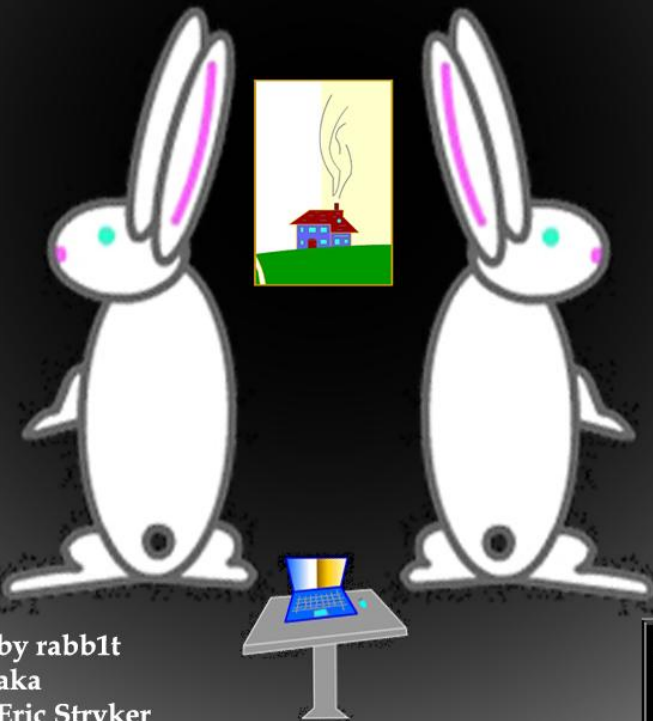


# EPIC FAIL

The Journal of a Homeless Gamer



## Book 11 It Goes to Eleven



by rabb1t  
aka  
Eric Stryker



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**Epic Fail**  
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Book 11  
It goes to eleven

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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 11**  
**Week 522**

**Day 3652 - 7/1**  
**Goes to 11**

Today is the first official day of year 11. I guess it was ok. I played longer than normal for a Sunday, but I didn't feel like I even did the normal amount of stuff, as there was a decent amount still left to do when it was time to leave the library.

The day was a lot colder. I'd heard yesterday that it was in the 90s, but with how the car felt, as well as the ambient temperature, I'd guess it was only in the high 70s to mid 80s today. And inside the library it was actually really cold. For a few hours I was clinching my jaw from the chill. I guess wearing shorts was a mistake inside the library.



Emotionally I guess the day was ok. There were no donations or any job stuff, but I had fun in my game and got a couple of fun new items to use, so that's good. I am already pretty critical on gas, and constantly worry about the bills, but I can't control those.



But I try to stay hopeful that help will come. And I try to continue to hope I make it to better days.

**Day 3653 - 7/2**  
**Change**

Today I am still pretty sick feeling. My ears are a touch plugged, so I'm a touch dizzy. I'm super congested and still sneezy. I feel pretty bad when I pay attention to how I feel.



There was a guild call in game today. I decided to look at their site. They seem ok. This was one of the only times in more than three years I've asked if they had a website with more info and they actually did. I sent a message saying I was unsure about joining

because of my sad life, but if someone with limitations would be ok I would try. I was in the guild maybe fifteen minutes before the library closed. It was very chatty and busy, maybe more than I'd like. It was like walking in to a very active party where you don't know anyone. Which I suppose is good, and I have been feeling lonely lately so that's why I thought I'd try. But... it may be too much. I'll stay a while and see. I don't know that being single in a crowded room full of strangers would be better.

Today was almost the last day of gas. I hopefully will have enough for tomorrow, but after that I will be totally out. I'll get a teeny bit more on Friday or Saturday, but that will only be a few days more; emergency only gas. So really, until help comes, starting Wednesday I'll be walking everywhere. 😞 Which will be terrible for a number of reasons. 😞

Basically out of gas, over a month past due on car insurance, car registration only a couple of weeks away, and more... this is the worst start to a Fail year yet. And while there is the tiniest of sparks of hope still within me, it feels like all I see before me is doom, and the blackness of the void of oblivion. 😞

## Day 3654 - 7/3 Like October

Today is starting weird. I feel very sad and tired, probably a bit defeated. What was 90F a few days ago has suddenly shifted to October weather. It was maybe in the 70s yesterday, and both yesterday and today seem like gray rain clouds will be more common than not.

I feel very sad. There are still no donations, and now being Tuesday it seems unlikely I'll get a call for a paid Survey that is set to happen this weekend. And there was a reminder email about my overdue insurance this morning. Thankfully they say they only want the \$40, but with that and another month due soon (unless that happens to be the last), and with car registration just around the corner, I feel very sad, and alone in my struggles. 😞

Things seem extra low too because it is a holiday time where people celebrate with others, doing fun things, playing fun games, celebrating with food. I can do none of those, and my life is at the lowest it has been yet. 😞

I try to hold on to hope, but I feel very alone, very sad, and again seem to have lost sight of any possible future. 😞

## Week 523

### Day 3655 - 7/4 Out with the new, in with the old

Today was a lot of nothing, but that was kind of expected. Unfortunately it was even more nothing than I'd hoped for. I was hoping the food store would have enough connectivity to at least do solo stuff in my MMO, but nearly all day it wasn't connecting at all. I barely got enough bandwidth to get my daily quests. I didn't actually get a chance to do them. 😞

There were many sads today, as it was the first day of walking. Even though I probably only walked about half a mile each way, my feet and legs were very tired after the walk. And then there is the emotional pain of walking. The stink of the cars. The yucky smell of warm streets. And too there is the fact that everyone is going somewhere (quickly) and you are basically not going anywhere. Plus the noise. 😞

Thankfully shortly after getting to the food store I checked my email and there was a donation waiting. 😊 So, when that cycles into my account I'll have enough for what is overdue on car insurance and a little bit for gas. So I can postpone walking for a little bit, maybe a week. Hopefully it will be long enough to get a paid survey or more donations come. So with that I had a small spark of hope for the day.

But mostly I did nothing all day. I had no real choice. At least not what I'd hoped or planned. 😞 There was basically no bandwidth at all so I had to play my offline game. Which isn't terrible, but still.

I guess I did see a lot of beautiful girls, so that was something at least. None were really 'age appropriate' being that they were pretty much all in their 20s. I'd guess most others already got what they needed for the day or will be doing BBQs on the weekend. But it was pretty sad to see people coming to get foods to go to a party all day when I have none.

I've also lost a contact. The past couple of days I've been testing, as one was kind of burning and feeling bad. Today I swapped it out completely for one of my old 'emergency' contacts that I'd saved. The old one feels a touch off, maybe a touch blurry or

something, but it doesn't hurt like the new one did. (Which I'd only been wearing about two weeks.) I'm not sure what is wrong with the new one, as I see no marks or tears when examining it. But I guess I'll have to use this old one as I only have one new pair left and I want to hang on to that for as long as I can.

But while there are still a few hours left in the day, and all the evening, I have basically made it through today. The rough part is over and I should be ok. I guess we'll see. Things won't really be back to normal for people until the weekend is over, so there is always a bit of increased risk. But with the donation I feel a lot better. I'm hopeful more will come. I can keep mobile a bit longer. And I can be back at the library tomorrow. So hopefully I can continue to hang on until better days.

## Day 3656 - 7/5

### Catching up, rush rush

Today was good in the morning as the money already showed pending, so I went ahead and paid the overdue insurance. I guess it wasn't the last payment, but very close, as there was a 'pay in full' option for sixty something. So next payment looks like it will be a touch over half of a normal payment and then I'm clear until October. Which I'm sure will only be a short breath away.

No jobs and no calls for paid surveys over the weekend. It seems extremely unlikely that will happen at this point. 😞

My gaming day was fun, but super stressful. The bulk of it was spent basically doing double my normal morning stuff, as I had just enough bandwidth to get the quests yesterday, not enough to do them. And after, I decided to try and do a harder dungeon to try and get special set piece. That turned out badly. It was like 1.5 hours effectively wasted because the random people just weren't good enough to get through it. (The piece comes from the last boss.) I guess I'll have to wait until that comes up in the daily rotation for people who know it to be interested in doing it. If it's not a special daily it seems no one cares to do them. And the chances people have done them before is extremely low. I guess I just have to take a deep breath and remember to focus on what I do enjoy. Preparing for things that won't happen, extremely stressful things, are not worth my time.

But I guess the day was ok. I was restful, though I'm still super sick. I'm beginning to wonder if my dirty clothes are carrying something that's triggering these allergies. 😞  
But I have a bit of hope again, and so I try to hang on until better days.

## Day 3657 - 7/6 Supposedly grey to hot

Today supposedly changed from the grey of what it was in the morning until just peeking into the 90s. I didn't notice anything unusual in the library and my car was in a shaded spot all day, so there was no remaining evidence of it being hot by the time the evening came.

There was no call about the paid survey, so that is another window come and gone. And, as usual, no jobs to apply for or anyone contacting me.

I guess I had an ok time in my game though. I got an unexpected thing, so that was good. And I purposely tried to do more relaxed things that I knew I would enjoy. And the day went pretty good. For the most part anyways. There were a few parts where the bandwidth got pretty bad, but other than that it was ok.

I'm unsure of this guild. They seem ok, but they really aren't talking at all. They aren't really interacting outside of special events they do a couple of times a week. And outside of all choosing the same character race, there really doesn't seem to be anything connecting them. It's only slightly less lonely than the overall server. I have no cause to leave them yet, but with my limitations on bandwidth and play times I also have been given no reason to stick around. I guess we'll see how things go over a week or two.

But I guess today was better. I feel a bit more hopeful, yet the clock is still rapidly ticking down on my car registration. 😞 I am very concerned about how I will cover that.

😞 But I try to continue to hope help comes in time. And I try to do my best to hang on until better days.

## **Day 3658 - 7/7**

### **Over before it began**

Today felt like it was over before it had really begun. It's probably mostly because I'm running on about five hours of sleep, but maybe too my perception is off from this sneezy cold. It's also odd because while it feels like it's just past noon, I remember the whole day. I remember getting hungry for lunch. I remember having a snack. I remember taking a break. I remember everything I did and roughly how much time passed for each thing. It's just, as the sun sets, seems strange.

I'm still very concerned about the bills. I put in what I could of the money for gas and I've got maybe a week. (And now about \$0.10 left in my account.) Which again means really only half a week, as I need to stop moving and save a little bit for emergency moving. Which again is the worst when homeless. You can't not move the car. At least not in the middle of a city like I am.

But all I can do is try to hang on. I play games and try to distract myself and have fun. And I try to hang on to the hope that help and donations will come in time. And hopefully I can hang on until it does, and that I can make it to better days.

## **Day 3659 - 7/8**

### **Maybe a wild bunny**

Today was ok. I am suuuper tired though. And my hairy parts are really starting to drive me crazy. I tried to shave a few days ago, but I couldn't shave everything. And because the razor got messed up from not being rinsed as I did it, it barely got shaved at all. Tomorrow may be my only shower for a while though. I will be so short on gas again I'll have to stop driving probably after Tuesday. 😞 Which means detouring to school will be too far out of the way. School, the library, and where I park the car at night, are all about 1.5 miles from each other. A tiny distance by car, maybe five minutes for each without too many lights stopping you. But by foot, for me, that's about one and a half hours each journey. So to detour to school to shower, then go to the library, would be a

two to three hour trip. In a car it's nothing for time, again about five minutes, and an extra \$0.25 in gas to detour to shower.

I guess I had a good time today. Again I wonder if struggling for equipment is worth it compared to doing other things in the game. I'll likely struggle less and spend more time with the things I know I'll enjoy.

Last night during my sad night time I saw something very nice and very surprising. Near to an apartment complex gate I saw a bit of white fur. Then I noticed it appeared to be hopping. 😊 I got out of my car and carefully approached to say hi. It was indeed a bunny. 😊 She was super cute. She was almost all white, not dirty, and had medium length ears, and a black stripe on her haunches and ears. I'm not sure if she was a wild bunny or someone's pet out for a stroll. (A bad idea at night around here since there are raccoons.) She seemed super clean, maybe too clean for a wild bunny. She made me smile very much. 😊 I think the only other time I've seen other wild bunnies was maybe during the drive through the desert when I was young and my family was doing the long drive to my grandparents place. Not too long after that I also saw two kitties.

I am still horribly worried about bills. There have been no donations since the last, and I have two weeks until the car registration is due. 😞 I have no idea how I will cover that. 😞 And again, I don't even know how I'll cover the \$7 in gas each week, and may be out of gas in a few days. 😞

But I try to continue to hope help will come. And hopefully it will come in time. And hopefully I can continue to hang on until it does, and I can make it to better days.

## **Day 3660 - 7/9**

### **Parking permit required**

Today was bad in a few ways. It started good in that I got a shower. But it was weird because I couldn't just park on a school lot. I had assumed I could just park nearby on the street, but I guess not. All along that side of school every street and lot had signs that said parking permit required. I guess to prevent students from parking there. I had to park pretty far away on what I thought was a church lot. But when I was done with my



shower and heading back to the car, there were all these senior citizens walking in to the building and middle age people in medical looking clothing with badges. I looked again at the sign and made the connection to the name, St. Jude, which made sense. I didn't recall that saint name without seeing the elderly. So I guess what I thought was a church is some kind of elderly center, and I won't be able to park there either. So, if I do get gas for future shower visits at school, I'll have to look around on the other side of campus for spots, which means a several minute walk across campus before and after the shower at a minimum. (The sticker to park on campus is only \$2 per visit, or \$15 for the whole time until the next quarter in September.)

The bulk of my day was an ok time in my game. But for some reason I felt super out of it all day. I wasn't reading chat, things would happen that I almost entirely missed, and I just couldn't follow along. But near the end I kind of broke my rule. At almost an hour before I was going to go offline there was a call for one of the super tough dungeons where there is a set piece I need. I decided to give it a chance. Slowly more and more it wound up being something I regretted. At the end when I gave up I'd been there two hours (normal dungeons take 20-30 minutes), and it was more than an hour past when I was actually going to leave. So again I try to remind myself to focus on what's fun, focus on what I know and trust to be something I will enjoy and not push those limits.

I also sprained something on my back in the morning walking to and from the shower, or just the overwhelming stress is getting to me. It's been hurting and half sprained limiting my movement all day. 😞 I have been more and more worried about the car registration and my fee for my I.D. It is now less than two weeks away for registration. 😞 I have no idea how I'll pay it. 😞

But I try to continue to hope help comes in time. It's all I can really do. 😞 And I try to hang on emotionally and physically as best as I can. 😞 And hopefully I'll make it to better days.

## Day 3661 - 7/10

### Day of mystery

Today is really the first Fail Tuesday at the library for the summer. Last week didn't really count, as there was the 4th right after, so there was expected weirdness.

The day is staring troubling and ok. It's ok in that there is a connection at the food store, so I can probably do my pre-library online stuff. Troubling in that my other new contact is freaking out a bit. Hopefully it's just a morning issue and calms down soon because I don't know if the other emergency contact is any good. Also, there are no donations waiting for me, so that makes me extra worried about gas and the car registration due in less than two weeks. 😞

But I suppose the day will be different me, not anyone else. And with that I continue to hope help comes in time. And that I can continue to hang on until it does.

