want love. I want

a job, paid or not if I can afford not, where I feel wanted and at least somewhat appreciated. I want to continue to live and be in the world and in people's lives.

And so I try to hang on. I try to focus on the future, and get by in the now. Hopefully help will come and I can continue to hang on until I am in a better time and place, and I find my forever better days.

**Day 3312 - 7/26**  
**Slightly better**

Today I feel slightly better. I got about an hour more sleep than I have been getting and I feel so much more awake and alert. Hopefully I can get more sleep again tonight because I've been losing several hours I could be getting every night for a while now.

Since I felt slightly better I spent most of my day playing a game. It's still one of the ones I really wonder why I play since I have little to nothing to gain there, but it is quiet, and I have space from people, so I think it's why I currently play.

In the evening I got notice of a donation. 😊 It is again from the person who is always watching out for me. 😞 I don't know where I'd be without his constant generosity and concern. I certainly may still be mostly ok physically, but I almost certainly would be without my car by now. So I am very thankful he, and other donators, are still helping.

I will hold on to the money as long as I can. I am hoping there are donations for my birthday. I'd really like to get the game coming in October. The base game is \$60, but there is a version that includes the first few expansions at a little bit more at \$100. Which, fooooo, that sounds like so much to me these days. But with 19 played days on the previous version on what was the equivalent there, on my console which I had limited access too, that's 456 or more hours I played. On my laptop I could play even more than that (since I wouldn't be limited to dragging the console around and setting it up somewhere.) So, it would very much be worth the money. I just pray my laptop can run it ok. While it still does fine on most things, the recent demanding games have caused struggle.

But for today I feel more positive. I got more sleep, so I feel more alert. I got a big donation, so that was super nice and helps reduce stress. And things don't seem so super terrible. So I continue to hope. I look forward to the game I got with dad's money in about

a month. Maybe more birthday surprises will happen. And I continue to hope better days keep coming.

## Day 3313 - 7/27

### Hopeful excited

Today was pretty good. The bulk of my day was fairly normal. I felt ok, so I played about half of the day (after helping on the forum and checking for news.) Things were still pretty quiet most of the day. The library only seems to really get busy about noon to 4.

But in the late afternoon I got some news which has me hopeful and excited. First, the game I would love to get in late October announced the beta date is in about a month, the week after my birthday. So I'll be able to see how my system does then. (Provided the client is not too big to get before the beta closes. Which I expect it will be much smaller than the full client.) But the second, and probably more important, news is they released the minimum specs. And those specs are not only lower than the three recent games my system struggled with, but the minimum CPU is lower than what I have, and the GPU is one which pretty much rates equal to mine. So there is really no reason why I shouldn't be able to play. 😊 The recent games I struggled with, but was still playable, had minimums where the benchmarks were about 50% higher than what I have, so being nearly equal to the new game is very exciting. Again though I'll know for sure in a month if 'm ok to play or not.

That was really my day though. Nothing really different, just a bit of potentially very good news. At least good news in terms of motional news, for it is through my games and new worlds I keep going and am able to hold on emotionally. Along with the boost I got yesterday in donation money I have a little bit of leeway again. And that goes a very long way indeed towards better days.

## Day 3314 - 7/28

### Panic, fear, distraction

I've been forgetting to write terrible news. Which, I suppose is good that it can be forgotten. But a few nights ago I saw a movie and it triggered my panic and fear of death. It was advertised as a dark comedy about a guy who hears his pets talking to him and he kills people. It actually wasn't really funny. It was kind of sad and tragic. And the two deaths they showed were people probably in their early 30s, and they were very real, very drawn out, and basically accidents. It triggered my own worries and fears about that. My heart raced and it felt like I was going to start crying. In this week I have a few panic attacks and fear of death, so I have to try and focus on distraction.

But I managed to mostly calm myself down again. I still feel waves of it now, a few nights later. But I try to calm myself. I try to remind myself as long as I can remain fairly stable there is no reason I shouldn't still have my remaining 40 years. And I try to keep my resolve and know that once I've recovered in a home I can start eating ok again and at least do a little exercise and stretching and hopefully recover from being out of shape.

So I try to keep distracted, I try to focus on now. I played my games most of the day. Though I am still always alone in the new old MMO and still wonder if it's even worth playing. And again there were asshats in the PvP game, so I may be getting closer to uninstalling that one.

I also decided to try and distract myself with a 'summer of movies'. Though really these days when I do that I'm spending all my time on TV series, as movies have been a Saturday sometimes Sunday night tradition, which I can't really do very often these days. It was a moderate chunk of the donation money I got, and after getting a few weeks of gas I'll be down to only half left. But with my recent resurgence of panic and fear of death I have to redouble my efforts to keep myself distracted. At least short-term, until my feelings and worries calm down again. Because if I don't I'll just be reminded all the time about how it's inevitable, and it constantly surrounds me and could happen at any time and that's it. No more me. 😞

So for now I try to not worry. I try to keep myself distracted. I try to hold on to what I have, see what is positive, and remember there is just as much opportunity for

positive and good in the time I have left as there is for bad and sad. And I will try to continue to look towards the future with hope, and be hopeful for better days ahead.

## Day 3315 - 7/29

### The crush

Today wasn't as bad as it likely should have been. The library has had really poor connection speed the past few days. By even just 11:30 it wasn't really playable. I tried watching shows, but from about 2-4 even that didn't work. There was barely enough bandwidth to do forum and social page things.

I started to get sad and spiral into worry and panic. On any other day this would have been terrible, but I had an extra distraction today. I think maybe around noon the most beautiful girl walked in. 😊 She was smiley and happy and bopping her legs in her seat. I'm not sure why, but I always find cute average girls much more attractive compared to runway or magazine beautiful kinds of girls. I instantly got a huge crush on her. 😊 I was ridiculously smiley and couldn't resist peeking over at her. There have only been a few that had this affect on me in my life. Even now hours after the library closed I am still smiling and my cheeks hurt from so much smiling. 😊

I expect I'll never see her again. But she was too many years younger than me to be proper to approach. She had college books, so I would guess she's in her early 20s. But without actually knowing her, at least casually knowing her, approaching her wouldn't be anything but creepy or scary I'm sure. 😞 But, you never know, stranger things have happened. If I see her again, maybe it will be Fate.

So I think because of my crush I held on today better than I otherwise would have with the loss of almost all connectivity for several hours. But still, it wasn't a bad day. I watched three shows, and got to play for about two hours. Not counting the hour or more I helped on the forums.

So today I am grateful for being out in the world in this sad life, as that led me to her. And even though I expect I'll never actually meet her or see her again, at least I know I can still be smitten. My heart is not so old or broken or sad that I am incapable of it. And

I am grateful for my shows and games and the distraction from my panic those bring. Today was not a terrible day, and a small reminder as long as I continue anything can happen. So I continue to look forward to better days ahead.

## **Day 3316 - 7/30**

### **Bad connection**

Today was again a very bad connection day at the library. I guess it's a good thing that on Sundays I spend as many hours at the food store (split in two visits) as I do at the library because I barely had bandwidth for forums and the social page. I think I barely got through two shows and no games due to the lack of connection. If it continues being terrible I may be forced to consider going to the school library.

So today was different. My 'good times' were at the food store, which is loud, busy, and I'm constantly surrounded by movement. But I guess it's ok, as the food store has been pretty stable these past few weeks. So it was really the only way I got through my shows and got a little bit of gaming.

But I try to stay hopeful for the future. I try to remember tomorrow is a new day where new or good things might happen. So I try to look to the future. And for now I hope for better days ahead.

## **Day 3317 - 7/31**

### **Not a good spider home**

Today was kind of sad and frustrating. The connection at the library was barely useable at even the start of the day when it was empty. By 11 it was getting so bad I couldn't even connect to the social page or do forums. I sent a message to the library support letting them know how bad it's gotten lately. They checked and discovered several libraries were affected and they'd look into it.

While I barely got through some shows at low resolution, the connection completely dropped several times during the day. In fact, it's currently down now. I'm not



writing at my usual time of night. But it is too late really to bother packing up and going elsewhere. I'll just write, do other things, and hopefully tomorrow it will be better.

There has been a very beautiful spider web on my car mirror for a few days. I tried to take a picture, but you can't see it. I've left it because it was nice to see something beautiful in my life. But today I had to destroy it, which made me sad for several reasons.

😞 I destroyed it because I saw a little orange spider peek out of the mirror after stopping at the library spot. I didn't want a spider living in part of my car, that's not a good spider home. There was a big tree just a few feet from my car, so I thought by destroying it, and bouncing the mirror, the spider would be convinced out and see the tree and go make a nice proper home. But they didn't come out. 😞 And now I'm worried the spider will not have a home at all. 😞

So today I feel extra sad. While I still have more than some, I was left with more suffering than normal. And I had to destroy something beautiful I didn't want to destroy.

😞 Worse, that thing was a critter's home. But I try to remain hopeful things will be ok. And I hope that tomorrow is a better day.

## **Day 3318 - 8/1** **Hopeful, but worried**

Today I am hopeful, but worried. It's officially August now, and that means near the end of the month it's my birthday. I'm trying to focus on the good, positive, and hopeful aspects of that, but it also indicates passing time. As such it becomes difficult to ignore that about three weeks after that I should sign up for school things. Which while not a lot is \$75, which is a lot to me during my sad life. And only a few weeks after that I have to worry about what to do about car insurance. I try to focus on now, just today, and the fun of birthday things coming up, but time is starting to pass very quickly.

I am hopeful for the day even though it's just starting. In the last few hours of the library being open yesterday the Internet cleared up and went back to being super fast. It was at 15 mbps when I tested, way faster than the 0.5 to 1 it had been during the day, and

much more than the about 5 I need for even the most demanding thing I do these days.  
(Though even at 15 that will be much slower than you at home with 50-100 on average.)

So I try to stay hopeful today will be ok. And I try to focus on the good things and what I have today. And I try to set future worries aside as much as I can, knowing there is as much chance for good and hope as there is not since those days have yet to come. And I try to hope for better days ahead.

## Week 475

### Day 3319 - 8/2 Seeking

Today I felt okish. My mind was looking for things to do. The connection at the library is fixed, so I can do whatever I want again. 😊

I played a bit of the new old MMO. I was going to stop playing, as I'm waiting for something to happen that never will, but there is an event going for the next two weeks. So I may very casually continue during that time before giving up on it. I played a few games of the PvP game. But, bleh, the first was good, but the other three were just people bitching. It's like why are you bitching? You are in the lowest of like 7 or 8 ranks of players. Why do you expect people to be good in any sense of the word? So, I don't know, I'll likely uninstall that (for the second time) soon. I really should just stop doing any PvP things completely. I keep trying different ones to see if I find a fun one, but it never seems worth it. I'm either terrible at it, or just good enough that those in the group are always complaining about something.

So today my mind was really just searching. I distracted myself with shows, but in the back of my mind I was wondering what games I should distract myself with until the one I got for my birthday comes out in about 3.5 weeks.

I may do a bit of my old MMO until then. It's still sad to be there at times since I don't have the newest content, but it is one of the few stable things I have at the moment. So it's an odd bitter sweetness.

But despite being super depressed about all the things and unable to really do anything besides distract myself and do a job search and forum helping, today was ok. I was distracted. I had some aspects of fun. And nothing bad happened. So I continue to try and hang on. And I continue to hope for better days ahead.

## **Day 3320 - 8/3**

### **Forced triple feature**

Today did not at all go as I'd planned, nor as I expected a day while homeless to go at all. I suppose it wasn't bad in the being negative sense of things. But something was going on with the library Internet connection. I expect something that is related to what was going on before. Since it was fixed pretty quickly Monday I figured I'd stick around and see if it came up. I waited and waited. I watched a movie, then found another and watched that. And waited. And then watched a third movie, and it still hadn't come up.

At about 6, a few hours before the library closed, I gave up and decided to go to the food store to at least have a few hours of connection. I raced through about half an hour of playing, quickly did forum things, and watched a bit of a live streamed show.

Hopefully things will be fixed tomorrow. Hopefully things will be closer to homeless normal. Today wasn't terrible, but without being able to do online things it certainly wasn't the day I expected. It wasn't a bad day, but I hope for better days ahead.

## **Day 3321 - 8/4**

### **Cold hot**

Today was, I suppose, mostly normal. In the morning and afternoon things were cold. The skies have been pretty gray lately and what with the library blasting the AC I was cold most of the day. Now that the library is closed, and I'm out doing laundry, it seems the day eventually warmed up because it's now hot.

Even though it only happens every two or three weeks, it seems I'm always here at the laundry. I'm always putting too much in and not really getting totally clean. I suppose it's just extra sad lately because I never have enough. Even for my very small sad life I never feel like I have enough. It makes me look back at how I miss showering every day, putting on clean cloths, and sleeping in clean bed sheets.

But I have to try to keep adjusting. I have to try and make due with what little I have. And I try to look at the happy and good things that still remain in my life. If I don't,

things will be too sad. So I try to hang on, try to not be too sad, and I hope for better days ahead.

## **Day 3322 - 8/5**

### **Wrong movie**

Today went well enough, I suppose. I had a good connection, so I got to play what I wanted and watch what I wanted. Though one thing which was not firewall blocked appears to be blocked again. (I didn't do further testing.) It's possible with the recent reset of the servers a few things have become blocked again. I suppose what is blocked at the library isn't a big deal, as the one thing I confirmed is blocked again is one I don't really need there, as it's the service for my single player games, which I don't need to connect online to play. I just hope future online things I want to play aren't blocked.

I played the two things I'm still wondering why I play. The one just really isn't ever going to be what I really want. They have had five years to be more than they were, but haven't. The other, which is the PvP game, I still don't know. Maybe I would like it more if I had friends to play with, but without there are just too many people complaining all the time in groups.

I had set a movie in my reserve list at the library, but when I saw the cover it seemed familiar. It is the third in a series and apparently the only one I haven't seen is the fifth, which is still in theaters. So I guess that one will have to wait a bit longer before I see it.

Still, I suppose all in all it wasn't a bad day. I had my games and shows and wasn't too sad. Though I still worry about the sad things. But I try to stay hopeful, and hope for better days ahead.

## Day 3323 - 8/6

### Silly game

Today was pretty fun. I had the every few week game and we had a lot of laughs. There was a lot of political stuff and not having a clear direction to go, neither of which are my things, but there was some fun role playing time, which I like. A few times I kind of broke the other people and they were laughing a lot.

I didn't do much other than that. In the time before, I just did forum stuff and played for less than an hour, and after I just watched a show.

But I suppose today was ok. I had fun and was distracted, but it was still difficult to keep my sad feelings and worries about bills coming soon at bay. Those are always in the back of my mind now and I am still sad grandma's money was burnt through so quickly. It was nice to have some regular food for those months though. Even on days like today where I can micro food my body can feel the huge difference between that and the lunchmeat I need to eat on days I can't. Though I have lately been doing fruit snacks and bread sometimes to break up the constant lunchmeat, so that's something. And I don't regret finding this group of people to play with every few weeks, nor my tablet, nor the car repairs. But all the other money lost trying to find friends with the random gaming groups which didn't pan out, things like eating an extra unplanned for meal, those I regret.

But I try to accept all the things. I try to focus on the happy things, like today, my games, and my shows. And I try to stay hopeful for better days ahead.

## Day 3324 - 8/7

### Barely sleeping

Today I am completely exhausted. Last night, and Friday night, I barely slept. I think I am running on maybe 5 hours of sleep. 😞 Then and now I couldn't fall asleep until nearly 2 in the morning. I don't know if it's excitement about something to come which is good, or fear, or stress, or worry over bills.

I did what I wanted today. I was deep 'in the zone' of whatever I did. Not because I was intrigued, or extra focused, just that I lack the attention power right now to focus on more than one thing. 😞

It felt weird being at school in the morning. It's finals week for the quarter. So this may be the last week I can get a real shower for a while. It certainly will be the last to micro food. If they do start closing the shower area during the week I'll check on Saturday. They often do swim classes after school is closed during the summer, so I'm going to wait and see how things turn out.

But I am exhausted. Really nothing matters to me now since nothing got better or worse today, and so for that I am thankful. And I continue to look forward to better days.

## **Day 3325 - 8/8**

### **Maybe a game thing**

Today I am still very tired. I couldn't sleep until midnight again. 😞 I am still not sure why. It feels more like excited nervousness than fear or worry, but with all my fear of death lately it could just be a lesser variant of that. 😞

Tonight I may check out a game meeting thing for the game I'm a forum MVP for. It's at a bar. 😞 I apparently don't have to buy anything, which is good since I don't have money, but if a lot drink and smoke it won't be my kind of thing. It's hard to be positive about possibilities while so exhausted, no money, and bad at the game. 😞

## Week 476

### Day 3326 - 8/9 Can't imagine it

Today I am very exhausted. Again I am losing sleep and feeling the effects. I may also have a cold. I've sneezed a few times and the past few days I've been a lot colder than usual. (Particularly considering others are still dressed as if it's very warm.)

Last night was meh. There are many negative things about being at a bar that I'd forgotten. It was a pretty tiny bar. Maybe less than a dozen showed up for the event and we probably would have filled the bar with just 3-4 times as many people. But there was music blasting the whole time. Not so loud it hurt my ears, but loud enough I could barely hear people literally two or three feet away. I barely talked to two of the people there because we had to shout, and even then we could barely hear each other. It seems the barkeep that was there was part of the group. So I don't see why he didn't turn the music way down, or off.

He did say one thing that... well, I guess you could say triggered some things. Someone asked if he'd gotten the expansion yet. (It comes out tomorrow.) And he replied, 'Yeah. I play pretty casually, but if I get 4 hours of entertainment out of it that's \$50 well spent.' And that just boggles my mind on so many levels. First, I'd have to be making a ton of money to consider \$50 on a game really worth it if it was even 40 hours of play. Closer to only 20-30 hours and that seems pricy. (For this expansion even as a game I play casually half an hour a day would likely hit 150 hours before the next expansion came out.)

But second, and more importantly, he said it so casually, like it really was not a big deal to drop \$50. As I walked back to my car, I pondered that. I smelt half a dozen yummy foods I'd have liked to eat. And the last time I was in that part of town, maybe 25 years ago, we had come to do just that. We went there basically to blow money on nice food and looking around at the shops. But now, that life is so far gone, and I'm so far from even the recent life that I had, I can't even imagine being in a position to do that. I can't imagine what would have been a normal night on the town, going back home, hopping in the shower for a quick rinse before bed, and flopping my clean self into clean bed sheets.



I look to my life. I look at less than a week's worth of gas. I look at no money to sign up for classes that start at the end of September. I look at being alone on my birthday, homeless. I can't remember how many months it's been since I had a hamburger or other fast food. I ponder if there will be enough kind people out there I will actually have a birthday gift so I can have at least two games to last me who knows how many months, if not a year, before I can get the next. And I wonder if I ever did have a normal life before, or if I somehow only dreamed it.

I try to hang on to the happy memories of the before time. Memories now which are little more than faded visual images in my mind, small fragments of moments. I try to hope I can have something like that again someday. And I hope for better days ahead.

## **Day 3327 - 8/10**

### **Pain**

Today I am in a lot of pain. They are levels an average person would find unbearable and would probably be crying, but for me it is on the high side of tolerable. Because I am used to pain. There have been few times in my life when I've not been in pain.

Today the pain is mostly coming from probably a combination of cavity and crack pain. Though I suppose technically a cavity is just a small hole or crack. But maybe a week or two ago a bit of a tooth, maybe a tenth of one side, became exposed. And on another tooth, maybe a tenth has become exposed. But with one it's in a spot where the pressure may be pushing it due to the other teeth, and the other is on a corner, so again, it's likely being pushed by other teeth.

When I was very young the dentist warned me my jaw would be too small for my teeth and wanted to remove something like two from the top and two from the bottom to make room. I don't believe in surgery unless it's life or death, so I refused. So maybe he was right. Almost constantly from my mid teens on my teeth have been tight. And several times a year when I'd hit a growth period, even when things were at their best, I'd feel a thumping in my jaw in places, sometimes for weeks.

So I've gotten used to the physical pain of it feeling like my jaw is smashing things. But today too part of it may be because I ate an apple. And hard foods (even hard bread) press things further and increases the smooshing feeling.

And too I was in a bit of pain emotionally. I guess it's nothing surprising, as it was to be expected in a way. The new expansion came out today. Since I play free I barely got any cards, and only one was a special one. Yet because I'm an MVP on the forum I was seeing several reports of people griping they only got 6-8 special things with their pre-orders, with others replying they'd seen upwards to 10.

I suppose today was a pretty good day though. I tried to have fun with what I do have. And I did have fun with what little I had today. And tomorrow hopefully my pains will subside and I will have better days ahead.

