

EPIC FAIL

The Journal of a Homeless Gamer

15: Digital life,
dreaming of a real one

by rabb1t
aka
Eric Stryker



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Epic Fail
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Book 15
Digital life, dreaming of a real one

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Week 750

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Week 751

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Week 756

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- Day 5287 – 12/22 – Feeling sad
- Day 5288 – 12/23 – Unstable
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- Day 5291 – 12/26 – Outside Monday
- Day 5292 – 12/27 – Inside Tuesday

Week 757

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Week 758

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Week 759

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Week 760

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Week 761

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- Day 5322 – 1/26 – Still not great
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- Day 5326 – 1/30 – Maybe school project
- Day 5327 – 1/31 – Probably regular Tuesday

Week 762

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- Day 5329 – 2/2 – Pretty tired

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Week 763

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- Day 5353 – 2/26 – Rainy
- Day 5354 – 2/27 – Probably rainy Monday
- Day 5355 – 2/28 – Maybe new expansion

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- Day 5362 – 3/7 – Regular Tuesday

Week 767

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Week 768

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- Day 5373 – 3/18 – Famous passing
- Day 5374 – 3/19 – Regular day

Day 5375 – 3/20 – Unknown Monday
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Week 769

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Day 5388 – 4/2 – Not great leftovers
Day 5389 – 4/3 – Library Monday
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Day 5393 – 4/7 – Back pain
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Week 772

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Week 776

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Day 5432 – 5/16 – Maybe mid-term

Week 777

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Day 5435 – 5/19 – Maybe smog tomorrow
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Day 5438 – 5/22 – Hopefully good Monday
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Week 778

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Day 5442 – 5/26 – Finally smog
Day 5443 – 5/27 – Celebration dinner
Day 5444 – 5/28 – Sleepy day
Day 5445 – 5/29 – Outside Monday
Day 5446 – 5/30 – Week start Tuesday

Week 779

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Week 780

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Day 5455 – 6/8 – So very tired
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Day 5462 – 6/15 – Tired of blurry
Day 5463 – 6/16 – Sniffles

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Week 782

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Week 783

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Year 16

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Day 5479 – 7/2 – Still hot
Day 5480 – 7/3 – DMV
Day 5481 – 7/4 – Outside pew pew day

Index

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.)

Week 731

Day 5111 (V:835) - 6/29 **Green light**

Today my good news was rapidly ruined by frustration. I got my new battery last night. On startup it showed 84% and charging up. It made it to full. I pulled the plug, it stayed on, I let it drain 10%, plugged it back in, and it charged to full again. So the old battery definitely was the issue, and the laptop connection port seems fine, so that's a relief.

But today in the late morning I decided to set up my sale account and post the corpse. When I tried to sign up, it said I already had an account, which I thought I did but haven't used in probably 10 years. I tried to log on and was given repeated password failed errors. There was apparently also no way to request a password change. To make a long and frustrating story short, I spent the next 1.5 hours trying to clear up the issue, eventually just giving up on my main email for the account and creating an entirely new one.

I then spent the next half hour setting that up, and creating what seemed a hopeful post for the dead laptop. (It recommended a starting price about what I hoped for a minimum and a buyout price close to what I'd hoped the max would be.) But about 5 minutes later I checked my email and there was a notice that they'd not only made the listing invisible, but suspended my account. It didn't say why or for how long, so I just gave up and decided to try things from a different connection point on the thought that maybe the library partial firewall was causing some kind of issues.

That was really all the good news I could have had for today. I still feel good about the battery news, but the more than 2 hours lost, and full stop on progress with selling the dead laptop, I've been really thrown off. All I can do is hope it is cleared up quickly elsewhere, and I have a better day tomorrow.

Day 5112 (V:836) - 6/30

Banned for what?

Today I am wondering what I should do with the dead laptop. A crazy thing happened that's put me back in this position. After all my suffering yesterday to try and get things set up, when I contacted customer support in the email link I was told that I was banned permanently. My account, and any other accounts I may have had, or will try to create, will be banned. For what? Why? There was no reason given in the email, and no chance to correct anything they thought was wrong. My only thought is maybe because I used the phrase "dead laptop" and in the description I mentioned how I "was playing a game and it simply died." and maybe that triggered some kind of auto flag for 'dead'? But why would that be an auto ban? Especially one that's permanent. Why would that not flag it and prevent the input and recommend using alternate words? Why not flag it for a moderator who would see it and go 'oh I see why', and then they tell me to reword it? And if it wasn't for that, what would it have possibly have been for?

So after that I complained to the better business bureau and unsurprisingly they have a one star rating there (out of 5). I'm not very confident they will agree to reinstate my account, and less so they'd agree to just give me \$500 which would have been fair max value sale, in order to remove my complaint. A one star rating pretty much shows they don't care, and this likely has repeatedly happened to people.

It's mindboggling because if it was auto flagged for 'dead', what about all the other uses of that, like the music band the "Dead Kennedys", or the TV show "Dead Like Me", or who knows how many other uses.

I don't know, but now I am considering maybe I should put the smaller amount back into the dead laptop to RMA it. I guess when/if I ever get close to \$600+ I can check and see what the current amount would be. I certainly wouldn't want to pay much more than that. At the original price of \$1200 and using it a year, dropping it to a remaining value of about \$800, that would match to something comparable in power bought new. And if I spent even just \$600 to resurrect it, that would mean I'd have to use it an additional 5 years after I get it back (beyond the year I already had it) to get its value down to a reasonable per-year cost.

I guess, at least for the moment, I am back to just waiting, trying my best to hang on, and hoping my old laptop can hang on as well. 🙄

Year 15

Day 5113 (V:837) - 7/1 Good sleep, but feeling not great

Today I had a good sleep last night and feel extra rested now, but overall I don't feel great. I've had a bit of a headache, ringing ears, eyes hurt, and some congestion. I guess I had an ok day, but overall I feel a bit extra sad, and maybe a bit hopeless.

I'm not sure why I slept better last night. I wonder if it was related to trying to sell the dead laptop. Like, maybe a part of me that was worrying about posting it was relieved by the attempt, even though it is on hold or failed. Or maybe the part of me that was freaking out how to ideally get \$1500 for a replacement that would be a slight upgrade is relieved at the thought of spending \$600 instead and just RMAing the corpse to resurrect it. (Though I'd really have to just ignore the loss of the initial \$1200, as it was money unexpected from stimulus, effectively pretending that I never got it, and thus never spent it on something that died.) I still worry about that though. To be worth the invested total cost that would have to last 5 more years after I get it back. And while my previous one did last that long, and my one I'm back to now pushing into year 9, I wonder if an RMA unit would also last that long. It's a different brand, and it did die super fast that first time.

I'm really just as far from \$600 as I am from \$1500+, as I have nothing. (I still don't have enough to cover both year end bills and the one set of brakes.) The reality of it may wind up being that as more time goes on, and the fewer there are of that old model, it may become more expensive to RMA instead of less, or they may simply not be able to do an RMA and just offer me trade in value towards something newer. (Which again, I don't know that I'd trust that company again.)

I guess I will know more as time goes on. I think the people have a week to respond to my complaint before it turns into a black mark on their record and stays a while. But at one of five stars it still seems very unlikely that they care about their rating or being fair to people.

As always though, all I can do is try to hang on, try to enjoy what I have and what remains, and hope to make it through to better days.

Day 5114 (V:838) - 7/2

Slow day

Today felt pretty slow and sad. I'm not really sure why. I had a good time I guess. I spent a bit of time helping some guildies in my MMO. And I watched some shows.

But for some reason I feel very small, ignored, insignificant, and not cared for. I don't really feel bad, in fact I had a good time helping the guildies, and for my terrible life overall kind of feel a bit happier. But in spite of that I feel those things deeper down, and I'm not sure why.

Day 5115 (V:839) - 7/3

Feeling very sad

Today I am feeling very sad. 😞 Last night or early this morning I had sad kitty dreams. 😞 I woke up feeling very sad and sorry for the kitty I put out. I cried over her for a bit. 😞 I know my younger self was starting to get older and because of that my allergies were getting worse and I was becoming very fearful of extreme asthma or eye swelling shut, but I loved her so much, and she loved me, and I should have found a way to keep her. 😞 And I should have let her stay inside until she had a place to be. 😞

My day was pretty calm at the library. There has been almost no one there lately. In my games I did just basic 'daily' things. I felt sad and left my online games early and spent a few hours in a single player game. I wouldn't be surprised if tomorrow was equally quiet in games due to the holiday. Hopefully I can have an ok day since I'll have to be outside.

I feel so very sad lately. And my struggles seem so difficult lately. But all I can do is try to continue to hang on as best as I can.

Day 5116 (V:840) - 7/4

Hopeful

Today I guess, so far, I feel a bit hopeful. It's actually a touch chilly, so I'm hopeful I don't get too hot. And part of that is that the sky is very gray and cloudy, so I'm hopeful it doesn't get brighter and I don't need to move from the spot I'm at. (It's a much stronger and more stable signal.) I'm still miffed about the plugs being removed from my previous area, as both heat and brightness wouldn't be a concern there until late afternoon, nor would there be several ants on me at any given time like there is in this or the bathroom spot.

I lost a chunk of tooth with lunch today. I guess at this point it's expected that I'll lose what's left. Probably 30% of everything is already gone, and what's left is likely corrupt to the point none of it could be saved. I think this one was probably mostly an old cavity that had been breached, so it just eventually popped out. But still, it's strange and heartbreaking how it's just a thing now that I no longer cry over because it can't be stopped. 😞

But I try my best to hang on. And hopefully today won't be too bad.

Day 5117 (V:841) - 7/5

Hopefully normal Tuesday

Today hopefully will be a homeless normal Tuesday. I'll shower and micro in the morning, so that will be unusual. But the library will be open and so things will hopefully be back to homeless normal.

Week 732

Day 5118 (V:842) - 7/6 Very very tired

Today I am very very tired. For about a week now I've lost a couple hours of sleep per night. It's like I lay down, things seem ok, but I just can't fall asleep right away. 😞 I'm feeling a bit off in general too. My tummy and system feel off, likely partly malnutrition due to how limited my food choices still are. But also, when playing it's like my eyes have a hard time 'seeing'. I don't know if it's the old laptop's monitor going possibly losing overall brightness or speed. But maybe it just feels like my eyes tend to not move, and when they stay still they just get an overall blind spot and so the field of vision closes in a bit. When not at my laptop things seem normal, but I do worry because my grandpa had something that caused him to lose his vision and he had to get surgery to correct it, twice. (Though I think he was probably in his mid-60s or even mid-70s before that happened.)

I guess I had an ok time playing. Though I didn't feel super into my games and left a bit early to watch stuff. As always, there were no jobs, and most of the ones that are aren't in my area.

I guess, all in all, it was just a day. And I guess I survived it ok.

Day 5119 (V:843) - 7/7 Feeling very tired

Today I feel very tired, and I think maybe have a massive headache, but I'm so used to various pains that I haven't noticed. Now that I'm paying attention it kind of feels like someone is grabbing my head, pushing my eyes in with their thumbs, and pulling the base of my skull apart at the same time. 😞

At one point my game dropped to ridiculously low FPS, indicating it was no longer plugged in. Moving the plug a bit fixed that. But I'm thankful that I got the new

battery, as that probably saved me from what would have been two full drop shut downs. I'm not sure how, but when I was writing unplugged the other day it showed 1.75 hours charge with the screen at full brightness, and that seemed accurate as I monitored drain over time. Which is odd because I don't recall the original battery having that much. And this new one is supposed to be only half the capacity. It makes me wonder how many years the battery had been going bad for me to expect it to have much less charge. I'm pretty sure it was the original one, so I guess it makes sense it had gotten super bad.

I guess I had an ok day. But it was hard to enjoy things feeling exhausted and sad. I did the most minimal things in my shooter, did some stuff in my mmo, though nothing fancy. And I even left games early to play something else and watch some shows. My brain was exhausted, and fixated on thoughts about my old laptop. 😞

There was much sadness, exhaustion, and worry today, but I guess I made it through.

Day 5120 (V:844) - 7/8

Drank double

Today I drank double my normal amount so far today. I don't know why. Was I thirsty feeling and so I brought in extra drinks and then my brain thought it had to drink them? I don't think so because I've brought extra before and then not drunk any extra. I was inside and a touch chilly, which normally means I drink less, so that's extra puzzling.

I was in a lot of pain though. Where I lost the tooth chunk is hurting, so I guess maybe a week or so before that settles down. It got so bad today that I even put on some of the special numbing stuff I haven't used for months.

I heard from the better business bureau today that the case I submitted is now processing. They said the company has a month to respond though, which seems too long. I think I don't really care about it anymore. I mean, yes, they need to fix their policy, that is dumb, but I don't care if they restore my account at this point. How things worked out made me reconsider keeping the dead laptop to possibly RMA for a lower cost than getting a new one. Now, if I don't do that within about another full year from now, then yeah that would become questionable, as it would not be a small upgrade. At that time the

power per dollar to RMA would likely be much lower since the next generation of CPUs and probably GPUs will be out, then making my RMAed unit two generations behind. (And my old laptop I'm on again would be 6-7 behind instead of its current 4-5 to the dead/RMAed system.)

But, as usual, today I did the best with what I have left. I tried to make the most of my options based on what I have and the bandwidth at the library. And I tried my best to make it through the day.

Day 5121 (V:845) - 7/9 **Recovery from a strange pain**

Today I have been recovering from a strange pain I hope was an isolated incident. Yesterday I ate pretty much normal things for a Friday, but as the night started my tummy and higher intestines were a bit grumbly for some reason. I did get to sleep ok, but I'd guess around 2 or 3 I was woken up by a pretty extreme pain. In the intestines, just below my tummy, it felt like a blockage and big gas buildup. It felt like someone had punched me there a few times. My muscles around that area started to cramp, and I felt a bit chilled and feverish. My lower back muscles started to cramp a bit too, I think in a reaction to try and counteract the front ones.

It took maybe an hour to settle back down and get back to sleep. When I had to wake up there was still a bit of odd feeling in my tummy, maybe something closer to high levels of hunger. Through the day I guess my muscles were still beaten up, as a few times a spot on my side, back, or front, felt like it was pinched.

It's nearly evening now, and there is maybe a touch of the odd feeling remaining and my muscles feel ok. I tried looking up the symptoms online to see what it was, but no results matched. Hopefully it was just an odd reaction to something and it doesn't happen again.

I guess today was ok. The library was more quiet, but I feel pretty sad and alone lately. I guess not a whole lot more than usual, but I would say I'm a bit down. 😞 But I try my best to continue to hang on, try to rest as best as I can from stress, sadness, and everything else. 😞

Day 5122 (V:846) - 7/10

Short focus

Today my focus was short. Both in terms of attention span, as well as memory. I was almost immediately forgetting what I was doing. I am recovered from the odd pain, but obviously the lost sleep is taking a toll.

I guess nothing of real consequence happened today. There were no jobs posted, and as expected no response from the company that banned me. But again since I've decided to keep the dead laptop until I replace it, it doesn't matter if they respond or not to me, just that things are improved for others in the future. And I had enough fun in my games, though there was nothing special or anything that stood out as memorable. It was really just a regular day.

I guess I survived ok, though I feel very exhausted.

Day 5123 (V:847) - 7/11

Dream self

Today I feel a bit weird emotionally. Right before I woke up I had a very vivid dream. In the dream I was part of a 5 person gaming group. I went to the meeting, and a beautiful girl I'd been dating broke up with me. I felt sad, but understood, since she was a fair bit younger than me. (A rare dream where I was my actual age, or close to it.) 'The professor', someone who was the D.M., but I guess also teaching us(?) said we had to leave to go get some special supplies. Right as we were leaving a new girl asked to join the group, and I thought she was very attractive, said I knew where we were going so said I'd go with her in her car to guide her. When we arrived at the place I quickly stopped following the love interests, as I knew the place, and it had some great old memories. It was a huge 3 story 100+ year-old wooden mansion, not like ones around here, more like in the south east of the U.S., and I had several friends who used to live there. I ran in, but there was no one outside, and no one on the first floor. I found someone on the second floor, who directed me to where the current 'house lead' was. I went back downstairs and outside and found her and asked if she knew any of my old friends. She said 17.5 of them

still lived there. (I think the .5 was someone who'd half moved out), but no one was around right now. I was thrilled to hear some were still there and started talking about the last time I saw them. It was a massive party that was so packed people were almost shoulder to shoulder, with three live bands performing; two on the grounds around the house, one on the second floor. I told her how when I saw my friends during the party I'd have to yell, "Hey! Hey! I know you!" so they could hear me over the noise. It had been years since I last saw them at that time, but they ran up to me excited, hugged me or just hopped in place, and told me stories about crazy things that'd happened since we last saw each other.