## Week 524

### Day 3662 - 7/11

#### Out of gas / Out with the new, part 2

Today was very very sad. I decided to risk driving because I feel pretty terrible physically. My sniffly sneezy cold is worse. Today I am dizzy and feel a bit on the way towards throwing up, and have... not chills, but my skin feels wrong. 😞

I don't know how I'll make it through the coming days though, as I'm out of gas. I have a tiny bit reserved to move the car as needed, but from tomorrow on it must remain as still as possible, which is super terrible as that then becomes a huge arrow towards my being homeless. When I can move it there is the perception that I'm a student, or an odd worker with a backpack, and upon return it's never in the same spot on the street, just like a normal person living in the area. But unmoving the car will call attention to itself, and it will rapidly be flagged for towing. 😞

There is also the physical strain of walking. My feet are not made for walking and even just a few hundred feet can cause pain. Even just a short walk can cause me to start limping, particularly on my foot which has bent toes. So that 1.5 mile walk each way to the food store then the library will be hell. Likely doubly so since I've been feeling so sick lately.

I also pretty much lost my other new contact today. The past few days it's been exhibiting the same kind of blurry torn feeling that the other did. To a lesser degree, sure, but the same. I swapped it out for my other emergency one that I had and that one does not have those symptoms. This old pair has a slight blur from age, so I have no clue how long they will last. Maybe a couple of weeks, if I'm lucky. But I doubt more than a month. So I would guess these have been the emergency pair probably for six months or so, because they were worn less than the newer ones.

I also got a second notice about food benefits now being limited. I don't know if that starts in September, or if they end in September, or if I am exempt because I'm homeless. But I'm trying not to worry about it as I'd have no way to eat without that.

It seems very soon I may be without a car, and without food money. 😞 But I can't think about those things. 😞 I would be a total wreck. I have to just focus on right now, just today, and hope help for the \$150 car registration comes, \$7 a week for gas, and \$40 for car insurance (the sent another notice and it's full price), and not to look beyond this month, as there are even more bills. Just focus on now. Though I can't control what I get. I have to pray and hope donations and help comes. Hopefully they will, and I can hang on. And hopefully I can hang on long enough to make it to better days.

## Day 3663 - 7/12

### Opposite of a shower

Today was the opposite of a shower. If I had gas, especially if I had a parking permit, today would have been a day I'd have done a shower and gotten a microwaved meal. Instead, I had bread and grapes for my only food. (Mostly because I'm feeling super sick.) And I had to walk to the food store, walk to the library, and both ways I was sweating. On the way back my clothes were so bad I decided to leave them out to dry all night and all tomorrow and not use them again. I'll even just use a tank top when walking and sweating and change to a different shirt after I've cooled off. So I not only didn't get a shower, I made things smell worse. 😞

I suppose I made good time though with both trips 'only' being about an hour. So I 'only' lost about 2.5 hours compared to what would have been less than 15 minutes by car. In likely just a few days my feet and legs will be in so much pain that I'll be up to 1.5 hours for each way, then losing 3 hours of life just walking compared to 15 minutes by car.

I guess it might be good for my overall health in terms of blood pressure and such, but who knows what damage it will cause to my ability to walk long-term. 😞 And while I would likely spend that time gaming, or sleeping, or resting, I feel like my life is just bleeding away beat by beat, step by step.

And above all, it makes me worried about the bills. If I don't have \$7 in help for gas for the week, how will I get \$150 for the registration to keep my car? And if I don't

have my car where will I sleep? How will I get to a job? Or even temporary paying things like the paid surveys? Or have a safe place to stay at night (as 'safe' as being homeless in a car at night is.)

All I can say about the day really is - I survived. I did not have a heart attack. I did not get run over. I was not in too much pain to continue going. But who knows about tomorrow, or the next day. Each day I am walking is a terrible risk, as it is so very bad for me in so many ways, and it leaves the car in a position where it becomes a bigger and bigger target.

But all I can do is continue to hope help and donations come. And that I can hang on until they do.

## Day 3664 - 7/13

### The walking shirt

Today was my first day of having a walking shirt, and boy was I glad of it. I was sweating and noticed an ick even for me. Subtle to others, I'm sure, but to me it is some of the heaviest sweating I've done. 😓 And this will happen every time, both ways. 😓 I had shirts that didn't stink tucked away in my backpack. So, after I'd cooled down from the walk (about a 45 minute process) I took the regular shirt in to the bathroom with me, toweled off with paper towels and a bit of whatever hand soap is in there. It's kind of the worst. I truly feel homeless now. 😓 But I don't have much choice if I want to not smell like I'm in gym workout cloths all day.

My feet and calves are in a constant state of pain now. After the morning walk they did not recover in all the time I was at the library. Since that is a longer period of time than I will be here in the night area, recovery over night seems unlikely. It means this is likely the start of constant pain, and I will only degenerate further from here on.



For two to three hours a day now I cannot escape my depressed feelings and what feels like doom. I see people going to work, eating with friends or family, having lights on at night when they are home, and whizzing by me in their cars, not at all noticing or

caring about me. With no gas it seems unlikely I'll get help. And without help I can't pay the registration, which is now only a week away.

So it very much feels like with these walks this is the end of me. Like I am going to now be this way forever. And what little I have left will be lost.

But I survive for another day.

And with each day I have to hang on. Help may yet come. I may yet be able to get enough help to pay registration, to pay the insurance, to pay my I.D. renewal, to pay for gas. It seems like so much, yet all in total that's only about \$250. A huge sum to be sure, but small in the grand scheme of things. (Though gas is an ongoing \$30 a month.) So a seemingly impossible figure for me, but not an impossible figure for those with regular lives who could send help.

So, for the moment, there is still a spark of hope that help will come. And the hope that I matter to enough people to be considered worth saving and worth helping.

## **Day 3665 - 7/14** **Limp, hobble, limp, hobble**

Today was not a good day for walking. I've reached my almost final phase of damage where I'm starting to limp and hobble when I walk, and my pace is starting to slow significantly. If I hit my final stage I may be unable to walk more than 50 feet at any given time and it would take weeks to recover. I don't know how long I'll have in this stage before I hit that point, but things are going badly. 😞

And again that is not counting the constant emotional damage or repercussions of the unpaid bills. 😞

There isn't much else to say about the day. While I tried to play my game and relax and enjoy myself, the damage I am suffering, and the emotional suffering as my walk leaves me alone with sad thoughts, is taking quite a toll. 😞 While I periodically could stay focused on future things and distracting games, with so much pain and suffering much of my down time is now consumed by sad thoughts. 😞


But still I try to focus on the good. I try to smile at the little snail on the walk, and the odd tiny plants that look like they are plastic rave lights, or the walk sign I press super fast to make say 'w-w-w-walk walk w-w-w-w-walk'.

While there is still a bit of light left before my day comes to a close I hope the rest of it will go ok. And I try to remember I have survived another day, which means there is another day tomorrow, and hopefully with that help and donations will come in time to pay all the things. And hopefully a bit more so I can return to driving and recover from my pain. And hopefully I can make it to better days.

## **Day 3666 - 7/15**

### **Almost crying**

Today was again extremely sad. Both in my walk to, and my walk from, the library, I thought about my mortality. What if I feel over on the walk and died or needed help? No one would know it even happened for probably 12-24 hours. And I almost cried.

 I don't want to go. Even more so I don't want to go afraid, alone, and uncared for.

At no point really can I stop thinking about my physical and emotional pain. I'm always reminded. And if I start to forget, I get up to pee and am quickly reminded. My time walking is now effectively 20% of the time from when I get up until I'm hiding and still for the night. The sad thoughts during that time seep into everything else.

The registration and other bills are just around the corner. I have until the end of the week for that, and others very quickly after. It's beginning to feel like those who normally watch over me won't be able to help. I can't ask if help is coming, that wouldn't be proper. And if they said no, that would just make things worse compared to it just not coming and hearing nothing. All I can do is hope, and try to hang on until help comes.

And so in the brief moments I can manage to put the pain aside, that is what I try to do. I try to stay hopeful for the future. I try to stay hopeful help will come. And I try to hang on until it does.

## Day 3667 - 7/16

### Crying on the inside, all the time

Today was pretty bad. Physically I recovered a little better than I did yesterday, but I was still limping and hobbling all day. This could take weeks to recover from. Emotionally was worse. For pretty much all day and all evening I felt like I was constantly crying and shaking on the inside, throwing up, having chills, hollow, and alone and forgotten. On the outside I likely looked like my usual self. But I barely held it together. For much of the day I felt like I was going to lose it and the outside me would match the inside me. Without help to pay for things and a bit of time to re-balance to homeless normal I may not be able to hang on much longer.

But I have to. All I can even seemingly try and control is me, however fragile that control may be. I can't control job opportunities. I can't control job offers. I can't control my surroundings in light, sound, or temperature. All I can do is try to keep control of me.

And so I continue to try to hang on to control. I continue to try to hang on to hope. And hopefully help and donations will come soon. And hopefully I can hang on until better days.

## Day 3668 - 7/17

### All the stops

Today my walk was pretty bad. I am nearing the final phase of pain and discomfort with my feet and ankles. 😞 I had to make all the stops on the way to the library, probably about once every 1/8th mile.

I did remember to get some tiny cookies at the store. They make me smile. One of the few things that seemingly can these days.

There were no donations this morning, so things seem terrible and doomed. 😞 But I try to hang on to hope. I try to focus on the fact that at any point things could get better and I could get the help I need. So I try to stay hopeful. I try to continue to hope help comes in time. And hopefully I can make it to better days.



## Week 525

### Day 3669 - 7/18 Shot walk, hopefully done

Today was a short walk. When I got to the food store and checked my mail there was a pretty big donation. 😊 I transferred it into my account and walked back to the car. I'm trying to save all I can for the registration, so I put about 1.5 weeks of gas in the car. Hopefully more donations will come, as what is left is only half of what is needed for the registration. And there are only a few days left to pay it in time. I guess the 'good news' on that is that it will just be \$30 more to pay by early August, and \$60 more by something like late August. So it won't be impossible to pay late, just more expensive.

Since my walk was barely 1/4 of what it would have been for the day my feet are slowly starting to recover. I've been trying to rotate my ankles in circles every hour or so (as I have for a few days) to help recover and stretch things, and they feel much better already. Though the right ankle where there is the side bump still seems more swollen than usual.

As a result, I had a pretty good time with my games and shows. Though I am still feeling pretty sick. I'm still congested and sneezy, and as the day went on I got progressively more light headed and sneezy feeling. And what is more odd is that by afternoon my eyes couldn't focus on anything, as if I have a head injury.

Normally tomorrow would be a showering day, but I really don't know what to do about that. Without a school parking sticker for the quarter I can't park anywhere remotely close to the showers, so any real shower would be negated by the walk. 😞 I am considering going next week and parking in a 30 minute spot to micro some food, but with where that spot is it's not close to the showers. And there wouldn't be enough time to walk across campus, properly shower and do stuff, then walk back within that time. And I wonder if a single micro meal is worth the extra gas. If I had plenty of gas, absolutely, but with what I have being so little I have to be very careful.

I suppose once we get to the weekend I'll start freaking out again, as the registration will be past due, and half the gas I put in the car gone, but I have to be careful, and I have to focus on hope.

So I try to do that. I try to hang on to hope. I try to recover physically and emotionally. I try to get extra rest and sleep now that I have my 2-3 hours a day back from not needing to walk. And hopefully more help will come in time, and I can make it to better days.

## Day 3670 - 7/19 Found

Today started almost unbelievably. It certainly felt very surreal. When I was going to the food store I saw what looked like two large bills on the ground. But could that be right? Who would not keep track of that? And they looked fake. Like those ones that have a bill on one side and an ad on the other. But I was wrong. It was indeed two large bills. It has just been so long since I've seen bills like that (over a \$5) they looked almost unrecognizable to me.

It's not enough to get the rest of the way to the registration, sadly, or I'd have instantly done that, but it certainly helps. I was tempted to immediately put it into gas, or maybe spend a bit to do some laundry that I'm very behind on. But I think I'll save it all, at least for a week. That way if another donation does come in the next two days I should have enough for registration. After that, when it's late and gets fees added on... well, I won't spend it, but it may not last long. I did feel a touch guilty about keeping it, but how would I find the owner? There were only a couple of cars around, and certainly no one within sight, let alone anyone looking for lost money. Sure, I could turn it in and hope it's not claimed, but odds are high if someone saw me do that they'd lie and say it was theirs. After a few minutes of looking around to see who came by, no one did, and so I trusted that Fate intended me to find it.

I guess the day was pretty regular besides that. I tried to relax and play my game. And I did, sort of. I'm still super sick, and sneezed a ton. And my feet are still going to take a while to recover, so there is that. And, of course, until those critical bills are paid they will always be on the back of my mind.

But I guess today was ok. I survived, and tomorrow is another day. Hopefully help will continue to come. And hopefully I can make it to better days.

## Day 3671 - 7/20

### Feels like Saturday

Today has felt like Saturday all day. I don't really know why. For all these homeless years Saturday has been meaningless.... well, I suppose not counting when I had the pen and paper game I went to for a while, which was more often not happening than it was.

But it felt like a day off. A day where I would be at the library less. A day where I had something to look forward to in the evening.

But the day was none of those things. It was just a regular day. In fact, in the game it was one of those days where I had more bad experiences grouping which put a damper on the rest of the day.

I guess the day was really ok overall. There were no donations and we are now only one day from the due date of the registration. So in a lot of ways it was kind of a really bad day.

But I got through it. I drove. I did not walk. I tried to recover my feet and I tried to help rest and fight off my cold. And I suppose I held on to hope for another day.

So hopefully donations will come very soon. And hopefully I can pay the registration in tie. And hopefully I will continue... to be.

## Day 3672 - 7/21

### Hopefully some better days ahead

Today was quite the turnaround in the afternoon. I was hoping the Gray Ghost would send help, as he has when the registration has been due before, and today he sent a bunch. 😊 I'll have to see exactly what is what in a few days, but with that help, and the big help from before, I paid off the registration. Just in time too, as it's official due date is tomorrow. I certainly have enough for the not yet late and hopefully last car insurance payment. (Until it starts up again in October.) And for the I.D. Even a bigger laundry. I expect there will even be a few months of gas left after that, but I'll have to wait and see.

So a ton of stress is starting to go away. And hopefully after paying stuff and mathing out what's left I'll hopefully have enough to be ok for a while and have some better days ahead.

## Day 3673 - 7/22

### One good meal

Today was odd. I guess I had an ok time at the library, but I am super out of it. All yesterday and today I've felt like there should be something I should have been watching, but I can't think of what it would be. Maybe it is just odd remnants of a dream, as I have not been sleeping until after midnight for the past few nights, so I'm down about 2-3 hours each night for a few nights. 😞

But I am now finally doing laundry. Yay. At least the important stuff. The bed stuff and the other half of the towels (which aren't being washed) would be an additional \$10, which is really too much. I will consider it, but with the recent gas struggles I'd rather save as much as I can. Maybe I'll do a 'dry' on the bed stuff next week to help purge out anything bad there, but washing is pricy.