## Day 3328 - 8/11

### Meh

Today was ok-ish, I guess. Things weren't bad, though I was a bit cold at the library again, and there was still a lot of toothache. That will likely not subside for a week or two. 😞

The connection was ok though, and I got to play what I wanted and watched what I wanted. I slept a bit more than I have been lately, but I am still nowhere near caught up enough to think clearly and be in a better mood. Though if I were I suppose there wouldn't really be much more to do, or many of the things I would like to do, even at low cost, are prevented by my sad things. (Primarily by lack of money, connections, or both.)

But I suppose it wasn't a bad day. And, outside of dropping my tablet a few feet and slightly breaking the corner of one of its protective cover's feet, nothing really bad happened today. (It looks like I can get it repaired when I get money for mailing.) So I try to focus on the good things I have. And I try to survive and stay hopeful until better days come.

## Day 3329 - 8/12

### Meh again

Today was again meh. I played my new old MMO and part of me wants to wait a week and see the content I haven't seen before, as they are putting it back in. But part of me still just doesn't care. It's not going to be something I play regularly because it's lacking too much. And, they effectively said they hadn't changed it from the old game and there would be references to things which don't exist, which just seems like super lazy programming.

I also spent a few hours playing the PvP game. Part of me is getting more into it, even though I am still blocking/ignoring at least one person every game. Part of me does see the appeal of the sportyness of it. But being a team thing I don't know if I really care since I'd just be playing solo. I suppose I may continue to play until the end of the season in ranked and see what I get, if it was worth those rewards or not. And then I may continue until late October when I'll hopefully be playing the game I very much want to play. Though if I stay in ranked or not will depend on the rewards. And if the rewards are lacking enough I may just be influenced to stop entirely (again).

Speaking of that game, there was some super good news. There's a reported 80+ missions and the devs were saying it's taking them 50+ hours to get through them without repeating any. So that makes me super super happy. That was the thing that bothered me most about the first one, was that I was finished with the main content in about 10 hours. So this time there should be tons and tons of content. 😊

Outside of playing not much happened. I spent a few hours watching things, but that was it. My mind actually wandered quite a bit. It thought it would be a nice day to start a new pen and paper game with new friends, probably because there is a new Sci-Fi game coming out that sounds interesting and there is a lot of news about it. My tummy wanted several dinners and snacks I would normally get on such a fun gaming night, but without the game, or friends, there seemed no point in getting any, even if I did decide to splurge.

But today my mind and heart still want things. They still look to the future. A future that isn't really impossible, only highly improbable at the moment. So I continue to hope for the future. And hopefully tomorrow will be a better day.

## Day 3330 - 8/13

### Complainers

Today was ok for the most part. During my time at the library I actually felt like playing my PvP game. Again I really felt like I should just stop. Today was an all time high record for people complaining and people I had to mute. The only stuff you can gain by playing is cosmetic, outside of new characters, which there are only a couple of I care about at all. Again I wonder if it's worth even continuing to play due to people arguing and complaining. I wonder now if I play because there is a chance to interact with people. Which is a bad reason, even on a subconscious level, as my regular (currently bittersweet so I don't play often) MMO would be a much better place for that.

But it was a nice day. Nothing bad happened that was new, though I was extra sad about not being able to shower normally as I would in a home. Today I was a touch stinky and noticed a few times during the day.

But I suppose overall today wasn't too bad. I felt mostly ok, but I still look forward to better days ahead.

## Day 3331 - 8/14

### Cold shower

Today was ok, but it certainly had a few low points. The first low was my shower at school. Surprisingly there were a ton of cars compared to what I expected. I'd say there was maybe 15% of what there was a few weeks back when school was in session. I actually saw someone I knew. She said she was there for some kind of placement test or something. So maybe there are placement things and transfer stuff going on. If that's the case things will likely change by next week.

The next low point was the PvP game. While I expect some abuse it was again pretty high. People complaining. People complaining about the people complaining. It was pretty bad. So that is a huge step towards not playing (again). I currently have an experience booster thing for a few more days, then I think the season ends at the end of the month, but I will likely stop playing so much soon. It really seems less and less worth

it each time. I keep playing because I keep hoping things will get better. I keep thinking players will work together and be positive. Yet it seems like every time that doesn't happen.

And while I was pretty distracted during the day, after the library closed I thought about how I felt sad, and how I was one of the last to leave. And I thought with a normal life I can hopefully still have 40 years, but thought what if it's only 20, or 10, and started to panic. 😞 I managed to stop before I started to spiral out of control, but I still feel sad and my heart still feels quivery and unsure. 😞

But I try to hang on to what is good. I try to stay hopeful for recovery, and a life that is better than before. And I hope tomorrow is a better day.

## **Day 3332 - 8/15**

### **Less than a week**

Today I felt kind of sad, but pretty excited about my birthday in less than a week. I don't really know why. There is the present I got myself, but that's it. I expect there will be well-wishing on the social page, and the person who usually gets me a something may get me a something, but I expect nothing.

I suppose it is the hope of something. There are things I have to look forward to. Things, while running out, are currently balanced-ish. It's warm most days. Maybe part of it is that I've seen a lot of cute and beautiful girls lately, even one just now this morning, so that always gives me hope. I guess, besides worry of money and the things I have running out, today should be an ok day.

## Week 477

### Day 3333 - 8/16 Well rested?

Today I feel weird. In the morning when I got up I felt, I guess, well rested. But I also felt like I hadn't slept yet. Which is strange, as I very distinctly remember some of my dreams. (Including an extra nice part where I was kissing a girl. 😊)

Most of the morning and afternoon that awake feeling continued. I saw another beautiful girl who made my heart race, so I am hoping these are reminders from Fate and Destiny that it is not too late. I do still feel. I do still live. And so maybe someday I can love again and have friends.

I played the new old MMO which finally released content I hadn't yet seen. But I wasn't more than about two missions in before I felt like I really didn't care. One I did was boring. I was nearly falling asleep. And the next had this really stupid jumping puzzle where I died half a dozen times before finishing. I really expect to uninstall it when I've finished this area.

I did some research on what reward I should expect from the PvP ranked stuff I've done. Basically it's jack squat. It will be the equivalent of about three matches of a daily quest. So I don't know if that is worth continuing. I tried playing a different mode and just no one knew what they were doing, which is terrible for a competitive game. So, with rally nothing to gain I'll likely uninstall it (again) soon. Or at least set it aside and not play nearly as much.

I did get a nice early birthday present from someone. He basically sent monies that cover the game I got. (It's more complicated than that, but that's the easy explanation.) So in a week or two I'll have a bit for gas, laundry, and a teeny bit for later. I'd love to get another birthday game with it, but sadly when that money comes it really will be all I have. (I'll recycle Saturday, but I'll be surprised if my full load is worth more than \$15.)

In the later afternoon though I started crashing hard. I again could barely keep my eyes open, and what energy and momentum I had was lost and I was back to barely being able to focus. But I guess it's ok, because I don't have to.

So today overall was a pretty good days. Yet still, there is so much sad. But I try to hang on. And I try to continue to look ahead to better days.

## Day 3334 - 8/17

### Warm shower

Today was, I suppose, good. It started with a warm shower. I was surprised because I expected it to be cold like it was Monday.

After that I did some forum stuff, and then basically played all day. I didn't really feel like watching stuff. Again though today was like yesterday. I started feeling refreshed, but like I'd not slept. And by the early afternoon I was crashing hard. I thought it was 6 or 7 when it was only about 3.

Again I mostly played my PvP game. And people were griping and complaining. It's weird because I don't really have anything to gain and I want to do something that does. I guess part of it is I don't really have a game that does right now. And real life things, like writing or art, well, no one seems to care about my writing. And art would take resources and a commitment I can't make at this time in my life.

I guess I play because it's fun-ish. And before there were MMOs, before achievements existed, you played a thing just to have fun in the moment. When the game was over, that was it. So I guess in a way my brain thinks about it like that; was it fun in the moment? And sometimes the answer is yes.

I still feel lost most of the time. I feel like there is a monster behind me and someone is telling me that and I refuse to turn around because if I don't it doesn't exist. And too I feel lost; adrift. Yet I accept what I do have and try to have fun because I know to not would be worse. To not I would be panicking and crying uncontrollably all the time. 😞

So I try to hang on. And I try to continue hoping tomorrow is a better day.

## Day 3335 - 8/18

### Reduced desire

Today was mostly ok I guess. I had a greatly reduced desire to play the games that I question why I play. I think the PvP one is something I'm doing just to pass the time. The people are really almost all asses and it's just not worth it. And the new old MMO has really made me not care lately. The last play experience the play of the game was terrible and just not worth suffering through to see the story. That, and the loot system doesn't even exist, so I don't care about skills really at all.

Besides that the day was pretty good. Nothing good happened, but nothing bad either. I did my podcast in the morning and that put the birthday game at the front of my mind. And I know I'll have a ton of fun with that for quite a while to come.

So again I try to hang on to the good things. And I hope better days come soon.

## Day 3336 - 8/19

### Birthday present

Today was mostly ok. There was some sadness at the start of the day though. I checked on the game code that I previously pre-ordered and the person said the company probably wouldn't have it until launch day. 😞 Which means I won't get to pre-load the game. Which means I'll have to plan around my days, as the library firewall blocks that service and it can't just load in the background while I'm there. And that could take days with my current limitations. I do very much appreciate the gift. And long-term, even probably just a month from now this won't matter, but today... it feels sad. 😞

In positive news the person who I figured would send a something sent a suuuper big something. So not only will it be enough to pre-order my game coming in late October that I'm very much looking forward to, but maybe something else too since I apparently have some more from dad on the way. Sadly that something will likely have to be saving for school next quarter, instead of something 'fun' for my birthday. But we'll see. I try not to focus too much on unknowns and things I can't control these days.



I didn't play very much. The two games I don't know why I'm playing are losing their hold on me. So while they are, I suppose ok to just waste time with, I probably will stop playing soon and focus on other things. I absolutely will next week when the birthday expansion game comes out for sure.

So I try to focus on the good of today. The positive things. Not the temporary negative. And I try to push the long-term negatives out of my mind, as I can't control those. Maybe if there is extra I can do something like spend \$8 on a fancy dinner tomorrow and get cooked food. I'll have to see how I feel emotionally. But for today I try to hang on. And I hope tomorrow is a better day.

## **Day 3337 - 8/20**

### **OK B-day so far**

Today, so far, has been pretty good. I was pretty sleepy, but not too bad. There was a lot of well-wishing on the social page for my b-day, and a few unexpected gift monies. I should have plenty for my important game coming in October, signing up for classes next quarter, and maybe even a smaller extra birthday game thing. I'll have to double check how my monies look after it's all gathered into one pile.

I played a little today, but not a lot. Again the games I've been playing that I just feel meh about are losing their grip.

I did get an extra treat for myself. Geek and Sundry have a special site (Alpha) where they put shows. I got a preview of Dread and it was so good. So I signed up for a month, which is free. I'll have to cancel after that month, but Dread, as far as I know, was just a short run thing, so I'll be able to see it all during that preview time.

Since I had monies I'm doing laundry. Sadly it's too much to not do two loads, but things will be super clean. And at least for another month I'll be changing less frequently since I'm just in the library and changing every other day isn't as important. (Though I'll still change under things that often.) I have two movies to watch after that, and I'll spend a little getting a cooked dinner. I apparently haven't been to the place I'm going since January, which is crazy.

So today has been pretty good so far. There are still about 5 hours before I will try to sleep, but hopefully everything will be calm and fine. And hopefully better days will continue in the future.

## Day 3338 - 8/21

### Hot and stinky

Today has been hot and stinky. In the morning when I went to shower I was pleasantly surprised by things both being open and the water being hot. However, the entire locker room area and surrounding hallways were hot and smelt like wet socks. It seemed there was no airflow. I don't know if the vents were off on purpose or broken. There was evidence of people showering after a practice, so I'd think it wouldn't have been turned off on purpose.

After, I settled in to the library for a regular homeless day. When I came up from an early dinner after going downstairs I noticed how completely hot and stuffy the upstairs area was. And, it smelt like a hot house that a wet fluffy dog had walked in to. I reached down to the grill that is near my feet in that spot, and indeed there was no cooling, and no airflow. I could hear the sound of slow vents above, but I guess the primary vents were broken.

I guess the day was pretty good besides that. I played a little bit and watched some shows. The connection got almost completely unusable from about 3-6, but that happens sometimes when they are at their fullest.

I did decide to check the blocked connection though; the one my birthday pre-ordered expansion is on. To my surprise it is not firewall blocked (again). So, phew. There will be no delay due to that and I can unlock it as soon as I get the code. I may still miss a pre-load window, but with it not firewalled that's easily done during the day since Monday through Thursday I have 11 hours a day there.

And I got some surprise gifts at the ex-house. There were some sweats, which my current ones are all torn up, and a surprise bunny. 😊 He was a total surprise as he wasn't on my list. I didn't know you could add things to gifts that weren't on the list. 😊

So today was a pretty good day despite a few short comings. And tomorrow should hopefully be too. I've got monies to sign up for classes, get an extra birthday thing (probably the expansion to my MMO that I've been missing since it launched), and still have extra for whatever for a while. Though I always hope for days I am no longer homeless, tomorrow should be a good day.



Super cute surprise birthday bunny

## **Day 3339 - 8/22**

### **Rough time sleeping**

Today I am feeling pretty tired. I didn't sleep until nearly 1. And in previous nights I've not slept until 2 or 3. I think it's just worry; about me, about my future, and if I will have one.

I try to push the shadows of sadness of my night and bad dreams away as I start the new day, for each start is a new beginning. I have about 1.25 hours before I head over to the library and officially start things. But here at the food store maybe I'll partly start with posting this, forum things, and social page stuff.

I'm tired. I'm hungry. I'm sad. But the day is not yet started. I have foods to eat.  
The day should be restful. And hopefully today will be a good day.

## Week 478

### Day 3340 - 8/23 Thumpity thump

Today I am worried about my heart. I am sneezing, so I probably have a cold. But what worries me is that on medium distance walks my heart is going thumpity thump and staying at elevated rates for longer than normal. I suppose it is a very strong stable beat, and it does calm down without too much of a fuss, but still, it worries me.

Today wasn't super different. I got sick of the PvP game after only three matches instead of doing what would have otherwise been probably 10 games. Oh, and yesterday I got the missing content for my favorite MMO (which I basically haven't played for quite a while.) And in less than five minutes into the new content I decided I would uninstall the 'new old' MMO. So that is finally gone and done. Maybe if they ever really update the game I'll go back, but I really just didn't see anything different than it was five years ago.

So today I spent a lot of my time playing with my favorite MMO in the new areas. I'm trying the new class, which has a few things different to offer a group, but since I don't have a regular group or guild I doubt I'll get it to max level. More than likely I'll just stick to my main I have been playing, which is fine. I'm happy with that. It was strange to see the account reference that I started four years ago. I didn't think it had been that long. I still remember that day outside of school in the sun when I was gifted it and it was first installed. It doesn't seem like years. Really nothing of significance has changed. 😞 Sure, I have pen and paper gaming back in my life, so I am a bit happier there. But the surface things, the things with me when I am alone in the dark at night sad about having almost nothing, those things are the same.

So I am happy to be back in my MMO again. I'm still looking forward to the birthday game expansion next week. And in a few months I have the other new game to look forward to. So, for today, I am looking forward to things. And I am a bit happy, though there is still so much sadness weighing me down. 😞

## Day 3341 - 8/24

### New zone

Today was pretty good. I spent most of the day playing after a quick forum check. I have my new stuff in my favorite MMO to do. I'm not sure where reviewers got the 14 hour completion time for the new zone though. I've been there 10 hours and I've barely started on it. Even if it's just that one zone, so far that will take me 2-3 times as long to go through even just a first time. I'm doing it with the new class, but it seems very similar to my main. Some things are different, but I think even if I had to start completely over I'd still make the choices that led to my current main. He's got the most options, which I like, even if that means he's good with three instead of great with one.

Not much happened besides that. Oh, I did shower, and it was still cold. Though there were still people coming and going for sport practice things, so some stuff is still going on.

But, despite not being able to pre-load either game coming at the start of next week, and the sad things that always hurt me emotionally, today was a pretty good day. And, hopefully things will hold up and the coming days will be good as well.

## Day 3342 - 8/25

### Little laundry

Today's big event is a single laundry load. I suppose it would be little by normal standards, but it's a proper single sized load. An oddity for me, as most runs I'm overfull and closer to two loads. But someone sent a birthday gift of needed cloths, so I wanted to get those washed and 'normal smelling' as quick as possible. Plus it gets me current on towels, which only happens every two or three times.

I guess the day was good other than that. I mostly did my usual small forum check then game playing. I did get a chance to pre-load the demo for the game coming out in October, so that is all ready to go the minute it's live on Monday. So that will be super good as I can then check for sure if my system can handle it, and at what settings.

I still have the sad things in the back of my mind, as they are difficult to escape completely, but today was a better day. I continue to hang on to hope, and hopefully future days will be better as well.

## **Day 3343 - 8/26**

### **Hot after**

Today was pretty good. I did a bit of social forum stuff, but mostly I played my game and watched a bit of shows. I had a free movie from the rental box and had previously gotten one from the library, so I did a double feature again.

Nothing really special happened other than that. Though it was super hot after leaving the library. I suppose it was all day, but I didn't feel it due to the air conditioning.

I still have my sads. They can't go fully away until things are better. But on days that are good don't seem so sad, and can be forgotten at times. Hopefully the good days will continue and things won't be so sad in coming days.

## **Day 3344 - 8/27**

### **Super hot**

Today was super hot. I was inside almost all the time, so I was able to stay cool. But as I was outside driving for the every 2-3 week game I saw a sign that said it was 95F, and that was at 6:30 at night.

Today was pretty good. I spent the morning at the food store playing. I went to shower before the game and the shower area was open, but the water was ice cold, which was sad. The game was super fun and the one guy was literally so excited he was bouncing up and down. After, I watched a show and played a bit more.

Tomorrow is the demo for the game coming out in October that I pre-ordered. So I'll be able to see both how well my laptop does and how (or if) it is playable on the library connection. I should be fine (at least outside of the 2-6 time when it can get very

slow) but knowing for sure is best. The day after I can hopefully unlock my birthday game expansion. So that should be super fun.

So things are happy for the moment. I try to hang on to hope. And I continue to hope I have better days ahead.

## Day 3345 - 8/28

### Pew pew hopeful

Today I am hopeful about all the (game) things. The day started off pretty sad though. My game I am getting in October had its demo today, and when I tried to get in at the library it gave an error. I tried again later, and another error, and later still, and still an error. I guess the game is firewall blocked at the public library, which is pretty terrible, as that is where I'll be spending at least 50% of my time in the coming days, if not more. (Since I can no longer TA, and would only be able to take one class which is on a single day, it doesn't seem like continuing with school as my go to spot would be worth it. It would seem weird.) But at the food store I confirmed my laptop can play, and it was actually flying along pretty quickly without issue with the default settings the game picked for my laptop. So that, at least, is a huge relief.

Another sad thing today was when I checked the connection to my game service that my birthday game expansion is on, it seemed firewall blocked again. Which is weird because it wasn't a week ago. I wonder if it's related to the library turning off and on their connection at night. Maybe the firewall settings aren't always the same for some strange reason. Hopefully the connection will be unblocked tomorrow again and I can get my code, unlock it, and download my game. There were signs I found today that indicate I might need to download about 30 gig, which is huge. On the library connection, during a faster time, even that would be more than 6 hours. But at its slower speed, or the food store, that would be 12 or 18 hours, or possibly more. So, if it is blocked tomorrow, getting the game may be quite the undertaking. 🙄 I'll probably wind up doing what I did in the old days during the summer and be outside of school if I have to download a lot. I won't have a lot of choice, as the food store would be way too slow if the client is big.



But I guess tomorrow and the coming days are the future. And I should only focus on today. Today was mixed emotionally, with the first part of my day being sad, and in the afternoon feeling a bit sick. And in the evening there was the new fun and relief that my laptop can play the game coming in October just fine, though limited by connections. So I try to focus on the good of the day. And I try to hold on to hope things will be good in the future.

## **Day 3346 - 8/29**

### **Old days**

Today will probably be like an old summer day. I have my birthday game expansion key, but having just gotten it I couldn't pre-load the game. I have to figure out how to alter my schedule to get it. Though the food store is moving quickly, it is extremely rare for this connection. And the 30 gig is still estimating at 15 hours. So I'll head over to school and be outside, as that should cut that down to about 6. Which will be most of my day outside, extra sad, so I'll see how it goes and adjust as needed to stay ok emotionally.

Days like today remind me how limited and sad my day is. I can't just leave a thing on overnight or otherwise leave my system and walk away while downloading. I can't just get a thing in a normal amount of time (a home landline would probably be about 2 hours.) I can't cook or wash cloths as normal, or watch shows. Though I am grateful I have what I do because things could still be much worse.