But when I woke up I was sad. I've never been that kind of person, and certainly never had those kinds of friends. In the dream the party had happened 25 years ago, again I was close to my real age self, but in real life there are only two people I somewhat regularly talk to who I knew that long ago. And maybe fewer than half a dozen I see online I very rarely chat with from that time.

My dream self is not me, and may never be. But the thought that my life could have gone more favorably, without constant hindrance and loss, that could have been me makes me feel an odd loss of self.

Day 5124 (V:848) - 7/12

Maybe hot

Today will maybe be hot. Sunday and Monday were in the 90s. (Or Monday should be, as it's 81F at the time of this writing and it shows it's supposed to get just over 90F later.) Hopefully I can get some rest and things will be calm. My life is so sad and stressful all the time I have to try and hope for the most rest that I can get so I stop vibrating and shaking from constant stress and fear. 😞

Week 733

Day 5125 (V:849) - 7/13 Weird feeling heart

Today my heart has been feeling weird, or the area around it. It's probably just some congestion causing a pressure change and overall bad feelings, but whenever this happens I feel extra sad and my P.T.S.D. feelings of death are at their highest. So today mostly was spent feeling like a scared shaking bunny. 😞

I spent a bit less time in my mmo due to feeling sad. I played a bit of a game I got for super cheap on sale about a week ago. I tested a game I'd like to play that I'd got on sale the winter that I had the new laptop, but it was horribly unplayable frame rates even at lower settings, so that one will have to wait. I re-downloaded something I haven't played in a year. I'm surprised it actually does ok at low settings on the old laptop, but honestly I may just delete it and not play due to its poor speed, plus just generally not being super interested in playing without new content. (Plus, within 15 minutes of playing it again I remembered negative things that influenced my decision to stop in the first place.)

So I guess overall today was ok, but I was very worried about my health, my mortality, and overall feeling pretty down. 😞

Day 5126 (V:850) - 7/14 Sleepy starving

Today I'm very sleepy. I've lost sleep the past few nights. I'm not sure why. I guess just general extreme stress levels. I'm pretty hungry too. Likely because staying awake the extra time each night. I thought maybe I'd get some extra food to micro today, but decided against it when I was at the store, and I kind of regret that now. I'm so hungry. 😞

I guess today was ok. Things seemed extra quiet at the library, but in my head things seemed very loud. It was constantly thinking this or that, a near non-stop self dialogue. Probably because I was so tired.

When I was leaving I stopped in the bathroom and noticed the toilet paper seemed super soft. What an odd thought to feel like I should thank the library for changing away from the scratchier kind.

I guess there wasn't much else to mention for today. It was a pretty regular homeless day.

Day 5127 (V:851) - 7/15

Poor kitty

Today there isn't much to say. I felt sad, tired, hungry, and alone. 😞 I spent maybe half the time I would have in my mmo due to poor bandwidth, then I just did single player stuff where bandwidth didn't matter, and watched videos.

A guildie posted a picture of a broken lamp and said their kitty crashed into it when doing zoomies. I said to try and not be too mad at them. 😞 They later posted a picture of the kitty crying from how mad he got. 😞 It made me cry that he got mad and made the kitty cry. 😞 It's a young kitty, and even if they had been a grown kitty, they wouldn't really understand. They should not be punished for such a thing. 😞 It made me very sad. 😞

Day 5128 (V:852) - 7/16

Old games

Today I am very sleepy. I think I've still been losing sleep. I am still a bit extra hungry, but yesterday I got some extra food, so I'm closer to normal levels of hungry.

I guess today was ok. I felt a bit sad and played my mmo a bit less than normal. Recently I've been checking an old game service, as I noticed the other day I have some

games on there I got free that I haven't played yet. One I'm doing now is super cute and fun, so that's nice. I also downloaded one of a series I have two of that I haven't played. This one released in 2015, just a couple years after my laptop, so it runs very well on medium. The next in the series came out in, I think, 2018, so that one I expect won't run as well. I also downloaded one I got when I had the new laptop that I haven't played in 6 months. To my surprise, at lowered settings, it runs totally fine. The in-game benchmark even said it was running at pretty much the 60 FPS cap I'd set it to. So that will be a good one for later, as it's a building game. And depending how well you do, and how the game reacts, there can be very different games.

I'm very sleepy. My eyes are still being kind of weird about focusing. I may need to consider trying my 'reading glasses' I got and haven't used in probably a couple years when they get bad. But I continue to try my best to hang on.

Day 5129 (V:853) - 7/17

Slow and tired

Today I am still very tired feeling. I feel a bit exhausted overall, and my eye lids feel very heavy. The day was ok, nothing special, but it felt like it passed very slowly. It felt like double the amount of time that it was. In the afternoon I tried to play different things. I deleted one game I'd recently re-downloaded; partly because I just wasn't really interested, and partly due to very low fps on the old laptop. After just spending 15 minutes with it I was pretty rapidly reminded why I stopped playing nearly a year ago. And I spent some time watching random videos.

I guess it was an ok day, but I felt exhausted, and hungry for foods I can't afford. 😞

Day 5130 (V:854) - 7/18

Quiet day

Today has started as a pretty quiet day. There is almost no one at the library so far, and the streamer I watch is off this week. I am watching other videos, but things seem quieter. I would guess because there isn't the possible interaction with chat that I would normally be watching for.

I'm not sure what to expect for today. I miss many things. I feel sad and at risk of losing what is left. But I also feel a bit oddly at peace with living very small and basically being isolated during these very risky days.

Day 5131 (V:855) - 7/19

Maybe still hot

Today I don't know what to expect. I expect it will be calm and quiet in the library, possibly slow feeling since I won't have much, if anything, going on in the background. It may be hot, as it's supposed to be in the mid to high 80s all week.

Hopefully it will be a restful day.

Week 734

Day 5132 (V:856) - 7/20 Hopeful for not dead

Today was a little disappointing due to some news that came up yesterday. Someone reached out to me about my dead laptop saying they wanted to see if they could help. It turns out they work for the company that makes the laptop. I didn't know what they knew of my story, so I explained what happened. They agreed both that the laptop shouldn't have just died like it did, especially at just over 1 year old, and that I was treated unfairly in that they should have accepted it in to look at it before referencing a price, and agreed that 730 seemed much too high. They said they would reach out to people to see how they could help, but after that, and today, I've heard nothing back from them.

Also, my dad sent word that he wanted to help. I think he may have guilt about things, and he offered a very good amount, but said that would max his credit card, which I said would be a very bad thing since he's on a fixed income and in his 80s. So, I told him to hold off for now and let's see what kind of help the person can do. But if that does fall through, then the best bet would be to go ahead and do the RMA at roughly 750. I still think it's much too high, especially if you add that to the 1200 already spent, but honestly even spending double that on something new would only yield about a 10-20% gain in most cases. Which certainly wouldn't be worth a 100% price increase. I would still be a bit worried since it would only have a few months coverage, but the person said they've had systems in their lab running for years without issues, so, as I suspected, I should be able to expect the laptop to live for several years.

But there was no news today, so everything is in a limbo. But after 6 months of having a corpse doing nothing, a few more days shouldn't matter.

Day 5133 (V:857) - 7/21

Still trying to stay hopeful

Today I am still trying to stay hopeful about good news for the laptop replacement. There has been no word on any change, so I hope that is promising. I assume the people have regular weekends, so if no movement happens soon then it wouldn't be until after the weekend. I guess really it's not a rush, but with the old option to RMA also now open I would like to have things move forward at a reasonable speed. Though if the slowness means that the swap will be free, or better still an upgrade, that would absolutely be worth the lost time.

There isn't really any other news. The card game I effectively stopped playing (around when the laptop died) is having an event with a super ridiculously cute bunny companion that flies, so obviously now I have to grind through that so I don't miss it. But other than that, all I can do is try to stay hopeful, and try to hang on.

Day 5134 (V:858) - 7/22

Bouncy soda

Today was very peaceful and quiet. I was really hoping for laptop news, but the person hasn't messaged back since the initial discussion on Tuesday. I hope that means that things are being processed up the chain and I will hear good news soon. But now it's the weekend, so I expect there will be no movement until Monday.

The only interesting news was that on my way out of the library I dropped an unopened can of soda I was carrying. I was both surprised that it bounced, as they seem like hard concrete stairs, and that it didn't explode. That would have been very sad.

Overall I feel pretty exhausted, but I guess pretty hopeful about the laptop maybe being replaced soon. My brain is starting to wake up and remember games that are possible which had been set aside due to them being, well, not likely to run on my old system. And too the thought of being able to be creative and possibly do work on a system is exciting too. So I try to remain hopeful.

Day 5135 (V:859) - 7/23

Passable

Today was, I guess, passable. Things were quiet and calm. There was, as expected, no news about replacing the dead laptop. I expect there won't be until Monday at the earliest.

I guess I had an ok time with my games and shows. And I tried to be restful. I feel so overly exhausted though.

Day 5136 (V:860) - 7/24

A bit excited

Today I am starting to feel a little bit excited for the future. The news of eventually getting my new laptop back has me hopeful for future game playing, job prospects (especially remote ones), as well as being back on the new system. I may worry about its sudden death, but I won't constantly be thinking about how the broken keys remind me of my broken teeth, the slowness to open programs reminding me of my own fading mental acuity, the monitor's poor color reminding me of my fading vision, or any number of things I'm reminded of while on my 9-year-old laptop. I dearly love it, but it is very past its prime, and I'd like to retire it, again, before it dies.

I guess today was ok. Nothing really special happened other than I got a juice and some grapes. The rest of my day was a usual day thinking and feeling loss and worry about what is left. All I can do is try my best to hang on to what is left, my routine and what little feelings of safety it has, and try to be as restful and comforted as I can to get through these stressful times.

Day 5137 (V:861) - 7/25

Freezing

Today has been overly cold so far. It started with a cold shower, which thankfully warmed up after turning on two extra showers to increase the hot water. But now in the library it feels like the A.C. has been blasting non-stop since I came in. It's just past noon and it feels like I need to put on my hoodie to be warm enough. It's a little chillier outside too compared to how it has been.

Sadly there is no update from the person trying to help with my laptop yet. I hate to bug them, and I don't think I will check in again until at least Thursday, but it would be nice to know if there has been any response or movement from their people.

I guess all I can do is continue to hang on.

Day 5138 (V:862) - 7/26

Hopefully warmer Tuesday

Today hopefully things will be warmer than yesterday, especially in the library. Hopefully I will have news about my laptop's return. I emailed dad on Friday to confirm he'd be ok helping if it fell through and we needed to do the RMA since he offered to help with more than that getting a new one. (I'd need to know his credit card info.) Oddly there hasn't been a response back yet. So I guess overall it's just remaining in limbo, but hopefully it can return soon.

Until then I just have to try my best to hang on.

Week 735

Day 5139 (V:863) - 7/27 Claims

Today was fairly uneventful save for about the last hour at the library. I got word back from the person at the dead laptop company that they have heard very little but would still keep trying to see if they can get any lenience.

Since it seems unlikely at this point I did some more pondering. The equivalent of that model can now be gotten for about \$850 new. So spending \$750, ignoring the \$1200 already spent, doesn't seem to make sense any more for 2-year-old tech. The CPU has gone up 2 generations, and the graphics one, which is about a 15-25% FPS increase on average. The lower end model Asus I'm looking at is currently \$1288, while the model with a better screen and about 10% more FPS is a touch more at \$1500.

I guess I'm still in a hold and wait and see pattern. If the person gets back to me and the RMA offer is about \$500 or less I'll go for that. But if it's still around \$750 I'll just dump the offer and sell the corpse.

I guess we'll see. It still seems like I won't be worse off than before. I hate to burn so much money when I was expecting it to last at least 4 years, possibly more, but it was basically a gift from the government. And now this next will be a gift from dad, with current tech, and the company I've been with and trust, and with an option to extend the coverage so this doesn't happen again.

So... I continue to wait and see what fate sends me.

Day 5140 (V:864) - 7/28 Out of my hands now

Today I am pretty exhausted and pretty hungry. My eyes have been half closed most of the day. I couldn't sleep last night, and I probably lost about 40% of what I otherwise would have gotten.

In the afternoon I decided to go ahead and let dad know the two laptops I've been looking at. It seems very unlikely the person trying to help with the dead one will get a response, so I figured I'd let dad know the things to pick from. I told him the base level one, which would be a lot more powerful than my 9-year-old system I'm on now, The thing is that's a 'thin and light' one, so I'd be worried about temperatures in long sessions, as well as it's not great screen (less brightness and color) compared to the better one. So I also told him about the better one, which is kind of the best choice in terms of parts per dollar. While about \$200 more, it is really only 15% more expensive, which is about the increase I'd see, not counting the better screen and cooling.

So I guess we'll see if he's still interested, and which he gets me. I sent an email replying about options and he never responded to that, nor the one I sent a couple of day ago, so I'm not sure what is up. They show next day delivery, so if he has that they could come very quickly. Though if it goes a week or more I may start to feel a bit worried. Granted we normally only talk 4-6 times a year, but with how pressing he was for info on what to get and seemingly being in a hurry, the sudden pause seems confusing.

Well, it's out of my hands now. He does or he doesn't. It comes fast or not. It's outside of my control, so all I can do is wait and try to stay hopeful.

Day 5141 (V:865) - 7/29

Still no word

Today there is still no word from dad about the new system. I guess technically it's only been a bit over a day since I gave him the two links to the systems, but it's over one week since the email saying he wanted to hurry. So it still seems odd that he seemed to be in such a rush, yet hasn't responded. And there is still no news from the person in the dead laptop's company trying to help, so that seems like a dead end. I'm glad dad came forward otherwise that would have been heartbreaking.

I've been trying to set up classes for a while now. At first I hit this break of needing to re-apply, so that took a while. Now that they accepted it I found out I need to prove I've been vaccinated, and now that I submitted that they say that takes like 3 or more days to complete, so now I'm waiting on that. So I guess we'll see if it makes it in

time to get the two I'm looking at. I'm honestly not super excited at the thought of going back. It's a ghost town there, barely the shattered remains of its former self.

I'm very tired. My brain shut off in the early afternoon, and my eyes kind of lost focus, so I kept not seeing what I was looking right at. Hopefully I can get some extra sleep, and be extra restful when I can. And hopefully I will get news of going through with a new system soon. I don't know how much longer my 9-year-old system can hang on. 😞

Day 5142 (V:866) - 7/30

Feeling weird

Today, and for a few days, I've been feeling weird. It started Wednesday night. Out of nowhere around 10 PM I had a sudden attack of congestion. My nose got fully stuffed up. I had quite a struggle getting it clear to breathe again. After that my nose and lungs have been pretty congested. I had a lot of sneezing, so I took decongestants and allergy pills Thursday and Friday. Yesterday and today I've had what feels like chill feeling skin, both on the outside and inside. But the chills aren't anywhere else. It also feels like I have a fever inside, but touching my forehead I don't really feel warm. It's a very odd feeling. Today I feel less chilly feeling and my sneezes have basically stopped. I still have a bit of a headache and ear ringing though.

There is still no response from dad. It was nearly two weeks ago he said he wanted to help and needed to hurry for some reason. I'm trying to stay hopeful and not get my hopes up at the same time. It's possible something happened and he can't do it. Well, what he does or doesn't do is out of my control. I guess I'll see eventually.

Hopefully I can feel better soon. And hopefully me and my very old laptop can hang on until then.

Day 5143 (V:867) - 7/31

The one I want

Today I am very sleepy. I think my cold or whatever is wearing me out. I still feel a touch chillish and feverish, and maybe my forehead does feel a bit warm today, but I've only sneezed like three times total and my congestion isn't too bad.

I finally got word from dad on why he's been quiet. I guess he's gotten his monthly money early and so he's been doing bill things. One thing I didn't respond to, because it's so mindboggling, is he said he's getting worried his PC is "getting old" because it's 3 years old and he was worried it would 'fall apart soon' because he usually gets new systems every 3-4 years. I'm thinking 'what?' If he were the most hardcore gamer ever, which there's no way he could be, at most he would need to change graphics every 3-4 years, sure. But the core of the system, the cpu, ram, motherboard, that would last 5-6 years before they got really behind. I don't know, it seems super weird he'd think he'd need one so often.