Speaking of that, I mathed things out. Paying what needs to be paid immediately, and saving two months of gas and bank monthly fees, I have a decent portion left over towards paying for classes and a parking sticker next quarter in September. Plus, I've set aside monies for a good meal tonight. Back in the day I used to have meals like that every two to three weeks, but looking at the current receipt coupon I have the last time I ate there was more than six months ago. 😞 It's not super expensive, but at about a week's worth of gas I just can't afford it while unemployed. 😞

But I have laundry. I have a fancy dinner. And I have checked out a movie from the library. After a day of relaxing and playing, that's about as good as my sad life gets these days. 😊

## Day 3674 - 7/23

### All clean

Today I am all clean. I got to shower with plenty of time, so all of my parts are shaved, cleaned, and rinsed. And my clothes are all clean too. I noticed a couple of blisters were starting to form, and that discolored skin is there, so hopefully they will be ok soon. They don't hurt or anything, but I'm sure they are from the walks.

I was concerned when I took my shower. There was an extremely obvious 'transient' person there who was in his maybe late 20s. He had his bike inside the shower area, which is unusual enough, but he also had a pull cart. Not a small one either. Like two feet wide by three feet tall. I mostly ignored him until I was getting dressed. I noticed he took his sleeping bag out of one locker. Then he looked in another locker where there was a hat, then another, then took shoes out of one and said 'maybe' to himself. It was obvious he was going to look through all the lockers. I thought about asking/accusing if 'this was something I needed to worry about', as I've never felt the need to lock my stuff before. (I may have a lock somewhere. I'm not sure.) But I didn't. Only because I am in nearly as desperate a situation myself. The kids are supposed to lock their stuff up in assigned lockers if they leave it. And if he needs shoes so badly he has to consider stealing from ones left in the locker he must be in a very bad position in life. I also didn't because he seemed detached from reality. I was staring at him as he searched through the lockers. He saw me (he had known I was there even before he started) and just said something like, 'oh hi,' and continued on, despite what must have been a 'wtf are you doing look' on my face. I may go shower Thursday. I may wait until Monday. Whenever I go, if I see him doing it again I will alert campus security. Doing it repeatedly is not ok. Even once is very questionable as there are other resources.

The bulk of my day went pretty good. I had a pretty fun time in my game and watching shows and the connection held pretty well.

Which makes the last bit a bit odd. From the early afternoon on I've been having micro panic attacks again, fearing death. Worrying about if anything is beyond, or if there is only blackness and nothing. Again, besides general poor health due to forced food choices while homeless there is really no reason I shouldn't still get my remaining 40 years. And with what I clearly recall, that is four more entire full 'memory cycles'.

I guess it's just bought on by things happening in a show of a game I'm watching. They are dealing with a recent character death. And too I've been thinking of my dad, who has about 10 years left. And I suppose there are reminders by the regular six or more homeless at the library, which doesn't help boost my spirits or feelings that I'll make it out of being homeless.

But I try to continue on. I am reasonably smart. I am reasonably capable. More than anything I want to recover back to a normal life (unlike the regular homeless at the library.) So I continue to hope there will be opportunity and I'll get a chance. And maybe someday I will recover and this part of my life will become a distant memory, as distant as a normal life and being in a home is to me now. And hopefully I can hang on until better days.

## **Day 3675 - 7/24**

### **Not bed sheets**

Today has started off poorly from what probably would have been very good. I decided to go ahead and spend the money to wash my bed stuff in the morning before the library opened. I'm not a morning person so I forgot that's an option. I get to the laundry place about 1.5 hours before the library opens, plenty of time to do a wash. And there is no change in either of the two machines. Really? I walk over to the only local store that's open and apparently the lady doesn't think she has change and is apparently incapable of checking or getting more. I wait at the laundromat as long as I can, until the wash window is lost, then leave a feedback note about it with a big sad face. I've now lost what time that would have taken today, and the next day I decide to do it, because I really can't do anything else while there.

I'm sure today it will be forgotten quickly enough. But I hate losing time like this. In a home I'd have lost nothing. I could just shrug it off and go about my day. But because each (homeless) resource is basically a separate thing, sacrificing one opportunity in favor of another, it just feels like another reminder that I'm homeless and how things like this shouldn't be an issue at all. But since they are, precious moments of my life are lost, ticking away, wasted on nothing.

But I try to stay hopeful. I try to look ahead to what remains and hope it is positive. And maybe more so that someday I can return to a normal life.

## Week 526

### Day 3676 - 7/25 Holes seen in the light

Today felt long and weird. I suppose the bulk of the reason for that was starting with laundry, which should have been done yesterday. Hopefully that leads to better sleep and letting me get over my cold.

But as I was folding the 'bed sheets' I noticed pretty much all of them had small to medium sized holes. At least one per layer. And there were tiny fuzzies from each of the colors on the other colors. They are permanently scarred. But after 10 years that is not surprising, nor I suppose unexpected. What was was the fact that it reminded me... of me.

In the shadow, in the dark, these flaws are not seen. But in full view in the light, looking at the layers, they have all become flawed. Which seemed to remind me that I am the same. Flawed, broken, no longer distinct and clear as I once was, yet because no one cares to look it is unnoticed, and unremarked upon.

I guess nothing new was really discovered. And nothing really can be done about it. (Though if I get a chance I might try to see if I can fix the holes.) But it threw me off just enough to feel odd during the day. Odd, alone, and damaged.

But I try to hang on to hope. I try to continue to hope opportunity will come and help and donations come in the meantime. And hopefully I can make it to better days.

### Day 3677 - 7/26 Need soup

Today I felt weird in the morning. I couldn't describe it. But then I started sneezing. And sneezing. And sneezing. And my nose was running to the point of needing to put a tissue under it because it was just running out. 😞 So apparently I'm super sick. And all day all I've wanted was to be in a home so things could be quiet, warm, and I could have cooked soup to feel better. I think I'm even running a bit of a fever.



I guess today was ok other than that. But it's hard to tell with all the sneezing and feeling sick all day.

I would love to send my broken tablet case in to be replaced. There is a game 50% off, currently \$17 which could be a fun early birthday present. Another nice dinner would be good, especially since I'm sick. A few days gas detour to see a movie in a theater would be good. A month subscription to an online movie/show site would help me get caught up on some things. But I have decided on none of those. Not in that I can't decide which I want, but in that I've decided I am too short on money to do anything extra. I have my time through September for gas and bank monthlies, and not enough else to do the next big thing after. So being short, I have to save it all, what little there is. And I feel very sad I am in such a position.

But I try to hang on. Tomorrow is another day and anything can happen. So I try to hang on to hope. And hopefully I can make it to better days.

## **Day 3678 - 7/27**

### **Still very sick**

Today I am still very sick. I may be running a touch of a fever too. I felt weird in that I was super focused on what I was doing, so when I looked around the library it was like, 'Where am I? What am I doing?' And I was very confused.

Except there was a super creepy guy at my table who was constantly sniffing. Not like me, where I'd blow my nose and had an occasional snuffle. Like a constant 'snort snort' I could hear above my gaming with my big earphones on. And he's super weird. He has two, sometimes three, laptops that he sets up. You don't do that in public unless you are running illegal downloads of massive files. I think tomorrow I'll put some books on the other side of the table for the first hour. He and a couple other recent regulars I don't like have come in early, so I'll just reserve the spot for not them.

I guess the day would have been ok other than that. I had a fun time with my game. I did some different stuff. I found a new movie to watch tomorrow for one of the few remaining traditions I try to do. But there were no opportunities. No donations. And still I worry about so many things in the back of my mind.

But tomorrow is another day. Hopefully I'll feel a bit better. Hopefully opportunity will come (although there usually isn't anything on the weekends.) And hopefully I can hang on until better days.

## **Day 3679 - 7/28**

### **Still a bit sick**

Today I am a bit better, but still pretty sick. I'm still congested, sneezy, feeling cold, have a bit of a headache, and a bit of 'confusion'.

I guess it was a pretty ok day though. I had a decent time in my game and things weren't terrible. The day went pretty quickly though. I remember it passing, but now in the evening it only feels around noon.

But I guess I survived another day. And with that I can hope tomorrow will be better. And so I try to hang on to hope. And hopefully I can make it to better days ahead.

## **Day 3680 - 7/29**

### **Still congested**

Today I am still pretty congested. It seems to not be going away, which is extra disappointing since I got some decongestants. They help, but not nearly as much as I'd hoped.

I guess the day was on the sadder side of ok. There were some bad dungeon groups. I was congested, sneezing, and had a bit of headache and confusion today. And the connection went to poop pretty early in the afternoon. So basically from 3:30 on I couldn't really stay connected to online things.

I guess it was an ok day, but it flew by and was over before it really felt like it had begun. I suppose part of that is because I'm sick. I suppose part is the same-same-ness of my time in the library.

But it was one day. And I have survived. And so I continue to hope things will be better. And tomorrow will be a better day.

## Day 3681 - 7/30

### Because, limitations

Today was better. There were still bad things. Nothing really changed. There were no donations. There was a job to apply for, but I don't think it's anything to celebrate, as it would effectively be the same part-time going nowhere job I had previously, at less pay, just for a different city.

Someone the other day in one of my social groups said they were feeling sad because they felt worthless and that they felt like they had nothing to offer. I've been thinking about that a lot. And thinking about how I feel. And analyzing how I've held what so many consider great strength through these terrible times. I think in great part it's kind of that I feel the opposite of that person. If we were to say everyone was even on housing, even on having enough food, that these were things provided to them all, I look at how I'm different from others, what makes me distinct. And I think there is quite a bit to offer. Like with my helping being a TA; I'm super helpful. Or helping people with gaming issues on the forums. Or how I have a lot of interesting and distinct personality in video games, and even more so in person with pen and paper games. There is a lot I know I can 'offer', and I know what prevents me from doing that are external things; lack of opportunity, typically something I can't control.

I don't know if that helps anyone, or if anyone is reading anymore. But consider all the factors next time you feel down. Are you feeling the way you feel because of things you can control? Or is it maybe like my situation where much of what you have to offer can't be offered due to lack of opportunity or limitations in your life?

I guess my day was reasonably ok. I did what I wanted in my game, though the connection started to go bad in the evening. I took a big detour to take a shower in the morning. Which crossing campus from the food store was 10 minutes each way. Tolerable since there are only like seven more times I'd need to do that, assuming I can get a bit more and sign up for classes next quarter. Though really that's about three times as far as my feet and legs wanted to go. With a week to recover between each trip it should be ok though.

So I continue to try and hang on to hope that opportunity will come. I continue to hope donations and help comes in the mean time. And hopefully I can make it to better days.

## **Day 3682 - 7/31**

### **Space bunnies**

Today is starting out a bit sad. This morning I had a dream about finding a family of baby bunnies from space. They were super smart and could talk and I became their caretaker. After a few years the Earth's environment started making them sick. It had triggered a degenerative disease. So we quickly learned their native language and science and made a super powerful communications dish to try and contact their home world. By then they were a small colony of about 20. I was holding the hand/paw of the oldest, Daisy, and I was crying as I promised we would get them back home before the sickness took them all.

So I am sad for the sad dream. I think I must have been crying in my sleep when I was crying in the dream, as my eyes feel like they've been crying. I am super sad for the message it conveyed about regretting my chance to be a dad. (The bunnies were calling me father.)

But it was just a dream. The sad things are still sad, on the surface of my thoughts or not. And as the dream fades from memory through the day hopefully I will cheer up. And hopefully opportunity and help will come. And hopefully I can make it to better days and nights.

## Week 527

### Day 3683 - 8/1 Brief return

Today seemed pretty good. No jobs to apply to, and no word on the one I applied for. But, there was another pre-screening I guess you could say for a survey that is the Friday after this one. We'll see if that pans out.

I have very briefly gone back to my shooter. I'm still sad they failed to fulfill so many of their promises. There is a special event with special collectables to 'celebrate' the 'first year'. The requirements to upgrade the gear to be worth something are either stupid grindy or require things that I can't do. (Like do events with your 'clan'.) So I'll probably grind through the basic set to the intermediate and then stop playing again. It's been five months since I last played and it's still as difficult as ever for someone who's solo to do anything. Hardly anyone is in the zones, making public group events impossible. And I expect no one is queuing for the group activities. So it's a fun return, but it seems most have abandoned the game. That, or are not doing anything outside their regular group of friends.

I still have plenty of other things to do. My card game I rarely play (yet am still an MVP on the forums for) has an expansion coming next week, and I have enough in-game free gold acquired to get 25 card packs when it comes out, which is a lot, so that's good. That's more saved than I've ever had before. And the MMO I play has a DLC expansion the week after that. I think I'll have enough to be ok to get that as an early birthday present, as well as spending a bit added to the gift card money I have to pre-order something for my birthday that comes out early next year. We'll have to see when we get there in a couple weeks.

But I guess today was ok. Mostly the library days are starting to blur together. It has become less about the day and more about the blurred routine of morning, afternoon, and evening. The only way I even have a clue what day it is is when I remember there is no night at the library because it's Saturday or Sunday.

But, as fearful and shaken as I remain these days (still having small panic attacks about death 😞) I survived the day ok. I try to remain hopeful for opportunity and that help will come. And I try to hang on until better days.

## **Day 3684 - 8/2**

### **Wanted alone time**

Today I felt a bit sad. I was still pretty sick, but lately my congestion has cleared a bit. But today, I don't know, I felt sad. I guess I felt abandoned. Though I have hope, I guess I kind of felt a bit helpless and defeated. I wanted to be alone. 😞 I guess because I felt alone. 😞

I spent only half of the time I normally would playing. I just didn't want to be around people. And even though no one really interacts with me in my MMO there isn't a way to shut them out completely. So I spent about half my day not in my game.

I guess today was ok overall, but it was one of the two days where I really felt homeless and lost. 😞

## **Day 3685 - 8/3**

### **Happy to sad**

Today was pretty happy in the morning. I decided Monday I'd park on campus to shower. Yesterday when I was on the big walk I saw some 30 minute spots right outside of the pool area just off to the side. That would only be about a 2-3 minute walk instead of the 5-7 across campus to the other spots I knew of, or the 10 minutes across to the store on the other corner. I'm sure my shower would be that quick. And, if I ran over it likely wouldn't even be noticed. I've not seen any security on campus during any of my summer visits. I'm sure they are there. But it's likely they are at half or even a quarter of the normal staff since it's summer. (Even fewer in coming days since it's finals week that week.)