The weather, at least for the moment, has dropped from the 90s it was to being cold and gray and 'smelling like it's going to rain'. But things are what they are. I can't control that. All I can do is try my best to pick from what I have, and try to stay happy and hang on until my forever better days come along.

## Week 479

### Day 3347 - 8/30 Panic, again

Yesterday went much better than expected with the download. I went over to school and there were lots of people around doing placement tests and tours, so I didn't feel odd being there. The connection was about double its fast speed and I got the game in only 3 hours. On top of that when I got to the library my regular spot was open. So I had a pretty normal day from 1 on.

Sadly my evening didn't go as well. I started thinking about classes and running out of classes to take and financial aid coming after me. And not being able to TA anymore, so I feel like nothing will last when I'm gone. And started thinking about how short my time feels, even provided I have my full 40 years left. My heart started pounding and I got chilled and cried for a short bit. 😞

I am still shaken now. I am still very panicked and more fragile than ever thinking about my future and what I may or may not be able to do.

Today I wanted to do things other than play, but every time I stopped distracting myself I started to feel the worry and panic returning. So I again fought it off and distracted myself as quickly as I could.

I didn't really have a terrible day. I was on the verge of panic for much of it, but it is what it is. I had fun with my games, so that was super good. I am extremely tired though. My panic caused a lot of lost sleep, so by the early afternoon my eyes literally couldn't focus on anything and I had a very hard time distracting myself even with shows, which required little physical focus.

So I guess today was both bad and good. Things emotionally are very bad due to physical limitations. Yet also good because I have happy birthday game things to keep me distracted. So I try to hang on, shaky as I may be these days. And I hope for more opportunity. I try to self-comfort where and how I can. And hopefully there will be better days ahead.

## **Day 3348 - 8/31**

### **Fearful and fast**

Today I was still fearful. I was much better, but at a few points I was shaken. Playing games which involve people fighting and killing may not be the best decision. But even things like story can get me. In my favorite MMO, where all lines are voice acted there was a story of an older father (though he sounded like he was around 50) who was dying and you were to collect memories for his adult children. During the story he met his wife, fell in love, and watched his wife die in his arms. And at the end, his children are brought to him, but it is too late. He is already gone. I was almost crying, as that seems similar to my life, in that my story is untold and unheard. I suppose though I am not dying, at least not to my knowledge, but there are no children to tell my story to.

But the day was pretty good other than that. My eyes did again get impossibly blurry to the point of not being able to read for a few hours right around the afternoon time again. I've always had a hard time focusing during that time I suppose.

I had fun enough during the day though and it seemed to pass quickly. I wished it had not passed so quickly. But it did. And it is another day gone. I worry so many are passing in these terrible homeless times. So much time lost. So much time I've had my life on hold due to lack of opportunity and lack of connection. But I continue to try and stay hopeful. I still have about as many years ahead as behind. And so I continue to hope I find a forever home, and that good days are still ahead.

## **Day 3349 - 9/1**

### **Hottest ever**

Today was the hottest day ever. When I was starting to feel faint and tired in the library in the later afternoon it was showing it was still 106F, so it probably hit 110 or higher. The public library didn't keep up, as it got uncomfortable by 2. I hope the AC isn't broken again. If it's broken the next few days will be unbearable.

I guess it was a reasonably ok other than that. I played my games without issue most of the day, though in the later afternoon the heat levels worried me, so I backed out and did regular non-gaming stuff.

I felt sad and worried about my future, as always. But I tried to focus on the fun of my game. I tried not to worry about the sad things. And, as always, I try to stay hopeful there are better, and cooler, days ahead.

## Day 3350 - 9/2 Over 110

Today was insanely hot. It was over 110F. 🤯 The library AC was still broken. Supposedly someone was there working on it, but I played little because I feared how hot my system was. Hot air in means it can't cool. By about noon even I was starting to sweat a bit. And by 3 I couldn't take it anymore and went to the food store.

The food store was cool, though I was close enough to the door every now and then I could still feel a blast of heat from outside. Now it's a couple hours past sunset and it's still over 80F.

I guess today wasn't terrible. The heat, overall, reduced my computer use greatly, and reduced what I could do overall. And with the library closed Monday I fear a similar thing then. But I suppose, physical ills, emotional ills, and money worries aside, today wasn't terrible. It still was not what I planned, and certainly not what I would have preferred, but I suppose overall that isn't really different from my other homeless days.



## Day 3351 - 9/3 Still so hot

Today it was still so very hot. The morning was spent at the food store, so I was cool there. But there was no connection in the morning or evening there, so those times, while cool, passed pretty slowly.

My time at the library was ok, but again the AC was broken. There was a sign saying they hoped to have it up by Tuesday. (They are closed tomorrow.) It was super hot there, but not quite as hot as yesterday. The temperature was mostly around 95F outside, hitting just under 100F. So inside was a bit cooler at a temperature I was just barely starting to sweat. My laptop was hotter than I'd like, hot air in doesn't do much to cool, but really only 1/3 of it was overly warm. Which isn't too much for the system, as the GPU area can get that warm even under normal cooling conditions. So I got to play and have fun just about as normal at the library. However, due to the heat, my brain was fuzzy and wibbly wobbly most of the time.

My fauxhawk is getting quite long. I've chaotically snipped it down a bit, for maybe the third or fourth time now. I won't be able to do that much longer before I need to do a serious sit down and measuring and trimming with a mirror. What I really need though is to have multiple devices and real-time chat myself an image from behind or above. Without that I don't think it will ever look anything close to good. Which is a funny thought after having hair too short to do anything but razor trimming in probably 15 years.

The evening cooled down slightly after the sun went down. It is strange because there was all of this hot air pocketed, as well as things like cars radiating heat from the day. But there was a cool breeze starting, so there was this odd hot and cold current you normally don't see unless you are on the coast.

But I suppose I hung on today. I was really too hot to think, so I passed through without the ability to worry. But still, I hope for better days ahead.

## **Day 3352 - 9/5**

### **Cool enough**

Today was again super hot. Since it was a holiday and things were closed it was extra difficult. Technically it's not over yet. There are still a few hours left until I sleep, but since I am somewhere cool I thought I'd write while my mind is a bit clearer.

The day was spent split at the food store for a few hours in the morning and evening. In the middle it wasn't too hot, so I went to be outside of school. The day was

overcast so I was in shadow. Because of that I was warm, but not hot. The temperature is showing in the high 80s, but my system was ok with it. So I just played.

The day was mostly ok, but needing to go here and there, being hot and sweaty, not being able to stay in a single place, not being able to shower and be cool, or doing BBQ or games with friends, was all just a reminder how different and sad my life feels. But I continue on. I try to stay as happy as I can. And I continue to hope for better days.

## **Day 3353 - 9/6**

### **A sign of me**

Today has started off too warm. I don't know the temperature, but I'd guess it's already in the high 70s to low 80s. I got a shower at school, so I'm finally clean smelling and showered. Though with warmer weather that may not hold out for long. And if the library doesn't have AC, these clean cloths will be somewhat smelly in probably less than an hour. I can change to a tank top and spare the shirt at least if need be, so there is that, I suppose.

The day is starting sad. I had to shower in a lesser locker-room as the main one had no lights or power. It's already too warm. What little money I have left is rapidly dwindling. And the changes of the upcoming quarter and this really being the last school year I can hide from financial aid loans loom over my head like impending doom. But I try to just focus on today. I try to focus on being able to connect at the library and distract myself with games or shows. And I remain hopeful they will have the AC fixed and maybe my mind and body will be able to recover and I get a chance to do something more than just barely hold on to what is left of me.

Edit: Going to my usual seat at the library a little note paper is still in the place I left it. When I was last here I did some mathing comparisons for my character in my MMO. It made me think of back in the day with my desk in my room. I'd have a place for little note papers, my drink, pens, and a few knickknacks. It made me think of a room or home, perhaps an unfamiliar one to you where an elderly person had passed. It made me think about the why of my things where they were, and if a person knew me, and knew my habits, those things would tell a story. But what if no one knows your story and can't

explain it? What if they don't care to hear your story, or allow themselves to be touched by you or your story? Will those things simply be put away in a box or scattered different directions when you are gone? The story left untold. I continue to hope I have enough time to find some people in my life who will care about my story and have a normal life, at least in part. I know there are some out there virtually reading who care, but it would be nice to know there are more. It would be nice to know my story and influence matter.

As always, I try to hang on to hope. And I look forward to what will hopefully be better days.

## **Week 480**

### **Day 3354 - 9/6** **Cooling**

Today the library seemed cooler. I don't know when exactly things turned back to normal, but by just after noon I was a hair on the chilly side and put on my long sleeve shirt over my T-shirt (but had it open with the sleeves rolled up.) So the library temperature seems back to normal.

And the outside seems to have cooled as well. Though when I checked the temperature it said it was in the low 80s, but it felt much cooler, as if it were closer to the mid 70s.

Emotions are still shaky for me. I am still worried about all the things, as the time has come that my ability to hide in school from student loans is rapidly drawing to a close, and I am seemingly no closer to a job, let alone a career.

I am still exhausted from my various stresses, and I suppose in part the heat, and lost sleep over the past few nights. So I had no extra brain power to do anything but hang on. And again I could barely function much of the day. But I did hold on. I did feel mostly ok. And these days that is something. But, as always, I hope tomorrow is a better day.

### **Day 3355 - 9/7** **Chilly**

Today went very quickly. I'm not sure why. I had my shower start at school, which had some odd caution tape over some of the showers, but there was evidence people had showered in other areas, so I wasn't worried.

After, I had a pretty normal day at the library. The AC was back to normal and outside was likely 75-80 most of the day. So by the early afternoon with the AC going at normal levels I was pretty chilly.



Maybe the day passed quickly because I am exhausted. With loss of sleep lately, extra stress from the holiday weirdness, and extra fear of death and an uncertain future, I am extremely distracted. And along with those I try and bury myself further in the escape it gives. Maybe that has added up to a faster passage of time.

I suppose all I can do is continue as I do, and try to hang on to what's left, look at just today, and hope for better days ahead.

## Day 3356 - 9/8

### Spilt pills

Today was pretty good, though I don't really remember it. I know it passed much slower than I thought. I know I played and was distracted and had fun. But I don't really remember much else.

When I went to take my evening cholesterol pills I discovered the bottle had popped open in my backpack pocket. The pills were everywhere in the small pocket because the bottle was upside down. This made me very sad. Not for cleaning it up, the pocket was clean and that only took a minute or two. But the fact that stress and sadness has caused me to need various pills. The fact that I need to keep them in my backpack or car, and that they can spill is sad. The fact that I live a life where I am wondering if I should keep them in a plastic bag 'just in case' is not a thing I should need to consider, let alone the fact that I worry when those small bags will run out because I don't have money for more.

It seems again today, while ok, was a series of reminders of how I need to live my everyday life in non-normal and not everyday ways. Basic things like needing to be on a laptop (instead of a desktop), wearing headphones (instead of listening through speakers), considering what \$5 food sale item to get and it needs to last two days because that's my budget, are all just very dumb and sad things that remind me that my life, and me, are not like everyone else. Everything I do must be done differently. And that I can't control that, that I can't just go home and have everything normal again. 😞

But I try to let it pass. I try not to let it affect me. And I hope for better days ahead.

## Day 3357 - 9/9

### The reappearing doughnut

Today was another pretty regular homeless day. I suppose it was neither bad nor good. It was its usual neutral of both some bad and some good.

Yesterday I'd gotten a donught to snack on in the evening. But when it was time I couldn't find it. I had a vague memory of where it was in the morning, and figured it fell out of my backpack from where it was. But this morning I found it in its bag in the car. It was a nice surprise. Thankfully its cost isn't too big of a deal these days. It was more the disappointment that I'd thought I had a night treat waiting for me all day and discovering it was not there was very sad. I get so few things I can rely on and look forward to these days. 😞

The rest of the day was pretty regular. I played at the library. I did forum and social site stuff. And since I had enough, I did a laundry in the evening. There wasn't really anything good in the day, and I was still overly tired and could do little that required actual thought. But I suppose nothing bad happened. And that, in itself, is basically good.

So I try and hang on. I try to stay hopeful. And I hope tomorrow is a better day.

## Day 3358 - 9/10

### So hot again, canceled

Today it got super hot again. By the morning time at the food store I was already somewhat uncomfortably warm. I didn't check during the day, but at 8 at night it had only cooled back down to 90F.

My every 2 or 3 week game was canceled. A couple of the people were sick (which is nearly half the group). It's a super fun thing, but it's rare enough that missing it doesn't seem so bad. It did, however, tweak my eating plans, as I'd already gotten food before seeing it was canceled. I'd already planned to go to school to try and shower, so I decided to alter that to sneak in where the church people are and micro my food before

the library opened. It worked out fine. I ate lunch there, and put dinner in a plastic container to keep it during the day.

I guess the day was ok. IT just rolled into any other homeless Sunday. I played my game and had a pretty good time, which is good because I am still exhausted physically and unable to really think mentally. But I suppose the extra new hobbies I would mostly like to try are probably more physical than mental. ... I don't know. I would still like to do more. Something that will still be there if I were suddenly not. Something that told a story of who I was. But without financial opportunity, and without the reduction in stress to think creatively to do something like writing, it seems that can't happen.

But I try to hang on. And I continue to hope tomorrow is a better day.

## **Day 3359 - 9/11** **90F and rain**

Today was pretty weird for weather. It was around 90F, but there were slight thunder showers. Which isn't unusual for some areas of the country, but around here... I don't even remember the last time it rained when it was hot.

Last night got crazy too. Around 3 in the morning it was so windy it sounded like trees were going to get blown over. I remember thinking in my mostly asleep state it feels like we are on our way to some kind of global weather disaster. Extreme heat waves for this quarter of the continent, flooding in Texas, horrible tornados in Florida. They all sound like the first 15 minutes of some post apocalypse disaster movie.

I guess my day overall wasn't bad. I gave some advice to people on the social page. At least my sad life and pain have allowed me perspective that maybe helps others. And I played my game and mostly had fun all day. Though being solo in my game is getting lonely again. During dinner break there were some support animals visiting the library, so I pet a nice kitty. 😊 There were some nice doggies, but I didn't want to risk petting them, as the longer hairs tend to trigger my allergies quicker.

But I suppose the day wasn't bad. And nothing got worse. I did like the rain. I always find that soothing. But hopefully tomorrow will be a better day.

## Day 3360 - 9/12

### Waiting

Today is starting out less gray. Though the air feels heavy, like there is humidity. It seems unlikely it will rain again as most of the sky is blue. It seems hopeful to change back to warm weather, though I find myself wishing it would rain more to settle my emotions.

I feel like I am just waiting today. Waiting for the library to open. Waiting for school to start to continue to keep financial aid loans at bay. Waiting for an opportunity for a job or career. Waiting for my new game to release. Waiting for love or new (close) friends.

But I suppose I am ok. Waiting means I am alive. Waiting means I have hope. Waiting for something that might still happen for me. It is better than feeling like life is passing me by, ignoring me. And still I hope for better days ahead.

## Week 481

### Day 3361 - 9/13 Almost tears

Today seems extra sad. I got a shower and got nice and clean, so that was good. But it reminded me how I don't get to do that like a normal person. And even if I wanted to do it every day, currently that would be an extra \$1.50 in gas a week, which I really can't afford, which is ridiculously sad.

I played my game pretty much all day, as again I was too exhausted and my brain didn't work well enough to really do much else. Playing as much as I did became extremely difficult. There are a lot of people killing innocent NPCs in the game, which is super violent visually and in how it sounds. (It gives the highest drop rate for a cosmetic thing to drop.) So whenever I was in a town, people dying and being killed is always on the back of my mind.

And there are very poor beggars in town. At one point in the evening when I was feeling particularly sad I heard in the distance one of the cat people speaking to another NPC saying, 'Please. I need to buy food.' And I almost cried. 😞 So often I feel like that, and even though I have enough food now I still feel that way. And I still remember my many days in this sad journey when I only had a single small soup for a day and that was all the food I had. 😞

And in the evening checking the mail was no better. I got my car insurance notice and it is not only due on the 1st of October, which I remember it being later in the month, but it is also close to \$400, when I remember it being closer to \$275. On top of that, if I pay monthly there is almost an additional \$9 added every month basically for nothing, which over the course of the year would be more than \$100 in additional costs. So that seems really depressing. I might try looking around again at options, but the last time I tried looking everything was about 50% more expensive than even that.

It seems as always I have to pray that help comes, and does so soon. I only have a teeny bit of money left, and that will be gone very soon.

But I try to not be sad. I try to hang on emotionally. I try to continue to hope that enough help comes and I make it another day. As long as I keep making it one day at a

time there is still a chance things can change for the better. So I continue to hope tomorrow is a better day.

## **Day 3362 - 9/14**

### **Still sad**

Today I am still very sad. Though I am recovering from recent panics about death, thoughts of it still loom in my mind. I suppose partly because my games remind me of it. But also too I think because there is far more bad than good in my life now. And so many things in the game remind me of it as well, either physically, emotionally, or financially. In my real life it seems my future holds far more kinds of death than that which the game reminded me of.

But I suppose I held together today. I didn't feel quite as bad or sad as I have been lately. Though nothing has changed, so that is a day to day struggle. I did even manage to laugh a little bit at a few shows I watched. For me that is something, particularly lately with all the additional financial worry.

But I try to hang on. And I try to stay hopeful.

## **Day 3363 - 9/15**

### **Dizzy**

Today I must be paying a high toll for my exhaustion, particularly since I only got about 5 hours of sleep last night. Since I woke up I've been slightly dizzy. Not enough to impair me to any real degree, just enough that if I were in a home I'd have just lied back down and kept sleeping until I felt better. Hopefully I will catch up and things will be fine, but I guess if it doesn't, in about 1.5 weeks I can sleep in the parking lot at school. Or at least try to.

My back has been hurting too. I guess it's maybe mid-back, just below my shoulder blades. There is a pain. A pinching of my ribs. Slight difficulty breathing. But like the dizziness, not really enough to impair function. At least not yet. 🙄

There were some 'how are you doing' social page posts, to which I replied 'sad life is sad'. There was some well-wishing which was nice. I guess I don't really expect any real response to that, so I guess that's something.

I didn't really do much today. I played my game and tried to have fun and be helpful. I watched a few shows, but that was it. I suppose it's good nothing bad happened. I always worry about that.

So I try to hang on. I try to stay hopeful. And hopefully tomorrow is a better day.

## Day 3364 - 9/16

### Itchy paws

Today was ok, I suppose. Nothing good new happened, but nothing bad either. I guess I had fun playing my game. I mean, I did, but it was stuff I've pretty much done before, and I was alone all day, so it was pretty lonely. But I am still glad I have my laptop and my games. I can't imagine how terrible things would be if I couldn't play. 😞

The day passed quicker than I'd have liked, but not being in a home, not having real life friends to game with, either at their place or mine, the day passing slowly or quickly doesn't matter.

The bottoms of my feet have been itchy lately. Not so bad as to bother me during the day, but I am slightly aware of it. I miss being able to have bare feet all the time. 😞 Since I have flat feet it's really best they not be in shoes or boots. I suppose I could take them off in the library, many do, but I don't know. That seems rude.

I guess today was ok, but my mind wandered to what it would have been in a home. How my game would at least be on speakers, not headphones. How I'd have controlled the temperature and brightness of the room. That I wouldn't have to wear shoes. How I'd have played just a few hours, then done something else for a bit, perhaps even done so in a different room. How maybe real life friends would have come over for dinner and a game.

But my life is not those things. Not anymore. At least not for the moment. So I try to be happy with what it is, and what I do have, and hope tomorrow is a better day.

## Day 3365 - 9/17

### Maybe sick

Today I was a bit sneezy and my eyes are itchy. I wonder if the dizziness the other day was the onset of a minor cold. I can no longer tell when I'm sick from colds and when I'm sick from stress. 😞

Today went very quickly. It was over before I knew what happened. I suppose it was partly because it didn't really start until noon, which is always super late. I guess I held on ok though. I got a shower. I played and watched some shows.

Nothing really changed. Emotionally I am still a wreck. 😞 Financially I still have no idea how I will pay for stuff I need to pay for at the end of the month. 😞 Let alone more things like more contacts, or the yearly web cost at the end of the year. 😞 And things like gas continue to drain as I do my very minimal life things. But I try to hang on and hope for better days ahead. It's about all I can do. 😞

## Day 3366 - 9/18

### More sneezes

Today I am even more sneezy. I'm also quite chilly and put on an undershirt. (Though the temperature outside has dropped to below the mid 70s.) I'm pretty sure I have a cold. I'm just a teeny bit dizzy, though not enough to be a bother.