But, he said he would get me monies for the online store I use to get a laptop soon. It sounds like he wants to do it this week, but I won't expect it until next week. That way if it is this week I'll be surprised. It does mean I can use that money, and a bit of my money, so I can get the better 'budget' system and the extra coverage so it's covered for 4 years. So no worry about it being right out of the 1 year base coverage and then dying like the last. I will be a bit worried until I sell the corpse and recover some money though, because I'm already very tight on bill money. I do have until October before the insurance starts up again, and early December until the big important bills, so there should be plenty of time.

I am a bit sad though, as this probably means any help he would send for my birthday, Thanksgiving, and Xmas, probably won't happen, making already very tight bills extremely worrisome, and any kind of new games impossible (though I have enough credit on my main game service to get one I want.) But I guess that's an ok trade. When things can happen my new system will be ready to run anything. 😊

So I guess things feel a bit easier emotionally, but again I am back to waiting.

Day 5144 (V:868) - 8/1

Raining

Today it's raining. Yesterday when I moved the car in the morning there was evidence of sprinkles. It's weird to see rain in summer. It's clearing a bit now, but the sky is still more gray than not.

I'm more sniffly and sneezy today, but the chilled feelings are almost gone. My throat is a bit rough feeling though.

No word from dad on the monies, but again I think that will happen next week, maybe later this week at the soonest.

For now I try to rest, recover, and hang on.

Day 5145 (V:869) - 8/2

Hopeful

Today I am hopeful I can get the new laptop soon. Though also a bit sad since it will almost completely burn out all my money. It will absolutely take any thoughts of game money. In order to cover tax and 4-years of coverage I'll have to burn into bills savings, and pray that selling the dead laptop parts will recover that loss.

All I can do is continue to make the best decisions I can with the choices I have, and hope things work out in time.

Week 736

Day 5146 (V:870) - 8/3 **Tired**

Today I am extremely tired. My brain again kind of shut off in the afternoon. Even though my symptoms didn't match to covid, I decided to do a home test, because with everything going on I was pretty worried. Unless I did it wrong I'm negative, which makes sense because the online symptom checker shows "common" matches for symptoms on cold or allergies, while only a few show as "have been reported" for covid, with most symptoms not matching at all.

Sadly there is no further word from dad. I was kind of hoping it would have happened by now, to maybe have it by the weekend, but I guess it doesn't really matter. And if it were to happen later that would be closer to my birthday on the 20th, so that would be fun.

I'm so very sleepy today, and so very hungry. But I try my best to hang on, and try to continue to hope the laptop doesn't take as much to get as I've estimated (after remember there may be tax and wanting the extra coverage.)

Day 5147 (V:871) - 8/4 **Still waiting**

Today I am still waiting to hear from dad about the laptop money. Everything else is on hold until that happens since I don't know exactly how much will be left. I take it he is probably waiting on money too, since I haven't heard yet it seems that things are very unlikely to change until at least Monday.

In good news though I was reminded I've been saving my recycling money until I really needed it. I guess that had gotten up to \$75, so that is a pretty big help for cushioning things.

It was super hot again today. My brain was melting and I was more asleep than not during the day (in terms of ability to focus.) But I guess it was a pretty ok day.

So I continue to wait, and hopefully I'll have good news soon, and can hang on until better days.

Day 5148 (V:872) - 8/5 **Still hot, still tired**

Today it is still pretty hot. It's evening now and the temperature says it's like 75F, and while there is a nice breeze I'm borderline sweating, so it feels closer to 85F. I guess though overall the temperature is getting more reasonable very quickly.

I'm pretty tired though. The past few nights I had gotten some extra rest, but last night for some reason I couldn't sleep, and so I lost about 3 hours I could have slept.

I guess today was ok though. I felt a little less sad and played my MMO a bit more. My brain is getting a bit excited thinking of games I haven't been able to play since the new laptop death being a possibility again. I guess though that may still be a few weeks off if dad's money comes later in next week and it takes a while to ship. I guess it happens when it happens and I just have to wait. Without his offer it may still otherwise be years off, so this will be much sooner, even if it takes a few weeks to happen.

I guess, as always, today I hung on as best as I could, and I wait, and try to hang on until better days.

Day 5149 (V:873) - 8/6 **Slow Saturday**

Today seemed kind of slow. I did my usual game playing, but overall the day just felt hot and long. No news from dad on the new laptop, so I continue to wait, and try my best to hang on.

Day 5150 (V:874) - 8/7

Return of the strange pain

Today I am recovering from the same mystery pain I had about a month ago. It happened around the same time too. I was asleep, then at 3:30 in the morning *bam* mystery abdomen pain, followed by muscle pain, then my back muscles counter-straining, then fever and chill type feelings all over my body. I was in and out of that state about 3-4 times during the night. And just like last time, when it was time to get up and move the pain was mostly gone, replaced by what felt like extreme hunger, though eating or drinking didn't reduce the feeling.

Sadly though the feelings have not completely gone. I still have a bit of the chills and headache feeling, extreme exhaustion, and the other symptoms were exchanged for frequent sneezing and congestion. I am getting over the event pretty quickly, but it will probably be the better part of the week before I'm fully recovered.

I guess today was ok, but I felt very sick, and pretty sad. No news from dad, but I didn't really expect any. So I continue to wait for news, hope to getter soon, and try my best to hang on.

Day 5151 (V:875) - 8/8

Still kind of sick

Today I still feel kind of sick. I'm not sneezing, but pretty congested, and my throat is pretty rough. No news from dad, so I guess that isn't happening soon.

I guess I just have to do my best to try and rest and wait for better days.

Day 5152 (V:876) - 8/9

Hopefully ordering

Today I will hopefully be ordering my new system. It seems odd dad was in such a rush to help, and now it's been like a month since he first mentioned it. So I continue to wait, and try to stay hopeful.

Week 737

Day 5153 (V:877) - 8/10 **Still waiting**

Today I am still waiting for word from dad about the laptop monies. I mean, yeah, I couldn't do it without, but it's getting pretty frustrating that a month ago he seemed to be in a big rush to help, now I've put all spending completely on hold to see what happens, and more and more time is passing.

I guess today was ok. I didn't play much, more just watched stuff. This lockdown on spending and moving forward with anything has got me pretty down, which is very weird to say since usually there aren't any bills or costs I need to worry about. But I guess I hung on as best as I could. And I try to stay calm and patient.

Day 5154 (V:878) - 8/11 **Felt like a nap**

Today I am still not feeling great overall. I feel like I need a nap, and I'm writing this in the early afternoon. I guess I'm a bit congested, and a tiny bit chills feeling, but mostly just feel tired and sluggish.

Still no news from dad, which is kind of aggravating. Now it means I probably won't be able to get it this week, after he said he would get me the money last week. I don't get why he pressed so much to help, and seemed in such a hurry. only to then not help. Again, it will get me a new laptop which I otherwise wouldn't be able to get, but it's been a lot of extra stress since I've now put everything on hold and I'm waiting and waiting and waiting when it should have happened already. I think at this point I'd have preferred he would have said he'd send it eventually but didn't know when it would be than saying he is trying for x time only for that to continue to get further and further from that point.

I guess all I can do is try and rest and relax and hope things get better soon.

Day 5155 (V:879) - 8/12

Very upsetting

Today I am still waiting for money from dad for the laptop, or even any news. At first it was no biggie to wait, but now needing to put spending on hold is getting very stressful and upsetting. Can I get gas? How much? When? What about costs for school? What about bills? If I need to spend bill money and then later cover that with the laptop corpse money, is that ok? What if no parts sell? How much do I need and thus need to recover from those part sales?

I visited the ex-roomie for a bit for laundry, shower, and a movie, so that was nice. I got some fries too, which are always yummy to get.

I am getting extra stressed out and worried from dad not sending anything after being so insistent. But I guess I just have to stay as calm as I can. He sends it or he doesn't. And I have to try my best to hang on in the meantime.

Day 5156 (V:880) - 8/13

Still no news

Today I had fun with a new game I got with basically the rest of the credit I have on my game service. It's super cute and fun, though a little sad because there are followers and they can get old, or sick, and die. So I get a bit sad when they 'die of old age' and do a funeral for them. 😞

Still no word from dad, which is super upsetting. I still have no clue what is going on. Starting into next week will be 2 weeks from when he said he wanted to get the money to me ASAP.

It also doesn't help that I'm still not feeling super great. I still have some cold-like symptoms, mostly these days headache and a general unstable feeling inside.

I guess though all I can do is try to keep waiting, and try to hang on as best as I can.

Day 5157 (V:881) - 8/14

Feeling pretty sick again

Today I am feeling pretty sick again. My throat feels rough, I have a pretty bad migraine, my eyes feel smooshed, I think there is some throat congestion, but mostly overall I just feel both exhausted and generally disrupted inside.

I went and did some shopping at a different time than normal today. There were some groups of girls (probably in their early 20s) and a group of guys (again, probably early 20s). It made me a bit sad to think that I'm not young anymore. I don't have those kinds of friends anymore. I don't have people I regularly laugh and have a good time with, even if it's doing basic things like shopping. And now that I'm older, it seems I've missed that window and won't have that in my life again. I'm not a TA, so there's no reason for me to be around younger (creative) people. I don't have money, so I can't do any kind of hobby or club group that would do any kinds of activities like that.

I also saw a very beautiful and attractive girl with partly green and partly blue hair (probably in her early 30s). She was in the fresh food area and getting nicer foods. And it made me sad that I can't eat 'well' and be healthier. I am not even able to eat 'balanced' regularly enough to even try and get into some kind of better shape. And so I felt pretty sad about my health, and worried about things like last night having dreams where I felt like I might die in my sleep from poor health. (Probably due to my insides feeling generally unstable from this cold, including extra bad feelings near my heart.)

As usual, no news from dad. And I try my best to continue to hang on.

Day 5158 (V:882) - 8/15

Maybe not this week

Today dad still hasn't sent money or word on what is going on. If it doesn't happen before this goes out today then even with same day delivery, if that were even an option, wouldn't get to me today. And if it's regular shipping speed that makes it unlikely to arrive this week at all if I don't order today.

I'm pretty sniffly today. I guess my throat doesn't feel as rough. But as always, I guess I just have to try to rest and recover as much as I can and hope for better days.

Day 5159 (V:883) - 8/16
Probably hot Tuesday

Today it will probably be pretty hot. It's been in the 80s lately and today it's supposed to get up to 90F, but I guess we'll see. I don't know what to expect today, but try to stay hopeful.

Week 738

Day 5160 (V:884) - 8/17 **A friendly help**

Today I got a nice surprise. Someone who used to send much help, but hasn't in quite a while, sent me some help. So that is a very good cushion for what I probably will need to pay the tax and coverage on a new laptop. Dad still hasn't sent any word about what's going on. At this point I'm beginning to wonder if I won't hear back until his next monthly cycle at the start of next month. He seemed in such a rush two and a half weeks ago, but now nothing since.

I decided to stop waiting and checked in on school. What were open and assured classes two and a half weeks ago when I put money on hold are now maybe classes. I am waitlisted on both, so who knows if I will get in or not. But with no word from dad on what's going on I can't keep waiting indefinitely.

I guess it's Fate and have to trust it's for a reason. Maybe the price will go down a lot. Maybe when I do have the money it will be on a 'back to school' or other kind of sale, or a higher-end model will be on a huge sale and I can squeeze that into the budget instead. I don't know, but all I can do is hope there is some greater reason I can't see other than dad simply failing to get the money to me. And as always, I will do what I can when I have opportunity, and hope that is the best choice at the time.

Day 5161 (V:885) - 8/18 **Still waiting**

Today I am still waiting for word from dad. I'm still checking email several times a day to see if anything has been said. It's kind of getting to the point where I'm just going to give up, check in the morning, maybe two or three times later, and just assume it probably won't happen until maybe the start of next month. I don't know what to think anymore.

I guess I had an ok day. It was very hot. I was kind of sad. But I guess nothing is really changed.

Day 5162 (V:886) - 8/19

Freezing

Today for whatever reason the library was freezing. I had to put on an extra under layer, a hat, and was considering putting on my hoodie due to how much I was clenching my jaw from cold.

There really wasn't anything interesting today save for a brief discussion on the difference between herbs and spices. I didn't know, so I looked it up. I miss cooking. 😞

Still no word from dad about what is or isn't going on with the laptop money, but I tried my best to hang on.

Day 5163 (V:887) - 8/20

Maybe birthday order

Today it was a birthday. There were many b-day wishes on my social page, so that was nice. 😊 In the very late afternoon I finally got word from dad that he was sending the money. I am glad to hear the gift card exchange won't charge him extra, so that is a relief. He said he was still a bit worried though, so he sent half and said he would send the other half in a few hours if nothing explodes on his end. So hopefully I can sneak online later tonight (when I normally wouldn't) and put in the order. If not I'll have to wait until almost late morning tomorrow. I suppose being Sunday it wouldn't really matter either way, but still.

I got a cute style single birthday cake, so that is nice. And while extra cold in the library it wasn't insanely cold like yesterday. But it's still pretty weird compared to the heat outside.

But today seemed a bit better, and hopefully will end on a very good note later.



Single birthday cake.

Day 5164 (V:888) - 8/21
On the way

Today my new laptop is ordered. It's coming pretty quickly, and if not bumped should be here Wednesday. It was pretty much what I expected for cost. I did drop about 50 in the past few weeks, so that was nice, but adding on tax and the 4-year coverage I did have to spend a couple hundred of what would otherwise have been saved for bills. I still hope to recover that with selling the corpse, but I've put it up on a local site a few times now with no interest. I'll try again today, and if there's no movement, next week I'll have

to try posting it by individual parts, as those could be used by multiple models, or people who don't need more than one part.

My time in the library was pretty regular, so not much else of interest for the day. Hopefully there will be better days soon.

Day 5165 (V:889) - 8/22

Quiet so far

Today has been quiet so far. There are only a few people in the library, and oddly not many out driving on the roads for a Monday, so things seem pretty quiet and calm so far.

I'm a bit congested lately with sniffles and a bit of a rough throat. I kind of don't feel great overall, likely due to recent headaches and quite a lot of congestion buildup. As usual, neither allergy pills nor decongestants seem to have any effect.

No word on the laptop arriving sooner or later than expected, so hopefully I can run backups and be ready for that Wednesday. I decided this time to pre-download all the things and just copy them over when I copy everything else onto the system. That only saved probably 15 minutes (save for one very large download), but it seems like it will be nicer to just run the installer from the download folder without having to remember what I need and go get it as I'm doing it.

Hopefully everything will go well and I'll have my new laptop all set up soon.

Day 5166 (V:890) - 8/23

Excited Tuesday

Today will be a pretty exciting day. Maybe the laptop will come early, but I expect it won't, and I'll be ready for it tomorrow. I'm not sure how tomorrow will go though. It will depend on if the delivery shows how close it is. If so, I'll intercept it on its way to the front door. If not, then it would get dropped off and the ex-roomies would have

to sign for it. While I'm sure at least one would be there and they'd let me know, I'd prefer they not need to be bothered with it and just meet the driver at the street.

Whatever happens hopefully today will be a hopeful day.

Week 739

Day 5167 (V:891) - 8/24 Lost day with crackers

Today has been not the best and pretty sad so far. It's about 3 now, and all day I've just been sitting in my car outside of the ex-house waiting for my new laptop. I was really expecting it by 11, when my last delivery came on Monday, but all I've known since it's last update at 9:15 is it's "out for delivery." I guess it's a security concern, but you'd think they would just flag everything on the truck with what place it is on line and update the distance every stop so you'd know where it is.

I had a breakfast muffin, and six pieces of salami, and maybe 15-20 crackers. I have more crackers, but that's it. I guess in a way I'm thankful for the extreme heat, as I've been mildly sweating all day, which I guess has burnt off most liquid I've drunk, so I haven't needed to sneak peeing in my car all this time. I will start to get too hungry for dinner in a few hours though, so that will be sad.

Hopefully it will come soon and I will at least have enough time to get it set up today. It seems testing games and setting it up is unlikely at this point.

Day 5168 (V:892) - 8/25 Very fast / extreme pain

Today I have been dealing with extreme pain. Pain that is so bad, if I had a normal person's pain tolerance I'd be uncontrollably crying, throwing up, or passing out, or possibly multiples of those at any given time. From what I can gather, for the first time in a long time I'm possibly having my yearly jaw pain. My lymph nodes along my veins on my neck are both sensitive and swollen, and my jaw constantly hurts, like I've been clenching very hard constantly. I think though this time, due to the extremely poor condition of my teeth, along the back bottom left area, and a bit above that, it's caused the extreme pain. It was so bad last night I couldn't sleep most of the night or morning. I'd guess I got maybe a total of four hours of sleep.