So with that decision past me I started my morning and had some fun. I did some more of the special event stuff in the shooter game, but I think at this point I'm back to where I was disagreeing with their plan. They have 'year 2 content' coming soon which requires a minimum of a \$40 purchase, and then two DLC expansions during the year at \$20 a piece, so \$75 if you get it all at once in advance. And I've never seen any other game basically say, 'hey, we made this game you might like, pay us \$75 a year to play it.' Sure, MMOs in the past have had subscription required models, which would be more expensive, but this is tiny add-on content you'll basically be done with in half a dozen hours. After that you are just repeating the same thing over and over and over. And now, pretty much every other new game coming out is saying the exact opposite, saying they are stepping away from those models and back to supporting games with new content free. So that decision felt a bit sad. Both in that I feel forced into 'down voting' what could be a good game by not buying their content past 'year 1', but I also feel let down by them after so many promises and reassurances they would fix what went wrong with the first set of content.

But most of the day I had fun in my MMO and watched a few things. I was a bit congested, yet still sneezy and not totally clearly breathing yet.

Leaving the library I felt very sad. I didn't want to go. But more so I didn't want to start my homeless time. I wanted to continue what I was doing. I wanted to do other things after. I wanted to be warm, not cold, and to be wearing just a single T-shirt and shorts, not the triple winter layers I was wearing because the library blasts the AC. I wanted to have calm and quiet time and a quick shower rinse before getting in bed to sleep.

But I can't do that. And as much as I hope things turn around, they seem to only be getting worse. 😞

But I try to hang on. And I try to remember that each day is its own beginning.

## Day 3686 - 8/4

### Short day

Today was a day that felt short. It felt like I didn't have the time I should have. Not because the library was closing 2.5 hours early because it's a weekend day, but something more than that. Like I lost two hours in the morning and two additional hours in the evening.

I guess it may just be because I'm sick and stuffed up, resulting in a continuing layer of confusion. Maybe it's because the past few days my brain has obsessed about small things, and so I had more micro-panic attacks and thoughts of death and isolation.

I suppose the day is no different than other recent days. I feel the world is quiet and calm around me. And I feel there is more I wanted to do with my day. I wanted to play real life games with friends. I wanted to cook a special food. I wanted to wear different cloths. I wanted to wear less cloths, shedding the physical and metaphorical weight the cold library forces me to wear. I wanted to shower and get clean. And have clean clothes on my clean self.

but they are all things I can't do. And the thoughts are sad thoughts I've had many times before. And I suppose I will continue to have them, even after I recover.

But I continue to stay hopeful. Hopefully I can make it through and continue on. As long as I can continue, each day is a chance.

## Day 3687 - 8/5

### On the side of the road

Today started extremely sad. It made me cry a little bit. 😞 I was on my way to the library and on the side of the road, laying down, maybe two feet from the grassy walkway was the black furred form of an adult kitty. 😞 They looked like they were probably hit. 😞 I didn't see any damage or blood, but I didn't stop to investigate. Part of me wanted to turn back and check, at least put the kitty in the grass off the road. 😞 But there were too many what ifs. What if they still lived and were suffering? What if they



were gone? If they had a collar would I call the owner? Would I be blamed for the death? What if they were barely hanging on and I was there when they died? Would that comfort them, or make them more afraid?

I hope they were at peace. I don't know how I could be if my end came in fear and terror. 😞 And seeing the kitty has shaken me again. Though I don't know that I have stopped thinking of death since my first big scare. I am constantly worried. Even though there are few reasons I'd not get my remaining 40 years I am getting so sad now that at least once a week I'm on the verge of tears, or do cry, and it's always in the back of my mind. Seeing the count on the Fail days; knowing I have four times that left, or more likely, less.

I tried to have fun in my game and watching shows, and I did to some degree. But mostly the thought of the kitty laying there, their black fur gently blowing in the wind, their chest not moving, never left my mind.

But hopefully I can let it go as time goes on. Hopefully I can return to enough of a life to stop counting my remaining days. Hopefully I can at least reset things as I sleep. And tomorrow, being a new day, the cycle can be renewed.

## **Day 3688 - 8/6**

### **Mostly warm**

Today was mostly pretty good. I am still shaken from the kitty, especially since I didn't see them again this morning. I can hope that means they were seen and rescued, but that seems unlikely.

I parked in the 30 minute spot and showered. It felt weird. It always feels weird to be on campus when I have no classes, but there isn't really any choice. I discovered years ago there wasn't any public gym type place in the area to shower at free.

The day was mostly warm, or was supposedly so. It was pretty warm in the morning and there were clear skies and reports it was warm, so I'm sure it was. I was colder than I'd liked to have been, but that's to be expected.

I guess I had an ok day. I had fun in my game and watched shows. I'd have liked more, but since I can't have more it had to be enough.

All I can do is try to stay hopeful and hang on. And hopefully there are better days ahead.

## **Day 3689 - 8/7**

### **Correct dosage**

Today I have no real congestion so far. Well, there is some deep inside with a bit of sneezing, but I can breathe easy and clear. More and more lately I've been using a nose spray. It seemed to have less and less of an effect, so last night I checked the maximum dosage. It turns out all this time I was using an incorrect dosage of one spray, when a normal dose is 2-3 at once. After three sprays last night I could feel it slowly clearing over 15 minutes. Now about 12 hours later, I'm still clear. Yay.

I guess I feel ok other than that. I'm exhausted. Maybe it's because of bad dreams about packing and moving (when I was young), or other bad dreams about being on a beach in Hawaii with warm white sands and nice weather and being forced to leave (never actually been there.)

Even though it hasn't really started yet, I think today should be ok. So I try to hang on and hope for opportunity and help or donations. And I continue to try and hang on until better days.

## Week 528

### Day 3690 - 8/8 The forgotten day

Today is not actually today, as I am writing this the day after. Apparently Wednesday was normal and forgetful enough I forgot to write about it in the evening. I remember being sad about money. I remember being worried about my sad things. I remember being disappointed in some group activities in my game that I tried to do. I remember being sad and feeling like I wanted to be alone to the point of leaving my games a few hours early and just watching shows for the night.

I guess it was just another day.

### Day 3691 - 8/9 Surprise early birthday

Today was pretty good. In the morning I got a surprise in that someone got me something off my wish list that was on sale as an early birthday present. 😊 It was super nice and unexpected. I'd recently been feeling down about it. I did get myself something yesterday, but it felt more necessary than an actual gift. I was sad about maybe having enough or not enough for another planned gift. Then there was this surprise, so that was super nice. 😊

I'm getting more congested and sneezy again. I can push it back with the nose spray, but unlike the previous day or two I kind of had to push maximum daily dose or go a touch over to keep things at bay. Instead of every 12 hours per dose I'm pushing 8 or as few as 6. And there were quite a few sneezes today too.

I guess overall the day wasn't too terrible. The early gift cheered me up greatly. Though sad thoughts were always on my mind, pushing down the happy thoughts. But I tried to stay positive. I tried to stay hopeful. And hopefully help will continue to come and I can make it through to forever better days.

## **Day 3692 - 8/10**

### **Feeling congested and hopeful**

Today I had a kind of bad time in my online game. I again tried to do a harder thing and people failed and immediately rage quit, so that was bad. I decided to stop playing shortly after that since I have so little to gain and so many shows to watch.

I watched my shows, and one of them was a stream of people playing a game and having super silly fun, so that cheered me up a bit.

While I am still worried about everything, and still more fearful of death these days than not, for some reason I feel hopeful. I feel like I will win one of the laptops in the contests I entered. I feel like things will be ok for my birthday. I feel like things will be ok with my food money and they won't disqualify me. And I feel like, in general, things will be ok soon.

There is no reason or basis for any of that. I am super sick and sneezy again. Nothing has changed to make my life better. But maybe it's the game news stream I watched this morning and some excited energy rubbed off on me. Maybe it's the nicer weather. Maybe it's even just finding easier and better parking, reducing the distance I'm hurting by walking, who knows. But I feel a bit more hopeful today. And that is something. Hopefully I can continue to hang on until better days.

## **Day 3693 - 8/11**

### **Congested blur**

Today was pretty much a congested blur. I mean, I remember the bigger moments, but mostly it's just a day, and all a blur in my mind. My eyes are a bit extra blurry and not focusing. I think that is also due to exhaustion and my cold (or allergies or whatever they were.) I'm pretty exhausted too, yet lost about two or three hours not sleeping last night. I guess due to just being worried about stuff and things.

But I suppose the day wasn't terrible. I made it through. I will hopefully continue to be ok and can hang on to hope. And hopefully help will come and I will make it to better days.

## Day 3694 - 8/12

### So tired

Today went pretty quickly. I suppose not in a bad sense, more in a being sad it's over sense in that I'd have liked to have done more with it. But then, what I wanted to do were things I can't do due to my sad life limitations.

I suppose part of it is that I feel completely exhausted, again. My eyelids have barely been able to stay open, and my eyes unfocused. I'm sleeping well enough, but I'm not getting to sleep quickly, and waking up early, adding up to lost hours of sleep each night.

But the day was ok. It didn't get worse. Of course it was not better. But then there is only so much that can actually get better due to limited opportunity. But I felt ok on the surface. And I remain hopeful. So I continue to hope for better days ahead.

## Day 3695 - 8/13

### The source of pain

Today I discovered something very sad. I mean, it's nothing I didn't expect, just one of the things where the reality of it just didn't sink in. You ignore it because you hope it will get better even though you know it won't. I've had a lot of tooth pain lately. Today my lower left wisdom tooth has felt off. I checked maybe an hour ago and it's corrupt to the point of being super wiggly. So, no doubt, the recent pain is because what is left is loose to the point of getting pushed at different angles when chewing on that side. Since I already lost the one next to that means two of the four chewing teeth on the bottom in that area will be gone. Tooth wise that means that 12.5% of the bottom will be gone. (Not counting the disappearance of I guess my last baby tooth I lost a few years ago.) But feeling with my tongue it feels more like it would be 25%. And again, it seems the end of chewing on the left side.

I feel like I'm five and I want to curl up and cry until my mom makes it magically better. Part of me wants to force it out. It's wiggly, but not loose enough to pop out yet. And I feel like if I feel it come out, especially while eating, I'd throw up. Feeling your

body rot and fall apart like that is the worst feeling. 😞 Especially since I know even if I get back to a regular life that can't return to a healthy state like the rest of me might. That would be lost and gone forever, no matter what. Even if I were wealthy enough to replace it with fake teeth, until genetic regrowth is an option I would know they would be fake.

There is also weird job news. I have set up a half hour "oral interview" with the local city for the job I applied to. It's weird because it feels like a massive step backwards, like I'm surrendering. It would be the same job I was doing before, just at a different building, and a different city. But the same dead end limited part-time going nowhere not in a work path job that I had before. Sure, it would cover food, maybe if I saved up as much as I could a laptop in about six months. But it would never be able to pay rent. It wouldn't even be enough to pay for a single room in a shared house with prices around here. So while I need something for income, I would prefer a step potentially forward.

So today seems bad. A bad reminder of things I am losing because of my sad life. And while a job and income is needed, if that one were to be what I got it feels emotionally like a huge step backwards, like everything I'd been working towards in school is wasted.

But I try to hang on. Teeth, as sad as they are to lose, can be replaced. And each day I continue I have a chance to recover if opportunity comes. So I continue to hope for opportunity for forward steps. And I continue to hope things are better ahead of me and I don't need to go backwards.

## **Day 3696 - 8/14**

### **Stuffed up to being woken up**

Today I am pretty sleepy. About three times last night I was so sniffling I woke up during the night. Not just interrupted sleep kind of awake, but the fully awake and alert kind. 😞

It's a bit gray and overcast, which I love the warm weather but if I'm inside where I can't enjoy it a bit overcast and rainy would be better (emotionally).

Hopefully my sniffles will go away soon. Hopefully today will be calm and quiet. And hopefully I can hang on and make it to better days.

## Week 529

### Day 3697 - 8/15 Another pre-birthday

Today was ok I guess. I got a donation, so that was great. I added it to my overall monies, but I hope I can use some for a birthday present. We'll have to see in about a week when/if I get more. Sadly the primary money has to go to signing up for school next quarter. Other presents (from raw cash) have to come after that.

I guess today was ok overall. There were some good things and some bad in game. It is still a slow progression forward. And still almost no chat in guild, which isn't really surprising. There are maybe one or two dozen on during the day, as most don't come in until the evening when I leave. I'm sure if my life weren't limited to this schedule I'd be able to do more.

I'm still very congested. Still very sneezy, and again the meds I have don't seem to have any impact. I actually think that may be hurting my blood pressure more than it is reducing symptoms. But if I don't take something I'll literally be suffocating. 😞

But I survived the day. I hung on to hope. And I continue to hope for better days ahead.

### Day 3698 - 8/16 Suffocating

Today I am suffocating in my own snot. I was so congested last night I couldn't sleep for a few hours after getting 'in bed' and I woke up two or three times unable to breathe, kind of gasping for breath. My nose is just totally blocked. I have to massively overdose on the nose spray to have any hop of it clearing even just for a short while. I guess the good news is today the nose passages seem dry. Still very congested, but dry is usually the first step towards clear.

I guess it was an ok day other than that. I accomplished a couple of important things in my game (though one is a bugged item, so that may not work out if the devs

don't replace it with a non-bugged item.) Dad said he sent a birthday card, so we'll see what that means soon maybe.

But I made it through the day. I felt ok, but congested. So I try to hang on to hope. And hopefully there are better days ahead.

## **Day 3699 - 8/17**

### **Feeling the warm day**

Today I got to feel the super warm day for a bit. It was a short drive, less than 10 minutes, but it was enough for the warm day to penetrate my library chilled skin and warm me up through to the bones. Though the interview was meh. It seems like it would be an ok building to work my old job at, but as I said before, it's my same old job, and nothing would be different or new or a step forward. It would be ok income probably, enough to maintain my sad homeless life, but never enough to recover. (It's capped at even fewer hours than my old job.) There are more interviews Tuesday so I don't expect to hear anything back for at least two weeks.

I guess the day overall was ok. I got to play my game and watch shows. I guess middle and lower grade schools in the area have started back up now, so population overall in the library only peaked at about 60-75% of full, which probably contributed to my connection being stable enough to not have issues all day.

The weird thing today was when I passed by school for the interview (the place is literally across the street) the lot was pretty much packed, like it would be if this were late September or early October and the next quarter was starting. I wonder if some departments are still having classes or if some event was happening.

But overall I felt ok today. Not too sad and nothing bad happened. So I held on ok. And so I continue to hang on to hope. I continue to hope help comes. And that I can hang on until better days.



## Day 3700 - 8/18

### Feeling sad and tired

Today I feel pretty sad and tired. Tired because the last few nights I've lost a few hours of sleep each night. Mostly because of the congestion suffocating me. Sad I think because I'm getting a special birthday dinner. Not the steak with rice and vegetables I've gotten in previous years, just a nicer fast food, which will be like half the cost. But I'm not sad over the food choice. I'm sad because it's another year alone. And eating a fancy dinner reminds me of that more. It's another year I'm not hanging out and playing games or watching movies with people. Sure people have, and likely will, wish me happy birthday. And I know there are people out there thinking of me. But in person it's different.

I guess it wasn't a bad day though. The connection was good. I was warm enough. I had an ok time with my games and shows. And with what is left of the night I'll have a fancy dinner and hopefully be able to watch a couple of movies I checked out.