I guess today was ok. I played and had fun, and I had a show to watch too. In the back of my mind I was still sad about the terrible money issues rapidly coming up, but I can't control that. All I can do is hope help will come and hang on until there are better days. 😞



## Day 3367 - 9/19

### Ear rain

Last night was rough. Because of stress and worry I've lost a lot of sleep lately and become exhausted. I've lost a few hours each night. I got so stressed last night I started to panic and my tummy freaked out and I started coughing and gagging. It felt like I was being strangled. I had so much acid in my tummy some came up and it felt like I was immediately going to die a horrific science fiction death coughing up my insides being burnt by the tummy acid. 😞 I calmed down pretty quickly, but there were several tears down my face. 😞

Though I am still very worried about money, as even the minimum \$40 for car insurance rapidly approaches (along with regular costs like a little for gas and my bank account). But I feel ok. In the shower in the morning I put it on extra warm, and when I turned away from the head the drops hit my ears, and I closed my eyes and listened to the ear rain and tried to calm down a bit. I feel hopeful maybe opportunity will come soon, or someone will send help. At the very least I will hopefully have my games and maybe a show to watch, while having a solid connection online. I will try to rest and recover as much as I can. And I will hope for better days ahead. It's all I can do. 😞

## Week 482

### Day 3368 - 9/20 Haircut-ish

Today I remembered that I should try to cut my hair while I still have time at school with the bathrooms empty. It was extremely difficult to try and do in the mirror. I gave up trying and basically just did it without, using the mirror after the fact to look for parts that were extremely uneven and fix what I could. Sadly, I again took too much off, but I guess that's better than too little. At a certain length it bugs me, and I think the length I reduced it to should give me a month or maybe two before I should need to worry about it again. Hopefully someday I can be in a home and set up stuff to do it via devices talking to each other and avoid the confusing in the mirror effect.

I guess today was ok. I played my games most of today. At one point I was playing and out of nowhere this kid appeared literally one foot from my screen and probably also one foot from my head, WAY too close to me. He was inches from my desk edge. At his height he had to be at least 8-10 years old, if not older. (He was probably about 4' tall.) I looked at him and then at his mom with a look like 'what the crap is your kid doing in my face' look. I don't know if she was already packing up or saw that and was rapidly changing her mind about sitting in the area near me. I purposely sit in the corner of the library like I do because at the angle I put my laptop there is literally only about a 10 foot space directly behind me (where there is 1.5 sitting spots) where people can see my screen for this very reason. I guess it's ok overall, as it's been a very long time since that happened, but still.

I guess despite my extreme worry about bills, and near emotional panic and breakdown because of it, I actually felt a bit better today. I spent a few hours not playing and doing other things, which is rare lately as I'm usually too exhausted or stressed to even consider doing other things.

So I guess for another day I hang on. And I continue to try and hope that help will come, and that there are better days ahead.

## Day 3369 - 9/21

### Winter-ish

Today it was very cold and like winter. The sky was gray and cloudy and I thought it would rain. Such a strange and sudden shift from the 100 degree weather of about a week ago.

Today was extra sad as the last of my money went to gas and reserving some for a last laundry. I have maybe two weeks of gas, if I'm lucky. And, after the wash, there will be a similar two weeks of clothing. If I'm very careful. I only plan to be at school maybe three days during the week, so I shouldn't need to change my outer layers all that much during this coming winter quarter. But, of course, I always hope things will go back to some kind of normal and I can change every day and not worry about the \$5 a week for laundry. It seems like forever since that hasn't been a concern.

Besides worry of the last of my money, I guess today was ok. There was news of a special event going on during the weekend in my favorite MMO, so maybe I will get a happy surprise there. Though my one month membership I got for my birthday has run out, so it's sad to lose the special benefits for that. 😞

I was warm enough today and had a show to watch in the evening. And overall I was in pretty good spirits, despite my worry about no money for car insurance and my now two week timers running on everything else as well.

But I held on emotionally. (Though I was near a panic attack of fear of death for a brief moment in the afternoon.) And hopefully opportunity for change will come, and I can find help to hang on until then. And hopefully tomorrow will be a better day.

## Day 3370 - 9/22

### Sneezy

Today was pretty good. I am very sniffly and sneezy though. My eyes are a bit itchy as well. I don't know if I mentioned it, but a few days ago I noticed the inside of my right forearm was a bit itchy. The itching has gone, but there was a bruise there as well.

The bruise is fading, but it seems very odd I was bruised and didn't know why. I have no idea when, or how, I got it.

I haven't gotten any donation help, so I am extremely worried about all the things. I'm sure my weeks will close rapidly. 😞

But I stayed pretty occupied today. I know I would have to occupy myself and stay as happy as I could or the stress would crush me. 😞 I've been losing 2-3 hours of sleep a night due to stress and worry. (Which is extra bad since I already don't have a base normal amount to work with.) But I did manage to distract myself. And I stayed reasonably happy. So I pass another day and feel mostly ok.

But still I hope things will get better. I hope help comes. And I hope I can make it to better days ahead.

## Day 3371 - 9/23 Shivering

Today was kind of bad physically. 😞 I don't know if it's just my cold getting worse, cold-like symptoms due to lack of sleep or stress, but I'm sneezing quite a bit more. My eyes sort of hurt and are itchy, and the mild constant dizziness is back. 😞 And from about 2 on, even with my hoodie on, I was shivering from how cold I felt in the library. 😞

I guess emotionally things weren't as terrible. I had a decent time playing, though pretty quickly after the library opened the place got so full it started getting laggy in game. So that was sad.

The day passed quickly, yet at the same time I both wished I could have been in a home where I could have laid down to rest my sick self, and I wished friends were coming over in the evening to play things with. Neither of these were an option, which is sad. But I suppose things were not terrible, and I hung on ok all things considered. I continue to hope help comes soon, and that tomorrow is a better day.

## Day 3372 - 9/24

### Other characters

Today was pretty fun. It started slow at the food store, but I did forum checks and go to play a bit. Most of the day I was doing my every two to three week game. We had a super good time and did a one shot game since one person was out. We were different characters, so that was different. 😊

The evening was a pretty common Sunday evening back at the food store. I played for a little bit more and that was about it. There were lots of super cute girls around, which was odd for it being early night time. But, besides the reminder they are out there; none even glanced at me, and almost all were with other people or boyfriends.

Tomorrow I will be at school. Really just for the shower and micro, so that will be strange. I'll have to see how that goes not being able to be a TA helper person. There isn't much for me on campus if that is the case, so I'll have to see how that feels. I expect I'll only be there Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, with Wednesday being the only required day since it's the only one I have class. I guess we'll see what is what with that as time goes on.

So for now I try to relax. I try not to freak out over money worries which are rapidly gaining on me. I try to hope help comes and that I can hang on until better days.

## Day 3373 - 9/25

### Not too weird

Today as my first day back on campus. I can't say back at school because, while I am here, I don't have class until Wednesday. Things are weird being here without class when I can't help, but so far it isn't too weird. I guess I'll see if that changes in time.

Some people said hi. The professor who's room I sit next too said he was glad to see me. So I would assume he remembers at last part of my sad story. I saw maybe half a dozen student people who said hi too.

There are lots of cute girls around. Which is good in that it helps me stay hopeful that I will eventually find someone, but sad as I know there is no reason for any of them

to interact with me anymore. (And thus part of why things may get weirder in time, as I may feel more out of place as fewer know me and thus fewer interact with me.)

But I guess the day passed ok. The internet seems fixed, so that was solid and ridiculously fast all day. (Still not quite as fast as on a landline in a home, but nearly 10x what I need for the things I do.) Though needing to pay car insurance in now less than a week has me a bit panicked since I have no idea if help will come. 😞 But I suppose I made it through my day ok. And I hang on to hope for tomorrow.

## Day 3374 - 9/26

### Worries

Today I am very worried. I lost about two hours of sleep last night worrying about my due car insurance in less than a week. 😞 I don't know how I'll pay for the month, let alone the year. I did look around a bit yesterday for online quotes, and the insurance I have is cheaper than the others (some by as much as 50%.) So it's the best option, yet I have nothing for it. I continue to hope \$40 in help comes in the next few days, but help is extremely rare these days. 😞

Sitting here trying to write and relax, it is extremely difficult. My mind is so stressed from worry if it's not distracted I can't think or focus. 😞 And when it is, obviously it is not thinking. And while I couldn't sleep last night, when I did I had bad worrisome dreams. 😞

I try to hope today will be a good day with fun games and maybe people saying hi, but there is so much stress and worry. 😞 I hope help comes. And I continue to hope I can hang on until better days come.

## Week 483

### Day 3375 - 9/27 Touchstone

Today was better emotionally. Worry about the car insurance payment in a few days is extreme and very stressful, but I don't know what to do about that. 😞 In theory I can be a little bit late and it's ok. But if I'm much more than a week I think they may shut off my coverage, bump me from the service, and inform the DMV I'm not insured anymore, which would be very big trouble. 😞

But much of the day I was able to keep bad thoughts at bay. I had class and it was not as bad as I thought it would be. It was actually kind of fun.

Last night my professor I used to TA help for was kind of freaking out. There are some troubling students in a class this quarter and she basically begged me to come hang out in the lab when she did class. She said she needed some kind of stability and support there; even if I couldn't help. She struggled for the words and I suggested 'like a safety blanket or touchstone for security', and she agreed that's what it was like. Plus, she said if the dean got mad that I was hanging out in the lab she'd go nuts because that would be absurd to refuse me that if I was just hanging out and not helping.

Today she was still sad I couldn't help. It's the second class for the new quarter for the basic class. We were talking about how dumb it is I can't help. And now the school is off budget and even dropping some paid TA positions, and may need to drop some classes or even professor positions if things don't pick up. So that's even more of a reason to keep and encourage helpers.

She said she found out one of the departments does have helpers, and they are getting a stipend program she was looking into. (So I guess the school and the helper gets monies for that?) So she said she will reach out to them and see how they are doing it. So maybe that can be some leverage towards getting me back into a helping position and maybe even some kind of monies.

So that is super good news. That would be super happy. I can't help but think I am still on a timer. More so from the car insurance due in a few days. But also even if I got to

help, and even if I did get some kind of monies, I still have maybe 10 months before I will be out of classes completely.

But I have to try and focus on today. I have to not look at sad things, nor sad things around the corner, particularly things I can't control. I have to continue to look at the good, at what I do have. And I hope that good things do come in the future, and help comes to help me hang on until my forever better days.

## Day 3376 - 9/28

### Sneezing so much

Today I was sneezing quite a lot. Maybe not as much as a big cold, but certainly a few times every hour. I would guess I do have a cold, as I'm also very tired.

Last night was kind of bad. In the night I was listening to what I've made for a spooky game soundtrack, as listening to stuff I've collected to play when I may someday have friends and DM in the future usually calms me. But last night it backfired. Due to all the worry about no money for car insurance, thoughts of losing the car because of it, along with recent threats of being overdue on student loans, all had me quickly spiraling. I thought of losing the car, my already poor health declining further, and rapid decline and death after. 😞 I tried to shoo away the thoughts of death as quick as I could. I suppose I did. But my heart rate was elevated, and I lost about three hours of sleep. 😞

But today I tried to shoo the thoughts and worries away. I continue to hope help for the car insurance comes. And I emailed the people and told them I am back in school and to update their records. (I don't need to make student loan payments if I'm in class.)

I had a pretty good time with my game most of the day. Though in the later afternoon my eyes and mind couldn't focus. Worry began to take over, and I had a lot less fun than I otherwise would have normally.

But I tried to hang on to hope. I got through the day. And I continue to try and stay hopeful, as tomorrow is a new day.



## Day 3377 - 9/29

### Almost out... of everything

Today is extra sad. There were no donations. And while I never expect them to come and save me, I don't know how I'll manage. Gas is down to about a week. I don't have enough to cover my monthly bank account fee in my bank account. (Though there is a small pledge from a person who will come when that's due, so I should be ok.) My car insurance payment is due on Sunday. And one prescription of the three has been out for a month, with the other days away from being out. Yet I lack the \$10 for an appointment to go to the doc to get refills. So it feels like everything is very rapidly running out. 😞 Yes, the root of all of these is money, easily solved if I can get some. But it seems only a couple of people are watching out for me these days. So I'm sure if they would help they would. And opportunity continues to not come. I feel alone. 😞 And it feels like I will lose what I have left. 😞

I tried to have fun with my game. I tried to focus on the fact that, for the moment at least, my system still works and I have my games. And, thanks to birthday gifts, there is even one waiting not yet released.

But today was extra difficult emotionally. I don't know how I will manage in the coming days. But I will try to hang on. I will try to keep hoping. If I stop... what little strength I have left emotionally to hang on would be lost, and I likely would never be able to stop crying. 😞

## Day 3378 - 9/30

### Slow and worried

Today passed very slowly. I don't know why, but it felt about three times longer than normal. Maybe because help has still not come, and as such I couldn't stop worrying, or running bad what-if scenarios through my mind. 😞 Try as I might with my fun games, I couldn't find enough distraction to stop worrying. 😞

I am still pretty sneezy and stick feeling. I don't really feel bad sick, just very extremely tired, and have difficulty focusing enough to truly care about things I otherwise would care about or otherwise enjoy.

All I can do is try to hang on. And try to hang on to hope that help will come.

## **Day 3379 - 10/1**

### **Of two and a half minds**

Today I seem to be split and of different minds. The worrying side of me can't stop worrying. Today the first insurance payment is officially due, and I don't have the \$40 for it, let alone the \$375 to pay it all off at once. My mind spirals trying to think of what to do.

The other big part of my brain was trying to ignore things as best as I could. I tried to let things go and tried to play and have fun. And were it not for the constant back and forth war with my worry I'd have succeeded.

But there was another part. Maybe some of both sides. That part wandered; trying to think sideways between both. I thought of what if I were in a home, and how playing or show watching would be different. I thought about what if I had friends, and a home; would they be coming over for a game? Would I make snacks or pre-game dinner? How could I eat differently to try and get into better shape? Would I stretch and do my mini-workout like I used to?

I suppose today had more good than bad. I was as happy as I could be all things considered. Yet I was constantly worried. I could not stop worrying. And with the bill worries comes minor panic and fear of death. The chill of the void lapping at the back of my mind, like a distant shore, the waves crashing gently, distant.

But I tried to focus on the fun I could have. I tried to focus on the fact I know there are those out there who watch out for me, and hope more come in the future. And with that, maybe help will come and I can continue to hang on until better days.

## Day 3380 - 10/2

### Sore thighs

Today my thighs were very sore. I have no idea why. It's almost as if I had done one of my more vigorous stretching mini-workouts and focused on legs. It may have something to do with stress, and my barely getting six hours of sleep most nights. More and more my body has been aching because of stress and lack of sleep. I suppose it could be because I'm walking funny. My paws got extra dry recently, and the bottoms got cracked and have owies. Since I have flat feet it's possible I'm doing something like trying to curve my feet and causing cramps from trying to create an arch to avoid the owies.

I asked for help on a social site. While my post 'has reached' a lot of people, so far only two have sent help. It's enough for a bit of gas, maybe close to two weeks if I'm very lucky, so that was more than I expected. But sadly it's not as much as I'd have hoped. I'd hoped there would be enough help for a bit of gas, but more importantly that first \$40 for an insurance payment. Maybe more will come. I have to keep hoping it will.

I suppose I had fun today. Some people said hi and I played a bit. I chatted with the professor I used to do TA help for. And I played my game and tried to have fun. I helped on the forums, though I still wonder if it's worth it. It seems my MVP status gives me nothing; not even the virtual stuff I used to get in years past.

But I tried to hang on today. It was warm enough. I had a shower in the morning. I had microwaved food. And I had a stable and strong connection to do online stuff. I guess it wasn't bad, but there was still no point in the day that I stopped worrying. 😞

But still I try. I try to have fun. I try to hang on by doing so, and I try to hang on to hope that help will come and I will make it to a better day.

## Day 3381 - 10/3

### Still sneezing

Today I am still sneezy and sniffly. It's not bad, just a bit every hour. But I still worry about it since I can do very little to recover from colds.

I had a terrible time sleeping last night and this morning. I didn't have nightmares, but they were bad and stressful dreams. Most likely from stress leaking through from my conscious mind.

I have been able to relax at least a little lately. I am having fun in my games. And lately I have written about six pages of background for a character. So it's good to know I'm not so worried and stressed I can't enjoy things at least a little.

But worry does consume me to my core these days. It is almost impossible to not constantly worry about everything. 😞 So much would just take a little bit of money, yet only a few are helping and things are getting much tougher, and are now becoming impossible, without that help. 😞

But I try to hold on to hope. And I continue to try to hang on until help comes.

## Week 484

### Day 3382 - 10/4 Surreal

Today was ok emotionally. Though I was unable to keep thoughts and worries about my overdue insurance from my mind, I did have some fun with my game, and was distracted by class.

Class had a very surreal experience. We were down in the soundstage and after being up in the control room and hearing all the things while having a headset on for about 10 cycles, when I finally had my turn to be the person in front of the camera it was very surreal. It was super dark with just the outline of the six or so people on set. I heard no voices. And though I knew a certain camera on meant there would be music, I heard none. In a weird way it was almost like I was in my own space, similar I suppose to when I do podcasting. But knowing there were people watching me, without speaking, was quite odd.

Again I thought I am very afraid of death. The chills and worries are not subsiding. 😞 I know my death is not close, and I hope nothing happens to make it so, but everything feels weird. Everything feels far too basic, like everything is a waste of time. I suppose it's because I don't have the big things. I don't have that family, however large or small, around me. I don't have a sweetie or little ones who I would live on through if I were suddenly gone. And though there is a small number of people I see on a semi-regular basis, none are close friends who would truly mourn my loss. Though there may be a few stories they keep with them.

I suppose with few to no opportunities I am just a voice in the dark, or I am just passing time until better times come. And I don't know if I will ever have the bigger things.

But for the moment I continue on. I try to hang on to hope. I try to ignore death, like everyone else. And I try to stay hopeful that better days are still ahead.

## Day 3383 - 10/5

### Food goes flop

Today was odd. I got an extra shower at school and hung out for a bit. By the time the few hours had passed and I was off to the library it already felt like an extra day had passed. Not in terms of my energy level, which was extra odd. I was fine there, but it felt... long.

I almost had barely any food today. I had put everything into a bag at the store. I was also carrying something. I put the bag on the roof, then opened the door and trunk (the trunk lock stopped working a while ago, so I have to pull the lever). I placed the thing in the trunk, and then grabbed something to move into the car from the trunk. For some reason (maybe because I was holding the thing) I completely forgot about the food bag. And somehow I failed to see it while getting in the car, despite it being right there at eye level. I was driving away when I heard a flop of a paper bag and looked in my mirror and saw my food. Had my window not been down that 1/4" I never would have heard the bag fall and I'd have kept going. But I backed up, opened my door, and grabbed the bag.

It was very odd. I don't really forget stuff like that. I think, because of how my life is so unsettled, yet I cling to the routines I can, I have somewhat lost the capacity to easily remember things outside of my usual pattern. In a home you'd remember those odd differences in routine. There would be a reason for change. The five million things I'm currently constantly worrying about wouldn't be an issue, so unusual things would stand out. It was... odd.

Speaking of constant worry; the person who has helped me so much has again sent big help. 😊 So, tomorrow I'll pay the overdue month. And as soon as I can (it may not be an option for a few weeks) I'll pay November as well. Hopefully I can hang on enough to do so. He sent enough for, in theory, two months, a laundry, and a bit over one week of gas. So, depending when I pay it, I may or may not have enough for that second month. Though when I do I'll be totally tapped again and whatever gas I have will be it. So hopefully help will continue to come until things are better.

I had fun with my game today. Though I played my online game quite a lot, and there are a lot of people you need to kill. By the early afternoon I was starting to feel sad and again started somewhat fearing and worrying about my own death. 😞 I may need to

play other things where I'm not killing people more often. Though pretty much every game I have but one is killing people in some form. (And at this point I play that game less than about an hour a week.)

But today I got a lot of help. And I hung on emotionally. Which these days seems to be about all I can do. So I continue to hope tomorrow is a better day.

## Day 3384 - 10/6

### Forgetting myself

Today was ok emotionally, though I tried to pay the car insurance and the site was down. That better not be an issue because I really don't have phone money to call them.

In the evening things were a bit sad. I had some extra time, so I decided to just meander in a store next to the food store. There were Halloween decorations. Some spooky, some silly, but it reminded me I used to look at Halloween displays at many stores in the past. Seeing the fun would always cheer me up. I suppose tonight it did too. I left smiling.