To make things worse, my day wasn't great yesterday. I think I got heat stroke from being in heat for so long. I noticed today in the shower that my left shoulder is bright red, likely from mild sun burn, so that probably doesn't help my jaw issue.

I haven't eaten much today. I was starving because I couldn't eat until the evening yesterday since the laptop didn't come until nearly 4. But due to my extra pain I didn't eat at all today until almost 1. And it was basically the smallest of bites that were less than half of what I'd eat normally. It's early evening now and my appetite is growing a lot. I still have to be very careful or risk triggering extreme pain. The pain is lessening a little bit though, so hopefully I can get some sleep tonight.

The new laptop is ridiculously fast, even faster than the dead one. I checked FPS on my mmo, and even with turning up settings, increasing draw distance, and turning on some new effects that weren't on at all before, in the open world areas I saw 60-85 FPS. And in a dungeon I saw a high of 250, with an average closer to 150. I've never seen numbers that high. Mostly the big difference were things felt solid. They don't wobble or lag around. My shooter I sometimes play got settings turned up as well, though there is no easy way to see FPS, but it felt like it was equally as solid and fast.

If it weren't for the extreme pain now, nearly 24 hours after it started, when it's barely becoming bearable, today would have been a good day.



Such shiny copper. (Opening to install the 1tb game drive.)

Day 5169 (V:893) - 8/26 Swollen

Today the pain is gone. I guess it was about 24 hours of ridiculous extreme pain, and now for the past 24 hours that has settled into a weird swelling of my lymph node and the jaw line. Also for a bit last night and this morning a bit of the cheek area across from the jaw on that one side was also swollen. It's just a bit noticeable now, and things are still sensitive there, so I'll stay careful, but it's almost normal again. I'm still not entirely sure what happened, but with the swelling I'd guess maybe something got shoved where it shouldn't have, maybe near a cracked tooth, which just cascaded all kinds of things?

I had a pretty good day with the pain gone. I could enjoy my new super fast laptop. 😊 And my games are pretty ridiculously solid and fast now. And, my friend that sends help each month changed it to send more monies, so that will be super helpful.

So today, for once, at least so far, was a better day.

Day 5170 (V:894) - 8/27

Cloth is too thick

Today I was a bit worried about my new laptop since my old one had monitor damage. I have been fussing about being super extra careful and noticed last night it had the checkerboard keyboard marks. Today I got a finger print smudge on the screen, so I did the experiment of wiping it off with cleaning cloths. It thankfully cleared the keyboard marks (and my fingerprint). So even though I only used the cloth for one day, apparently the clearance between the screen and keyboard is not enough to do that. I didn't use it after I noticed last night, immediately stopping use, so I'll keep an eye on it in the future. If I see imprints return, then that may mean there's too much pressure in the backpack, and I'll have to start carrying it separately by itself in its own bag so that doesn't happen.

My pain is still pretty much gone. There was a little on the right side, but it passed quickly enough. The left side that got the extreme pain and swelling is still just a touch swollen, and while I can feel it as well as the lymph node swelling, I can't really see it looking in a mirror. So I feel a lot better about things now.

I didn't get to do either of the two dungeons in my mmo's new dlc, so that was sad, but otherwise it was a pretty good day today.

Day 5171 (V:895) - 8/28

Bad lunch

Today there was a bad lunch choice. It was an experiment, so I didn't expect it to be great. I noticed a bit ago when I was at the food store in the cooked food area there was a teriyaki bowl which was cold, meaning I could buy it with my food stamp monies. Today I decided to try one. I knew the rice wouldn't be great cold, but it was the worst ever. It tasted like it was the left over rice they had which had completely gotten dried out, and then used for the bowl. I was not expecting it to be anywhere near as bad as it was. They probably don't get complaints because people probably heat it up and don't really

notice. So, that is definitely not a future food option. The chicken was yummy, the carrots were ok, but for the amount I ate it was about four times too expensive.

The rest of the day was pretty good. In my mmo I found some guildies to do the new dlc dungeons with in the way I wanted. Now there is one goal left with the new dlc, but that one could take a while to do.

So I guess today was a pretty good day, even though I threw away a lot of what I was expecting to eat for lunch. I guess I have crackers.

Day 5172 (V:896) - 8/29

Showering still

Today I feel very nice and clean. For some reason the showers at school are still open. There are volleyball people practicing in the mornings, so maybe that is why. I don't ever recall them doing that in previous years.

Today my pain is pretty much gone. There is still a bit of swelling, noticeable if I tilt my head back, and the lymph nodes are still a bit swollen and jammed up feeling, but mostly I'm ok.

There has been some chatting in the streamer chat who I watch, so things feel nice today. Hopefully the day will go a bit better.

Day 5173 (V:897) - 8/30

Hopefully good Tuesday

Today will hopefully be a good day with my new super awesome laptop. I have no hopes or expectations, but hopefully it will be a good day.

Week 740

Day 5174 (V:898) - 8/31 **Peeling**

Today I am a bit worried about my shoulder. Last night it was itchy there, so I scratched, and it felt a bit wet. I noticed the whole area was doing a minor peel from the burn. I couldn't really see there because it's my shoulder, but what I could was still a bit red. I'll know more in the morning when I get my shower.

I guess today was pretty good. For some reason I've been extra hungry. I haven't really gotten extra food to help with that. I probably should, but I worry so much of what I eat is bad, and I'm already in really bad shape with extra weight. But the connection was ok. I accomplished my goal in my mmo that I was trying to do for the new dlc, and so I guess it was a pretty good day.

Day 5175 (V:899) - 9/1 **Pain returns**

Today was a tough day. It wasn't too bad, but some of the jaw/tooth pain returned. My lymph nodes may still be the cause, as they are still very swollen. Hopefully things will calm down soon.

I guess today was pretty good. I had fun with my games and watched some shows, but the pain put a damper on things.

Hopefully tomorrow will be a better day.

Day 5176 (V:900) - 9/2 **Cold feeling library, warm feeling forehead**

Today I feel a bit sick. It has felt like someone has been smooshing my eyeballs, and at the same time, poking into my ears. I have a headache, but it's not as bad as the

symptoms would normally cause (those are normally migraine symptoms.) Some old guy sat behind me on Wednesday and coughed for a few hours. My throat felt pretty congested and rough the Thursday morning, so I'm guessing he gave me some kind of cold. I knew I shouldn't have been so nice and let him stay. There were enough spots he could have easily not been so close to me.

I tried to have a good day, but with those bad feelings and kind of feeling like I might throw up (in my head, my tummy felt fine), I didn't have a great day. I did have fun in my games and watching shows, but I would have preferred to have some nice soup and laid down for a bit.

Day 5177 (V:901) - 9/3 **A bit swollen**

Today my parts are a bit swollen again. It kind of seems like something got jammed in my gums and irritated things. It's not painful at all this time, unless I smoosh it very hard, just worrying and a touch uncomfortable feeling.

I guess I had a pretty good day all things considered. I had fun in my mmo, and even helped a guildie do a super hard thing. And I got a tip on how to get some good progress for something in my shooter, so that is good to know for the future.

Things are still very bad, and very terrible and sad, but today I hung on a bit easier. And sometimes just making it through the day is the best you can do.

Day 5178 (V:902) - 9/4 **Hopefully a good sign for tomorrow**

Today I discovered something that will mean tomorrow will hopefully be better than expected. The library will be closed, so I'll have to be outside. Today I thought I noticed some oddness near my old spot. They have been doing a lot of work near it on the roof for a while now. I went over to investigate but noticed nothing different, but I did notice something that implied they agreed with me that removing the plugs was dumb.

The work has been going on for a while, and in previous weeks they were going back and forth to a plug very far away, but it looks like they probably got tired of that, as the plug at my old spot is back. (But not the other two that were removed.) The workers must have complained and replaced it, at least for the moment. So, I won't have to be in the sun. I won't have to literally be on the other side of the wall as the bathroom door. In theory I can be in a nice, quiet, shaded, spot and not have to worry about sun until late afternoon or early evening. (Though it seems it's extremely hot today, so that might be trouble.)

The day was kind of rough though. Right when I was getting over the cold from the last coughing person, someone sat across from me yesterday not wearing a mask and was coughing for a few hours until I basically complained that if she was going to be there in the library she really needed to be wearing a mask since she's coughing. But it was probably too late. This morning I woke up super congested and my throat is rough again. And overall I have a general fatigue and just don't feel great. I didn't eat as much as I normally would either. I'm feeling a little bit better though, so hopefully it will pass quickly.

I guess I had a pretty good time with my games and shows though, so I guess overall today was pretty good. It has certainly been easier with my new awesome laptop.

Day 5179 (V:903) - 9/5

Extreme heat

Today I am hoping it doesn't get too hot. I'm settled into my comfortable spot outside the library, and with just shorts, a tank top, and T-shirt, I'm already borderline hot enough to take off the T-shirt. It's supposed to hit 100F by 2, which would be crazy. I'll shut my system off by the time it starts showing in the high 80s to be safe, but if the app is correct that could be as early as noon. 😞

All I can do is hope for the best today, and remember it is just today and do my best to make it through as ok as I can be.

Day 5180 (V:904) - 9/6
Hopefully regular Tuesday

Today hopefully I can shower at school. It still seems odd it's open these days, but I hope that continues so I can at least get my showers.

I don't know what to expect for today, but hopefully it can be a regular inside the library day.

Week 741

Day 5181 (V:905) - 9/7 Raw

Today the food I got tasted raw. It was a calzone from the food store, and while you are supposed to warm them up they should be cooked enough people don't need to. But the bread felt really doughy, and it didn't taste great overall. I threw half of it out and will see if I can get a cooked tender meal at the place that takes my card.

I got a huge boon yesterday. The streamer I watch has started doing a special giveaway and yesterday I finally got a win. So I got to get the full year special edition of my shooter for the next expansion and year of content as a prize. 😊 So from when it starts in February for the year after that the expansion and all season stuff is covered. Phew. That was basically the biggest gaming worry I had and it's now covered.

It's been unusually hot lately. Yesterday peaked around 115F. Today is a little less I think at around 105F. But my brain has been cooking and thinking and doing stuff has been different because the library A.C. is broken or can't keep up, because I was sweating there yesterday while just wearing shorts and a tank top. And today with the same cloths I was borderline sweating.

I guess today was ok, but it's still so hot I can't think. The game win yesterday was quite a boon though, so I have a little something to look forward to at least.

Day 5182 (V:906) - 9/8 Still above 100F

Today there was a brief period for a few hours where the library was normal temperature. But most of the day it was too hot, and with my tank top and shorts I was still slightly sweaty.

I had fun with my game and shows, but there was nothing special today. Just a regular day. Hopefully things will cool down and be normal again soon.

Day 5183 (V:907) - 9/9

Finally starting to cool

Today things are maybe finally starting to cool down. The morning was pretty hot, but in the library I went through phases of having all my layers on, or just having my tank top and shorts on. When I left it said the weather was in the high 70s, which is probably 10-15F cooler than it had been at that time in recent days. I think it will still take through the weekend to truly cool down. But it looks like things are finally starting to cool.

I had strange dreams last night when I could sleep, but now all I remember is thinking that the weather felt like it used to when I would visit my grandparents in Phoenix. I remember several nights of being unable to sleep in the heat and hearing the fans running. But hopefully things will be cooler soon. Hopefully my brain will feel better soon. And hopefully I can make it to better days.

Day 5184 (V:908) - 9/10

Cooler

Today it is much cooler. It's weird that a few days ago it was hitting over 110F and today it maybe got as hot as the 80s. It's been kind of icky because there were gray rain clouds, which made things pretty humid.

My cold has been very bad today too. There was a lot of congestion, rough throat, and some sneezing. For a few hours I had a pretty bad headache and a bit of dizziness. Thankfully that has past and I am just back to congestion and overall fatigue. I tried taking a decongestant and allergy pill, but they did nothing.

I started the day pretty sad. Just before waking up I had a bad dream. In the dream there was a girl that was flirting with me, I flirted back, and we were having a good time on kind of a date. At one point she climbed a pole to a roof cover and changed into a cat with wings and flew away. Other people who worked at her work where we were said I wasn't supposed to find out magic existed. I started to do some magic to show them it was ok and I could, but they tried to capture me, so I tried to fly away to escape. (It took me years to get to where I could fly in dreams and I still have trouble getting more than about

20 feet off the dream ground.) I don't remember much of the dream, just a lot of feelings of panic, and sadness at various loss when waking up. And that sadness and loss lingered.

I did do a bit of a special something with some guildies in my mmo in the morning, but I only did my shooter very briefly due to not feeling great. I spent maybe twice as much time as normal just being restful and watching shows. I hope I feel better soon, but today overall was pretty ok.

Day 5185 (V:909) - 9/11

Rain

Today the odd mugginess turned to actual rain. It wasn't a very long rain, probably only 10 minutes, but with how hot it's been these days it feels pretty crazy.

I did have a pretty good time with my games, though I played a bit less than usual. I am still blown away by how amazing they look running at fast and solid frame rates. It's such a change from what I was used to with my 9-year-old system.

There really wasn't much else to my day. I found a couple more pre-cooked items to try to eat, so I guess that is good. It's a kind of chicken, so I'm not sure it's really all that different from the shredded thing they do that I have from time to time.

I have been speaking to a professor for one of the two classes and they said they would give me an add code for sure. It is a sometimes on campus class, so if I get both I should be on campus to micro a few times a week, so that is more than nothing. I have probably gained a lot more weight than I think, so I have no clue when that will really improve, especially with things being closed and further limiting my eating options.

I'm still a bit sick feeling, but more-so today I feel pretty sad. Some shows I've watched lately have talked and dealt with a lot of death, which always makes me worry about myself. 😞

But I try my best. I try to hang on. And I try to stay hopeful for the future.

Day 5186 (V:910) - 9/12
Not feeling great

Today I'm still not feeling great. I am congested and headachy and still have some fatigue. I'm pretty tired too. The weather is reasonable though, and I got a shower, so I feel ok. Hopefully today will be a good day.

Edit: I just found out a game service is doing a free month. Which is crazy because there are two newish games I've had on my wish list since they came out I can play for free. Hopefully I'll have time to do that.

Day 5187 (V:911) - 9/13
Hopefully ok Tuesday

Today I don't know what will happen or what to hope for. I've been very stressed and sad lately, so hopefully that will pass and today will be an ok day.

Week 742

Day 5188 (V:912) - 9/14 **Still sick feeling**

Today I'm still pretty sick feeling. I still am pretty congested in my nose, throat, and lungs, had a few sneezes, my eyes and ears hurt, and feel overall fatigue. I'm a bit extra hungry too, but that seemingly has happened a bit lately, so I'm not sure if that's the cold or not.

I guess today was pretty good. Nothing special happened in my mmo, but I did do a very fancy thing in my shooter. The people were friendly and nice too, which isn't always the case, so that was a nice surprise.

I also have temporary access to a game service until the 10th of October, so I'm checking out a game I had on my wish list since it launched. It's pretty good, but for some reason, even though it's a single player game, they won't let you play offline. Which is completely stupid and means I would have no interest in buying it, since that cuts out around 15 hours a week I could otherwise play offline. And when I do play, it means I'm using time that I could otherwise be spending in my mmo or shooter, since they are only playable online.

I guess overall today was pretty good, even though I feel pretty sick and not great overall.

Day 5189 (V:913) - 9/15 **Calm**

Today I still don't feel very great. I have that odd fever chill feeling that is only about 15% of full intensity, so that is the most odd. There weren't any sneezes today that I recall, just congestion, fatigue, a touch of dizziness, and still some throat roughness. Oh, there is also a weird thing going on with my blood circulation. For whatever reason, I can pinch a thing, or move wrong, and my arm or leg will go to sleep very quickly and be slow to wake up.

I had fun with my games, though I spent half of my play time in the one I'm on the fence about since I only have it for a month. It seems unlikely I'd have time to finish, so I really wonder if it's worth my time. Especially since I'm much more interested in playing single player games in my offline time.

I guess I survived the day ok, but I hope I recover more from my cold soon.