So I continue to hang on to hope. Hopefully help and opportunity will come. And hopefully I can make it to better days ahead.

## Day 3701 - 8/19

### By dawn's early light

The end of yesterday turned out pretty badly. 😞 I got my dinner and got to the spot where I was expecting to eat and watch my movies and there was weirdness. It wasn't safe. But I wanted to do what I'd planned for days. So I waited a bit. Then the food started to get cold, so I had to eat it with no movie. Then I waited, and waited some more. Things were unstable. I was displaced. The hours and night seemed to stretch to infinity, as time tends to do when you aren't stable or safe. I didn't get to watch either of my two movies. And most of the night consisted of three minute naps every fifteen or thirty minutes, and the rest of the time I waited and felt worried. When things did finally seem settled enough it left me with barely three hours of actual sleep.

Today was ok at the library. I played my game and watched some shows and tried to not let the disappointment and sadness of last night affect me. I even had enough birthday monies to get myself the thing I really wanted, even though it won't come out until February and it seems very unlikely my current system will be able to run the game.

But I try to stay hopeful. I hope tonight will be a regular Sunday night, and I can do the activities of last night in a little bit. And hopefully things will be quiet and calm and I can try to sleep as normal, at the normal time. And hopefully help will continue to come and I can hang on and make it to better days.

## **Day 3702 - 8/20** **Sort of forgotten birthday**

Today I feel pretty sad but also pretty happy. Happy because some people sent birthday wishes on the social page. And someone sent a pretty big birthday monies gift. Sad, because during dinner I realized I didn't get a cake or cupcake snack. Part of me intentionally forgot, as I don't really need those. But part of me is now sad for not having them. It feels like I let myself down. It feels like I am forgetting the traditions that make me who I am. And it feels like if I forget them, and there is no one else who knows them, then I am truly forgotten. And I am truly lost.

I can get a cake snack in the morning, that's fine. I'm not sure what to do with the money. Part of me would love to spend it pre-ordering another game I'm pretty sure I would like. A proper use of birthday money. But I already got the one I really wanted. And pretty much all games coming out soon are very likely beyond the capability of my old laptop. Or if I could play, it likely would be at extremely low settings.

In a related side note, while my power remains the same, the high end has been pushed much further. New graphic cards were announced today with ten times the power of the most powerful graphics card currently out. Normally a generation change is about 1.5 times the power. So this is an insane quantum leap forward. I expect that will filter into laptops within a year, and then I will be vastly behind in power, as I'm already only about 25% of the power of the lower-end recommended system.

But overall today was a pretty good day. I played my game and had fun. I watched some shows. And I got a shower. My congestion might even finally letting up a bit.

So for now I hang on to hope. And while today was a pretty good day I hope I can make it to better days ahead.

## **Day 3703 - 8/21**

### **Less congested, more congested**

Today I got some sleep. Last night I was less congested, and for the first time in weeks slept through with only normal interruptions to pee. But now that I'm awake the congestion seems to be coming back. Overall lately it's been less, only needing the normal dosage of nose spray to stay clear, so maybe it's finally clearing.

It's just now morning, so the day hasn't even really started. It seems cold. The day is gray and cloudy. It seems lately weather is turning to winter more than it's hanging on to summer. While tired I feel hopeful. So hopefully the day will go well and I can hang on until better days.

## Week 530

### Day 3704 - 8/22 Little sads make big sads

Today I feel pretty sad, and I guess in general let down. I guess it started at the food store in the morning. I'd been thinking of getting cupcakes for my birthday and either forgot or chose not to. This morning I was determined to get a few. But there were not a few, only bigger 10 packs. Which is weird because it used to be four, six, or twelve. So 10 is an odd number to see. And it was way too expensive at \$14. That is more than double what I was willing to pay. I decided to spend \$4 getting a small pound cake. Which, while ok, is not what I'd been looking forward to.

Next I got bad news about what I planned to do with the birthday money. I thought I'd pay a yearly web space bill early. It would be nearly \$170 for the next year. Looking back I guess I remembered the price incorrectly, but still it was much lower at \$135. I was told I could call and maybe get a discount since I'm doing a whole year instead of one month at a time, but I really don't safely have even that much. So that was another disappointment.

Then in the afternoon for about an hour I had no bandwidth at all. My much show stopped several times and I feared I might not be able to watch (or play) anything.

The last sad news was in the late afternoon. A group in game was going kind of badly, taking 3-4 times as long as it should have. Then, one person starts being an abusive ass towards me. I break group and say I don't stand for that. Since it was the last boss they would simply find another healer in 5-10 minutes and then be done. But I kind of immediately felt bad. I gave zero Fs about the ass losing that time, and possibly further having trouble if they don't find a competent person. But I felt bad for the other two in the group who did nothing wrong. Was I then ruining their day as the ass had done to me? If that is the person who replaces me daily quest they'd have to do the entire dungeon over again as well as the final boss, because just the final boss won't count. Would that ruin their day?

So several small sad things added up. And too all day, probably because of my birthday and trying to sign up for classes, I had been thinking about things I haven't done.

Things I'd like to do. Things I miss. And how I feel like so many things are passing me by, and I may never get a chance to do them again if I remain homeless.

So today was a super sad day. But I try to hang on to hope. I try to continue to hope real opportunity comes to move forward. And hopefully I can make it to better days.

## **Day 3705 - 8/23**

### **Surprise gift card**

Today's big news is that dad sent a surprise gift card. When he sent his check I thought that would be it, as it was already double normal. But today he also sent a gift card. Which, when added to my Xmas gift card monies, is now \$100. There is another game I would love to play, but it is not due out until 'spring'. It doesn't even have a solid date yet. And, it's very unlikely my system would run it well. And even more important, it's a single player game, so I don't really feel terribly compelled to get it right at launch compared to waiting 3-6 months for it to drop to half price.

So I thought and thought and thought. And at this point I think the money there will do maybe two possible things. Maybe the first; be something important I need, like replacing a failed power supply, or headphones, or maybe a critical clothing item. If I need such a thing. Maybe the second; and this is far less likely due to only being part of the thing, leave it as start of money towards a new laptop. This one is a lot tougher, as it requires income, or a huuuggge donation, as I'd need at least \$1100 more for even the lower priced good laptop. (This is even a different brand than I normally get, with a lower hard drive and wireless than the brand I normally get. It's got top ratings though, so it's a solid system, just not as many extras that would be useful.) But at 8% of a new mid-range laptop this is a solid start that should not be ignored as an option since each day my current laptop falls further behind and becomes less likely to run new games.

The rest of the day wasn't really newsworthy. I watched a few shows. My connection was ok, a bit spotty here and there, but mostly ok. And I had an ok time in my game, not amazing, but not terrible.

So I will hold on to these possibilities and remember there is a little something there. I will try to hold on to hope. And hopefully I can hang on until forever better days.

## **Day 3706 - 8/24**

### **Clear in the evening**

Today was a weird mix. It was a pretty good time in the morning to afternoon. I played my game, and although nothing was great, it was fine. In the early evening the connection started dropping me. From about 4 on it was too unreliable to game, so I just watched shows. (Which also were interrupted every half hour or so even with buffering due to full disconnections.)

But also by the early evening my nose started to be clear. And it's still clear now. It's still quite a bit congested deeper in, and there is a bit of sneezing. But it's a sniffle here and there, not the locked up suffocation it has been lately.

I'm extremely physically exhausted today. Though I slept well it feels like I lost half a night's sleep. I could barely keep my eyes open today, and several times while watching my shows I drifted off for a few minutes.

But I try to remember the good times. I try to look forward. Hopefully help and opportunity will come. And hopefully I can hang on until better days.

## **Day 3707 - 8/25**

### **Last weekend this weekend**

Today was mostly good. The morning and day portions were ok. I didn't really get what I hoped for in my game, but that's ok. I got to try for drops and they don't always happen like we want.

The evening was better though. I had two movies checked out to watch, and I splurged in getting another fast food meal. I probably shouldn't have, but my congestion keeps coming back. If it's a cold fresh food with vegetables is probably my only real chance to fight it since the meds I've tried do nothing. Both yesterday and today I got clear in the afternoon and evening, but during the night I get full of snot and can't breathe. So hopefully the extra fresh food will help me.

That's really all for today. A few more plans for maybe things in the future are floating in my head, but they aren't worth talking about just yet.

So for now I will try to hang on to hope. I will try to remember what was good today and hopefully what can be good in coming days. And hopefully I'll continue to get help and can hang on until forever better days.

## **Day 3708 - 8/26**

### **Return of sniffles**

Today was ok I guess. The connection became too unstable to play after about 3:30, so I spent a bit more time watching shows than I expected. It worked out ok.

I am still super sniffly and sneezy. I was soooooo tired. My brain felt confused again. It must be allergies because things seem to be cycling more or less every few days. I'd think a cold would be more... stable with its symptoms and progression. I was a bit sneezy too. Sometimes my body fights it off and I can get clear for a bit, like I've been mostly clear the past few hours, but I expect I'll cycle down and be congested again soon.

Oh, I had a really hard time sleeping last night. I just kind of flopped about and lost 3-4 hours of sleep. I'd kind of forgotten about that. And when I did sleep I had bad dreams. 😞

But things were quiet and restful, and so I was thankful for that. Tomorrow will be another day, Monday, and the library should be mostly empty and quiet. So I try to remain positive and hopeful. Hopefully more help and opportunity will come. And hopefully I can make it to better days.

## **Day 3709 - 8/27**

### **Too long**

Today was an odd mix. It started with a shower in the morning. I also noticed my phone gets a wifi calling signal at school in the pool area, so Thursday I'll try to make an appointment with the new eye doctor. I realized I should probably make that a priority while I can. Hopefully I can buy part of a year's worth of contacts, as I have only maybe half what that would cost. Something like four months for \$75 would probably be ideal.

The first part of my day at the library was pretty good. I got together with some of the guild people and we did some daily things. After that though, in the late afternoon things got weird. I got in a bad group about 30 minutes before I planned to leave. Not bad like the other day, just bad in that the people were really poor dps and didn't know what they were doing. After 2.5 hours one left. (The dungeon would normally take about 45 minutes.) We had been stuck on the same boss for the last 30 minutes. With the new person we had no problem and finished in one try in about 3 minutes. I guess I did get an important set piece, so those 2.5 hours of pain may not be forgotten, but in time my brain will consider it an ok trade.

Overall the day went fast. I don't know if that was the congestion from my cold, the odd times I ate (setting off my internal clock), or the extremely long group. But now that my day is over it feels like it should still have four more hours than I do.

All I can do is try to hang on to hope, and remember tomorrow is a new day. Maybe opportunity or help will come. And maybe I can make it to forever better days.

## Day 3710 - 8/28

### Too much congestion

Today I am still totally stuffed up. Last night I even literally woke up choking and coughing up acid because my nose was completely stuffed up. I'll try overdosing right 'before bed' on decongestants and see if that makes any difference, but so far nothing seems to have worked. 😞 I'm not really worried about my overall health (any more than usual) because it's just congestion and sometimes sneezing. It doesn't seem like a cold because it's not escalating in any way. But it always worries me when I get sick these days due to not being able to properly recover due to being homeless. 😞

I guess today should be ok other than that. It's gray and cloudy overhead. It's sprinkled a few times in recent days. My corrupt wisdom tooth is still super wiggly and I still half feel I want it to just be gone and over with, and half of me feels my teeth will just get worse and worse and the corruption and falling apart of my body will never stop.





But I hope to have a good time at the library. Hopefully things will be quiet, calm, and I can play my games and watch my shows and try to forget my troubles. Hopefully help and opportunity will come, and I can hang on until better days.

## Week 531

### Day 3711 - 8/29

#### The clear drink experiment

Today I am at about hour 9 of my clear drink experiment. While it's highly unlikely I've suddenly developed an allergic reaction to my regular soda, I do feel 'heavier' with brown foods. (My normal soda, brownies vs. pound cake, heavier lunch meats, etc.) If I still get super congested overnight then I'll probably stop the experiment Friday after about 36 hours of testing. If there is a food triggered allergic reaction I think it should be completely clear of my system after 16 hours of not having it. So that would be double the length to verify.

I guess today was actually pretty good. I had an ok time in my game, though I didn't really gain anything. And my replacement tablet cover has come. It was only \$6 to do it, so that was great as I remember it being twice that much. This time I will not use the part that breaks in the way it was breaking. (It has an inner padding which is non-slip rubber and a hard slick plastic cover. Both times it's broken it was due to the plastic sliding it off a surface onto the hard floor. I'll just put that aside when I don't need the cover and use the rubber surface on things.)

No donations and still no word from the job I applied to or for paid surveys. I think with it more than a week past the last interview date they probably aren't interested. While part of me is relieved in that it leaves me open for better jobs, part of me is sad because it was an easy job. And at probably 10-15 hours a week it would be enough to cover my yearly homeless costs. And if I could still get food stamps, that would be enough extra to entirely replace my laptop or other job related car costs pretty quickly.

But I feel ok emotionally, and so I try to stay hopeful I will continue to get less congested. And hopefully help and opportunity will come, and I can hang on until better days.

## Day 3712 - 8/30

### Too much

Today there was too much. First it was too much salami. My tummy was not feeling great and I had to go to the bathroom a lot. 😞 (It's ok though, as that's a quickly recovered thing. Pretty much tomorrow I should be ok again.)

Next was too much struggle with dungeon groups. I did daily dungeons with two different characters. And a couple of times they were super stressful and not the best. 😞 One guy was being super insulting and demeaning towards the others for really no reason.



After that my in game friend was on and wanted to do them again. I was at the point that I'd played too much already and wanted to leave, but I like playing with them, so I stayed to help. But again we did not have a great time in groups. 😞

I think it just made me extra sad and upset because that's something I should be able to keep control of. I guess I just need to manage my time better. I think I will do less duplications of stuff and place a greater focus on just things I enjoy doing.

My experiment stopped early. I was going to continue through today, but I forgot to get more clear soda this morning, and so I ran out by about noon. It was about a 24 hour experiment. Some things were better, some unchanged. I do feel different when I have more clear soda. It's a similar feeling as when I have more fruit or more non-meat meals. I would like to do that more regularly, but due to money limitations and lack of being in a home I can't change my diet really.

I have also been fearing death quite a lot lately. It hasn't triggered any panic attacks, not big ones anyways. I'd say maybe micro attacks, where I feel sad and scared and know if I continue to think about it I would start shaking and crying. It's more just the fear and sadness and it passes quickly and that's all. In a month hopefully school will distract me. And hopefully I can keep thinking I should still have 40 more years. I think how many times in my life I've felt like I'm in a different life cycle of me, and I should have several more cycles left. So hopefully I can leave the sad parts of this time in my life behind me soon, and yet another cycle will begin.

So I continue to try to hang on to hope. I continue to try to hang on. And hopefully I can hang on until my forever better days.