But I pretty quickly became sad. Not so much because I couldn't buy any decorations. Not because I have no home to put them in. But because I have been in such a bad position for so long in my life that I forgot. I completely forgot it was a thing. I completely forgot that was a part of who I was. I am forgetting... me. 😞

I still hope once I am in a home and back to some form of normalish life I will remember these traditions. I hope I remember me. I think the thing that scares me almost more than death is that when I do come out I may not be me. I may be forever scared and changed. I may be... someone else. 😞

## **Day 3385 - 10/7**

### **Movie**

Today was pretty good. At the moment I don't remember much. I spent one of the two free movie tickets I had to go see a movie that, in some ways, I've been waiting 30 years for.

I guess today was ok. I tried again to make a payment, and again the site as still broken. I may see if I can connect with my phone to the school internet and do the free calling to get that done. It seems like they can't get it together and fix their site.

So today was ok. I was distracted for most of the day from my sad thoughts. There are always things I miss, ways I'd have preferred things be done. But that is not my life, at least not for the moment. I have to try and accept that, and look at what I do have. And hopefully help continues to come and I can hang on until my forever better days.

## **Day 3386 - 10/8**

### **Don't remember it**

Today was ok, I guess. I don't really remember it. I know I was at the food store in the morning. And I played and watched a show at the library. And I suppose I do remember the day, but it doesn't really stand out.

The odd thing is there is one thing that stands out about the day. There was a commercial during the show, I have no idea what for, and the person was a baker. He was setting up cookie dough balls to be baked later in the day. I think it stood out because I have no idea when I last did that. In recent years before I was homeless I'd just bought the pre-made dough. It's probably been close to 15 years or so since I made them from scratch.

I suppose it's just one of those times my mind feels like it's lost a part of me; something I've forgotten that I may never get to do again.

But I had a decent day. There were no new donations, and the library was chilly. But I played, watched a show, had enough food, and have enough to do laundry. And looking at just today that is pretty good. And I continue to hope tomorrow is a better day.



## Day 3387 - 10/9

### Minimum

Today things were pretty good. There was a bit of weirdness with the connection with some slowness and disconnections a few times, but hopefully that was just a hiccup and the connection will be normal after today.

I used the wireless on my phone to make a call to pay the insurance. They only gave me the option of paying all of it at \$375, or a single payment at \$42. So, obviously, I went with the onetime payment. Which I guess was for the best, as about \$45 is all I have left total in my account after that payment. Which would be... unsafe to spend on the next payment as my account would be almost completely empty after.

I had a pretty good time today though. I talked to a few people about things. I played my game. And I watched a show. I even laughed a bit here and there.

I am still very worried. I had sad almost nightmares most of last night. I still don't know how I'll manage. But I kept the sad thoughts at bay. They did not overwhelm me today.

So for today I hung on emotionally. And I try to hang on to the money which is left, as it is very close to enough for the next payment due in three weeks. And I hope tomorrow is a better day.

## Day 3388 - 10/10

### Hopeful, but tired

Today I am hopeful, but very tired. I had to get up about 45 minutes early, and on top of that I tried to get a shower because they were ice cold yesterday and they were still ice cold. I hope they fix that soon. While I can get parts mostly clean, doing extra things like shaving and brushing my teeth and stuff is difficult to impossible when it's not at least warm. 😞 I think of all the things that would help put me in a much better position, and I think a warm to hot shower with (at least semi) private space to do maintenance things would make me feel a lot better.

But I am settled at school now. It is warm and comfy. (At least as comfy as sitting on the floor can be.) I have micro foods, and will hopefully have a strong and stable connection. And I try to hang on to hope more help will come soon and I can hang on to what I have left. Mostly I hope my sad thoughts don't dominate my mind, and I hope there are better days ahead.

## **Week 485**

### **Day 3389 - 10/11** **He was missed**

Today was better emotionally. The morning had a bit of trouble with the connection, but because there was class it passed quickly enough. During class the teacher was explaining a particular concept, and he said he was sad the bunny wasn't there, as it was a perfect example of the concept. I said it was my bunny and I could draw him real quick, so I did. It meant a lot that the bunny was both missed and useful for teaching since I can no longer help. I was curious why he'd never taken a picture of him and he said the bunny was there for the past years, so he just had come to expect that the bunny would still be there. That was a nice surprise to hear as well in a time when I feel uncertain about if I will be there or not. People still expect to see me in my spot, and notice my presence and feel weird if I'm not there. Not friends, not interaction, but it is something to know my presence and visibility is at least some kind of touchstone for people.

In the back of my mind I was still worried about all the things. But today I was distracted enough they didn't bother me.

Tomorrow I won't be on campus though; part of my new split schedule between there and the library. So tomorrow and through the weekend keeping sad thoughts at bay will be more difficult.

But I try to hang on. I try to stay hopeful. And hopefully I will have better days.

### **Day 3390 - 10/12** **Disconnect**

Yesterday during class we watched all the things we'd filmed the first few weeks. I knew I didn't want to see myself, but I really look nothing like I think I do in my head. My mind can ignore all of the ethnic traits I don't like. I don't think of myself from that

culture, so seeing physical traits of people from that culture... is not something I would choose if I could.

Even ignoring that, I do not look as I'd expect. On the screen was this barrel chested, chubby, borderline fat guy, with super pale, almost deathly, white skin. And on top of this eggshell white egg of a head was a crazy fluff of chaotic hair.

I know people see me how they see me. I know to them how I look is normal, as I look like I look and they expect nothing else. And while my hair isn't the best (I definitely cut it too short last time) I'm sure it is accepted for what it is.

But I am very overweight from where I'd like to be. From my knees down, and on much of my arms, I feel tight. I feel lean. I don't feel fat in those parts. Yet for a while now my tummy area and chest have been big. Grabbing my gut tonight I would guess I must actually be back up to, if not over, 200. I will try and do all I can to get back down. I'd still really like to be back closer to 175. But it seems an almost impossible task due to my homeless stress, not being able to eat well, declining health because of those, and now the reality that I am closer to 50 than not. 😞

Today it seems all I can do is try and hang on. I try to hope for better days. I try to hope I can make it out of these terrible times, and through to better days. Days when I can have a home again. When I can have my things set up and watch shows or play games as I should. When I can have traditions back like watching movies on Saturday night, or hang up decorations for various holidays. And maybe I could even have real life friends again, who come over for game nights, who I can laugh and have a good time with.

I try to hang on to hope. And maybe someday those days will come.

## **Day 3391 - 10/13**

### **Just a few**

Today was kind of good. I got to be at the library and mostly the connection was strong and stable. I played a game and watched a few shows. The new season is starting, so ones I haven't seen in a while are coming back.

I tried a shower in the evening. Finally the water was hot. So that means it either finally got fixed today, or what scares me as a more likely scenario, they are starting to

not have hot water on in the morning. Switching showering to the evening isn't really a big deal. It's not really convenient, but I used to shower in the evenings all the time. I guess I'll know more Monday morning. For the moment I got a nice hot shower and feel pretty ok.

I had a better time than usual today. But I am still worried about all the things. I am really extremely tired; probably from a cold, probably stress, probably depression. But emotionally today was a lot better. I was at least distracted, and enjoyed the distraction.

I kind of feel like I forgot something I was supposed to do, but I can't think of what that could be.

But today I hung on, and so I try to stay hopeful. And hopefully there will be better days ahead.

## **Day 3392 - 10/14**

### **Outsider**

Today I felt like an outsider. I suppose mostly because that horrible guy is always around now. The one who smells like a sewer that threw up on another sewer. He's always at the food store and always at the library. When I see him this frequently I feel like I'm a leech, like him. I know it's not true because I would jump at the chance to be back in a home and a normal life. He seems completely oblivious and like he would never stop being a disgusting homeless person doing nothing but sleeping in public and watching his foreign shows online.

It is hard to be happy and think things will get better when I frequently see others who are homeless, in some cases much longer than I have. I suppose I could go back to spending more time at school, but without being able to help in class I doubt that would provide the connection to a normal life that I would be looking for.

In the back of my mind I felt half fixated on the sad things; bills, money running out, gas running out, the weather getting colder, my health getting poorer. And the other half was partly distracted by my game tomorrow; thinking of a normal life with other friends, other games, dinner and board games, shows and movies watched on a TV instead of my monitor.

So I suppose I hung on today. And most days that's all I can do. And for now I continue, and hope for better days ahead.

## **Day 3393 - 10/15**

### **Forgotten for a day**

Today was pretty good. in the morning I only had a few hours at the food store to play before heading out to do my every other week game, which kind of has become a once a month game with how infrequently we have been meeting. Before we played I was entering my sad story. And when we played I was distracted with play. So today I was, for the first time in quite a long time, distracted enough to have forgotten my troubles and worries.

It was nice to have the thoughts out of my mind, even just for a part of the day. Now, in the evening as I'm settling, the sad thoughts are beginning to return. But for the moment I continue to hold on to hope. And hopefully there will be more better days ahead.

## **Day 3394 - 10/16**

### **Unable**

Today I feel, I guess melancholy. All day, sitting in my spot at school, I felt like a subject of a time-lapse video. People walked by me as if I were invisible, as if I didn't exist at all, coming and going, doing their message checking when leaving class, moving on with their day and plans. Yet I did not.

I thought about things I could not do. I could not sleep in a bed. I could not shower whenever I chose. I could not game in amounts I chose because I had to conform to certain time windows for things like using the micro to eat. I could not eat or drink whatever I wanted. I had what I brought, and that was my choice.

I feel like I can no longer look beyond today, beyond right now. I suppose that's a good thing, as it is easier to focus on what I have, instead of what I don't or what I've lost. But I also feel a great loss of me. No one is depending on me. No one relies on me or hopes I'm there. For the most part, my thoughts and opinions are not given, nor needed, and as such not heard or appreciated.

I try to focus on the fact this is only temporary. Given the opportunity I will be strong enough to recover, given enough time. But with only being able to see today, it is harder and harder to see tomorrow through the sadness. 😞

## Day 3395 - 10/17 Feeling sad

Today I am feeling sad about all the things. I slept very well actually. It was a bit warmer last night than usual. But in my deep sleep I had deep dreams. Dreams of sad things. Dreams of struggle and loss. And so I think I've woken up equally sad.

I think about my last emergency call for help and feel sad. The post, last I saw, 'reached' 216 people. Yet only two sent help and messages of well-wishing along with that. While I realize the population I reached out to have their own struggles and worries and are not in the best positions, I can't help but feel more like they don't care. Like people in general only care about themselves and no one else. I can't help but think how only 20 sending 10 a month would stabilize my current life. I think how little that is and I wonder why I don't know enough who can do that.

Why in all the world don't people do that to help with the bigger struggles so many have? I don't mean really big issues like cancer, though I'm sure if we stopped fighting long enough we could at least find ways to extend our lifespan overall. But medium sized issues, like hunger in general, help for those struggling with getting medicine, or other issues like that. It seems like people world-wide are so focused on themselves and doing things the way they've been told is the way to do it have gotten stuck. And we, as a world people, are becoming self-centered and holding back our potential as a species.

But in spite of how big my ponderings are I cannot even help me. I am in need of help. 😞 And so I try to survive and hang on. I do things like buy a treat for food to try and cheer myself. I look forward to a rare pre-purchase of a game releasing in a week. And I try to trust Fate and Destiny are moving me in the right directions, physically and emotionally. And I try to hang on to hope that help will come and I can hang on until opportunity for change comes. And hope I can make it to my forever better days. 😞



**Day 3396 - 10/18**  
**Sad classmate**

Today passed very quickly. In the morning I barely did anything before it was time to watch a show and have an early lunch before class. Class passed pretty quickly. And it felt like I'd settled into my spot after and had just played for a little bit when I discovered 1.5 hours had flown by and it was time for dinner.

After class had its break one student came back about 10 minutes late, and he was carrying himself differently than he normally does. As parts of the class was walking somewhere across campus I pointed out that he seemed different and asked if he was ok. He said he was ok, but there was some girl weirdness. We talked a bit about what was going on, I recommended he just give her time and a bit of space, and did the 'old Eric' voice and said he had plenty of time. And I recommended he maybe pass the time with some video games, so we talked about that for a bit.

Hopefully he feels less sad and a bit happier. He may not realize how rare it is for someone to notice when a person is off like that. Hopefully it helped. Probably not that much, as girl weirdness is what it is, but hopefully it helped some.

When I was leaving class there was a building with a vent on top. It looked kind of like a chimney with smoke coming out. It seemed peaceful. Which is odd, as I'm not one who's into fires. I mean they are nice, they kind of remind me of simpler times; times back in the day when there wasn't so much going on around me all the time. Certainly much easier times than these homeless days of constant stress and worry. It was a nice thought to think about having a home, having a fireplace, and having the freedom to just sit and be still and quiet for a bit.

But really nothing changed for me today. 😞 It was a better day, but all the sad things were still there. When I sleep and wake the sad rotation will refresh. And while it has almost as much potential to be a good day, I certainly don't expect it to be. But I try to hang on to hope. I try to see the little moments, like today, and look away from the sad things I can't control. And hopefully tomorrow will be a better day.

## Day 3397 - 10/19

### You're welcome

Today was a better day. There was a bit of time at the food store in the morning, which passed pretty quickly. Then I spent the day at the library playing and watching shows. And I generally had fun there.

It's been quite a while since I haven't been extremely worried about all the things. Yes, now that it's night and I've left the library the worries are coming back. I've gotten no donations since the last. But I figure if dad sends money for Halloween, or I do get a moderate donation, I'll have enough to pay the November insurance and at least not worry about that. Though around the 20th of December I've got a \$100 bill coming up for internet space costs for the year, which I don't think can be broken into smaller payments, so that is very worrisome. 😞

I did feel kind of sick today. Lately my throat has been scratchy, my lungs a bit icky, and today I've had a song repeating in my head from a movie I watched last weekend. It's a nice happy song, so it's not bad, but usually repeating things in my head means fever and illness. 😞

But today was a pretty good day despite my sad things. I had a good time. So I continue to hold on believing that help will come, and that I can hang on until it does. And hopefully tomorrow will be a better day too.

## Day 3398 - 10/20

### Annoyed

Today was pretty good. I was warm enough, but a touch chilly. I played my MMO and watched a few shows. There is a special holiday thing going on in my game, so that is extra silly fun. It's extra nice since I'm unable to celebrate in any way in my real life. 😞

Though there were two people who annoyed the crap out of me. The first showed up right when the library opened. She would eat one nut at a time and go crunch crunch crunch. Every time she did I would stare across two empty tables at her. She stopped after

about a dozen times, but then maybe half an hour later she started tapping her feet and I wrinkled my forehead at her. She finally got the hint that I am sound sensitive and she was seriously bugging me. She also had a regular keyboard attached to her laptop, so the couple of hours before I started playing and had my headphones on I would constantly hear her clack clacking on the keyboard.

The next was much more difficult to ignore. From about 3 until the library closed at 6 someone was at my table. He had terrible breath that smelt like rotting eggs and diapers. The only way I managed was because it would only waft past me when he breathed deeply. I was very close to saying he needed to leave my table. It was pretty bad. The library was full at that point though, so there was nowhere for him to move to.

I suppose though no help came and there was no opportunity for change, today was ok. It passed at a good pace. I had a good connection almost all day, so I got to play my game and watch shows. And I had enough food stamp monies to have enough food. (Though it's not the best on days like today when it has to be ready to eat food.)

Today wasn't a bad day, but there is still so much about a normal life I don't have. I try to hang on. And I try to stay hopeful tomorrow is a better day.

## **Day 3399 - 10/21**

### **Maybe too scarey**

Today went pretty quickly. I had a lot of fun with my main game and doing the special holiday things and working up my alt character. This is a new one, which is a copy of my main. Both are my favorite race and class. The previous one was one I made 'just in case' it was a role needed by a guild for a group. But I have no guild, and so there is really no need to be prepared, and no need to use that as the one for doing extra daily things. Better to have one I really enjoy.

I got a season of a horror show I watch from the library. I don't know if I can continue to watch horror though. Maybe I've been too close to death for too long now. A human person killed a couple of the main characters in a super brutal way and that sort of triggered my panic and fear of death. I was ok, but I am shaken up a bit.

Before my sad times, before my big attack a while ago, this kind of thing wouldn't phase me. Since my mom died when I was 13 I've had an odd relationship with death. I didn't fear it, not like I do now. Maybe it's just the 35 years that have passed have slowly change me. Maybe it was the major panic attack I had not too long ago. Maybe it's just an odd feeling in my heart because I've been off my blood pressure meds for something like over a month now. I may never know, even if I get back in a home I still may never know. Nor may I ever know if I return to the me that was. Even if all wounds heal, there is still lost time.

But I try to stay as happy as I can. I try to focus on what should still be ahead of me. And I try to stay hopeful for better days ahead.

## **Day 3400 - 10/22**

### **Survival horror**

Today was pretty good. I had some time at the food store then played at the library most of the day. I got a donation from a friend the other day. It was supposed to be for fun things, but sadly it had to go to pay the car insurance. So, added to the previous donation (remains) I paid that today and am safe for another month.

I watched more of the horror series. It was more survival and dealing with things. I thought about that, and Halloween and scary times in general since my game is having an event. I think people like to be scared because they are not usually. They have comfortable safe lives and so that show or movie putting them off for a bit is fun. But they know when it's over they are safe again.

I think I got so scared because I don't have that. I am, maybe, a quarter of the way to living like in the show. I know that fear. I know that hunger and not knowing if I'll have food. And while I don't have zombies or a homicidal maniac coming after me, I am also no safer when I turn off the show. My horror and fear is all around me all the time. There is no being safe, not really. And I don't know when, or if, I can be.

But I try to hang on. I try to stay hopeful of the future. And hopefully someday I too can have a safe comfortable life again.

## Day 3401 - 10/23

### Helping

Today was pretty good. It seemed to move very fast for some unknown reason. In the back of my mind I was sad and worried. Overall my health still felt meh because I'm sneezing and have a bit of a cold. But overall I felt pretty good. I played my game and had fun, though there is now some new content I don't quite have enough coin tokens for, so I'll have to wait until I get a tiny bit of spare monies to get that.

Someone asked for help from a class that isn't the professor I helped for. It was nice to be able to help someone and kind of help teach them the software. I miss helping with that. 😞 But I guess unless my professor changes where she works to somewhere that has a position she can hire me for that won't change.

But today was pretty good. My split week almost feels like two weeks. One of my old school life, and the other my homeless needing to be at the library life. I guess it's a nice balance, but it won't stay this way. And I don't know how long it will be until I finally balance back in a home.

But I try to hang on to hope. I continue to hope help comes. And I try to hang on until my forever better days.

## Day 3402 - 10/24

### Feeling loss

This morning has started out sad. I have been losing a bit of sleep lately, and while I got to catch up a bit last night I probably would have slept two more hours than I did. My hair is.. bad. There is no real fixing it. I definitely cut it too short last time, and while the sides are more even more often than not it's just a mushroom like poof of craziness. I feel sniffly, congested, and confused. No doubt I have a cold. In a home I'd have chicken broth - not quite soup, not quite tea. That is my favorite resting when sick drink. There have been about a dozen beautiful girls on camps so far.

Normally these things are nothing, but today I feel loss. Losing sleep feels like it just reminds me of the lack of control I have in life in general. Not being able to sleep in

or have sick foods reminds me I can do little when I do get sick. Crazy hair reminds me I can't afford a real haircut, and don't have mirrors and a stable place to take my time to try and do it myself. And while young beautiful girls would normally remind me there are always girls out there and I may find love again someday, today it seems like it just reminds me they are not for me, they will not be interested, and I have missed my chance.

Soon I'll do my morning job search, though I expect to find nothing. My forum help, though I never get thanked or rewarded for doing it. And I will chill at school, though I expect no one will want my help, since there are now so few who recognize I hang out here to help people with projects.

But today is just getting started. Hopefully very quickly the morning will pass. I will wake up a bit. I will have some foods. And I can play my game or watch shows, and hopefully in doing so find happiness in the distraction. I continue to survive, one day at a time. For the moment I am safe, warm enough, and have food. Hopefully donations will come. And hopefully I can make it to my forever better days.

**Day 3403 - 10/25**  
**Abandoned nuggets**

Today was pretty good. The morning started with my birthday pre-ordered game releasing, so I spent all the time I had before class playing that and had a super fun time. Then class was pretty fun. We are doing fewer jobs in the lab part, but we are still messing up, so we still laugh at ourselves and have a good time. I played my new game a teeny bit more during lunch and after class.

My professor had me sit in and watch the first projects that this quarter's students did. I still feel weird about it because I'm not supposed to be there helping. As always I said lots of helpful things, and even just my being there reminded the professor of certain things to say.

It has become super warm again after being cold and almost raining, which is odd. But that means I saw probably a dozen cute girls in warm weather cloths. 😊 I'm still super sad though, as it's still an odd mix of feeling hopeful because of that reminder and feeling like it's just a reminder of what I can't have.