Day 5190 (V:914) - 9/16

Floater and cracked lips

Today I am very bothered by minor things. There is a floater thing in my right eye, often dead center of where I am looking. I guess it's been there a few weeks now. I looked it up online and I think it said it can be there something like 6 weeks as long as several months. Some days it's more to the side, but not today. I wish it would go away. 😞

Since I've been sick my top lip has been cracked. I don't know if it's related. It hasn't really bothered me until the past few days. I don't know why it's happening. This has only happened to me two or three times in my entire life. I did find some lip stuff in my car when I came back in the evening. I knew I had some, but didn't know where, but when I got to my car it was popped half way out of the center arm rest. To my surprise it is still good. It must be about four years old, so I'm shocked it's still working as new.

Things were extremely quiet today. There were only two others in my guild on my mmo, so there was no chat. I only played my shooter for a little bit, but really no one ever talks there. And the library was effectively empty until probably around 2 PM. And after that there were still pretty much only 2 people per table and a few others. So, very quiet all day.

I guess I had a good day. But it seems something is always holding me down, big and small. Today my mind worried about what life would be like without all these worries and troubles. I couldn't imagine it. Hopefully someday I will find out, and I can hang on until then.

Day 5191 (V:915) - 9/17

Whanged head

Today I whanged my head pretty badly. I set my backpack on the ground with the door open, something I basically never do, and when I turned back towards the car I smashed my head on the corner of the door with a loud 'whack crunch' sound. It still hurts a bit 9 hours later where it impacted. But weirdly there is no swelling or bruise, so I am thankful for that.

I forgot to bring in my lip stuff today, so it was pretty cracked and bothersome. But it actually may be getting a bit better. Now in the evening it doesn't feel as cracked, and I put some on when I got back to the car, and put it in my pocket so I don't forget again. It shouldn't be more than a few days to heal I'd think.

I guess I had an ok day today. I did a silly thing with my guildies in my mmo for about 30 minutes. I had fun in my shooter. And then I spent some time with 2 games I have for almost a month with the free service. I'm actually very glad I didn't buy them when they were new and I was very interested in them. In one game you are a Viking, and so to get resources you are raiding and killing monks. I've done it maybe four times so far, and I'm not sure how comfortable I am doing that. Unlike previous games these aren't bad guys, you are the invader, you are the one killing them for no reason. So I may not continue it. In the other game it's basically an alternate history world with 70s technology in a South American type area. Even though there are some pretty wild things, I'm not sure I'll continue that one either. At its core it's basically a modern shooter, which I'm never into. So this preview time has been very helpful, as I'm not sure I'll continue or buy either, even if they were on sale and I could play them offline.

But it's evening now. I am trying to be calm and recover. I still feel pretty sick from the cold and not great overall, so hopefully I can rest and make it to better days.

Day 5192 (V:916) - 9/18

Raining

Today there wasn't anything special in my games or job searches. Both were pretty regular in terms of what was expected and seen.

The weather is very different though. Last night it poured rain for maybe 30 minutes. And off and on all day it's been rainy. I guess the 100F weather is fully gone and now we are hitting the rainy time start about a month sooner than we normally would. But I do like the rain very much if I am somewhere safe and warm.

But today was ok I guess, and so I try to continue to hang on.

Day 5193 (V:917) - 9/19

Sniffles

Today seems ok so far. Rain has still been off and on, but it seems to be clearing for the moment. I don't feel too bad, but I have a lot of sniffles. My throat isn't too rough and my lip is still cracked, but not overly dry. My eyes and ears still hurt, so I'm still not great feeling. But I did get a hot shower, so that is something.

Hopefully my time at the library will be calm and quiet and I can be restful and make it to better days.

Day 5194 (V:918) - 9/20

Maybe rainy Tuesday

Today I didn't know what to expect, but it may be raining again. Hopefully things will be calm and quiet in the library and I can continue to recover from my cold. I'm worried about bill money. I'm shorter this year than ever before, so things will be quite a struggle. But I have to do my best with choices, and try to continue to hang on.

Week 743

Day 5195 (V:919) - 9/21 Heart feels bad

Today my heart feels bad. It has for a while now. 😞 I'm pretty worried, but there isn't much I can do about it. Getting back on blood pressure meds, if the medicine is still the free prescription, would still take about \$300 since the appointments cost a little and the tests that are required aren't covered. Hopefully I'll get both classes at school this quarter and I'll be able to micro three times a week, with an extra day stopping by to shower and micro in the morning. So far only Tuesday is confirmed, and it's listed as a hybrid class, so I think it's just that one day.

I guess today was ok. There was about an hour the connection was almost completely unusable, but other than that I got to play and be restful. I got myself some snack chips, so that helped cheer me up a bit, though it is unlikely it will help my heart at all. I do have some old multi-vitamins I guess I could try.

But today I tried to hang on as best as I could. And hopefully I can make it to better days.

Day 5196 (V:920) - 9/22 Operation: Save grasshopper

Today started with a bit of a surprise. I was in the shower and saw a black shape on the ground when I turned around. I thought, "Eew. Gross. Another cockroach." And pushed water at it getting ready to push more to flood it down a nearby drain. But to my surprised it hopped out of the way. I examined the head and back legs more closely and it was a grasshopper. I said, "Oh no. You aren't supposed to be in here. Let's get you out safely." I carefully scooted my wet feet over to the paper towels to get a couple to scoop them up. I had to chase them a bit, but eventually got them and gently closed the paper towels around them so they wouldn't hop out. I did the short walk through the locker

room carefully since my feet are flat and I was wet and could slip easily. Not surprisingly when I opened the side door no one was around. I gently put them down, and I was happy to see them hop away ok from the carrying to be safe outside. 😊

I guess the rest of the day was pretty regular. Either no jobs to be found, or very far from my area. And nothing special happened in my games.

My heart still feels... bad... I forgot the vitamins yesterday, so I set them up in the car drink holder to remind me. I doubt they will help, but you never know. I expect the issue is increased strain from poor health, bad blood pressure, and overall stress from all the sad things. I'm trying to do a very very light start to working out to try to lose the weight I've gained lately, but it's more likely changing to micro food in the coming weeks will help my health more overall. I have quite a bit of food card money saved since the covid increases, so hopefully I can look at some better options. Though micro food options don't really get great, especially with some of the changes companies have made in the past couple years due to various shortages.

But today I tried to hang on as best as I could. And hopefully I can continue to hang on, emotionally and physically, to make it through to better days.

Day 5197 (V:921) - 9/23

Medical issues

Today I have some medical issues going on. I woke up with a bit of swelling in my jaw, where it was on that one side and my lymph node a few weeks ago. I must have poked it with something yesterday to irritate it. The swelling was barely visible, and it was 90% back down to normal within a few hours of being at the library, so it didn't really bother me like I worried it would. But I still have that 10-15% intensity chills feeling all over, and my forehead feels a bit warm. I'm still feeling sniffly and sneezy, and have a bit of headache, but not so bad I felt I needed to take pills. My food is running straight through me though. Not in a bad emergency way, just in a my body is processing it almost immediately and then wanting to get it out way.

I had a pretty good time with my games. The streamer I watch was doing an all day thing, so there was extra going on with that. And right before I left they did a game with 'the community', so some of us from chat got to play a silly game, so that was fun.

Overall I guess today was ok, and I hung on as best as I could.

Day 5198 (V:922) - 9/24

Snap goes the zipper

Today my zipper on one of my boots snapped as I closed it. The handle part broke off. I stopped by the ex-garage to get a wrench, figuring I could trade an 'extra' backpack one, but I guess not. I guess the boot loop is closed somehow, so I couldn't pry it open and swap to a new one. Thankfully I had an extra ring on my key ring, so I removed the keys and used that.

I still feel pretty off in a kind of yucky sick way today. I am still very exhausted feeling overall, had a few sneezes, and though I didn't really notice until now, had ear ringing all day, my jaw has been clenched, and there has been a bit of a headache. I guess it must just be constant prolonged extreme stress at this point. Hopefully I can get both classes and feel somewhat balanced and get some micro meals to hopefully help balance things a bit.

Well, as always all I can do is try to rest and recover as best as I can. And hopefully I can make it to better days.

Day 5199 (V:923) - 9/25

Old game, meh

Today I spent quite a while in an old game I haven't played since the previous new laptop died. Though by that point I'd pretty much dropped to 10 or fewer hours per week already. It is getting an update that will streamline some things, improve crafting, add a new weapon type, and a new zone that's big with a new dungeon, all for free, in about a month. I never hit max because it was so incredibly grindy. Once you get to max level,

the gear score grind becomes pretty much unbearable if you are a soloer like me. I thought I'd go back to see if I could get that higher before the new stuff. I don't know how much I'll continue doing that. I spent hours and found no dungeon groups. Pretty much everyone is doing all the super high end stuff that I don't qualify for. And since it is a game with tiny servers, level based play, and no scaling of content, there are only a small handful of people interested in the content for my range. So any progression will apparently still be a pretty horrible grind until that change.

I still feel a bit off. The multi-vitamin doesn't seem to be improving anything so far. I'm still hopeful being at school and eating better will help. It will certainly make my tummy and brain happier to eat something closer to real food instead of lunchmeat or a few ready to eat things.

I guess overall today was more good than bad, and I continue to try to hang on.

Day 5200 (V:924) - 9/26

Theoretical fist day

Today is theoretically my first day of class. Well, I mean it is, but I may or may not get to keep the class. I'm on the wait list, so all I can do is show up and see if anyone has recently dropped, or drops on that first day.

I got a shower, so that was nice. There are a couple of hours to have fun and eat lunch before class. I'm a bit nervous, but I think that's more on if I get the class or not than anything else. I really need two classes to keep financial aid off my back about loans. I guess it has been 2 years since I took a class though. I wouldn't say things feel normal, as everyone has to wear makes, say spread out, and I'm no longer a T.A. (Though that last year I wasn't anyways.) Plus school is a ghost town compared to before. I still wish everything were the way it was and I had a permanent position helping students. But with the school refusing to allow me to take a paid T.A. position, it seems very unlikely I'd get anything higher than that with no way to get my foot in the door.

I still feel so very lost and alone in life. 😞 But I try to keep hanging on.

Day 5201 (V:925) - 9/27

Theoretical second day

Today is theoretically my second class day. It's the one class I'm actually enrolled in, so if Monday doesn't work out this would be my one day on campus with a class. I'd have to decide what my schedule would be for on campus and not if that were the case. It would be strange to be on an effectively dead and empty campus all day with no class. I mean, I did come by twice a week to shower during summer, and got micro food during the first part when I could, but there really wasn't a way I could stay on campus, so it didn't feel so strange to just divert there for that.

I guess the day will be what it is, and I can only see what it may be once this first class week passes. And I try my best to hang on and make it through.

Week 744

Day 5202 (V:926) - 9/28 Part ghost town

Today I am very exhausted. I guess it's just for having class and thinking differently putting extra stress on my brain. But today and yesterday I've been exhausted and had headaches. The weird heart and chill-like feelings are easing up a lot, so it does seem like that was definitely poor food diet related. I've decided, at least for now, to just stay on campus Thursdays instead of doing a micro in the morning, immediately eating it at like 9:30, and then getting a micro for dinner that I know would last through the day. Staying means I have a lot more options and no stress about eating.

I've discovered the school is only part ghost town. It depends on where you are, like near the pool when I take a shower in the morning it's a ghost town. And early when I did my writing in the cafeteria it was pretty empty. But as it got closer to 10 it got to be 15-20% full (0-2 people per most tables.) It actually got quite loud, uncomfortably so at some parts. I had to put my game and shows up at 70 volume where I normally have it at 20. I think a lot of that was first day excitement though. I expect in a week it will calm down a lot.

Over near my class it was somewhat busy as well. People were walking around quite a bit. But only maybe half of what it used to be, at most. And my old department floor is effectively dead. I think I saw two classes running at the same time at most, compared to what used to be as many as six. And there are apparently zero evening classes in the old department. I've walked through when I left pretty much each day and the labs are always closed and dark, and there is no one around. Though I think they aren't opening any of the three labs on the floor at all. I've never seen them open or lit during the day when I've gone to check for the professor I used to chat with. His schedule seems different this time, so it may be tough to see him. And my two classes are over in the art department area, which is a different area.

I guess my classes seem like they should be pretty fun. Though there is no one even close to my age. Maybe one student in each class is around their mid 30s, but other

than that everyone seems in the 18-22 range. I guess it makes sense with no night classes and so many classes online now.

But I guess I made it through this first class week. And I'll see how I settle in as we go through next week. And as always, I'll just try to hang on as best as I can.

Day 5203 (V:927) - 9/29

A call hello

Today had an unexpected hello. I started with a shower and decided to just stay on campus on Thursdays after that. The morning passed pretty normally, but in the early afternoon there was one of those religious people bothering students asking for money. I know security will bounce them out, so I went around and down the building to report them because they are only supposed to be in the outside areas. Had that not happened in the 1-3 minute span of time that it did, I would have missed a chance meeting. On my way outside and around the building I heard someone calling out 'Eric'. I looked around and noticed on the upper walking area was the professor I chat with sometimes. I looked for him Monday, when he usually does class, but then checked his schedule online and found Tuesdays after my class there's a tiny window I could visit, but forgot to do so. So we chatted for a quick minute and he said he'd been looking for me and wondering if I was around to chat. 😊 So it was nice to be recognized and said hi to.

Looking through the film classes it looks like he and only one other professor are left who know me. The other professors are all ones who are totally new this quarter, or who were new just before the apocalypse and I never met. I even finally saw a new professor is moving into the professor's office who I used to T.A. for. So the floor seems super weird now.

I guess the day was pretty good, though it did get pretty noisy after 11. It started much quieter, so I do think a lot of things are settling down. I guess there are more groups than in previous years though. That may be because people have had to be in isolation the past few years and didn't like it.

I still don't know what my future holds, but even though I don't feel a part of things due to my age, and no one really talks to me, a few have said things in online

discussions to me, and a few saw me playing in the cafeteria and said things, so I guess I do sort of feel on the outside edge of activity and hope again. I do feel recharged and back on the right track being able to be creative again. But I still wonder if I'll be able to find my way to that better life someday. 😞

Day 5204 (V:928) - 9/30

Upset tummy

Today my tummy has been pretty upset. It started I guess yesterday afternoon with a lot of gas. But at around 11 PM it hit hard in my tummy. It had that same kind of gas feeling, punched feeling, starving for days, kind of pain it's had a few other times in recent months. It's evening now and it's still there, though only maybe at 25% intensity. I haven't felt good though all day. 😞

It was kind of nice to be at the library today though. It was very calm and quiet in comparison to the chaos at the cafeteria. Hopefully tonight I can be restful since the pain kept me up until at least 2 AM, and after that what rest I did get was wracked with pain and low-level chills and sweating. 😞

Day 5205 (V:929) - 10/1

Big idiot and crying

Today started off pretty good. I got to be in the ex-garage last night and sleep in this morning and to stay a bit during the day. It got me 10 hours of sleep, so that helped recover from the other night with all the pain.

But I am a very big idiot. I'd had my keyboard cable set to the exact length it needs to be on a desk, so extremely short. I was moving position, crossing my legs over, and one caught on the cable, yanking it, and my keyboard fell onto the laptop, pushing over and into the screen. I immediately started freaking out and crying because I could very easily see scratches on the monitor. Even though I knew it was covered by the

special accidental coverage, and maybe the general coverage for a year, and the special 3 following years I paid for after that, it still took about 10 minutes to calm down and stop crying and freaking out. 😞 I put in an RMA and it was immediately approved and I'll drop it off Monday morning. But that means (assuming nothing further terrible happens to it along the way) I'll be out my new laptop for three or four weeks. Though I am hopeful a miracle occurs and it's closer to only two. The company's repair spot is just across the bay from me, maybe a 30 minute drive, so hopefully the shipping will only take a day or two instead of its normal week. (If my car could drive more than a couple of miles I'd probably even just drive it over myself.) So I'm hoping that means it will be closer to only two weeks out with the close shipping distance.

I guess I have to make a new rule of no mechanical keyboard unless it can be fully flat, not moving, on a desk. I knew it was heavy, probably as heavy as the entire laptop. I knew it was sharp, as it's popped a soda before in my backpack. So, upon reflection, I guess I was waving around a sharp object dangerously close to my laptops all this time when I am not at a desk.