## **Day 3713 - 8/31**

### **I suppose good**

Today was, I suppose, actually a pretty good day. I did some editing in the morning at the food store, so I got that out of the way to do my regular stuff at the library.

The library time was pretty quiet and a decent connection. There were some hiccups in the later afternoon, as expected, but nothing terrible. I did get one step further in a set I'm trying to collect in my game, so that's good. And I had a better time overall focusing on just what I wanted to do for me, not forcing myself to do things I felt I needed to do for others to be ready 'eventually' or 'just in case' I do x activity.

And, just before I left there was a bit of interesting news about a game. I didn't have time to really look at it though. I'll have to wait until the morning for that. But it's something new and different to look forward to.

I'm still congested and sneezy and overall feel out of shape and like I have a cold. But hopefully that will pass someday. It's still continuing to get a touch less every day, even though I get completely congested at night.

So I guess I feel just a little bit better than normal. And so I try to hang on to hope. And hopefully tomorrow will be a better day too.

## **Day 3714 - 9/1**

### **Set complete**

Today was ok I guess. The connection at the library was a bit unstable due to it being the weekend, but it was stable enough to play my game and watch some previews of things happening at a convention this weekend. I finally completed a gear set in my game that I've been trying to get, so that's good. And it lets me do more than I was expecting, which is even better.

Overall though I'm still very sleepy and congested. I'm still trying what I can to get clear, but still very little seems to have any kind of effect.

But I try to continue to hang on to hope. And I try to focus on the good times. And hopefully I can make it to better days.

## **Day 3715 - 9/2**

### **Fewer sniffles**

Today there are fewer sniffles than there have been lately. In fact, last night was one of the first times in probably a month I didn't wake myself up suffocating unable to breathe through my nose. Maybe I'm finally starting to get less affected by things. I did take 1.5 times the allergy medicine dosage yesterday, but I've done that before with no effect. I'll try that again tonight and see if it helps or not.

I'm soooooo very exhausted though. A few times during the day my eyes closed and I felt like I'd fall asleep sitting upright right there.

I'm not looking forward to tomorrow. It's a holiday for most, a time of celebrating and remembering. But for me it's a day when almost everything will be closed, limiting my options for places to be, and even further limitation to my connections online where I can try to live my life.

But I try to remember today was just one day. And tomorrow is another. And I will get through them and have many more ahead. And hopefully they will be better days.

## **Day 3716 - 9/3**

### **Feeling sick**

Yesterday and today I've felt pretty sick. In part because of the congestion in my tummy, but also I think it's the lunchmeat I got which was not the best, despite its expiration date stating otherwise. My tummy feels unsettled. I have a headache. And in general I feel a bit dizzy.

Today went about as good as can be expected with things closed. The food store started calm and quiet, but as the day went on it just got more and more busy, louder, and more crowded, and less desirable in general. The connection was mostly ok. I played less demanding activities though most of the day, and by early afternoon it was no longer stable enough to play at all. It was still ok for watching shows due to the buffer, so that was ok.

So for now I continue to try and hang on to hope. I try to focus on what is good that I do still have. And I hope tomorrow is a better day.

## **Day 3717 - 9/4**

### **Up early**

Today is starting early. I woke up on my own about 30 minutes earlier than I expected to. Maybe because I'm excited to have a regular day and catch up on things missed yesterday. Maybe because I slept pretty well, having not been choked awake in the night by congestion. In the short time I've been up so far I'm still pretty congested, with one side plugged completely. I'm going to try to not do any meds though. I wonder at this point if it isn't doing more harm than good having overdosed on so many trying to get clear with little to no effect.

I don't know how today will go. And sometimes I think that is the saddest part of my life - having no expectations or hopes for the future. But with no hopes or expectations it is difficult to be let down or disappointed.

But I try to hang on to hope. I try to look at what is positive. And I hope help and donations come, and I make it through to better days.

**Day 3718 - 9/5**

**Fat cat**

Today was ok. I tried another new experiment in overdosing to twice the dosage of the allergy medicine. I had previously done 1.5 times and my heart felt kind of bad, so I stopped. My heart rate has been a bit elevated, like when my blood pressure meds were off, but I feel ok other than that. The good news is it may be enough to break whatever threshold is needed. Veeeeeery slowly over the day the congestion has started to clear and my nose has gotten more dry to normal. Now, about 10 hours later I have my mouth almost fully closed and I'm breathing through my nose fairly clearly, something I have rarely done in the past month.

Hopefully I'll continue to stay clear and work my way back towards normal. At most I will do twice the dose two more days, but that is it, just normal dosage after that until I've been 90% of normal for a few days at least.

I played my game and watched some shows. It was a pretty normal day. No new jobs to apply to, and with still no reply on the one I interviewed for it seems certain to be a dead end, as we are now two weeks past their last interview date.

On my way to the ex-garage in the evening I noticed a shape in the path. I looked closer and there were the very distinct kitty ears in the silhouette. It was a super chubby cat, twice as wide as it should be for its size. I went up and said hello and asked if they wanted pets. They approved and were purring within two pets. I felt no collar, but they were clean and smooth. So I would guess they did have a home but wore no collar due to their size. They seemed like a sweetie and flopped over for tummy pets. It was nice to feel a warm critter and hear their happy purrs.

So today I try to hang on to the good things, even though nothing new happened and I worry that another day has ticked away on all the timers. But I try to hang on to hope. And hopefully I can make it to better days.

## Day 3719 - 9/6

### Confirmation yes, confirmation no

Today had a couple of confirmations. In the morning at the food store I received the most important confirmation in that my food money has recycled. So that is continuing at least for the moment. (Which should mean at least through December.) This likely means that they received my letter reminding them that I'm exempt from the three month limit due to being both homeless and a part-time student. So I shouldn't have to worry for at least a few months.

The second confirmation really isn't a surprise, nor anywhere near as important. In the late afternoon I got a confirmation I was not picked for the position I interviewed for, which I had already assumed.

I guess the day was ok other than that. I played my game and watched shows. I was exxxxxtremely tired. At a few points I closed my eyes and was kind of asleep. The cold or allergies are still beating me up, and occasionally I am so stuffed up my brain has the confusion and just shuts off entirely. I'm still unsure if the new overdose test is doing anything. I'll do one more day of overdosing and then that's it.

But my brain felt sad today. And combined with the cold it wanted to play a game coming out in two months more than anything else. It's sort of a board game, sort of a card game, so it's very low energy and intensity, yet still requires my brain think and adapt to what's going on, more of a reaction based puzzle than anything else. It's supposed to be \$20, so hopefully I can get it when it does come out, and because I'm so short on what I have left it is effectively all gone. And that is without paying off the bigger bills like the new cycle of car insurance, web space, or contacts. 😞

But I try to only look at right now, because it's all I have. And I try to look at what is positive. And I try to hang on to hope for better days ahead.



## Day 3720 - 9/7

### No more meds

Today I was extremely exhausted. At several points in the day I closed my eyes and kind of fell asleep. I think it's time to stop all meds that I've been trying to fight this cold or allergies with. They are just making me sleepy. Or the cold is. I'm not sure. I guess I'll see once I'm about 24 hours clear of the meds. I will have to use the nose spray though, as some times my nose is just literally completely plugged and I'm gasping for breath. But no more allergy meds. I don't think they help with this for whatever strange reason.

I guess today was ok other than that. Though it's hard to remember since about half of the day my brain had zero thought capacity and around a 30 second attention span. I could continue what I was doing, or react just fine, as long as I was alone. My in game friends were on and I was sad because I was all like, 'hunh? what? what's going on?' And couldn't interact coherently at all.

I was pretty sad though. So my brain wandered to other future games and better times. Not that I was having a bad time, not at all. It's just... I don't know... my brain wants something new and different to rekindle things. Even my regular game I escape to feels 'normal' now because I am in summer stagnation of the same thing every day. Which is sad, but also kind of good and necessary to distract from all the sad things I can't control. 😞

But I try to focus on what is good. I try to focus on what I have left, not what I've lost, or will lose. And I try to hang on to hope. And hopefully help and opportunity will come and I can continue to make it to better days.

## Day 3721 - 9/8

### Tired

Today I feel very tired. I did just a bit of nose spray, but no other meds, so it's not an overdose tired. It's just a tired tired. I slept ok though, and got a decent amount of sleep. I guess there were kind of bad dreams. I think though it's that I have no way to get

mental rest. My sad life prevents me from resting my brain when I sleep. There is always tension, worry, fear, and I can never really relax and let go when I sleep like you can in a home.

I guess my day was ok. The library got full by late afternoon, so pretty quickly after that the connection slowed enough that my game activities were getting lag, so I stopped playing earlier than expected. I guess it's ok though as there is a new season of a show to watch on the movie page that I have access to through this month. Since it buffers it is far less often completely crippled due to lag.

My brain again wandered. This time to good food; light food. I have a nice chicken to eat, but it was a lot gotten on Friday, so it's no longer fresh. It is still ok to eat, but now it feels greasy, heavy, and like it would be much better shredded up and put into a soup with rice and carrots. I hope it's still ok to eat tomorrow. It would be terrible to get sick from it or have to throw it out.

My brain also thought about friends again. How it would be nice to 'have people over' for a relaxing game of something. To talk and play.

But I have what I have. I have to try and hang on to what is left and good in my life. And I try to hang on to hope that I can make it to better days.

## **Day 3722 - 9/9**

### **Feeling sick and tired**

Today I feel pretty tired. I got woken up by my nose being plugged last night, so I lost almost an hour or more of sleep. In good news when I'm awake it is mostly dry, though there are still sniffles and some congestion. I think in total I've only used the regular nose spray dosage today.

I feel pretty sick though. A bit from an upset tummy, likely a combination of old chicken and the congestion. But more-so a sick in my body is damaged kind of sick. That sick you get when you are bruised and banged up. My wisdom tooth is half rotted and all wiggly, so it's poking the gum. It's not doing too much damage, but it has that sick wound feel to it. Where you know the wound is causing more damage than the actual damage,

and if the source of damage would just go away the healthy parts would quickly recover.

It hurts to try and pop it out, so I'll have to wait. 😞

My laptop is having issues playing movies with the software as well. I didn't get to watch what I planned to last night. So that, along with my tooth, seem to just be a reminder that y life is terrible and out of my control. If feel old, broken, and since I lack money to fix anything, unrepairable.

Thankfully I think, in this case, it's just the software. For some reason it seems to no longer be working. Other software sees disks just fine. Even the not working software seems to be able to read the files on the disk, it just isn't playing the movie for some reason. I got a free trial software just before leaving the library, so hopefully that will work and I can keep watching physical disk things until customer support gets back to me on how to fix my regular software.

So I try not to worry about my sad things too much. I try not to focus on how I feel helpless, broken, and undesirable. And I hope tomorrow is a better day.

## **Day 3723 - 9/10**

### **Another guild**

Today was ok I suppose. I got another pre-questionnaire for a paid survey test. But that so rarely pans out, and it's not until a month from now.

I am still feeling sick, congested, tired, and more stuffed up, sometimes so bad I can't breathe through my nose at all. It seems the same level of bad regardless of the medicine I do, or don't, use.

I joined another guild in my online game. They seem like nice people. I guess it's based on keeping real life issues out of the game, using it as an escape from troubles and sad times, and many members have sad lives like me, or worse due to disability. So it seems like a positive support place potentially. They were pretty chatty, which the other guild isn't, so that is something. I guess we'll see if I stay long-term.

That is really it for the day. I feel sad. I feel extremely tired. I feel a bit of hope has been lost lately as we near the end of the year and so many bills come up with that.

But I try to hang on. And I try to make it to better days.

## Day 3724 - 9/11

### Sniffle sniffle

Today I am all sniffles. My nose is clearing pretty quickly, but I got completely stopped up last night.

Today seems ok so far. I am starting at my normal time after being displaced from my safe spot last night for about two hours. It wasn't too bad, but it did throw off my evening schedule, causing me to lose at least one hour of sleep.

But my nose seems like it is on the way to clearing, and I should have all day to do regular job check things, play, have fun, and try to rest and relax. So I try to stay hopeful. Hopefully help and donations will come. And hopefully I can make it to better days.

## Week 533

### Day 3725 - 9/12 Test retest methodology

Today I am again trying the clear drink experiment. This time I got enough clear drink for 2-3 days, so we'll see how things go. My day was about normal for congestion and the real test is overnight. I'm thinking this is either a cold that just won't let go, or it's environmental. Environmental would explain why I can only get control while at the library, as it's the only filtered environment I have access to. But, I figure the drink theory is worth re-testing since overall environment and my regular soda are the only two constants in my life right now. Yes, I'm only eating about six different foods, but the reaction would be more severe if it were something that's not a constant, like a food allergy.

I feel kind of sad today. I have fun in my game, but I'm still pretty lonely. And due to my limitations and not being able to do group activities with either guild, I still feel like a lot of the time I'm working towards nothing. The things I collect, for the most part, just get banked, or go relatively unused, much like real world things in my regular life.

I guess it was an ok day though. I did get up more than an hour early, so I'm extra exhausted. But I played my game as much as I wanted without lag interfering. I watched some shows and even laughed a bit. And I had enough food.

So I try to stay hopeful. Hopefully I can get some extra rest tonight. Hopefully I'm not strangled by congestion. Hopefully help and donations come. And hopefully I can hang on until better days.

### Day 3726 - 9/13 Confirmation not a food allergy

Today pretty much confirms the congestion is not a food allergy, which is not really a surprise. Sure, it was one of three possibilities, but due to my age, and that my diet hasn't changed for basically years due to the limitations, something starting in the last

few months seems highly unlikely. Today at about 1-2 hours into my library time I became the most stuffed up I'd ever been. Even heavily overdosing on the nose spray did nothing. It just made my nose literally run for like half an hour, with zero impact on the congestion.

I guess it was a reasonably ok day other than the massive cold. I did what I wanted in my game pretty quickly and then had plenty of time to mess around. Though the connection started to go bad around 3 so I didn't get a chance to do stuff with my online friend, which is very sad. 😞

I played other stuff and watched shows, so the bandwidth was ok for those thankfully.

So for another day I tried to hang on to hope. And hopefully I will make it to better days ahead.

## **Day 3727 - 9/14**

### **Hopefully past the worst**

Today and last night were the worst the cold has been yet. Last night I couldn't breathe at all and my throat was totally dry all the time from my mouth being open and gasping for breath. I must have woken up every half hour or hour all night long. And I had terrible dreams.

Through the early afternoon the library time didn't get much better. I was still completely plugged up in my nose and I was constantly sneezing or had a runny nose. Also, there was so much yuck in my tummy I felt like I was going to throw up and had chills. I had a bad headache too. It was so bad in the morning that my eyeballs hurt. How weird is that?

It was so bad that during my morning shopping I got some decongestants again. Now, in the evening, it seems like things are finally clearing up and on the road to recovery. I'm not breathing clearly, but my nose passage is dry, yet still stuffed up. It will probably backtrack some during the night, but hopefully I can get clear or mostly better before the meds run out in two days.