I think tomorrow I'll break my new schedule and be at school. The new game was firewall blocked at the library during the beta, so I expect that is going to be the case for release. Since I've only played 3 hours so far I'd like to play at least 4 more hours tomorrow before talking about it on the podcast. Even 8 hours in would still likely be a pretty early look. Plus, what with my sniffing, sneezing, and being sick, an extra day of micro food would probably help me get better.

Oh, I almost forgot. When I went to micro dinner I found some abandoned nuggets. It was one of those times they'd pushed it to the center of the table and they were nearly ice cold (from cooling after being cooked.) I felt guilty taking what was effectively a full order, but it was late, they were cold, and since there were a few small fries in there too, this was obviously extra someone had set out who didn't need them. (I'd guess multiple people's orders combined into one left over.) A bit of a health risk, certainly not something I'd do if I had money to buy my own. But with my life what it is, that is a big

treat for many reasons. I think it's been probably more than six months since I could afford nuggets.

But overall today was a good day. There were no donations and my life did not change for the better in real life, at least not in a perceptible way. But I got to begin my new journey, a new life in a new world. And with all my worry and sadness in this one, that is something.

## **Day 3404 - 10/26**

### **Half the positions**

Today as actually super fun. I went to school to be sure I could play my new game. I had a super good time. Though, like the first one, I'm about 12 hours in and nearly done with the main storyline. There is still so much to do though, like I haven't done any of the 'dungeons', or done any real side quests or looked around yet. (Some things are locked by the story so I'm kind of pushing to get all the things unlocked.)

I'm glad I did it, both because I had fun and because there were a few that said hi and chatted with me that I otherwise wouldn't have seen. I will probably go ahead and be there on future Thursdays too, we'll see. It depends how weird it is in the future.

I was worried about my sad life in the back of my mind though. And one new thing that popped up just about gave me a heart attack. It seems the power on my laptop is questionable. It dropped to battery a few times in the morning. I discovered this seems related to the angle the plug is in. It has a 90 degree angle type. I have no clue why some manufacturers bend it at an angle like that. But it seems if it's partly down, a position it would only be in while on my lap, there is a fair chance it will disconnect. And when I first discovered this the connector was very warm, and the heat vents were kicking out extra heat from the battery being very warm. Thankfully I discovered it's only in this position that happens. I was let into the lab almost immediately after discovering it. Being set up on a table puts the plug pointing back. Within 5 minutes it was completely cool on the connection and the vents calmed back down. I played almost 7 hours (not in a row) with no power dips. When I moved back out of the lab to the hall, it happened again while on my lap. I pulled the plug cable over the front corner, which made the plug point



forward. It seemed fine that way. No drops in power or extra heat built up on the plug in the 2.5 hours I was there. So it seems, hopefully, the plug is just in a very early stage of death. And hopefully if it goes I can simply replace the plug and power brick.

I am very worried though. If it's an issue with the plug on the power brick that's fixable, though I don't have the like \$60 to fix it now. If, however, it's an issue with the laptop, it's more likely that it would be too expensive to fix. 😞

Of course I would love to replace the laptop before it gets worse (if it does.) The new generation more powerful chip is now cheaper. A system that gets 17,000 benchmarks compared to my system's 3,500 has now dropped to around \$1500. Which is an amazing deal.

But overall today was a very good day. I had a super fun time with y game. There were cute girls around. A beautiful girl from a class I previously TAed for said hi and chatted for a bit (though she was with a male friend during class break.) And while I had my worries, and now the new worry of the laptop power. Hopefully things will continue to be ok in the future, and I can hang on until things truly get better, and I have my forever better days.

## **Day 3405 - 10/27**

### **Pew pew pew**

Today was pretty good emotionally. Though I only got to play my new game a couple of hours, and that time was forced into solo activities, it was super fun. I played my MMO for a bit too, so that was fun. In the future my time not at school will be when I catch up on shows since the library firewall blocks my new game. It does in a weird way though. I can sort of connect, sort of see the zone, but there are no people at all, and I lose connection after a short while.

But nothing really bad happened besides a bit of very brief sensitivity with the laptop plug. Mostly I had fun with my day and nothing got worse (besides the plug.) So I try to hang on and hope donations come until I get opportunity, and hopefully I can hang on until my forever better days.

## **Day 3406 - 10/28**

### **Early**

Today I am doing things early. I left the library about 1.5 hours early to get a bit more time to play my new game. I'm super hungry now, though I'm not sure why, so I will be eating a couple of hours earlier than normal as well.

I had a good day so far. It's early evening now. For some reason I'm completely exhausted. I can barely keep my eyes open. I have lost sleep lately. And I have been fighting off a cold. So maybe both of those are factors.

But besides that I'm feeling pretty ok. I had fun with my new game before the library opened. Then I played my MMO for a bit. And I had just a teeny bit of money, so I did my laundry. So overall I feel ok. But, as always, hopefully tomorrow will be a better day.

## **Day 3407 - 10/29**

### **Split with school**

Today was pretty good. The morning and night when I normally would have been at the food store were spent outside of school. I wanted to be sure I had a strong and stable connection for my new game. I'm not sure how much I'll do this in the future though, as it was already pretty cold and I don't expect things to warm up again for almost six months.

But today I had fun. No donations or change came. But because I was warm enough, had a connection, and could play on my laptop, I was distracted with fun things. And I didn't feel too bad. As always though, I hope tomorrow is a better day, and I hope help comes and I can hang on until my forever better days.

## **Day 3408 - 10/30**

### **Fun**

Today was a pretty fun day. I did my important job checking things in the morning, as I always do though rarely mention these days. Then a quick forum helping, and then the rest of my day I played my old MMO and my new game. More so my new game because there is more to gain, but also because a special vendor is there who is only there from Friday to Monday, so I wanted to get as much as I could before he was gone.

I also helped in the class I'm not supposed to help in. I doubt I'll help again for a few more weeks though.

But today was pretty good. I helped a bit with people coming by my spot with questions, and I got to play my fun games and be distracted. There were still my sad worries in the back of my mind, and things I feel I am missing and may never have in my life. But for today I was ok with how things have turned out. All I can do is try to make it one day at a time. And hopefully someday I'll be in a better position, financially and emotionally, to accept and deal with the bigger sad feelings I have.

Until then I hope help and good feelings come my way. And that I can continue to hold on.

## **Day 3409 - 10/31**

### **Not my holiday anymore**

Today is sad. What was once a fun holiday in my life is no more. When I was very young I would go out Trick or Treating. Later there were parties, though I never had enough connections for them to be the very big fun parties, nor did I have lots of party options. As a young adult there were decorations to put out and Trick or Treaters to give candies to. As a near-mid adult there was no longer anyone in my life for either, so I started giving out candies at school. But now my sad life has gotten so bad I can't even afford to do that, so I am left with nothing.

I suppose I don't have nothing at all. There is some silliness in my MMO with costumes and masks, so there is that. But today I expect I'll check for jobs and find

nothing, help on forums for no thanks or rewards, but be warm, restful, and be able to play my fun games. So I try to look at what I do have. And I try to hang on to hope that better days will come, and maybe someday I can celebrate holidays again.

## Week 488

### Day 3410 - 11/1 Inspiring?

Today started kind of poorly. I went to take an extra long shower because the water was cold on Monday and it was still cold. I'm still not sure if it's on purpose or if it's something mechanical. The pressure is lower than normal, so that seems within norms for it being broken again.

The day was pretty good though. I had class and it was pretty fun. Before and after class I played my new game and had a super fun time. I'm very glad I both decided to get it, and had enough gift monies to do so. In the week I've had it I have probably played 40 or more hours. In probably another week it will be less than \$1 per hour, so that will be super cheap. And even just at 40 hours so far that is more than a lot of games I've gotten.

Someone posted on their social page that they thought I was inspiring. Back in the early days of the Fail writing I would agree. There was a lot of philosophy on how things went wrong, both with this most recent disaster, but also in my childhood. Things like my dad not knowing he was creating this huge self-esteem issue, and how when I lost my mom there was no emotional support anymore. Or how maybe that loss has affected how I see all relationships now, and possibly why I have difficulty finding friends.

I talked a lot about loss and connection too. I know more than a couple found that inspiring and reached out to those who they missed in their lives and re-examined why they separated.

Lately though I don't feel very inspiring. I used to be able to help in classes, being an unpaid TA. (Though being paid certainly would help.) I can't do that anymore. Though how can you not if you are that type and still around? Before the professor asked me to (officially) help I was helping others, much like I am now that I can't (officially).

And I help do tech support on the forums of one of the biggest most well known game companies in the world. Though I don't get anything for doing that anymore. I suppose I never really did. I got a virtual convention ticket the first couple of years, which wasn't much, but I haven't gotten anything at all since 2015 ended. Really the only reason I still help with that is because I know it does help some each day. And really it's only 15-

60 minutes per day, so it's not a huge amount of my day. Especially with my currently not working or even helping in classes.

So, I guess that stuff is inspiring. Wanting to help others even though I get nothing for it. But really I'm just a guy trying to get by. Now I am really just a survivor of a terrible ordeal, still in it. At least so far. As long as I continue day to day. But I am just a guy who's lost nearly everything trying to hang on to what little is left, both emotionally and with the few physical things I have left. And, as I have been ever since my teens, just a guy trying to help others, so they do not suffer the same pain and troubles I have.

## **Day 3411 - 11/2**

### **Felt much longer**

Today was both super good and kind of bad. In the bad, my power on my laptop flickered out for about one second a couple of times during the day while it was sitting in 'a good position' on the desk. So I probably have a few months before it starts to get really bad if it dies like the previous power supplies have died.

There was also a time when I was playing my super fun new game and someone was being extra silly. I thought about people, personality, those we know as being memorable for certain things, and had a sort of minor panic attack as things then turned towards myself and how when I am gone others may think of me in such a fashion.

But overall my day was super good. I played my MMO and did my daily things. The Halloween event is over, but I guess another is coming in a few weeks, so that's good. In my new game I played and had a lot of fun. I guess I was having so much fun it felt like time was passing faster than it actually did. I thought it felt like 5, and was getting hungry for dinner, but when I checked it was actually only 1:30. When it felt like it was almost 7 I checked again, and it was only around 3. So it felt like about double the time was passing than was actually passing.

I had a super good time with my games, but the \$100 for the web stuff, and \$40 more for the next insurance, both due in about a month, were always on the back of my mind. Particularly with the new addition of needing a power supply, which after checking online (and putting it on my wish list) is about \$45. And I still don't know for sure the

power supply is really the issue. I'm just guessing it is since this power supply did take some damage before I got a surge protector on it, and the others before it died after about 1.5 years of use.

But I try to focus on the fun I had. I try to focus on that I have places to be that are warm, and most days I can micro food, so things aren't as terrible as they could still become. For the moment my car still works, I have some gas, and my laptop is still hanging on. So I try to focus on the good. I hope to catch up on sleep so I don't feel so exhausted. And I hang on to hope that help will come, and I can make it to my forever better days.

## **Day 3412 - 11/3**

### **Owie paw**

Today was mostly good. The end was a bit spoiled and I'm still irked about it. I decided to go to school; mostly to play my new game since the public library firewalls it, but also because I'm congested and coughing with a cold, and I'm not feeling super great and that would both be a warmer environment as well as giving me micro access. But I was hanging out in my spot and at 5:30 two student security - who have no more authority over students than I do - come by and say that I need to leave because they are closing up the building. Every quarter I've been there this happens. I tell them, 'no, there is a class going on literally on the other side of this wall behind me (which there is a door you can see in which they already passed less than five feet from me), that lab is open, the other lab is open, the floor is open, and the staff in charge of all of that is down the hall and here until at least 6.' They stood there arguing and trying to push me out saying they were right and I needed to leave for probably nearly 5 minutes. I repeatedly said, 'no, go talk to the teacher, go talk to the staff in charge of the floor.' Granted, I could have handled it better by immediately walking them right over instead of staying in my spot and pushing back, but I don't react well to people trying to assert fake authority over me. I can't really blame them though. Their boss, the actual (on campus) police, told them something which was incorrect. However, they should have immediately taken me at my word, had one of them stay with me, and the other go verify my story, instead of standing there and both

arguing with me. But I don't really blame them, as they are extremely young and very inexperienced. I try to focus on the good of the day and let this go.

My back is killing me though. It's not used to so much time sitting on the floor. It's been probably more than six months since I was at school all week and Friday.

I seem to have an owie on my left foot bottom too. For a normal person this would be nothing. But for me, with my flat feet, it's right where a bulk of pressure goes when I walk. So it's like, step, ow, step, ow, step, ow. 😞 It's like the area got overly dry and cracked there. I checked this morning when I was first feeling it, and it's red and a bit sore around the cracked wound.

But today I tried to relax. I tried to recover from my cold. I played a lot and had fun. I tried to watch shows, but the network site with the shows I wanted to watch wasn't working, so I had to watch something that was meh. (I'll probably just stop watching that show.)

I suppose today was just another reminder how my life is not in my control. I could not control my environment. While I ate better than I would have at the public library, it certainly was not what I'd have eaten in a home. And while things were restful, due to various physical discomforts it was not as restful as it would have been in a home. But it could have been worse. It still may be worse someday. So I try to look at what was good, and I hope to make it to better days.

## Day 3413 - 11/4 Quick

Today passed very quickly. In the morning I needed to go ridiculously out of my way to recycle. That is such a bother now. It's so far, and even with a mostly full trunk I barely get anything.

My time at the library passed very quickly, as well as a bit of time at the food store. I checked for jobs, helped a tiny bit on the forums, but mostly played my games and watched a few shows.

I was still very worried about the upcoming bills. 😞 Besides the \$100 for web stuff, \$40 for car insurance, there is also \$50 for next school quarter, \$40 for an overdue



oil change as soon as I can, and eventually \$45 for a new laptop power plug. Not counting bigger things down the line like \$200 for contacts, which without buying all at once I'd have to buy in smaller amounts at poor prices for what I'd be getting.

But I had fun. And for a few brief moments I could ignore my sad things. But hopefully help will come. And hopefully I can hang on to hope long enough to get to my forever better days.

## Day 3414 - 11/5 Cold winter

Today was sad. The morning started with the first sad thing. I had my foods and went to pay for them and apparently there wasn't enough food stamp money for what I had. I had a gift card someone sent spared since my birthday, so I used that to cover the overage. But I was very worried as to how I would pay for food in the future. 😞 I immediately regretted celebrating the holidays by getting a small pack of candies to share during Halloween, and the single slice of pumpkin pie I got last night.

I discovered there is still \$15 left on the card, which if I were extremely careful I could stretch to a week. So I guess things were ok. I also later discovered today was the 5th, and my money cycles again on the morning of the 6th, so I'm actually fine. But that fear, added to all my other money worries lately, put an early damper on my day. 😞

I had fun the following couple of hours playing my new game. The connection at the food store was just enough to play. When I left there was another minor scare, as my car clock showed it was nearly 1. I guess I didn't notice when I was in the car earlier that it shows an hour off from my tablet and laptop. I guess the time change happened last night. But that reminded me it's winter. Not that the cold and recent rain hasn't already done that. But it, and the extreme dark when I left the library, reminded me that there are many cold and sad nights to come.

There were more sad reminders during my day too. The library was full, and the connection slowed, limiting what I could do. And someone was sitting at my table who alternately smelt like pee and farts. Both seemed like reminders I am not in a home. I cannot control my environment. And there too was the thought that of all my games, I

have not experienced any of them to their fullest. It has always been on my laptop with headphones. Never on a desktop, with a regular monitor, and proper speakers.

And, though probably very minor, my laptop power again winked out for half a second while I was playing. Not enough for most to notice, but I did. And it reminded me everything I have is on a timer. And that timer ticks away each day.

So today overall seemed like just a reminder that I am in a sad place. It reminded me of what is missing in my life. Making me worried I may never get to experience certain things in life like others do, or might never experience some things at all. 😞

But I try to remember today was just today. Anything can happen tomorrow, and so I hope for the best. I hope for change. I hope help will come. And I hope for fun times, so I can hopefully set aside the bad, until I am through it.

## **Day 3415 - 11/6**

### **Like twelve times**

Today was very fun, but also very worrisome. During the day, a day where I was sitting on the floor so there was a lot of movement, the power dropped on my laptop maybe as many as a dozen times. And once it even just went 'poof' and shut off completely. I am still hopeful and fairly certain it is a plug/power brick issue, as this is the exact same thing that happened with the previous plug death. And, if I can keep the cord stationary it is safe and stable, which both of these indicate to me it's a power brick issue. But the stressful part is I have no money to replace it. And, if it gets much worse gaming will become increasingly difficult. Right now that half second dip in power just means poor frame rate for 1-3 seconds while the power gets to the parts again, which is manageable.

Besides that worry, my regular bill worries, and back hurting from extra floor time, the internet completely dropped for about an hour which was sad. But I just played a single player offline game during that time.

But all these worries aside it was a pretty good day. I had fun with my games. I watched a show. A few people said hi and I had a few laughs. And I suppose most important in these times I was warm, restful in my spot, and had enough to eat.

So I try to not let my worries crush me entirely. I try to continue to hope help comes. And I hope I make it to better days.

## **Day 3416 - 11/7**

### **Trying to stay hopeful**

Today I am trying to stay hopeful. My gas is almost completely gone. I have a bit of money I could use, but it wouldn't be more than maybe a week. It seems dad won't be sending anything for Halloween, as I kind of expected he would.

It was very cold last night. And I am sniffly and sneezy, so I worry about my health. I still feel oddly like my tummy is fatter than ever before. Yet my legs and lower part of my arms feel less fat, almost tight.

I am worried about money, as I have none and there are so many things coming up. 😞

But I am settled in at school now. I have foods to micro and I spent a touch extra getting myself a snack to maybe cheer me up. So I try to remain hopeful my day will be ok. I try to remain hopeful help will come. And I try to hang on until better days.

## Week 489

### Day 3417 - 11/8 Special event

Today was pretty good. Class was almost all shooting stuff, so that was pretty fun. In my game there is a special event happening, so a lot of areas have different public events going on and I can get some extra loot, so that is pretty fun too.

Emotionally I guess I feel pretty good. The day passed quickly and I had some interaction and some laughs. And I had some time to watch a show and play my games, so that is always good.

No help came though. 😞 And I was almost totally out of gas, so I had to put what little I had into gas. 😞 So I'm very worried about that. I hate being on the edge all the time. Especially lately since more and more things are coming due.

But I try to hold on to hope that help will come. And I try to stay hopeful that I will make it to being back in a home and better days again.

### Day 3418 - 11/9 Out for strangeness

Today has ended sadly. There is a weirdness in my regular nighttime spot, and so I can't go to settle and sleep when I should. I am actually writing this the next morning, and I was out and lost what would otherwise have been nearly 5 hours of sleep and time to do things.

But other than that the day was good. I had fun playing my games most of the day. I had shows to watch. And I even got a big donation, which was almost enough to cover the web costs. (The donation place takes about 3% of what's sent to me, so I was put short just a tiny bit.) But hopefully dad will send monies for turkey weekend or I'll get other donations, and that can be taken care of very soon. That is my current biggest worry, as I won't know if that can be paid late or in parts.

But the day was pretty good outside of the bad ending. Friday and Saturday will be extra tough with the library being closed. I'll have to be outside of school. Hopefully that will work out ok. It's been very cold and starting to rain. 😞

But, as always, I try to hang on. And hopefully tomorrow will be a better day.

## Day 3419 - 11/10

### Would have been fine

Today was ok. I parked in a shopping center instead of the school lot because it would have felt weird to be at school. But there were a dozen cars there when I came in, and about the same when I left. All day there were people here and there in my area, despite it being cold and rainy during part of the day. It probably would have been fine to park in a school space. Tomorrow they have Saturday classes (at least until noon or whenever they go until) so I probably won't feel weird parking on campus.

I did a chicken on sale because it's cheap and will basically last me until tomorrow, but there is something about these chickens. 😞 My tummy is almost always upset by them and gurgly. I think it's because they leave all the fat and grease. Which, granted, makes them taste better, but all that gunk is bleh, and it's likely what upsets my tummy.

But the day itself was pretty good. I got to chill and play games and watch a show. Things were pretty cold, it's winter after all. And I was sad and lonely. But being able to play and have fun is something, so I suppose I wasn't too sad.

But, as always, I hope it is warmer tomorrow. I hope my tummy feels better. I hope this weather doesn't make my cold worse y needing to be outside these two days. And I hope tomorrow is a better day.

## Day 3420 - 11/11

### Squirrel's home

Today was surprisingly good for a day I expected to go pretty badly. I started with an extra trip to the library to drop off some due movies. Normally I'd be there anyways on Friday and Saturday (and most Sundays) but since it was closed for the holiday I had to make a special trip. I suppose it wasn't too far, just about a mile, but still.