I am brokenhearted that it happened. 😞 It makes me feel like I am incapable of having anything nice or getting a break. It feels like everything that I get that is nice will be broken or lost or ruined, at least partly, in some way. And even though I know it should be fixed without issue, and if for some reason it can't be it is not a dead or unusable system, I can't help but feel helpless, and like my terrible situation is not only terrible overall, but that everything I can manage to get that is nice will be lost or ruined because of it. 😞

Day 5206 (V:930) - 10/2

Sad boxing up day

Today is sad boxing up day. As I expected, most of the day I have been very down about needing to box up and lose my new laptop for 2-4 weeks. I just got it. 😞 I am extremely glad it should be covered. I would have to learn to live with the scratch if it's not though. It's more than I thought though, with about three visible scratch points with an

almost invisible constant scratch down probably 75% of the monitor. The three marks are just the deepest points. It's supposed to be covered with the new accidental coverage the company has been doing for about the past 1.5 years, so I will try to stay calm, hopeful, and hopefully it will come back quickly, and it will have a nice new screen when it does. (Though there would be zero reason to change the other parts and it not return, especially things like the hard drive.)

I guess, other than my expected depression all day about the loss, it was a pretty good day. I didn't do anything special in my mmo, but I am peeking back at the old one that was too grindy. Some things have been changed to be a lot less grindy, and with the free expansion coming soon, there will be a patch that supposedly also makes crafting way less grindy, which was my biggest gripe. I have no idea if the old laptop can run it though. There can be some daily progress that I can do solo if the old laptop can run it though, so I won't be at a full loss there.

I guess now is an ok time to lose the new laptop for a while though. The classes are pretty much physical production work, so my old laptop likely will do fine with whatever digital stuff needs to be done (like take a picture of it for submitting for grading.) And while my two main games will run slower and not be as enjoyable, I ran them for years on the old laptop, so I'm sure a few weeks more will do just fine. The only new game I'm looking at isn't out until late November, and I don't have money for it, so the laptop would definitely be back in plenty of time if I can get the money for it.

As always, my sad life seems to have taken my nice thing. All I can do is hope everything goes ok, goes quickly, and I get my new laptop back very soon.

Day 5207 (V:931) - 10/3 **Predicted Monday**

Today is a predicted Monday. Since there is the boxing up of the new laptop, and I want people to be sure to see everything ok on Monday, I am writing this Sunday night, so I can post it right when I get settled Monday through my games/web stuff on my M.2 via external housing through the old laptop.

I have my new Monday class today and a little time to work on homework and play. I don't know what to expect for the day, but I think we are doing more painting and such. It seems like it should be a pretty fun class, though I have some guilt about not having any supplies and needing to borrow everything.

Hopefully the new laptop being dropped off first thing in the morning gets it to the repair center across the bay super fast, and it will be returned very soon.

Day 5208 (V:932) - 10/4

Other class

Today is my Tuesday class. I think we are doing another kind of drawing. I'm super bad at it so far. I have proportions that are way off. It's almost like I'm drawing blindfolded. The professor is pretty funny, exciting, and fun though. I kind of wish it was in person Thursday too. But it's fine just being the one day. It means though I may have a few hours of homework outside of class, but I can do the work whenever. Which I guess is good to know I have that flexibility.

Hopefully the new laptop will come back very quickly, and I can be ok on the old one until it does.

Week 745

Day 5209 (V:933) - 10/5 A mile in my shoes

Today it feels like I've walked a mile. For some reason, immediately after I got up my ankles started hurting. In a weird way too, as it's the front and sides. I have no clue why or what caused it.

I also had some more extreme tummy pain the other night, but I may have tracked down what caused it. It may be an odd food allergy. I was a bit hungry during the night, so I had some of my favorite cookies. They have a mixed box of chocolate chip, chocolate chocolate chip, and honey. I think maybe, and I'll probably forget, it looks like I may be allergic or super sensitive, to the honey ones. After eating only about 10 total cookies, so maybe 3-4 were honey, I started to feel that same kind of pain, gas, punched, starving feeling in my tummy. Thankfully I only had a few, and felt it pretty quickly, so it wasn't as bad as the other night, But, that may have been what triggered the mega pain about a week ago. I wish there were some way to test it though without eating more. I thought about finding some to put on my skin, but I don't think skin and food allergies would react the same.

I was right about the package shipping time too for my scratched laptop. My system did indeed arrive at the facility roughly 24 hours after I sent it. That means, if an absolute miracle happens I could have it back sometime next week, within my expected two week time.

Speaking of that, the old laptop is doing really rough. It is having a bit of a tough time connecting in the cafeteria. Both Monday and Tuesday it barely could connect, and my tablet next to me had no problem connecting, so I know it wasn't the signal.

In good news though I can keep up with my mmo and shooter dailies and not really miss out on anything while the new laptop is out to be fixed. I even downloaded the mmo I stopped playing to see if that could actually run at all, and to my surprise, at the lowest settings, it runs... ok-ish. And today I tested a dungeon, and while it ran a bit rough, it was ok enough that I can do them too. So that is great. The free expansion comes

out on the 18th, so if my new laptop doesn't make it back to me before then I won't miss out on anything.

I seem well liked by the professors in my two classes too, so that's good. I noticed a lot of people out taking pictures today during the class break, and as I expected the photography professor I had was teaching that class. She actually recognized me and waved hi as I was walking over to her (though I was smiling, so she may have seen that.) She said hi and asked how I was doing, so that was nice.

I guess much to catch up on today, but overall being on my old laptop feels pretty rough. I do wonder if it's not too big though. Heh, on my new one it feels a touch too small, now things feel a touch too big. But classes seem good, I won't miss out on any game things, so I guess overall things are ok.

Day 5210 (V:934) - 10/6

Too sleepy

Today I am too sleepy. I was expecting to do a bit of work on a project, but I couldn't sleep last night until about 3 for some unknown reason, so I barely got any sleep and I'm totally exhausted. My brain could only react, not truly function.

I guess I had a pretty good day, but the old laptop had quite the struggle. It was really rough connecting most of the day. My game and stuff I was watching probably lost connection at least three times an hour. Thankfully it wasn't running too slowly. It was just having trouble staying connected, so I could still do stuff at a somewhat normal speed. But at one point when I was just watching a stream it had that lockup again. And another time when playing. So it is really starting to show its age.

Sadly no news on my new laptop being fixed yet. It shows as waiting for repair, which isn't too surprising as the estimate for that was 7-10 days. So I could be looking at early next week start if that is an absolute minimum time. It should be a super easy and fast fix though since they are just changing the screen. There's really nothing to troubleshoot or diagnose, which is usually what takes the bulk of time on repair.

But outside of being exhausted, not getting to do the school stuff I thought I would, struggling with the connection, I guess today was pretty ok.

Day 5211 (V:935) - 10/7

Maybe help next week

Today was pretty basic. An old friend came to visit. That was really it for the day. She wants to help with car stuff, so we are maybe going to visit her mechanic next weekend.

I have had a pretty big headache today. I'm not sure why. And I'm very tired. Sadly the new laptop still shows as waiting, so I'll stay hopeful for a return sometime next week, but at this point it seems unlikely. 😞

As always all I can do is try to hang on.

Day 5212 (V:936) - 10/8

Started ok, went kinda bad

Today is middling ok. It was pretty good when it started. I did my mmo dailies and that went fine. Then in the mmo I've maybe returned to I had a super quick dungeon run that took about 30 minutes to finish, but then the next dungeon I did took hours because the people kept failing.

My ankles still oddly hurt. And whatever caused my dry lips seems to be back. I'll have to remember to grab the stuff to put on them later. I did mostly finish an assignment that I have due soon, so that is on track.

I guess overall it was just an ok day, and so I try to continue to hang on.

Day 5213 (V:937) - 10/9

Blinking light

Today and the past few days, the old laptop power/battery light has been blinking. But not all the time, just once I've started a game. I think it's because it's going to reduce the power to the battery, so it runs a check, and that's when it notices it's not charging right. It pretty much always shows 97% charge. So I think it's definitely an issue with the

charging part on the laptop, not the battery. It will be fine if the battery does lose charge and eventually run out as long as it's plugged in, and it's just an emergency battery use, so it's fine. But it does make me concerned about the laptop's age and its death.

I guess other than that the day was ok. I was disappointed because the bandwidth was garbage, so I didn't get to do what I wanted in my games. But that did eventually push me out, and I did get to finish some school stuff I needed to do, so it worked out ok.

So a bit of worry about the old laptop today, and so I try to continue to be hopeful my new one returns soon.

Day 5214 (V:938) - 10/10

Dreaming of love

Today is starting kind of sad. I mean, I'm hopeful class will go well and it should be pretty fun, but last night I had a very nice dream.

It's mostly faded now, but in the dream someone had said someone in a guild in a game I was in wanted to meet (in real life). She would take me to her, but she had to be isolated because she had a special condition. We went to some upstairs private room above like a bar? It was maybe 20x20 and had some tables and a couch and was very home like. The person was a bit younger than me, but she was a very beautiful blonde. She and I got along instantly, and started holding hands, and very quickly wound up snuggled in each other's arms across the small table. I felt very deeply in a mutually infatuated love. We stayed there talking just a little for what felt like an hour. The chaperone person asked if she was ok with me, and she was very ok with me, so the chaperone person left. We were alone and moved to the couch in front of the fire place and were snuggling. We were there for what felt like about another hour, and then a friend of hers appeared who she need to talk to. They talked a short distance away, but I still felt loved. But then panic started to set in as I noticed the recordings I was making on my tablet had disappeared. I realized in the dream that I was in a dream. I tried desperately to do things to give myself a sign to remember her after I woke up, like marking my hand with a fat blue paint maker. But the more I tried to get back to her, the more it slipped away.

At this point all I remember is her slightly wavy blonde hair and her smile. The feeling of love is gone. And I don't know if I'll ever be loved again.

Day 5214 (V:939) - 10/11 **Mystery Tuesday**

Today I'm sure there will be fun things to do in class and hopefully an interesting homework. Other than that I don't know what to expect. I may visit the professor I chat with after class, but that will probably be it for my day. I'm still waiting for word on my new laptop being fixed and returned, and all I can do is hope it comes quickly.

Week 746

Day 5216 (V:940) - 10/12 Curly fries

Today I was very hungry so I decided to use the last of the cash I had in my account to get some curly fries. They were super yummy, and about a dollar less than I remember. It's been years since I had them. I wish I had a bit of flexibility to get one cooked meal at least every other week there. That would be huge. 😞

I lost a bunch of sleep last night. Probably about 40% of what I would have otherwise gotten. I don't really know why. That may be part of why I was so very hungry and got the fries.

Today was pretty fun in class and I got a tiny bit ahead. Though the morning was pretty rough as the old laptop kept lagging and I had to drop the group I was with and stopped playing. In the afternoon it was fine though.

I may have my new laptop back soon though. 😊 Today around 4 it started to show its status changed from waiting to diagnosing to being repaired. It still showed that about an hour later when I left, so I'm not sure if they will finish today. But if they finish tomorrow, and it gets packed and shipped tomorrow or Friday I should have it Friday or Saturday. If it's pushed to next week that would be pretty sad, as I wouldn't be able to immediately get it. I guess we'll see though. Hopefully the tracking shows more than just 'out for delivery' so I can wait outside for it once it's close.

But for now I still try to remain hopeful and continue to wait for better days.

Day 5217 (V:941) - 10/13 Must be parts

Today is a bit sad. I noticed my laptop still is showing being repaired after 24 hours. Even when I checked late in the day it showed that. And I just noticed there is an "estimated repair date" showing the 19th. 😞 Another entire week to finish? I guess they

must be waiting for a screen to be shipped to them. You'd think that would be the one they had most easily available in stock since it's used on the new models. So if that's correct it could still be 1.5 weeks before I get my new laptop back.

I don't think the friend will be helping with car stuff soon. Something came up this week, and with needing to wait for the laptop maybe next week, and Halloween the weekend after, we may not have an easy time to meet. She seems ok with waiting, but she also seems insistent on using her mechanic that's super far for me instead of one local that I could just take a bus to do all my normal things.

Well, as always, things are out of my hands and I just have to wait. 😞 I'll try to stay hopeful the laptop estimate is incorrect and it will be much sooner, but it seems unlikely to be soon.

Day 5218 (V:942) - 10/14

So much lost time

Today I have been extremely sad about so much lost time. I checked my laptop status a few times, and around 1:30 the status changed to 'customer damage, not covered.' So I panicked and spent the next 2 hours in chat online with them about why it was refused, and why was my special coverage not covering it. The very short version is the special coverage is a onetime use thing (for damage caused by accident by the user, not a mechanical failure). I guess when the status was changed they were supposed to have sent me an email, but I guess I never got it, so the chat person had to re-send it. So I had to 'opt in' to that (otherwise the repair would have cost \$350, or I'd have to just take it back.) But then it showed another 7 days after that to be repaired. And if that's the case I will have been out my new laptop for nearly a full month.

And to make things worse, in the time it took that person to answer my chat, I ran some research online and found out that scratches like that (which are just surface damage, not damage to the lights underneath) could probably be repaired by gently rubbing some petroleum jelly on it, which there are small \$2 bottles at the store nearby. If I had known that when I scratched it I would have tried that instead of losing weeks with my new laptop. But even though it's a risk to use my special onetime coverage now, I

decided to use it, since I want to be 100% sure it's repaired. Plus, my old laptop is 9 years old and it has survived a few accidental spills and a drop, and the last one was years ago, so it seems unlikely that kind of damage would happen to my new one in the remaining 9 months the coverage would last.

So, a very stressful day. A very sad day. Lots of sadness that I probably didn't have to send it in for repairs at all. And now possibly another week or even two counting weekends before I finally get it back. A much rougher time hanging on today, but all I can do is continue to try to hang on. 😞

Day 5219 (V:943) - 10/15

Old laptop is too old

Today I was very happy to get in to a weekend test of the game I want to get that comes out in about a month. But as I expected, my old laptop is too old. It is, in fact, so old that it couldn't even start the game. It would just crash on launch.

My new laptop still shows as being repaired. I am a little worried about using the onetime special coverage, but this guarantees the screen will be fixed, and any damage I didn't see would not be a concern.

I guess I had a pretty good day though. I did my main mmo for a bit in the morning. Then just took a break for a bit watching stuff. Then got into a group that ran dungeons three times in a row in the mmo I'm casually returned to. It was nice advancement overall, but no new loot to speak of.

I'm pretty super tired. Last night, and I think the night before, I was woken up with pretty extreme tooth pain. 😞 I'm not sure if it's my lower right wisdom tooth or another. It feels undamaged by corruption, but it wiggles quite a bit from side to side. I have a very vague memory of another one of my wisdom teeth doing that a few years ago. Checking my top left one it's a bit wiggly too, though not as much. When I was very young the dentist wanted to remove a couple of perfectly good non-wisdom teeth so my jaw would have room. So losing them, if I do, probably isn't a big loss since my jaw is very small. It's probably what caused a lot of the damage though as I grew up, as they

kept smashing into each other. But teeth will always be a very embarrassing and sad topic for me. 😞

I guess other than that today was a pretty good day.

Day 5220 (V:944) - 10/16

Tired day

Today I am pretty tired. I slept ok, but the tooth pain woke me up a couple of times last night. It's easily managed during the day with pain meds, but when I'm asleep those will wear off.

I guess besides being sleepy, today has been a pretty casual day. I got a special food for lunch, so that was different, but other than that it's been a pretty regular day.

The laptop still shows as being repaired with a 19th estimate. I really don't know why it's taking so long unless it's parts. Videos online show you can change a screen in about an hour if you have tools and know what to do. And again, I'm pretty miffed I found out recently I probably could have repaired the scratch on my own and not lost these weeks. It all still makes me feel like I'm being extra punished for having a bad life. 😞

Day 5221 (V:945) - 10/17

Another predicted Monday

Today Monday is being predicted. I've been working off of my new M.2 in an external housing since it's where my most recent site stuff is, and it's safer to not take it to school. Not for school reasons really, just that I may forget I have it with everything going on and it may get replaced, or smashed at the bottom of things, and that would be catastrophic.

Hopefully they finish repairs on the new laptop today. I'll update things if they do. But until then all I can do is wait.

Day 5222 (V:946) - 10/18

Predicted Tuesday

Today I don't know what to expect. Hopefully I had fun in my Monday class and will today too. And if the new laptop hasn't been fixed and shipped yet, hopefully it will be today. Oh, I do guess the mmo I'm maybe returning to casually gets its new content today, so that should be fun, as long as it's not completely jammed up with people and the queue to get in is so long I can't get in.

But hopefully today will be ok. Hopefully I'll have my laptop back. And hopefully I can continue to hang on until better days.