I had a strange chance meeting with a student today too. He came by to apparently do some writing, but his laptop seemed to not be working. How weird that I was going up the stairs in the middle of the day as he was going down at exactly the right time to meet and chat for a minute. Normally I go up those stairs only once in a day.

I guess I had an ok time gaming and watching stuff. The connection was stable until around 4, so that's when I basically stopped playing my game and did other things.

I guess despite how sick I am it was an ok day. So I try to hang on to hope. And hopefully tomorrow will be a better day.

## Day 3728 - 9/15

### Dry lips

Today was mostly ok. The bandwidth at the library was pretty bad, so I had to stay solo all day. My online friends were on, but I didn't have a chance to do stuff with them.



In good news for the past few hours I've been breathing through my nose. I'm still congested, but it's dry. And I was even breathing normally without realizing I was doing it. It's been such a struggle to breathe though my nose lately. I had another pretty terrible night last night. I was waking up frequently due to being congested. And the past couple of nights I've breathed through my mouth so much I have cracked dry lips. 😞 I had to drink a lot the past few nights because my mouth was so dry when I was sleeping that it woke me up. 😞 So hopefully things are starting to finally turn around. Hopefully I'll finally be fully clear soon.

I'm pretty exhausted having bad sleep the past few nights and fighting the cold. But I can still play and watch shows, so that's something. So I try and hang on to the good times. And hopefully I can make it to better days.

## **Day 3729 - 9/16**

### **Slow to fast day**

Today was an odd mix. I had a lot of fun and did a bunch of stuff and when I checked the time it was only 2 when it felt like 5. So it was great in that the morning and early afternoon felt long. But after that things passed pretty quickly. It felt like I only watched a couple of shows and then my time at the library was over.

I'm still pretty sick. I'm very congested deep inside. My nose is clearing more, but still plugging up at night. I slept better last night than I have in a long time, but my lips were still dry from needing to breathe through my open mouth. I still have tooth pain at times from my wiggly dying wisdom tooth. And an extreme deep sadness about that, on top of all my everyday sad things.

I guess today was pretty ok looking at the positive things, but there are still so many sad things it is very difficult to not feel very sad. I suppose though there is this coming week, but after that there is school, and maybe that will help distract me.

So I try to hang on. I try to stay hopeful. I try to hope help and donations come, and that I can hang on until better days.

## **Day 3730 - 9/17**

### **Still dry**

Today my lips are still pretty dry. Most of the day I was super congested. Again the meds really seem to have little to no impact. Pretty much heavy overdose of nose spray is the only way to pierce the congestion.

I felt pretty sick for half of the day, again a bit feverish, sleepy, sneezy, and the confusion of not being able to keep track of what I'm doing.

I guess it was an ok day though. I didn't do anything different really. Oh, the optical drive software issue is finally fixed. After the last reply I got sick of it, as that was the third reply with two to three days between each reply. I was like 'look, the demo software works fine, other software works fine, it's confirmed that it's not a hardware issue. Just give me a link to re-download the software or a key to make the demo software



permanent'. They did finally give me a link to re-download the software. And, as I'd guessed would be the case like two weeks ago, it now works fine again.

But I guess the day was ok. While I was sick I wasn't too sick. So I try to hang on to the good things. And I try to hang on to the hope that donations will come, and I can make it to better days.

## **Day 3731 - 9/18** **So much congestion in the night**

Today I am pretty tired. I again lost several hours of sleep last night due to being woken up by so much congestion I was being choked. 😞 If I can't get this to seriously clear soon I may have to consider going to a doctor, which at school might be difficult as they are usually pretty solidly booked the first month.

It's nearly October, so I unfortunately have to spend most of the last of my birthday money on the first car insurance payment. I guess it's ok in that I have it, but that leaves nothing for contacts, and nothing for the web space due at the end of the year. So I become more and more worried as the year comes to a close about all the bills I can't pay.



But I guess the weather outside seems moderate. I still have a car (though it's recently started having a rare faint odd noise, seemingly not related to engine speed), my laptop, and some of my health. So I try to hang on to the positive things. And I hope I can make it through to better days.

## Week 534

### Day 3732 - 9/19 Leave guild

Today there was some sad stuff in my game. I guess it's not really the guild's fault, but I quit the most recently joined guild. It was presented to me as a place where people who had sad lives could go and the game was an escape for them. But in the time I've been in it, every one out of about three days there has been much discussion of sad things in guild chat. And while a group therapy chat can be great for some, and I'm happy that exists for them, it is the opposite of what I want in my game. After an hour and a half long conversation in game where several things made me sad I left the guild. Again, that is the exact opposite of what I want my online time to be.

I guess the day as ok other than that. I am still wavering between congested and sneezing, and dry but still a bit congested. Hopefully I'm continuing to get better, but it's extremely difficult to tell. Most of today and some of yesterday I've breathed through my nose mostly, so that is something. And last night too I breathed pretty much through my nose. But for some reason I didn't fall asleep until three hours after I could have. And my sleep was troubled with bad dreams. 😞

So I try to hang on to hope. I try to focus on the good things I still have left. And I continue to hope I make it to better days.

### Day 3733 - 9/20 Becoming difficult

Today was pretty good I suppose. Mostly during the day I was pretty clear and ok feeling, but near the end of the day I started to get more congested, sneezy, and my nose started to get plugged to the point of choking me again. 😞 Now I even feel borderline chills and feverish. 😞

I was watching one of my horror shows and it was becoming difficult to for me to watch. With how often I feel scared about death and dying, horror can sometimes trigger panic type things now. I'm not so bad I collapse crying, but there are times it can spiral me into feeling sad and worried. 😞

I'm also feeling very fat and unhealthy lately. I'd like to try and do some mini-workouts, but with this cold or allergies beating me down I barely have the energy for everyday things. There is none to spare to try and work out. 😞 Not counting that I don't really have the space to.

But I still try to hang on to the good things. I try to stay hopeful. And hopefully I can hang on, help and opportunity will come, and I can make it to better days.

## Day 3734 - 9/21

### Create

Today and last night I did some super creative writing. I am entering a ship design in a contest and I got really into writing the lore and background for it. It's been a while since I was excited enough to do some truly creative writing. Usually the only writing I do is for my sad story.

I guess the day was pretty normal outside of that. I submitted an early version of the ship and lore and a few seemed super impressed, so that was nice. Also, someone wrote and said they are having a tough time in life and find my sad story helpful, so that was nice to hear. It's been a pretty long time since I got such an email. I had a pretty good time in my game. So overall the day was ok.

So I continue to try to hang on t hope and hopefully I can make it to better days.

## Day 3735 - 9/22

### More sick, maybe fever

Today I am super extremely tired. I feel asleep for a few moments during the day. I feel a bit more sick, like I have a low fever. Mostly I'm just completely exhausted and can barely keep my eyes open.

I got a donation, so that was super nice. 😊 I did have a lot of sad feelings and thoughts though, mostly from being sick and the difficulty of recovery in addition to all of the regular sad things.

So I try to hang on to hope. I hope things get better. And I hope I continue to hang on.

## Day 3736 - 9/23

### Biggest laundry

Today went quickly. It was the last day at the library for a bit. The last day of break. With that I feel renewed hope and yet also despair. Hope in that maybe there will be opportunity for change. Despair in that it means I have yet again missed an invisible window of change.

But I know that is not true. Each day is its own day. Its own set of possibilities. And no one day is more or less limited than any other based on what I do or do not have. Though it hasn't happened for me yet, there is so much change that happens due to external factors or opportunities. And so much happens because of interaction with others that my situation, my momentum, my activities, are not part of the equation and it's not the all of what makes change.

So as the day comes to a close doing the biggest laundry in preparation for school starting tomorrow, I try to stay positive. I try to hope for opportunity and change ahead. And hopefully I can hang on and make it to better days.

## Day 3737 - 9/24

### Feels weird

Today felt weird. I was at school. It felt weird to be in my spot. I felt out of place. Yet I felt like there was no summer, as if I imagined it or dreamed it, and it feels normal to be in my spot. Yet at the same time it feels like I don't belong anymore, like I'm watching someone else's life.

I'm sort of helping for my professor again. She asked for help for one class saying, 'You should definitely come in (pointing to the room). I could definitely use your help in editing.' But, when asked about the intro class, she said not for that. Which having stood near the room and hearing her say the same thing I've heard more than dozen times before, I think I'm ok with it. It's sad though because that is the class where people have a chance to get to know me and form a bond. The class she asked for help with I don't interact with them in the same way, nor am I ever-present enough during their creative process to form a bond.

So I really don't know how I feel about that. I still feel a sort of mix of happy to be in a position to be of help, but since it's not during a creative process, instead one more of formal execution, I feel more like a useful tool rather than a genuine helper who is appreciated by the person being helped.

Tomorrow will be strange and worrisome. The important class, which is the one I really want to take, I'm on a waitlist for. And it seems unlikely I'll get added. Which means, while I am still 'a student' I do not count as part-time, and theoretically can't put off financial aid. Now, if they don't challenge me or don't question my status, it's fine. But if they do, without that class, I'd be short and have no shield. It is too late to add another. But I won't know if that is or is not a thing until the afternoon.

I can tell my tummy is much happier with micro food. While not the best food, it is way better than lunch meat. I think it will help a lot towards getting better.

So all I can do for now is try to stay hopeful. Try to hang on. And hopefully tomorrow will be good.

## **Day 3738 - 9/25**

### **Hopeful**

Today is just starting. I'm super congested, super hungry, and super tired. My cold or allergies are still beating me down. I feel overly warm, but it may be the floor cooling isn't working correctly.

I'm hopeful the afternoon class is fun and interesting. And I'm hopeful I can get into the important class after (or the Monday/Wednesday version of it if not). But so much of my day are not things I can control. So all I can do is hope and hang on.

## **Week 535**

### **Day 3739 - 9/26 Reversed**

Today was a bit odd. In the morning I saw my professor down the hall and she called out and asked if I wanted to join even though it was just lecture. It was like wait what? Monday you said you didn't want me in the basic/intro class. So I replied back naaaaah and that I'd wait until they are closer to production in like week three or so.

The day was also weird in that the floor is really ridiculously empty. There are only about two classes at a time (compared what used to be four or sometimes more) and most seem to be done by the early afternoon. I think after about 2:30 there was one class and that was it. It's a very different and very vacant feeling. I've basically been one of the only ones here after 4. If there are others they are all in a single class.

I did see a head nurse type person about my allergies. Basically she confirmed what I was kind of afraid of, that being I will need steroid level drugs or anti-biotics to break this congestion. When I said how long it's been and that it's pretty constant she pretty much said before I did that normal decongestants and antihistamines won't work anymore if that's the case. So that's sad, as that's a minimum of \$10. But, she didn't seem at all really worried about it turning into something worse.

That is really it for the day. I just kind of sat in my spot and tried to relax. So I try to hold on to hope. And hopefully I can make it to better days.

### **Day 3740 - 9/27 Has appointment**

Today was the stat of things being a bit different, at least short-term. In the morning I got a donation from the Gray Ghost. It was pretty big. He got some inheritance money from his mom passing, which is pretty sad as she must have been not even in her 80s yet. He said I should get something to remember her by, but I don't know what that could be. I have a few memories of her, but nothing specific in terms of likes or hobbies.

With everything coming up though I think the best use would be to see if I can pay off the web space for the year. That will help me to keep getting the word out about my sad story, in addition to all the regular online things I do at the site. Not to mention all the things that are tied to the emails on those domains. Beyond that there won't be much, but there is enough to set an appointment to get meds to clear up these allergies, or cold, whatever it is, and a new headlight as I discovered one of my headlights seems to be out. Better to fix that than get ticketed.

Today was a long day as I had both classes. I am officially signed up for the important one, so not only do I have that but I currently have six units. That's critical to keep financial aid at bay.

But I'm exhausted from my cold. Again I lost a couple hours of sleep last night. If I can just make it to Wednesday when my appointment is I should do a lot better after that.

So I try to focus on the hopeful. And I try to continue to hang on until better days.

## **Day 3741 - 9/28**

### **From the library**

Today as pretty good I suppose. It was a less allergic day once I was awake. I had a dry nose and just a touch of sniffles, nothing major. It was super cold at the library, ridiculously so. I'd forgotten how stupidly cold it gets there.

I got a console game at the library (after many weeks waiting for it). It seems weird to do that, but that's pretty cool. With the way my sad life is there is no way I'd buy console games to play. So it's great that I can get what are the important ones from the library. I'll have a pretty limited amount of time to play them, but enough I think it will be ok.

I guess that is really it for the day. Mostly I'm just trying to hang on and get past these crazy allergies. But I try to look at the positive. I try to hang on to hope. And hopefully I can make it to better days.



## **Day 3742 - 9/29**

### **All the lymph nodes**

Today all my lymph nodes are jammed up. I noticed my feet were a touch swollen the other day, but for the past few days the lymph nodes in my jaw, base of my neck, and armpits have all been very noticeable. It's still weird because whatever this is still just feels like severe allergies, not a proper cold since it's really just congestion.

I guess today was ok. It was very sad though because now the money is pretty much gone. I paid the yearly internet space bill, so phew, I don't have to worry about that for more than a year. And I got some stupid headlight bulbs to take care of that. It gets to me Monday, so the odds of being caught and ticketed before I can change it is basically zero.

I guess today I just hung on to hope. Hope I get over whatever this is. And hope I can continue to get help and make it to my forever better days.

## **Day 3743 - 9/30**

### **Maybe for real sick**

Today I am maybe for real sick. What may have started with allergies has felt very different this last week. Today I again feel slightly feverish, congestion, icky tummy, headache, and I'm pretty tired, though that might be lack of sleep.

I guess the day was pretty good, though the congestion started to get really bad just a touch after noon. I think I took a game break at 3 and didn't go back. I did a bit of homework and tried to watch some stuff. (Tried because the low bandwidth couldn't even buffer the lowest resolution at points.)

I guess it wasn't a terrible day, despite feeling genuinely sick. So I try to hang on to hope. I hope help and opportunity come. And hopefully I can make it to better days.

## **Day 3744 - 10/1**

### **Software update**

Today was ok. It was a bit different in that I had my console with me at school. I had to update the software to play the game from the library. It took a crazy amount of time to update, like more than an hour. It seems they have also blocked the system on wireless, so it's good I could connect via landline.

I'm still pretty sick, but hanging on. I can hopefully make it to my appointment. The cold is actually pretty clam other than messed up lymph nodes.

But I survived the day. So I try to hang on to hope.

## **Day 3745 - 10/2**

### **Headlights go**

Today I am feeling pretty terrible. Last night my cold destroyed my nose and throat. Today I am still very congested, sneezy, tire very easily, hot, and feeling feverish. Tomorrow hopefully they can just hand me meds after my appointment. If I have to go to get them filled there is always a chance for delay.

I put the headlight in when I got to school. It felt like it was only about 5 minutes, but looking at the clock it may have been 15 or more. It was pretty easy peasy though; move a thing, unscrew two things, pop out the light. Before putting it all back and screwing it closed I turned the lights on with the bulb hanging out to check and it showed bright and easy to see, even in the daytime light, so I'm sure it's fine.