Since that meant I'd be on the side of school that has the showers I thought I'd check in there. It looked like there was some kind of aquasize class, so things were open and I got a warmish shower.

After that I went to the other side of campus where I spent the rest of the day. There were only a few people, but campus was pretty calm and quiet.

As expected the connection was strong and stable and I got to have fun with my games and shows all day. My food was bleh, my back was killing me for sitting on the floor, and I was pretty cold most of the day. But it was tolerable and I had fun. I certainly had more fun than I expected with needing to be outside all day.

There was one unusual thing. There are quite a lot of super cute squirrels on campus. I saw a few hopping around on my way in and offered to share some grapes I had with a few. One I noticed hopped off a railing and dashed into some not bushes, as that is yet another bush area butchered and pulled out for no reason. But I noticed a small tunnel. And the squirrel peeked back out of his nice tunnel home after settling in and feeling safe. I thought that it looked like a very nice cozy home for such chilly times. But I thought of the recent rains and worried. 😞 With the bushes and trees in that area being torn out what will happen to the squirrel home if it heavily rains? 😞 It rained for about an hour yesterday. The squirrel home seemed ok, but could it be flooded? Will the squirrel be ok if it is? 😞

Again it's just one of those thoughts that I worry about because I have been out of a home for so long myself. I recently have been having a lot of very bad dreams of being displaced, and even a few lately about the laptop and its power sustain issues. 😞

But overall my day was better than expected. Those online wouldn't have seen my sads in my posts. And even if someone saw me in person there is little to no evidence by

looking at me. (As horrifying as my teeth are, over the years I've gotten used to not moving my top lip, which thankfully hides most of the damage. 😞)

But I survived another day. And it wasn't as bad as I expected. With each day I survive, I can start again in the morning. And I continue to hope tomorrow is a better day.

## Day 3421 - 11/12

### Two cute, tiny ants

Today was good and bad. It started at the food store where I had a pretty amazing connection for there. I played my new game a couple of hours with no lag or connection issues at all.

During the bulk of the day was the every other week game, which if my records are correct we haven't actually met since late August. I'm not sure if that's right because it seems like it was much more recently than that. But one person's little one was there, who is I'd guess, around 8. So that altered what we did and when it wasn't combat it was all farting and not knowing what to do. On top of that we were put into a not so quiet area, so there was a lot of loud talking, and I could hardly hear.

There was a nice surprise though. There was the super cute girl who works there.

😍 I offered her cookies as I walked in and she was smiley and happy. And when I left there was another super cute girl working as well. She made my heart go pitter patter too.

😍 When I was microing my dinner I said to the guy I know that works there, "All the girls who work here are suuuper cute." He smiled and replied, "You're welcome." And we laughed. 😄

One thing did worry and make me sad during the day though. My tummy was getting too upset from the Friday chicken, so I had to throw some away. 😞 I felt very sad because that was an entire living creature once upon a time. 😞 I think I am going to try very hard again to eat a lot less meat. Though normally I don't eat much since I micro my food.

And too there were some tiny ants on my foods when I left the store. Hopefully I got them all off my stuff. I shook things out when I got back to the normal area. So if

there were any still on the bag or my recycle cans, hopefully they shook off out onto the grass. I would feel terrible if their already short lives were made shorter. 😞 Thinking of being alone and stuck in a recycle box until death makes me very sad. 😞

But I suppose my day was ok other than that. It was surprisingly warm, which was nice. I took off both my under shirt and long underwear. I don't know if it will stay warm, but it's night now, I don't have my hoodie on, and I'm not chilly. Were this last night and I like this I'd have been shivering.

So I guess overall today was pretty good. I will probably have more good memories than bad. But, as always, I hope tomorrow is a better day.

## **Day 3422 - 11/13**

### **Sick feeling and sprinkled on**

Today was really good, but also a bit bad. I had a lot of fun with my games and shows today. I was feeling kind of down about the bills coming due though, so I maybe played a bit more than I otherwise would have.

I was feeling a bit sick today too. Since the morning I've had some sneezing and a bit of a headache. And a couple of times during the day, seemingly for no reason, I felt a bit dizzy and a tiny bit nauseous. I will try to take it extra easy tomorrow, but today I just rested peacefully, as I expect to, well, all the time. So hopefully that is enough (physically) to recover.

When I left campus it sprinkled heavily on my head. Nothing too bad, certainly not enough to worry about stopping and getting out my umbrella (which I've carried in my backpack ever since summer ended.) But I worry because my backpack again has huge tears in it and needs to be replaced. I'm sure they would replace it again free, but from what I recall it was \$10-15 to ship it to them to do that, which right now other things have higher priority (like getting an appointment to get my meds for blood pressure and stuff again.)

So for now I try and relax. I try to be restful and recover. And I hope tomorrow is a better day.



## Day 3423 - 11/14

### Feeling meh

Today I am feeling meh. I seem hyper aware of everything wrong. My hair is bad and out of control. I didn't shower today. I have the same clothes on. I feel and look fatter in my tummy and chest than ever before (though my arms and from the upper knee down still feel leaner than they ever have.) My heart feels as if it's congested all the time, which it may be as I might have had a cold for quite a while. Though it's more likely due to missing meds which I lack even the \$10 to make an appointment to get the prescriptions renewed. I am awake and moving out in public when I have nowhere to be. And there are rain clouds, threatening the electronic stuff in my backpack, which also could easily be fixed if I had a spare \$10-15. I need food stamps to even have any kind of food. I'm at school, and it feels like there is opportunity for my future, yet so much of everything I've done and learned has led to no opportunity out in 'the real world'. And there are all the upcoming bill worries.

Maybe I am just tired. Maybe it is the upcoming holidays which always seem extra lonely and a time for reflection upon the recent years past. Once upon a time it was a time of reflection and hope for the coming days, as it should be. But lately it seems a time for reflection on things lost, and what little there is left that yet still may be lost.

But today is just today. It has barely started and I don't know what will come. It will hopefully turn out to be good. And tomorrow and the day after are the days after, and have yet to happen, so hopefully they will be better.

## **Week 490**

### **Day 3424 - 11/15**

#### **Fireplace**

Today was ok, but it passed very quickly. I hardly got to do anything besides a very quick forum helping and a small amount of play and one show. I guess it was good though. Most of the day was taken up with class, which is kind of normal for a Wednesday. The happiness of class and being social was balanced by the sad of all the things going on in my head.

I'm settled for right now. I can smell several peoples' fireplace fires, and it's raining just a little. It's kind of what I would say is a perfect winter night for me. Chilly, but not so cold to need extra cloths. Rainy, but more visual than anything else, as it can barely be heard. And the smell of fires, reminding me people are safe and in comfortable homes.

At least those not me. For me mostly it is just a reminder of those things, as my experience currently does not match to the memories. The memories of nights when I was in my room playing, with my window blinds drawn so I could see the rain. And I would not have a fireplace, but I would have some tea light candles, and it would be warm enough to open the window just a pinch to smell the fresh air and hear the rain.

So I have not that life, just a memory of it. But, as always, I hope it can be that way again someday. And I hope tomorrow is a better day.

### **Day 3425 - 11/16**

#### **So beautiful**

Today was pretty good. I was in the lab and played and watched shows pretty much all day. I suppose it's an odd day in that I wanted to play more than I did. I suppose the biggest reason for that is worry was always in the back of my mind. Either it was those two hours in the middle of the day where my power was dropping to low every 10

minutes, or because of things like my mind worrying about bills, or paying for next quarter since I discovered I could sign up already. There was no time my mind wasn't worried. 😞

There was something unexpected though. In the evening when I was back out in the hall, after they'd closed the lab, a screenwriting class was on break. The cute girl from the last time I TAed walked by and waved, which was nice. 😊 But a few minutes after another girl walked by, one I'd never seen before. She was blonde, with a short skirt-shirt kind of thing (one piece). She was sooooo beautiful. 😍 I was tempted to go over to her and ask for my heart back because I think she stole it. 😍 But I didn't, because I am a lot older, and bad at life, so why would she be interested? 😞 Especially since she doesn't know me, and that would be scary / creepy to do because of those things.

I did try to do something different with my new game too. There is a raid, and single people couldn't do it because there was no matchmaking, but there is now. I guess Tuesday would be the day to do it though. I assumed it would take 4 hours, so I tried going into the queue at 2. After 20 minutes with an 'unknown' amount of time to wait I quit waiting. I did my regular single player stuff and peeked back at the queue at like 2:45, 3, 3:15, 3:30, and for the last time at 4. Each time it said unknown or 45 minutes wait for the estimate, which is too much time to waste with my life being what it is. I think when I checked Tuesday night it was like 20 minutes, but I didn't remember to check until about 5 my time, which if it does take more than 1-2 hours would have been too late. So it was super disappointing to not be able to try the special something, especially since I checked yesterday after class and it was a similar 45 minute wait.

I'm trying to hold on to the donation money to pay for my web space for the year, but with gas and needing to do laundry a chunk has already slipped through my fingers quickly. 😞 I hope more donations come and dad sends money on turkey weekend, or my chance to pay for that may be gone entirely.

But I guess overall the day was pretty good. I suppose long-term my mind will remember more good than bad, and that is something. So I continue to hold on to hope that things will get better, and I can hang on until they do, and hope that tomorrow is a better day.

## Day 3426 - 11/17

### Windows

Today was actually pretty good. I had a super fun time with my new game (since I decided to be on campus Friday so I could play) and I watched a few shows. (As usual there were no jobs and there were no 'thank yous' for helping on the forums.) It was nice to hear on a social page that a few posts I made cheered some people up, so it was nice to hear at least there are some people out there who are happier because of me.

In the back of my mind I was sad though, as I was continually thinking about windows. My window to get up. My window to shower and get a good parking space. My window pre-lunch, for having lunch, for after lunch, for dinner, etc. etc. For some reason today felt like each thing I was doing was a reminder I was that much closer to the next thing and the end of the day when I'd need to pack up and go.

Maybe it's because I had mentally set aside 4 hours to try and do the special in-game thing again. And again when I checked every half hour or so (until giving up around 2) it kept saying no estimate for time. So, in a way, I guess that just reminded me of days in a home. Days where I could go ahead and set the game to wait, even if it did take an hour, or I could simply wait to find a match later in the day when people got home from work, and play until the wee hours if I had to. Or I could simply wait until the weekend. Times when I could play and no worry about a lunch or dinner time and just do what I want when I wanted. Or if I did care about a window, it was for much higher quality of life things than I have now, like spending 30 minutes to cook, then casually eating at whatever pace I wanted while having dinner on a plate and watching a show or movie.

I guess windows aren't really the issue, as my entire life has been windows and time management. I guess the issue is that they are fixed. They are rigid. They are set because of factors I can't control. And so they don't feel so much like windows and appointments, more like I'm being pushed down a plank and having to jump through a hoop (before it runs into me.)

But hopefully this will pass in time. Hopefully all my mind will remember is that I had a good time. And hopefully I will sleep ok, and being homesick won't cause me further stress. And, as always, hopefully I can be in a home someday, and I can continue to hang on, and there will be better days until then.

## Day 3427 - 11/18

### Beset by wolves

Today was pretty sad. Last night was bad because I got some mail at the ex-house. The mail was a note from my student loan people complaining that I'm late on payments and threatening me. 😞 Hopefully I can find a way to calm them down and keep them at bay. I guess one class isn't enough (though they've never complained about that before), and I need 6 or more units. I can do that in January, provided I get the \$50 to sign up (which I can do now, so those classes are at risk of filling up.) And the other sad thing was that the food stamp people will call in early December to do the yearly check and they want to see my bank records. Which means I'll need to spend another \$10 to keep my phone active during that time, and last night I was horribly worried they would see my donations on my statement and be mad. I'm way under my \$1300 a month 'income', so I really shouldn't worry, but I do. (I found out later the most recent statement only shows \$35 in donations and about a \$125 total average balance.) But last night those worries kept me awake until nearly 2 AM, causing several hours of lost sleep, in addition to bad dreams.

Though I am trying to feel better. I got some cheese to make nachos which I haven't had in probably four months or longer. And I got some cookies to help cheer me up. Having salad for my main food makes it a no meat day, which makes me feel a bit better too.

I got to play and watch shows, though the library firewall blocks my new game, and there was lag in the afternoon so I couldn't really play anything. I'm doing a bigger wash, so more things will be clean, so that's good. So overall it was a pretty good day. But there are still many sad things in the back of my mind that I miss, and I wonder if I ever really will make it back to forever better days.

## Day 3428 - 11/19

### Maybe turkey

Today was very sad. It started good by having fun with my new game for a bit. But wanting to play more, and knowing the library blocks it, and having to have to play from the food store or library, rapidly put me into a sad place. Much like other recent days it seemed to just remind me my life is not normal, and there is so much I can't control.

So the rest of the day I was pretty sad. I did not normal things for the rest of the day. Productive-ish things, sure, but I barely played (partly due to my knowing it was laggy yesterday and there were even more there today), and I only watched a couple of shows.

In good news someone posted on a gaming social page they were doing an open invite for turkey day. I'm not sure if they will actually go through with it though. Last time they suggested a meet up no one replied, so they wound up not doing it. So we'll see if anyone actually replies and it actually happens.

So for now I am pretty sad. I am worried about all the things rapidly coming up this month that were unexpected and how I can't possibly pay for them. I still have a bit more than half of the donation left, but at this point I'd need at least half of a bigger amount from dad to even pay just that one big bill off. So I am very worried, as his is the only money I am expecting. And he doesn't always send a big amount. 😞

But outside of what will hopefully be a very short group meeting for class tomorrow, the day should be open and free to play or watch shows. And I should certainly be plenty warm, and hopefully I can get enough good micro food to make tummy happy. So I try to focus on that, and hope tomorrow is indeed a better day.

## Day 3429 - 11/20

### Sneezing, sore butt

Today I have a pretty bad cold. It's not bad compared to a normal scale, as it takes quite a lot to affect me since I'm only affected about half of normal. But I've been

sneezing every 15 minutes and my nose has been a bit runny all day. I suppose I've had a headache most of the day, but that is pretty normal these days. 😞

My butt and back have hurt a bit too. It's like I've been sitting on the floor extra days when I really haven't been.

I suppose it was an ok day other than that in that I got to play and watch shows. All of my background sad things were still there; no jobs to be found, bills I don't know how I'll pay, worries of day-to-day things like gas and my health. But I suppose it is not worse than any day before. So I try to look ahead. I try to focus on what was good. And hope tomorrow will be a better day.

## Day 3430 - 11/21

### Still sick

Today I am still feeling pretty sick. My tummy feels a bit icky and my nose feels congested and runny. My eyes hurt too, but not too much. Outside of a bit of time to check for jobs or help on the forums I should be able to rest, relax, try and recover, and have whatever calming game playing or show watching I want to do. I should also be sitting at a desk proper in the lab soon, so there is that. Hopefully I can recover very quickly, as the outside time on turkey day and Friday will do a lot of damage to a lowered immune system. 😞

I am pretty worried about my bill things coming up in the next few weeks. I still don't know how I'll get enough help to cover them all. 😞 I thank the gods it didn't worry me too much last night. I've lost a lot of sleep lately because of it. But last night I actually slept well.

All I can do is try and hang on and recover physically as best I can and hope enough money help is sent to pay at least the most critical things, though upon reflection that's pretty much all of the things that have come up. 😞 But I try to stay hopeful, and with the day still ahead of me, I try to hope today is a better day.

## Week 491

### Day 3431 - 11/22 Turkey for sure

Today was pretty good, certainly better than expected. Class was fun, as usual, and we left early. I didn't get to try the special thing in my game again because I wound up losing time that I needed for that. But it's ok as I got lots of good gain in what I did do, and there is a special PvP thing going on. Normally I really hate PvP, but this is tolerable. And despite the potential for everyone to be on mics and talking poop, I have yet to hear anyone on mic in PvP (out of maybe 25 games so far.)

Also, the person confirmed I should go over tomorrow for visiting for turkey day. And she said she would give me some monies, which will cover gas for tomorrow and about a week after that. 😊 So hopefully tomorrow will be good, and not awkward because they are pretty much strangers on what is normally a super special family day.

Today is the last pill. I've been out of my blood pressure meds since mid-August, and now the last of the other has run out. I'll be ok if I can't get more. Maybe not the best, nor the safest in terms of heart attack risk, but I won't immediately die or anything. I'd still like to spend the \$10 to get an appointment with the doc to get them refilled since they are free for me due to my coverage, but there are so many other important things ahead of that \$10. 😞

Oh, speaking of that, when I got back to my car there was an envelope with a \$25 gift card to a restaurant. I am pretty sure I know who left it, since there are really only two people it may have been. I think I will save it until later in December. At that point, closer to Xmas, I'd have not been able to micro foods for a while and it will be more important. I think the break between quarters is like three weeks, presuming I get the \$50 to sign up for next quarter.

So fun with my game, a few laughs in class, even though there are sad things in the back of my mind, today was a pretty good day. But, as always, I hope tomorrow is too.



## **Day 3432 - 11/23**

### **Three more than zero**

Today was a lot better than I expected. The morning started at the food store. I could actually sit and stay and the connection was decent. In previous years a staffer had it blocked off with 'reserved' signs, so I was expecting to need to leave to go to connect outside of school.

Oddly thought when I got to the friendly person's house I was greeted by friendly and shy cats. Not one, not two, but three, which is very dangerous for my allergies. I did actually remember to ask if there were pets, or if anyone smoked, and she did reply 'no smokers, three cats,' so I find it odd I remembered seeing that said zero cats. I guess it worked out ok because we loaded me up with meds pretty quickly and settled my allergies down and I was ok to stay for foods.

We chatted a bit and did stuff and it was a pretty good time. Due to their distance and my allergies I don't expect to really see them again until spring or summer when they said they would do a BBQ. (Or they will try to. When they tried last year I was the only one who replied, so it fell through.)

So today was pretty good emotionally. I am still very worried about bills, but all I can do is try to hang on and hope dad money and other help comes along and try to get by. As always, I try to hang on until forever better days.

## **Day 3433 - 11/24**

### **Anti-BBQ**

Today was better than expected, save for discovering for some reason the web bill is \$130, not \$100 as I thought. I should have enough to pay it provided dad sent a lot for turkey day. So far I haven't seen anything at all at the ex-house, so I am very worried about that.

I did have to hand wash and dry (with a drier sheet) my shirts I wore yesterday. They had too much BBQ smell for some reason. It was about \$0.50 for the gas to get

there and drier, so it was fine. And now they smell more like regular me, so they should be fine to last the 1-2 weeks it will be before a proper laundry.

The day was easier than expected. I went straight to school in the morning and parked across the street since I figured it would be weird to park on campus. The weather was warm enough with all my layers on, only a dozen people were there in my area through the day, and I saw no campus security at all.

So the day passed smoothly, quickly, and I had fun playing games and watching a few shows. The bills have me very worried and scared, and I still have my cold, but I try to recover and relax as best I can. And, as always, I try to look at what went right with the day, what was good. And I try to look forward to the day I am back in a home and have better days.

## **Day 3434 - 11/25**

### **So very sad**

Today I was extremely depressed. My mind couldn't stop thinking about all the sad bills coming up and how I don't know how I'll pay for all the things. I tried to calm myself though. I tried to consider that if dad sends a big amount for turkey day and for Xmas time it would cover it (adding on what I still have from the last big donation.) But I can't help but think that is very tough for him these days, and I haven't gotten anything for turkey day yet, nor heard any promise of anything he's sent late.

So I hardly played, and didn't watch too many shows. Mostly I did things of little to no consequence and tried to distract myself.

When I could push away my sad thoughts I did have fun with my new game, though my time was limited (due to the firewall at the library where I'd spend most of my day) and what I could do was limited (due to the lack of bandwidth later in the day)

So for now I try to hang on. I keep hoping to be back in a home and have a regular life again someday, with much fewer restrictions and limitations. I keep hoping to find friendship and maybe even love. And I keep hoping I have people who send help, and with that I can continue to hang on physically, and emotionally.

## Day 3435 - 11/26

### Cold and rainy

Today it was cold and rainy. It didn't rain a lot so far, just a heavy sprinkle. But it was enough to remind me sadder days are on the way. Sad, at least, as long as I remain homeless. In a home such weather would actually be nice, and welcome.

My worries about my bills remained in the back of my mind, particularly since I'm counting on big help from dad to get by and there is still no word if that will come. At this point he would have had to not mailed it before turkey day, which I suppose is possible, or he sent it to the wrong address, which he's done before. But since both of these seem like low odds, it is likely he won't send anything, and I will have no way to pay the bills I need to pay. 😞 Or even some of them. 😞 But I suppose tomorrow is another day, and so I try to remain hopeful.

I was super sad again today because of that. I distracted myself with small nothings more than I actually played or watched shows. Which I suppose is fine, both things are distracting. But I was limited and could only do a small amount of what I actually wanted to do.