Week 747

Day 5223 (V:947) - 10/19 A long wait

Today the long wait for my laptop return is finally over. I did wind up waiting the morning hours in my car. But while I was having a good time and being creative in my class it arrived at the ex-house. It actually didn't take too long to get things updated and ready to play.

And with its return and no movement on the dead laptop, I decided to wipe the dead laptop's drive (before putting the external drive housing into storage.) So, maybe at least I can get a little bit back from selling that separately. I may have to take a nearly full loss on the rest. The corpse has gone through two cycles of trying to be sold (at I think 14 days each?) and hasn't. When this current cycle ends I'll pull out the battery and power supply and try to sell them individually. Maybe even the ram as well. Maybe since those could be used by multiple systems those would sell individually. Though with the monitor having scratches I may try and see if that scratch repair method works and use it as a test before trying to sell that part again).

The weather has gone back to crazy hot again. I was almost sweating hot when outside at school walking around. I guess it will stay that way through the weekend before it starts to cool down again.

Now that the new laptop is back I can try out two games I've been waiting to get for free. The new laptop came with a free month of Xbox Game Pass, and I had been waiting for one of the games to release before using it. People say that one only takes 5-8 hours to finish, so that should easily be done. I've been waiting years for it to come out, as it has a visual art style heavily influenced by an artist I like, so visually at least it should be amazing.

I guess though it was a rough start, today turned out pretty good.

Day 5224 (V:948) - 10/20

So sleepy

Today I am pretty exhausted. I don't know why, but I couldn't sleep until about 3 in the morning last night. I guess outside of that it was a good day. I'm super happy to have my new laptop back. I'd forgotten how super fast it is, and with nicer colors. I probably should have done some homework stuff today, but I'm tired, and I have plenty of time to do it later.

Hopefully tonight I can sleep better, and continue to hang on.

Day 5225 (V:949) - 10/21

Ok day

Today was a pretty ok day. There morning went a little off, so I didn't start playing until a bit later than usual. But I had a good time in my games. I got a special food too, so that was nice.

As always, I try to continue to hang on as best as I can.

Day 5226 (V:950) - 10/22

Worrying day

Today was a bit of a worrying day. In the early afternoon my top right pointy tooth felt very sharp, which it shouldn't be, as it's always been kind of a dull pyramid shape. Feeling it, the tip has come off, so it's very sharp, which feels like the doom of the tooth. Which is strange to say, since about 25% of the total of it has gone (the side facing the next front tooth has been gone.) But with all of my teeth I've lost, it's always been the tip, or a peak, that seemed to seal its doom. 😞

So I have been worried there will be more loss, terrible loss, before my sad journey is complete and I can get back to something resembling a normal life.

Other than that I guess the day was good. The new laptop is flying along and there was only the slightest wobble on the connection when I started playing, which was pretty quickly gone and then things were smooth after that.

I guess all I can do is continue to hope there is not too much loss; physically or emotionally, before I'm back to some kind of regular life. 😞

Day 5227 (V:951) - 10/23

Candies

Today was ok. The connection was stable and solid, so I got to play my games. I had shows to watch, but I guess I didn't really feel in the mood to watch any as it didn't cross my mind and I didn't check what I had.

I got candies for the people in my class today, which is very nice. Last year I didn't have class due to the online stuff. And the, I think, two years before that I couldn't afford it. This year I have plenty of monies, which is good as things seem overpriced.

So today was pretty good, though I still have my very sad things in the back of my mind. But I held on a little bit easier.

Day 5228 (V:952) - 10/24

Tired Mondy

Today I'm super tired. I again had a hard time sleeping last night for some reason. I lost a few hours of what should have been sleeping time to seemingly nothing. Hopefully I will have fun in class, and hopefully I can use some supplies to finish my project for my Tuesday class. (Since it only meets once a week it's tough to get supplies I need for the homeworks.) I think I'll feel ok later, but for now my sleepy self tries to hang on.

Day 5229 (V:953) - 10/25
Candy Tuesday

Today will be the first day I bring candies for the students. Hopefully everything is ok today. Hopefully I have a good time in class and got ok sleep. And hopefully I can continue to hang on.

Week 748

Day 5230 (V:954) - 10/26 Almost locked keys

Today I almost locked the keys in my car. I had stopped at school, took my keys out and put them in my pocket, and then remembered I wanted pictures of the dash for a project, and thought maybe the keys should be in the picture. Then, I got out of the car, locked the door, and closed it. Thankfully I did as I always do and unlocked the passenger side to get my stuff immediately after stopping. If I hadn't done that who knows how many hours I would have had to wait for my insurance people to come unlock it. I have extra keys in my backpack, but that was inside at the time so it wouldn't have helped.

The past couple of days were good. The kids were super surprised and happy that I had candy, so that was fun. I ate borderline too much each day, what with my being more sensitive to chocolate now I can't have a lot.

I am very exhausted today, but with the extra fun in class I'm hanging on ok.

Day 5231 (V:955) - 10/27 Ok day

Today was a pretty ok day. I played and was restful and watched a show. I remember the morning, then poof late afternoon, then time for dinner and needing to leave. Things passed pretty quickly.

I did eat two different foods today. One was ok, but I don't think it cooked right. The pasta felt stiff and dry. The other was yummy, but a bit too spicy for me, so it kind of wrecked my tummy.

I did get a notice saying my phone was suspended due to no money to pay the monthly recurring bill. It's only \$10 for 3 months, so it's a really good deal, but I don't have enough for important bills, and now that's taking a bit more away. I was really hoping to sell the dead laptop for a few hundred and be ok, but so far I've gotten nothing back for it. Probably this weekend I'll part it out, and hope I can sell the battery, ram, and

hard drive to at least get something back. Or maybe I'll give it one final try on a different sale site (as a whole unit.)

All I can do is continue to pray and hope help comes, and that I can hang on until it does.

Day 5232 (V:956) - 10/28

Sleepy day

Today I got to sleep in. I think I slept a total of maybe 12 hours, which seems crazy. I got some lunch meat I haven't had in a while and it feels very heavy and junky. Tomorrow I'll go get the cooked chicken fast food, so that should be better.

I only played online for a tiny bit today. I did some stuff for a mid-term I have coming up. And I'll play some single player stuff in a bit and then watch some shows.

I guess today was pretty ok. Though I feel kind of very sad. I think it's because my life feels pretty limited overall today. I'm in pretty poor health, and I had sad dreams last night that maybe stuck with me. In part I ran into my first love and we reconnected. (Over the years now and then I've tried to find her, but we aren't in the same circles anymore.) And in another part of the dream I met up with a childhood friend who I didn't remember. I was apparently at a film wrap party in L.A. and they happened to be at the same location. This friend said I could stay with them while I established a permanent home in the area. I've always thought I might be happy down there near creative people and a lot more opportunities for getting into film, or even theater, things. But it was just a dream. And the happy feelings I had then may never come to be.

But I try to continue to hang on. And I continue to do my best to feel and be ok.

Day 5233 (V:957) - 10/29

Loss

Today while eating dinner a piece of a tooth disappeared, hopefully not into my tummy. It was part of the outside, so my gum felt a bit odd at its loss. It wasn't surprising,

as the other side of it has probably lost 40% of the mass, so it will all be lost eventually. I was sad about it, but as quickly as my gum got used to the new missing piece, my sadness faded into my overall everyday sadness.

It feels like loss is inevitable to me now. The other day someone at school said 'nice hair' as he smiled and passed by me leaving the cafeteria area. He likely saw what is left of my Mohawk type swoop, as he also had shaved sides and a swooped style. Did he see the front and top are more gone than still there? Was he giving a nod to how I once looked (like his hair)? Or did he see himself in me, realizing that he too may someday have similar loss?

I guess overall today I feel ok. But lately it feels like all I have is loss, increasingly poor health, and far more behind me than what is possibly still ahead. 😞

Day 5234 (V:958) - 10/30

Oops, wrong assignment

Today I discovered I have been focused on an assignment that isn't the next one due. I didn't do too much work on it, maybe 45 minutes, and it is work I would have had to have done later, but that one is due in I guess two weeks, and the one due by midnight tomorrow is a completely different one. It's not a huge deal, as it's only early afternoon now, and it would be maybe an hour to do it, but it's odd my brain completely skipped over it to the mid-term.

I guess today is ok. I got the chicken fast food last night to have something cooked and it's not settled well in my tummy. Lately it feels like a 50/50 chance it won't go well. I don't know why I keep getting it. It's a big part of what I have to eat today, so things don't feel super great. I guess it's ok. Tomorrow will be back to micro food at school and so my tummy will be able to recover.

I guess overall today was ok. I slept a bit extra, but I feel pretty tired. But things have been extra quiet and calm, and so that feels nice. But in the back of my mind I have felt very old, very broken, and like I will never recover what has been lost. 😞 While my

life has been mine and unique, I wish it could have been happier, because so often lately I feel like it is too late for that to change, and I have missed my chance for a nice life. 😞

Day 5235 (V:959) - 10/31

Physically tired and hungry

Today I feel pretty tired, but just physically. My legs especially feel like they were working out or something. Mentally and emotionally I feel really good. This past weekend has felt like an entire week off. I'm not sure why. I'm settled in at school and have a bit to play and rest before lunch, then class in a few hours. Hopefully I will see some silly spooky costumes and be able to hang on a bit easier today.

Day 5236 (V:960) - 11/1

Hopefully restful Tuesday

Today hopefully I can be restful and will have a new game to try out for free. I did the most important one on the free pass, tried one I really wanted and felt meh about it, tried another I was kind of interested in and it's probably more frustrating than it's worth. So I decided to get a game that's a couple years old, but I never got a chance to play when I had the free pass before (the old laptop couldn't run it.) Hopefully today will be restful and calm and I'll have a fun time in class.

Week 749

Day 5237 - 11/2 Kept starting

Today was a pretty good day. In the morning I helped a guildie get something, but it took all my morning game time and I had to rush. It felt bad to be super rushy, but it was a dungeon they weren't likely to get help with on that day otherwise.

Class was super fun. I guess I've gotten super far ahead. The project I basically had ready this morning isn't due until Monday, so I am effectively nearly two full classes ahead. A few others are ahead too, so we started the next thing, so that too is a little ahead now.

When I went to leave school my car did a weird thing. I started it, but then it kind of kept trying to start, and the fan was running at max. It's like it got stuck in the start phase. So the engine was running, but it was still 'cranking' on top of that, making the engine extra wiggly. The inside lights were all on too, something it does when in the start cycle to test the lights. I shut the engine off, but it kept trying to start as the engine slowed down to stop over the next 5 or so seconds. I waited nervously for about 10 seconds before trying again, and it turned on completely normally. I drove to where I was going, parked, and shut the car off. I again waited about 10 seconds, restarted, and it started fine again. So I guess maybe something just got stuck that one time? Or there was a weird computer hiccup in not registering the start was complete? I guess I'll try not to worry about it unless it happens again.

I've been very worried about bills though. Without recovering money from the dead laptop things are going to be short when they start to come due in a month. 😞 I'll try the more local site on the weekend and maybe let it go into next week. But then I've got to try breaking it down into its base parts and get what I can.

I've been pretty worried about my heart lately too. It doesn't feel great in there. Just walking a little tires me out, and with tiring out so easily even trying to do a tiny bit of stretching to start working out feels like it is too much of a strain. But I guess I have to force myself to try, however small, as it doesn't feel like it will get any better at the rate

I'm going. And it would be like \$250+ to try and get back on meds, per year, so that is not at all an option.

But all I can do is continue to hang on, and try to deal with things one at a time as best as I can.

Day 5238 - 11/3 **Not feeling great physically**

Today I don't feel great physically. I feel like I have a bit of an upset tummy, headache, and a bit of dizziness. I don't know if that is or is not related to some pretty extreme tooth and jaw pain I've had lately, which I've been medium to high dosing on pain meds to keep things manageable.

Other than that the day was pretty good. It started a bit shaky as I guess one area of the cafeteria has maybe a dead circuit, so several plugs are dead there. But after about an hour I got into my regular spot and everything was quick and fine. Things flew by and I had a couple of good groups. I don't think I got any loot to speak of, but I had a good time.

Before I knew it it was time to have dinner. I was even a touch later than I wanted, so I only watched half a show, but it worked out fine.

I have a bit to do with one midterm thing, but I'm actually looking forward to it. Both classes are making stuff and being creative, so they are both pretty fun. I guess classes have sign ups pretty soon, though I think my time isn't until close to December. I'll either need a decent amount of help, or have to sell the dead laptop, and its hard drive, at decent values. Though I guess my hopes of selling the dead laptop at any kind of real value is long gone with posting it at an ever decreasing price and having zero interest.

My heart feels pretty terrible today. I did manage to be restful at school, and did the smallest of workouts, so that is something.

All I can do is try to hang on, hope help comes, and maybe opportunity for things that I can do that are reasonable, and try to manage things as best as I can.

Day 5239 - 11/4

Painful, but ok day

Today there was still a pretty high level of pain in one area of my teeth and jaw. Hopefully that will quiet down soon, but as always it's very heartbreaking as I know that means something very bad is happening that shouldn't be. I don't have the tens of thousands needed to fix things, so there is nothing I can do but hope it passes soon.

I still have the floater in the middle of my vision in my right eye. It's been 2.5 months now and it's been pretty annoying. When I looked it up online I guess 3-6 months isn't unusual for older people, so hopefully it passes soon.

Outside of my pain, today was pretty good. I was relaxed, though my tummy wasn't very happy about my food choice. I was warm enough. But the connection was stable and solid, and I had some good groups, so play time was pretty good. I considered doing some homework, but I decided to do it later. I can't put it off too much, as it's due Monday, but there should be plenty of time.

I did worry quite a bit about the bills though, but all I can do is hope help comes. And hopefully I can make it through physically and emotionally until it does, and hopefully I can make it to better days.

Day 5240 - 11/5

Maybe food poisoning

Today started ok, but since I ate a different lunch I've felt increasingly sick. My tummy is pretty upset feeling, and I've had a migraine so bad my eyes are killing me, my ears have been badly ringing, and I have a slight dizziness. And for a while I felt like I was going to throw up. I have about 5 more hours to be awake before my normal sleeping time, but I may just put my head down and rest and not do anything. 🤢

The day was pretty good otherwise, but right now I feel in so much pain from the headache and feel so bad overall I can't think straight. 🤢

Day 5241 - 11/6

Feeling a bit better

Today I am feeling mostly better. I did just rest last night, and by about 10 my tummy felt better. Today my ears are still ringing pretty badly, but aside from extremely mild headache and eye ache, and moderate tooth pain, I feel ok. The connection at the library was pretty garbage. It was almost completely unplayable by the afternoon. It was ok though, as I'd set aside the last 2 hours to do my homework that I need to do. I did do enough dailies in my game to be ok though.

So I try to hang on. I try to not worry about bills. I try to not worry about school costs I can't cover. And I hope help comes.

Day 5242 - 11/7

Rainy Monday

Today will probably be very rainy. It was pouring rain last night, but has been calm today so far. I'm a bit sleepy, probably from the time change, which seems odd due to it being an hour more sleep. I was extra hungry, so I got an actual breakfast food. I guess today is a fancy midterm presentation in class, so maybe not as fun as the normal creative things, but hopefully it should be fun.

Day 5243 - 11/8

Probably rainy Tuesday

Today will probably be rainy again. I think my class is just an open class, so hopefully I can use some supplies I don't have to finish my midterm. Hopefully today will be fun, in class, and after when I'm being restful. Hopefully I won't be too worried about bills and help will come.

Week 750

Day 5244 - 11/9 Soup

Today has had a bit of sprinkle during the day, but at night lately it has been completely pouring rain. I've been able to avoid it, and I did get that big fancy umbrella during the early days of the apocalypse, so that is good.

Today I had soup for lunch, the first since the start of the apocalypse. I don't know why I've forgotten to get soups these past 6-7 weeks. I guess with being unable to for so long I just completely put it out of my mind. Tomorrow I have food for all day, so that will be nice to skip going to the food store in the morning. I used to do that once or twice a week in the before time on showering days. The fancy soup was about 3 back then, now it's 4-4.50. And the cheap soup that were 1 in the before time, I'm not sure what they are today, but last I checked they were up around 2, which seems like a pretty big price jump. I got a 4 for 2 deal for the fancy ones, so that is an ok price. I will likely avoid them at full price though, because for just 1-2 more I can get a better micro meal.