Hopefully the rest of the day will go as easily. But to longer classes is never the best when feeling sick. So hopefully I can hang on. I try to hang on to hope. And hopefully I can make it to better days.

## Week 536

### Day 3746 - 10/3 Have bacon, don't have drugs

Today was weird. I spent way more time at the appointment than I expected. I think it took about 50 minutes even though when I arrived I was the only one there. The head nurse said she had no problem letting me slide on fees and not paying them. She's seen me around and knows I really need the help. She and the other doctor were both like 'psh I'm not even worried about that (the congestion and allergy/cold symptoms)' and were instead worried about my blood pressure. Really? Getting so congested I'm literally suffocating unless I gasp for breath through my mouth is within normal acceptable ranges for allergies?

Well, I got a prescription for one month of blood pressure meds. I'm sure it will help, but I don't have the \$20 minimum to make a regular appointment to set up long-term care. So, yeah, that helps short-term, but a month will pass in the blink of an eye.

He also gave me an anti-biotic, which he basically let me decide if I really wanted them or not. He said they probably wouldn't help and would just give me diarrhea. 🤢 Well, if there is a chance they will get me clear I'll take it.

Unfortunately the pharmacy said they couldn't get it until later, like come back Friday morning later. So that is super lame.

There are some good things though. I saw half a dozen beeeaaautiful girls out and about. 😊 Of course they were undoubtedly too young for me and didn't even glance my way. 😞 When I made lunch, in the middle of the table was a plate with four bacon and a muffin. I checked and they were ice cold. Which made sense, as they stopped serving breakfast about 45 minutes earlier. I took two bacon and the muffin. After eating the bacon I was sad that I hadn't taken it all. It had obviously been abandoned and I don't even remember how many years it's been since I had bacon last.

Oh, they also checked my weight. I was over 200 pounds, but I was not over the probably 230 I've been feeling like I am. I was probably just a hair over at around 205. (It showed 214, but I had my boots on and my wallet, phone, keys, etc.) So I guess my

feeling super fat is maybe a symptom of my blood pressure, though I can grab an entire handful of fat if I grab my belly, so it's not the shape I'd like to look like regardless.

Overall I guess it was an ok day. I felt more sick than not, but in time I will have meds, and that should help. And seeing beautiful women out and about reminds me they are out there, and so perhaps love is too. Even though it seems highly unlikely there will be any for me again. 😞

But I try to hang on to hope. I try to hang on until meds come. And I hope I can hang on until help and opportunity come. And hopefully I can make it to better days.

## Day 3747 - 10/4 Congestion

Today I was super congested all day. Maybe more than others. I was last night too, and have lost sleep the past few nights. I was soooooo tired I was dozing off in class.

I guess it wasn't a terrible day. I was warm. Class was ok. One class was canceled, so I got to rest and play during that time.

I did feel extremely profoundly sad though. I think because of being so sick and not being able to do much to help. In a home I know there would be a ton of options to try and help get better.

I may have been sad too due to feeling lost. Last night I thought about how it's been more than 10 years since I've been homeless, and 8 years on top of that since I started these attempts to change direction and find a new degree to help. Yet that is just all lost time. In some cases the entire lifespan of some of the younger students, lost, going nowhere, nothing changing. So I feel a profound loss there as well.

But I try to hang on. I try to continue to hope things get better and maybe I can at least have some of the things I am missing someday. And I try to hang on until then.

## Day 3748 - 10/5

### Drugs, no drugs

Today seems like a promising start for drugs. My nose seems to have stopped producing though it is still plugged, as all the paths are still swollen and jammed up. But it feels hopeful that the antibiotic is doing something.

However, I can't get my blood pressure meds. This is a different version of something I had before and things are apparently not covered. The guy said it would be \$30 and I was like 'no thanks.' Hopefully the doc can give me one that I did before or one that would be covered, but who knows how long that will take to both get a new one and get it filled.

I guess today is ok other than that. There is a game that I've been wanting that came out, and after much deliberation I decided to spend a bit more than half of my birthday and Xmas gift card monies from past years to get it. I figure they were for times past, so it's fine. As to worry about something I might need and don't otherwise have cash for, well, lately I've worried a lot about my lifespan. I don't know if I'll get my remaining 40 years. It might not be 4 years. It might even not be 4 months. I really don't know. So in this case, this one time, what was meant to be a gift for something already past it feels like it will be ok. And, all my sources I go to for gaming news, both big and small, are all raving how this is one of the best games of its type, and even one of the best games ever. And with many saying it's got a 60 hour play through, with an average time closer to 80, it should last quite a long time.

So today ends hopeful. Hopefully this cold or allergies will finally calm down. Hopefully I can have something special to play (in addition to other recent special gifts). And hopefully I can hang on emotionally and physically, and make it to forever better days.

## Day 3749 - 10/6

### Goodbye tooth

Today was very sad. As I was having a lunch sandwich I felt and heard an extra crunch-crack. While 70% of the front top left tooth had already been damaged and been lost, another 10% or so snapped off. It was a small amount, but what is left is noticeably smaller feeling. I felt sick and sad. All along the top front they are black and corrupt colored, or simply rotted away and gone. 😞 Thankfully when I talk normally it isn't really noticeable. For years I've trained my upper lip to not move to prevent being embarrassed by my teeth, so probably very few know. And those who do wouldn't say anything. It's a kind of wound you just don't talk about, or only talk about behind someone's back wondering what happened to them.

Because of how extra sad I felt about it I didn't really feel like playing online. I just did a few quick daily things then played offline single player things. I felt like being alone with my sads. 😞 I really wanted a hug and maybe a special fancy dinner to help me feel better, but neither of those could happen.

I guess it's ok I played offline. The bandwidth was pretty bad, and after playing for about an hour I noticed I'd been disconnected at some point.

All I can do is hang on to hope someday I can get the money to fix it. Which likely would be 50k or more to fix. But I hope I can hang on enough to at least get back to some normal form of life. Being sick so often, sad about physical states I can't even try to get control of, is causing a lot of emotional pain. 😞

So I try to do my best to continue to hang on. And hopefully I can make it to better days.

## Day 3750 - 10/7

### Funny smell

Today I'm still super congested. What seemed like a good start with the drugs has turned to a similar meh of effectiveness, seemingly not helping or not helping very much.

The doc seemed confident I'd be ok once summer passed, as it seems to just be allergies, but I don't know. I've never been this congested, this badly, or for this long.

Mostly I have to massively overdose with the nose spray to try and breathe. A weird side effect of that is that it seems to burn out much of my ability to smell. Add that to the remaining congestion and I am left with very little ability to smell. So it seems I'll go through phases of one or two smells overpowering and becoming dominant. Like one time it was a burnt smell. And today was a sort of medical fake orange. It's weird.

I was still super sad today. And much of the day I was just exhaustedly tired. I played little and didn't do any of the homework I expected to. But, I managed to hang on emotionally. And sometimes it has to be enough. And hopefully tomorrow will be a better day.

## Day 3751 - 10/8

### Feel fat

Today I am feeling very fat, unattractive, and out of shape. I suppose it's just because there is a very beautiful girl in editing class who I think is super cute. And I saw the redhead that sits in the hall who is soooooo beautiful and attractive. 😍 Even if I was in shape and as healthy as I'd like to be I'm sure they still wouldn't even glance my direction. I'm much too old for them to even consider me.

I guess today was ok though. It was a full day of doing TA helping things. Which still feels weird in that I'm burning a lot of time and not getting anything back. I guess it's only about 12 hours a week in total, so that isn't a ton of time overall. But still. It would be nice to get some kind of compensation. 😞

I guess I hung on today emotionally and that is something. I am still extra sad because of the loss the other day. And I am super sad about being out of shape and so often feel the effects of that. But I am having an ok time and keeping the sads at bay with my games lately, so that is something. So I try to focus on hope. I try to hope help comes. And I hope I can continue to better days.

## Day 3752 - 10/9

### Maybe trying again to quit

Today I feel very slow and tired. For some reason between 4:30 and 5:45 I was awake and couldn't get back to sleep, so I lost quite a bit of sleep. 😞

I may try to yet again quit soda (for a number of reasons.) It's difficult as my preferred non-soda drink needs to be on deep sale to be cheap, otherwise it's 3-4 times the cost. Plus, it's my only real comfort food item I have access to these days, especially since it's so cheap compared to other possible options.

But what happens happens. I have little control, and almost no control of options. Hopefully my classes will be fun and the day will be ok. So I try to hang on to hope for better days.



## Week 537

### Day 3753 - 10/10 Cycle

Today was kind of meh. My follow-up appointment didn't really go anywhere. The doc still just shrugged and went 'meh' even though he said I probably have been cycling through low grade colds, and that is 'common for a chronic allergy sufferer'. He seems extremely hesitant to prescribe drugs to try and clear things. It also felt like he was pushing me away because they 'aren't a primary care facility'. I don't get how he doesn't understand how gas and more money to make an appointment somewhere else isn't a big deal to someone like me who doesn't have any 😞.

I guess I did ok on a homework and helped a few in the intro class, so that is something I suppose.

I had a bit of time to play my games and watch shows, but it didn't feel like as much as I'd have liked. And tomorrow I'll barely have any as I basically have class all day. 😞

I'm worried about bills too. We are half way through the month and the car insurance is rapidly coming up again and I have nothing for it. 😞 I have to hope more donations come soon.

So I try to hang on to hope. I try to hope help and donations come. I try to have fun when I can. And hopefully I'll make it to better days.

### Day 3754 - 10/11 Lost dinner

Today I was extra sad. The day started ok. I again lost an hour of sleep for seemingly no reason. But it was the first few hours at school that killed the day. I am still very sad in general lately, but in those first few hours I started sneezing almost non-stop.

All the rest of the day I was sneezing and feeling like I had a cold. Even now in the late evening my nose is running non-stop.

Though that was not the most depressing part of my day. At the start of my second class the power on campus dropped. The professor still did a 45 minute lecture in the dark by phone light, but we were told by someone the power was not coming back up. I didn't mind leaving class two hours early, that was fine, but I lost my dinner because of it. It's fully defrosted by lunch, so there is no way it would keep overnight. Maybe in the dead of winter it could, but not now.

So that was not only a loss of half a day's food money, but it meant I couldn't replace it with another micro food. That was my last day on campus until Monday. So I was stuck with ready to eat food, and I'd have to wait until after I left the library.

By the time my time at the library was done and I was leaving for the evening I didn't really feel like eating. 😞 But I did get something, and I am trying to eat it now, so I at least had something for dinner.

I expect tomorrow will be a pretty regular Friday. I've been very extra sad tough lately, and my cold doesn't help at all. 😞 But I try to rest, and have what fun I can, and I try to hang on to hope. And hopefully help and donations will come until I can make it to better days.

## Day 3755 - 10/12

### Snot-splasion

Today my cold is still going crazy. Yesterday and today there has been so much snot running out of my nose I've had to hold tissues to my nose to stop it from draining out everywhere. 😞 And when I blow my nose, it explodes out. There was even once it got all over my hands through the tissue. And another time where it kind of backlashed up and got into one eye. I feel pretty terrible and just want to stay in bed and have chicken soup, but that's not an option.

I still have extra sads because of recent loss. I've also been having a ton of death flashes. Nothing worrisome or that caused me to start crying, just little panic moments

that cause hours of sadness after. So I still feel very much like I just want to be sad and alone. Though I am starting to miss the online people in the game, so I peeked in for just a bit. But I'd still rather be alone with my sads. 😞

But I try to hang on. I try to be restful. I tried to have fun with my games. I tried to stay hopeful help and donations come. And hopefully I can hang on until better days.

## **Day 3756 - 10/13**

### **Head cold**

Today I still feel pretty sick with what I guess is a head cold. I'm still incredibly sniffly, sneezy, and have so much congestion it's leaking out of me, or exploding when I blow my nose. 😞 Again I just wanted to spend the day resting in bed and eating soup to feel better.

I guess I did the most I could to get better though. I rested as much as I could. I played my games and watched a few shows. And I tried to recover as best as I could.

There were no donations. So I still grow more and more worried about that each day. And I still have panic attacks about death through the day. I tried to hang on to hope. And hopefully I can hang on until better days come.

## **Day 3757 - 10/14**

### **Impossibly plugged**

Today my nose was plugged all day. 😞 I don't feel super terrible, but I couldn't breathe through my nose at all. I still had a touch of sneezing and a bit of runny congestion, but I am actually feeling better than I have lately except for that.

I guess it was an ok day. I played a bit more in my online game than I have been lately. I played my new game quite a bit. And I watched a couple of shows, as they are starting up for the season again.

I hope I get better soon. I'm very tired of being sick and having allergies go so crazy. 😞 It's extremely limiting on my otherwise already sad and depressed life. 😞 At least tomorrow it will be back to school as usual and I can go back to warm meals again. At least that will be something.

All I can do is try to distract myself from the sad things. Try to hang on to the happy things. And hopefully I can make it to better days.

## **Day 3758 - 10/15**

### **Our TA for the class**

Today was both ok and not. It was ok in that the morning class I help for was ok. And I had an ok time doing an assignment for my digital photography class, though the pictures turned out like crap for the most part because the directions heavily limited me, which makes me feel bad and sad about my performance in the class overall since I have to rent cameras that have garbage quality.

The later part of the day seemed hurtful, though I know it wasn't intentional. A former student has come by a few times (he's still at the school, just done with film classes) and the professor made a great deal of fanfare with hand gestures and a loud voice and announced he would be the TA for the class. I got no such fanfare, not even a mention that I was a TA. In fact, I think only about six in the whole class know I'm a TA for it. I'm not really hurt about not getting fanfare, though some official mention should have been done. In fact, it's better to have multiple TAs for a class like that, as people have different creative styles. It's not getting any recognition or thanks that is hurtful. Though this fits her pattern. She doesn't seem to generally pay attention to me or my feelings. It just doesn't seem in her nature to do so. I think at this point she just assumes I will always be around. So unlike other students which are viewed in cycles, I'm viewed (by all professors) as the touchstone, the one who is static, who can always be counted on to be there. So I think a lot of the reason she doesn't announce me to classes anymore is because she's gotten so used to my being there she forgets I'm not familiar to the students.

Other than that the day was the same. Sadly there were no donations and no opportunities. So I tried to rest and recover from my cold. I tried to have fun how I could. And I try to hang on to hope until beter days.

## **Day 3759 - 10/16**

### **Maybe slightly better**

Today I am feeling maybe slightly better. I slept through the night last night without being strangled to death by congestion. I think it's been more than a week since I last slept normally like that.

I am pretty warm and settled in, so hopefully I can rest and recover. It's starting to turn to winter, so I may need to start getting into full winter cloths soon.

It's a long school day so I'll be pretty busy. But I try to hang on to hope that donations and opportunity come. And hope that I can hang on financially and emotionally until then.

## **Index**

Note that since this e-publication appears both on the web and in print form, this index will reference what day an item appears on rather than what page it appears 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 3502 - Game; Elder Scrolls Online.