So I try to stay hopeful for tomorrow. And hopefully it is a better day.

## Day 3436 - 11/27

### One last one

Today I found a cholesterol pill, so I took it. I guess I wasn't quite completely out like I thought. I passed by the blood pressure machine, so I checked. As expected it was pretty terrible at 150/90, a far cry from the like 125/85 it would average closer to when I had my meds. My heart rate was around 65, so I guess that is good. I seem to recall that being closer to around 80 though (a few years ago). I may have to look that up tomorrow to see if that's good or not. It is also possible it didn't read correctly. If I recall in times I've used that machine before I had to do it three times and take an average to get an accurate reading.

Still no money or word from dad, so that is extremely worrisome. I again mentioned class to my professor I used to TA for (I think she asked me if I'd signed up yet) and said it doesn't matter if the classes I wanted were full or not because I don't have money either way. She again said 'meeeeeh' in a way that implied she would pay for it. But she has yet to actually say that, nor has she handed me \$50 in cash, so I can't count on it happening.

I worried and worried about the bills all day. I had fun in my new game and even managed to do the super fancy thing I had been wanting to try. But with all the worry and stress about bills that enjoyment was watered down. And there were other thing I wanted to do, but the depression prevented me from doing.

Hopefully I can try and let some of the worry go tomorrow. I'll be sitting proper at a desk, and the fancy thing will be re-set (it does every week), so I can try again to do the fancier things if I want.

But tomorrow is tomorrow. I won't know what it brings, or does not bring, until it happens. Until I see, I try to hope its outcome will be good, and that it will be a better day.

## **Day 3437 - 11/28**

### **Very cold**

Today has started very cold. Last night and this morning I was woken up by the cold. I guess it's time to change things to their winter setup to stay warmer.

Someone asked for my opinion on a flyer he made, which was nice to feel wanted and appreciated. It's been a while since I've done graphic design, but since UI elements and design exist in all games I'm always thinking about how this or that is or isn't clear, or could be improved. And relaying information is very common in posting and everyday writing, so that has been a constant in my life for a while as well.

I suppose today feels ok so far. I woke up cold, coughing, and congested. I hope that is just the weather and not a cold. I do have a bit of a wheeze too, which is unusual. I did get extra food though, so hopefully if I do have a cold that will help me fight it.

But the day has yet to reveal what it will be. And so I try to focus on the good things, like being somewhere warm enough, having micro foods to eat, and (in theory) whatever games or shows I have that I want to try and distract myself with from my sad things. And I hope today is a better day. For everyone.

## Week 492

### Day 3438 - 11/29 Seems impossible

Today was pretty good. Class was a bit disorganized, but we got through things ok. There were a lot of laughs and people had a good time, so that is always nice.

I played and watched a few shows after, but I didn't get as much time as I'd have liked for that. Which I guess, was to be expected what with my limitations.

Speaking of that, paying for the things I need to seems impossible. Dad picked up his e-card I sent and hasn't sent word a card is on its way to me. Since there was not one at the ex-house at this point I have to assume there is not one coming. Which makes me feel like I won't be able to pay of all the things I need to.

I still have some of the last donation I got, which I was hoping to add to a bigger dad gift (of \$100) and have the web bill covered. But in addition to that there is the \$42 for the car insurance coming due Friday, and there is \$50 for signing up for classes, \$20 for parking, and then roughly \$7 a week for gas if I can spare it to avoid walking (and hurting myself.) Without dad's money for Thanksgiving, and it being bigger gift, I don't see how I'll even meet the minimum of \$150 I need to pay just the two bills due in the next week. 😞 Let alone enough to cover all the things. 😞 If a big dad check had come for turkey day, and then again at Xmas, I may have gotten enough. But with what seems like zero coming... I don't know how I'll keep my email and web space, pay car insurance, or be able to keep financial aid off my back. 😞

I need a lot of help. 😞 And each time I've reached out a few have helped, but it seems no one is sticking around after to keep tabs on me after that. 😞

There are a few out there looking for me. And I pray to the gods they see I am yet again at an extreme level of need. 😞 But it is very hard to keep my head up these days. 😞 It seems this may finally be the year help does not come and I begin to lose what little is left. 😞

## Day 3439 - 11/30

### Very worried

Today there is still no word from dad on if he sent anything for turkey day, and still no card. At this point I should probably stop checking every day and just assume nothing is coming. This greatly throws me off my hoped for budget for the holidays. While I still have about a week and a half to worry about my web space and email, the car insurance will technically be due in the morning. Meaning I really need basically \$150 more than I currently have to pay for both of those. 😞 I don't see how I will get that. 😞 Maybe if some people reading were planning on getting me a something for Xmas and sent cash now instead I could make it, but really there are probably only about three I can think of who might. And of those three I think only one sometimes reads and the others don't. So again I feel like meeting the goal will be impossible. Unlike others who are recently homeless, I have nothing of value. There is nothing I could sell anyone would want, as it's all too old to have any value. 😞 I still wonder if my stuff in storage has even survived this long. I have no idea what may have become damaged or ruined by being in storage for so many years. 😞

But I try to distract myself. I try to have fun with my game and shows and try to stay happy and not focus on the sad things I can't control. And to some degree I can. I did have fun with my game today. I even did the special thing. Which is ok. There are some things I could get with it, but I still question if it's worth the effort since it needs six people and as a single person I have to sit in a queue for 45 minutes. And this morning I did extra help on the forums and such, so I felt extra productive. I even helped some students with a few things they needed help with.

So I try to continue to hope help comes. I don't need much, but with no income things seem impossible. And so I try to stay hopeful. I try to hang on. And I hope tomorrow is a better day.

## Day 3440 - 12/1

### Maybe hopeful

Today seems to have gone better than expected. First, the morning phone interview about my food stamp money happened on time, only took about 15 minutes, and the guy was super nice and understanding and skipped all of the questions I'd have just said 'no change' or 'zero' to. He also said he hadn't received the stuff I mailed. Which when I mailed it would have been eight business days ago, about four times what it normally would take to cross the county to get to him. So that, I think, subconsciously has given me renewed hope that something from dad is on the way and maybe it's just greatly delayed. If I still have nothing by mid-week I'll likely feel sad again and give up hope for that.

I had fun with my new game but I didn't get to do what I expected. The servers were down for six hours for a patch. I thought it was for the new expansion, but the game didn't patch when it was up and I connected, and I saw nothing new anywhere. Looking around it seems the expansion doesn't release until Tuesday. So what I was expecting to be a play session with new content wound up being just the same stuff as before. Which is fine. I had a super fun time and I got to build up tokens I will need in the new expansion. It's been so long since I played the first game I'd forgotten about saving resources instead of turning all the tokens in. Better to wait and see if I can get something new by hanging on to them over the weekend.

So I guess today I felt a bit better. With news of the mail delay my hope is revived that something is still on the way from dad. And since things are still ok with my laptop (barring the power still being weird about two or three times an hour for one or two seconds), I played and watched shows. I even had an unexpected meeting and helped guide some people on a few points for about half an hour. I really do miss being able to officially help people. 😞 (I suppose I still do help on the forums, but no one I help ever tanks me, and it's been more than two years since the company I help gave any kind of recognition at all.) So overall today was a better day. If not a day of true change, at least one of a bit of revived hope for the future.



## Day 3441 - 12/2

### Not my gifts

Today I feel a bit extra sad. Still nothing has changed with money from dad or donations. Now being past due on the car insurance payment it is ever-present on my mind, along with the rapidly approaching web space bill.

Plus there is a secret Santa thing going on with a social page I am on. While they did not require you to do a thing to get a thing I didn't say I would like to get a thing. It's very nice to see all the thoughtful gifts people will make use of in the future, or maybe more so the super cute huggable critters some have received. But I see that and feel a bit sad. I feel like no one knows or cares that I'm hurting so much. But since I am in such a bad place and have nothing to offer in return I feel unworthy of such a gift. I would like a cute critter. An so I am sad that no one acknowledges that pain and says they would like to send me a nice thing.

And too it makes me sad that no one seems to be checking in with me. It seems no one is aware of the now past due car insurance payment, or the extreme upcoming threat to my web space and email hosting since that's another bill I can't pay.

It also doesn't help the library connection went to garbage and was barely moving by the time it was just barely past noon. It was so bad I was considering leaving, but I did not want to be out in the cold gray day.

So today I feel extra alone. I feel extra uncared for. And I am extremely worried things will rapidly come crashing down since I don't know if any help will come to pay for the things.

But I try to hang on. I try to stay hopeful. And maybe I can make it to better days.

## Day 3442 - 12/3

### Trees

Today I saw a tree lot. When I was young we used to do that. I have a vague memory of thinking a bigger tree meant it could hide more presents. But it was only when

I was young, when we were a family. As I grew into my teens and my parents argued more the tree became artificial. And soon after my mom died.

When I was out on my own I started having small trees, maybe one foot tall. I think only twice in my 20s did I get something that was closer to five foot tall. And I think those were gifted to me. Mostly I got very small branches, often just a shaving from someone else's tree. Or in recent years, I've gotten nothing at all.

More and more I am abandoning traditions. Once upon a time, even in some of these homeless years, I would look at Halloween decorations, or Xmas ones, or at tree lots. But in these very recent years I have done nothing. I don't know if it's because I know few to no one is looking at me, or if it's because I feel so alone and abandoned and do not want to look out for fear of discovering there is no one left who cares or worries about me.

I suppose it's all just because how hard my struggle has become. How I only have a couple of bills coming up very soon, or are just past due, and I have no way to pay them. It seems more and more this will be the (Fail) year I lose what little is left.

But I have felt that way before, especially in recent years. And it has seemed so before due to how few watch out for me. But I have continued on. And so I keep hoping things will turn around again. I know there are those out there who care. And hopefully help will come.

## Day 3443 - 12/4 Lights

Today I thought a bit about death again. 😞 Thankfully not to the point of having panic attacks, but almost a few times. I think it's because without being a helper anymore I have few to no big distractions. There is nothing to track or pay attention to relating to future dates. I have little to no reason to look beyond just my life and what is happening with me right now. As such, all I can see is sadness and pain. And on top of that my games, while super fun, include struggle, conflict, and a lot of death. Maybe I'll try to play my card game more to reduce that, but I have to stay distracted, or I will completely and

totally dwell on only the sad things in life. 😞 At least with my game there is still a sense of accomplishment and forward progression, even if it is only virtual.

There was still no card from dad, nor any word of such coming. And while I chatted with the professor I used to help, there was no mention of helping me pay for classes. I didn't think that would be a thing, as she implied such before and never followed through with helping, so it seeming to be nothing more doesn't surprise me.

There was one literal light at the end of my day. As I was leaving campus out in the in-between area on the road there were Xmas lights. It was nice to see, even though such things really just remind me of what is missing in life.

But I still try to look past the sadness and loss and try to choose to see what is positive and hopeful. And as long as I have days I try to remember that with each one positive change can come. So while it is a struggle lately, I continue to try to hold on to hope that tomorrow will be a better day.

## **Day 3444 - 12/5**

### **Back to cold**

Today seems better. In the morning my car was not frosted over, as it has been in the mornings for about a week. So it seems the weather is slightly warmer and back to regular cold for this time of year instead of closer to a January kind of cold.

My food money was barely enough, with 0.10 left after getting food, so that was good I didn't go over. It turns over in the morning tomorrow, so it's fine. So I have enough food, while not great choices, and I am settled in school and warming up.

And I even saw three very beautiful girls on the way in, which is unusual. And while I know the 20 somethings would never be interested in me, it does give me hope that there are always new girls out there I haven't met, even if the ones of appropriate age aren't seen.

I don't know what the day will bring. I have an expansion in my new game when the update is done (around 2 PST), and another on Thursday. Though that one is for my

card game, which I can't afford to pay money for new things, so I'll barely have any with the in game monies I have.

I expect over time today I will be back to sad and start to obsess on the sad things. I can't escape that lately, especially with an overdue car payment and a rapidly approaching web/email bill. But since the day is just starting I am trying to hold on to hope something good will happen, as each day has the potential for good and bad. Hopefully today will be a day help comes, because I don't know how I'd continue to make it without people's help.

## Week 493

### Day 3445 - 12/6 Feeling overly full

Today was pretty good. I played for a teeny tiny bit and then had the test for class. It was just about as I expected, so I'm sure I did totally fine for the overall grade.

After that I spent much of the rest of my day playing my new expansion in my new game. I did get in the queue to do the special raid thing too while I watched some shows. And after 1.5 hours of waiting I gave up and just did solo stuff. I would guess it was a combination of being too early (1-3 PM my time) and most people probably just starting with the expansion or doing the new raid. I will probably try again tomorrow around the same time.

I got some chips at the store. With my regular amount of food, I now feel overly full. Which is good, as I usually feel not quite full. So it is a rare feeling. I'm sure the feeling will pass quickly enough though.

It's getting very cold. The temperature says it's still warmer than it has been, but again this morning my window was a bit frosted. And there is still no word or card from dad. So I am in an extremely bad spot, as without that money I can't pay any of the bills I was hoping to. 😞 I don't know what I can do. 😞 I put out a lesser call for help and not only did just 8 people see the post so far, but no help has come. 😞

I guess all I can do is try to let it go. Try to not worry since I have no control over these things. And try to keep hoping help comes in time. 😞

### Day 3446 - 12/7 Surprising news

Today was quite the mix. It started with an email from someone. I don't really want to talk about it. It was just a reader, so nothing bad in a threatening way. But I lost about 45 minutes reading it and replying back. And it upset me to the point it took the

next nearly 12 hours to shake off the extra depression, sad feelings, and general dampening of my spirit.

During lunch I decided to detour to the health center. I've been feeling extra fat lately what with the extra big tummy and considering if I need to track my food again. Though really there is very little I can do to lose weight in terms of food since so much of it is pre-packaged. But, according to the desk person this scale was correct, I am only right around 200. Which is much less than what I would have guessed at around 240 since my tummy seems bigger than ever before. I guess maybe my feelings were true, and parts of my legs and arms are thinner and leaner. So with that, adding on an extra big tummy and a fat feeling face, the weight has maybe shifted around more than overall being lighter or heavier. (My highest in recent times was 220.) Though I would still like to get back down to, ideally, 175, but I'd settle for 185. 😞

Another surprise came in the late afternoon. My dad sent an email. While there was no mention of turkey day, he said he sent a Xmas card yesterday and it has a check. So I will know very soon how much I have from him in total for this holiday time. Hopefully it's a bigger size, as that would at least pay the web/email bill and I would have my biggest worry cleared. I won't really expect more than that, as I don't know how I'd manage if it's not. And anxiety will be high enough without adding to it.

So today had a number of surprises; one bad, which set me greatly off balance, but two good, which will hopefully allow me greater balance in the coming days. So as I try to shake off the cold of tonight, I hope for better days ahead.

## Day 3447 - 12/8 Long, but fast

Today was odd. At the end of the day, and while the day was passing, it felt very fast. Yet at the same time, moment-to-moment, the day felt very slow. Almost as if it were twice the amount of time. I suppose that is in great part due to my working on a project until noon. My entire regular morning plans were put aside. It was fine. It was something I wanted to do. Certainly not as high of a quality or as much detail as I'd have liked, but I don't think anyone cares or listens anyways. 😞

The day was fine, though my tummy was pretty upset. I got some easy lunchmeat for the next day as well, and microed it all at once, so I don't have to worry about meals for the next days. But tummy has issue with so many meats lately. Not from being sad about it once being a living creature, just my constitution is nowhere near what it once was.

I find myself very much looking forward to my green salad with a touch of salt and pepper and cheese I've started making a habit of on weekends. It will be harder to do from April on, but for the moment the car is a fridge at night. And with where I sit at the library I can put the foods on an AC vent. Which also effectively chills them like a fridge. (Hopefully someday they will flip that and it will be heat, as it's getting very cold lately.)

Emotionally I guess I was ok. I certainly could have been better. But I endure far more now than I ever would have before. The combination of enduring continuing emotional pain and loss, having lost so much has caused my tolerance for such things to be very far from what it once was.

No card from dad in the mail, but I did get word on food stamp monies being renewed through 2018, so there is that. For the moment I keep hoping. And hopefully tomorrow will be a good day.

## **Day 3448 - 12/9**

### **Something**

Today was mostly ok. The morning started at the food store, then the bulk of the day was at the library. They actually had the heat on. The vent felt slightly warm in the morning, but by late afternoon when the place was packed it was slightly cold again. The connection was mostly ok, but in the later afternoon it turned pretty bad. The last two hours I was there was spent trying to watch a single 45 minute show. But I suppose some connection is better than no connection at all.

I got my card from dad, and... it's something. On the one hand it's a big amount, so that's great, but on the other it's a single gift size big amount. Which is half of what I had sort of mentally budgeted and hoped to be sent from him. So... I should maybe probably have just barely enough to pay the most important bill. But it will leave me with

absolutely zero for anything else. I'll have the tiny bit in my wallet, which would have been laundry, which now must be gas for a week.

I will have to keep hoping donations come so I can cover the overdue car insurance and school costs. Which hopefully will happen. I know there are a few out there who watch out for me and send help from time to time. So hopefully that help will come and I can pay the remaining things.

But for now my future seems more uncertain than ever. And I struggle to hold on physically and emotionally. But I still hope help will come, and tomorrow will be a better day.

## Day 3449 - 12/10

### One down, trim time

Today was okish. The food store connection was completely down, which was super sad as I didn't want to be out in the cold outside of school. When I got to school and settled in the concrete was indeed nearly as cold as ice. 😞 My butt was kind of numb while I was there. 😞 I guess it's ok though, as it allowed me to do some stuff I wouldn't have had the bandwidth for otherwise.

At noon I headed to the library. It's connection was still pretty slow. I'd forgotten it was so bad yesterday. It wasn't quite as bad, but it did alter what activities I could do due to lower bandwidth.

I paid my big internet/web space bill. Phew. So that's secure for another year (not counting the domain names in like May), and I won't have to worry about losing access to my email, which is tied to everything, including my resumes.

After paying the bill I only had a tiny bit left. I even had to put \$1 back of what I had in my wallet to pay for the bill. The remaining \$5 had to go into gas. There was no choice with the tank showing just about empty. I've got maybe a week's of gas if I'm lucky. 😞

My hair was bugging me today. Well, most days it bugs me in that it looks like a flat mushroom instead of being flipped back all cool. It doesn't like to cooperate. But



today was the kind of bugging me in that it's 'tail' was too long and poking me in the back of my neck. I guess it's grown about an inch since the last time I cut it, which if I recall was sometime in spring. The top is evening out now, and it's actually gotten too wide. It's less of a faux-hawk and more most of the top of my head. I'll have to see if I can find a way to narrow it this week before I lose shower access for winter break.

But despite my now only having barely a quarter tank of gas, and about \$0.18 in my bank account, I guess today was ok. For now I try to hang on. And I continue to hope extra help will come for the holidays and I can continue hanging on until my forever better days.

## **Day 3450 - 12/11**

### **Miss it**

Today was ok I suppose. Lately I've felt very weird. I feel very hyper aware of my body, where I am in space and time, and feel very much like a separate entity, disconnected and completely separate. I suppose I always have been, but it's the kind of physical and emotional detachment you feel when you are leaving somewhere and you've said all your goodbyes. I guess maybe it's just the quarter closing out and further distancing from everything I've known in recent times since my future feels so uncertain.

I suppose too it could be because more and more lately there is stuff I'm missing going on with the professor I used to help. All these projects I see the class working on and know they have as assignments, yet I can't see anymore. I miss helping and feeling useful, helpful, and like what I do and say matters, and has helped someone in a way that will last for the future.

I suppose too because, if even only temporarily, it meant I had people who were friendly around me. Without it, I have little to no interaction with anyone, and I feel extra alone.

But I suppose things could be worse, and may still be. But they aren't yet, and so I have hope that they won't be. I continue to hope help comes and try to hang on. And I continue to hope tomorrow is a better day.

## Day 3451 - 12/12

### Quiet so far

Today is very quiet so far. I am one of only probably two people on the floor. Things seem very calm, yet I'm sure soon people will be anxiously buzzing around for their final.

I feel ok emotionally, and congested and sneezy physically. Though I am very worried about all the things, and that my laptop power now tends to drop about three times an hour if it's on my lap, and about once an hour or two if it's settled on a desk. It thankfully still seems mostly a very isolated incident, but I likely only have a few more months before it becomes a real problem.

But now settled at school I am warming up again. I will soon have foods and quiet my tummy grumbling. And I try to stay hopeful help will come and all the things will be ok and I can continue to hang on.

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## Where did I see it?

Wondering where you may have seen my day subtitles before? Here's a list. 😊

Day 3396 - Movie; "Moana", Disney, 2016.