Not much for today other than I'm pretty cold, and very sad, and there has been no offer on the dead laptop, even as low as \$100 for its current posting. I guess next week I'll have to do individual parts and then practically give away what hasn't sold at that point. 😞

Day 5245 - 11/10 Maybe car Friday

Today was a pretty restful day. It was pretty loud in the cafeteria, so my ears are ringing, and I really just did daily stuff in my games since I wouldn't have been able to hear shows well.

Tomorrow I have another possible day to do the car things with the person who wanted to help me. At this point I don't see anything changing plans, so it will totally be

reliant on if the person can do the work, and do it tomorrow, and a question of what things we will have them do. If they can't do anything then that will be a massive loss, as getting there and back will likely take more than an entire week's worth of gas. Sure, that's a tiny fraction of what just the back breaks would cost to fix, but that is about \$12 I can't really replace. I've already had to nibble away at bill money with gas, and I'm already going to be short to pay them. 🙄

So hopefully tomorrow will turn out good in repairs. Hopefully it doesn't take too long and take too much gas. The library and school are closed for the holiday, so this is the perfect day to lose to this with it being so cold I wouldn't want to be sitting outside much. I don't know if I'll be warm while I wait for them to do the work, but I'm fine waiting on a day I'd otherwise be cold outside.

But hopefully tomorrow will go ok. Hopefully things will be improved. And hopefully I can continue to hang on until help comes for the bills.

Day 5246 - 11/11

All the brakes

Today went ok. It was tiring and different though. In the morning I went over to the car place to get the work done. I got there 15 minutes earlier than I expected, which was about 45 minutes earlier than I was told they would be open. But there were already people there, and cars being worked on. The sign on the window said they opened at 8:30, not the 9:30 time I was told. I called my friend and she came over, and the lead mechanic seemed wobbly about what they were going to do. I guess I get it, you can't really see everything before taking things apart, but it kind of seemed unprofessional in his wobbliness. So we left it with them and went to do other things. About 1.5 hours later they called and said it would be 450 for the back breaks because the drum things were both too worn out, and 250 for the front ones. Before I could say anything the helping friend said, 'Well, it costs what it costs. Call us when it's done.' 🙄

I was fine to just go back and wait, as it would be about 4 hours, but she took me back to her place. Her husband was preoccupied with doing stuff, so I basically just connected to their network and did some daily game stuff. I wasn't super comfortable

there though, as I was put in a soft chair, which isn't good for my bad back. And there was 'maker stuff' piled up everywhere. I forgot that I live a totally Spartan life (when I can be in a place) and most people live... differently... and I'm the odd one. But I got to play for a bit, and while it wasn't super warm I wasn't outside, so I guess that's something.

So all the brake stuff is done. It's odd that it doesn't seem to stop faster than it did before, but the brakes react pretty much instantly pushing the pedal, and the emergency parking brake only needs to be pulled up maybe 75% as far as before. She also filled my gas tank, which is very nice, but since I haven't been able to do that in about 6 years the gauge kind of looks broken being all the way past full.

So things feel a bit safer, though spending that much money still feels very odd. Especially since it's for something I can't see and verify. My day was completely spent by that and the travel time there and back. The couple hours I could have had detouring over to the library wouldn't have been worth it. But hopefully tomorrow will be a normal day, and I can be restful and recover and go back to my normal routine.

Day 5247 - 11/12

In the ears

Today was pretty good. Driving around when I brake I still hear a shoop shoop shoooooop in my ears. I have to remind my brain that is just my imagination. There is no actual sound. Things are fine now. I guess even when it wasn't overtly audible it was still heard by my ears at a subconscious level, and so after it happening for so long there is a lingering echo when I expect to hear it.

Things felt odd today. I'm not sure if it was due to the change, due to doing a bit of homework in the morning, or being thrown off by the events of yesterday still.

I guess the day was good though. The connection was strong and stable and I had fun playing stuff. There was a special giveaway happening on some streams, which I'd forgotten was a thing, so I had someone's stream on in the background at about 5% volume for most of the day. Maybe that made me feel a bit thrown off too.

But today was pretty good. I held on ok. I feel safer driving my car. And though I am still very worried about being short for bills, I continue to try to hang on to hope that help will come in time.

Day 5248 - 11/13

Revert the drivers

Today in the morning my mmo felt very slow. Slow to the point it made me not feel like playing. I thought it was just a symptom of my feeling very tired, or possibly a slow connection, so I just did the minimal amount of dailies I do and moved on. Later in the mmo I've maybe returned to it again felt like the FPS was extremely low. This time I remembered to turn on the display and check, and to my surprise it was showing about 25 FPS, way lower than it should be. When I finished the dungeon I was in I stopped playing and checked a benchmark I've used before, and again it showed as running at about 28 FPS. I started to worry and panic that maybe my laptop wasn't talking to my graphics correctly. But then I remembered that only yesterday it got a driver update (ones that have tweaks for a new game that came out that I don't play.) So I went to the older drivers section and reinstalled drivers from two versions back. Sure enough, the benchmark showed 140-160 FPS (as it did when the laptop was new), and the mmo showed 50-60 FPS (it runs pretty rough, so that's actually fast there.) So, phew, what was a moment of panic was fixed. It has to be at least 10 years, maybe even as many as 20, since I've had to revert drivers like that due to horribly crippled performance, so I'm glad I remembered that was a possibility.

Outside of that the day was pretty regular. I did start it with some general videos and messing around, and then worked a bit on my midterm that's coming up, but besides that it was a pretty regular day of playing and watching a few shows.

I guess overall today was pretty good in the end, and the library was warm enough for the first time in months and I could take my hoodie off.

Day 5249 - 11/14

Rain paused Monday

Today the rain has seemingly paused. For the past few days it's done that. It rains at night, and then seemingly pauses during the day.

It's getting pretty cold though and I'm starting to wonder if I need to bring in my towel to dry on showering days like today. I know in January and February it's too cold to dry left in the car during the day, but it feels like it's already starting to get cold enough I may need to start bringing it in very soon.

Day 5250 - 11/15

Midterm day

Today is the day the midterm I've been working on is due. I think I did a pretty good job and my style has improved quite a bit since starting the classes. I think we might be presenting them in class? I'm not sure. (We normally just turn them in through the website.) Hopefully things should be fun today.

I'm still very worried about the bills. My dead laptop still isn't selling, and I really need to start trying to sell it in individual parts, though I expect that won't do any better.

So I continue to try to hang on and hope help comes to cover the bills soon. 😞

Week 751

Day 5251 - 11/16 Cute bunny

Today was pretty good. My class was pretty fun and I worked on a project I feel pretty good about. Yesterday the professor in my other class gave me some watercolors and a brush to take with me to do assignments with, so that is super nice.

As I was walking in the evening when I passed by someone's place I saw a white critter hop out of view. I doubted what I saw, so I tried to look through the bushes to see better. And I was right, there was a super cute house bunny. I waved and said hi for a few minutes, but they just stayed still, half hidden from my view. I hope they go inside at night. I would think a house bunny wouldn't have a proper outside home to stay warm enough. It got down to freezing the other night.

I guess overall I had a pretty good day, though lately I've been extremely hungry and I'm not sure why. And I'm still very worried about help coming in time for the bills. 😞

Day 5252 - 11/17 Clinching day

Today was ok I guess. The cafeteria was pretty loud though. I really wonder if I should pick somewhere quieter. I guess it makes me feel a little less lonely though. My ears are ringing, and I had to put my volume up to 50-60 on my headphones, when in quieter times I normally put it around 20.

I think I may have been clinching my jaw. I'm just now feeling the jaw hurting from prolonged smashing. I don't know if it was from being a bit cold, or from the stress of the constant noise.

I guess today was pretty good though. I played my games, did a little bit on a project that is not super great. But it's new material I've never worked with, so that's not

surprising. I still feel unusually hungry. I'd say maybe even twice as hungry as just a couple of years ago. And while I'm carrying extra weight, it still feels like I need/want to eat a lot more than normal, and I'm not exactly sure why.

I'm still very worried about bills, but trying to hang on, and hope help comes soon.

Day 5253 - 11/18

Water

Today was a pretty regular day. I did do some work on a school project with watercolor. It was fun, but it's kind of a disaster. I don't know how to use it and I'm not good with brushes.

Other than that it was a pretty regular day and I had fun with my games. But I am still extremely worried about not enough money for the bills. 😞

Day 5254 - 11/19

Maybe a tiny bit back

Today I posted the dead laptop hard drive, which I guess is worth a lot more than I thought. The website price is about double what I expected it was worth. So if that sells that's a decent amount back. I also posted the rest of it and someone did contact me and we are tentatively set for Monday. I won't count that it's actually sold until I actually put the money into my account and it clears, but that is only going to be like 1/4 of what I was originally hoping to sell it for. Which is pretty terrible, but I guess it's not nothing.

So today I am still very worried about bills, but I guess finally a little hopeful I may at least recover a little something.

Day 5255 - 11/20

Not wiggly

Today I tested my wheels. I don't know if I mentioned it, but back when the brakes were done I peeked on the freeway. When I was going faster I noticed the steering wheel got a little wiggly. I have wondered if the alignment got messed up, so I peeked on the freeway this morning for about 1 mile. I got up to nearly 70 and it was totally solid, no wiggle at all.

Other than that the day felt slow. For whatever reason this weekend has felt about like a week long. I guess next weekend it almost will be what with the two days where everything is closed. Hopefully I won't be too cold.

I am still pretty worried about the bills. And I continue to try to hang on and hope that help comes. And maybe with turkey weekend and Xmas I can get some extra gift help and be ok.

Day 5256 - 11/21

Maybe hopefully gone

Today theoretically I am finally getting rid of the dead laptop. At this point it is more to just get rid of it so I can finally move on more than anything else. It will sell for about 1/4 what I was hoping to recover. And even if I had been able to get that full amount, it would have still been only about 40% what it would have been worth new for those specs. I am glad I have the new laptop, because it's much better overall, but it came at a pretty tremendous cost.

Hopefully I'll have fun in class. I'll be moving on to a new project since I'm about a half a class ahead, so hopefully it will be fun and interesting.

I continue to hang on to hope help comes for the bills that are due soon. And hopefully enough to sign up for classes soon too. I'm sure things will fill quickly since even with money I have to wait until the last group time to sign up. But I try to stay hopeful. I try to hang on. And I try to be as ok as I can be; emotionally and physically.

Day 5257 - 11/22

New thing Tuesday

Today I'm sure class will have a new project and hopefully be something fun. I don't know what to expect, but I would guess it's another watercolor thing. I did a practice one and it did look a lot closer to what I imagined it 'should' look like, but I clearly still have a very long way to get used to the watercolors and brushes in general. It's pretty fun and relaxing though.

As always, I continue to hope help comes for the bills. Things are getting rougher. And with the holidays, it's always a tougher time to hang on emotionally. 😞

Week 752

Day 5258 - 11/23 Flake, and probably a scammer

Today I got an email from a second person about the dead laptop. It immediately seemed suspicious because they had a phone number which said to call them. Why make an email and then say to call and not spend the few seconds to just type what you would say on the phone? Sure sure, maybe they prefer phone, but what really made it look suspicious was the name flag in the email was like "John" someone, but they said in the text their name was "Todd". That screams scam bulk email. So I responded back with the times I'd be available and for them to email me back. That was around 11 this morning, and when I went offline around 5 I hadn't heard back. I won't immediately report and flag them for spam, but I expect in a few days I'll still hear nothing and will do it then.

Clearly since I still have the laptop the Monday deal fell through. The person was being picky about this and that. They claimed that since I removed the little holding clips on those cables that I probably broke them, and they wouldn't be easy to replace. Which is completely contrary to the people on the enthusiast site said, who said those are very cheap and easy to replace. He offered half at 40, which I scoffed at, then upped to 60, which I was slightly tempted by, but I still said 'nope' and packed things up. Even at less than half of new value, the battery, power supply, and ram, alone would add up to that 80, which doesn't count the screen, keyboard, and everything else in the chassis. I'd rather take the risk of needing to part it out after turkey weekend than take an extremely low offer.

So again I'm back to being very worried about my bills. I think I just need a bit more than selling the hard drive, or all the other individual parts, to be ok with the most important bills. So I'm not critically or extremely worried yet. There is also the possibility of turkey weekend or Xmas gifts that I could use if they are gift money. But, it's still at a point where I am pretty worried. But really I guess that has kind of been the case every year after losing my job, especially these past two holiday times and this one.

But I continue to try to stay hopeful things will be ok. That I can stay warm and healthy enough. And that help will come in time.

Day 5259 - 11/24

Turkey Turkey

Today there was a bit of a surprise. The ex-roomie said I could be in the garage for the afternoon and evening, and connect wirelessly. So I was still chilly, but I got some turkey day foods, and got to play and watch shows while bundled up a bit.

Today was pretty sad still, but I guess it was better than expected.

Day 5260 - 11/25

A bit broken hearted

Today I am feeling a bit brokenhearted, and I suppose a bit melancholy. I am sad about important bills not being covered. I am sad about not recovering anything yet for the dead laptop. I am sad seeing how fun and cool a new game is that I've been wanting to play for 2 years is now that it's out in early access.

And this year it seems there are many little reminders of things I miss or things that make me sad. Things that once made me happy. Like seeing a delivery truck and how that once meant a cool fun thing that I ordered was here. Now it's a reminder I can't afford things, but everyone around me can. Or smelling holiday foods being cooked reminds me I can not only not cook, but don't have friends or loved ones to go see and do fun things with.

Things were a bit odd in time today. It was chilly outside of the library, but not too bad. But the sun started coming into my area by about 1:30, which was sooner than I expected. I had to move into my car, but it was ok. It was warmer and I did homework things.

Today feels a bit extra hard and sad. Though I did get a couple of smaller gifts that will maybe be enough to clear the most critical of bills. But all I can do is continue to try to hang on, and try to have fun where and when I can.

Day 5261 - 11/26

Unbanned for life?

For a few days Ebay was spamming me with marketing junk emails. The first two I just clicked 'unsubscribe' and was like, 'why are you sending me marketing junk if I'm banned for life?' And dropped them into the trash. When I'd gotten a third I said 'fine' and pushed the 'change your contact preferences' button expecting it to fail. It did not. It seemed to think my old account, the one I originally couldn't reset the password for so I created the new one, is still active. Maybe they only banned it for a short while while perma banning the other?

But I set up a sale page, set up my banking info, and it seems to have stuck. I checked back later and there were four offers to buy it immediately. Three of them were from other countries, two from Denmark, and one from I think Austria. Oh hell no am I going to ship to another country for the \$12 I put. But someone here in the states offered \$200, which was quite a bit over my minimum I'd put, so I accepted.

That was yesterday though. I sent an invoice and still haven't heard from them. I'm not super worried yet because it's turkey weekend, but investigating their profile they have no comments and they only created it a few days ago. So now I am a bit worried they used a fake account to delay my sale for some reason. I guess Ebay says they will send them a reminder to pay tomorrow, but I really need that money ASAP. I have bills rapidly approaching that would really use it. If they just keep ignoring payment I have no idea how long that will put things in limbo before I could relist. 😞

I guess I had an ok day today. I did a pretty boring and repetitive thing in a game, so that kind of killed my mood. And I was pretty cold most of today, so that was sad too.

I guess though I made it through, and hopefully tomorrow will be a better day.

Day 5262 - 11/27

Still not paid

Today things felt a bit sad. The person still hasn't paid for the laptop sale. I don't know what is up with that. It has to be a faked account to get me to pull the posting down

for whatever reason. I guess if they haven't paid within four days of the sale I can re-list it. (That is calendar days, not business.) So I think that should be Tuesday.

I guess today was ok other than that. I did more watercolor work and one drawing is still just blobby, but the other one is kind of better. I have some gradients and light color, so I think it's ok.

So today I am still worried about bills, but still trying to stay hopeful that the dead laptop stuff will finally sell soon and I'll be better.

Day 5263 - 11/28 **Unknown Monday**

Today should be another fun class. Oops, I guess I forgot to get some stuff ready for it. I'll probably have to make a special trip to the public library to do that. Dang it. But hopefully the day should still be fun. Hopefully the person sends payment for the laptop. And hopefully I can continue to hang on.

Day 5264 - 11/29 **Preparing for the final**

Today in class we will be talking about the final. I guess it's a watercolor piece that's supposed to be in the German expressionist style. Hopefully that means I won't have to be super realistic, as works I do from my imagination, or which are free to be totally abstract, seem to work a lot better.

Hopefully the person pays me for the laptop if they haven't yet. Hopefully the extra M.2 drive sells soon as well. And hopefully I can continue to hang on until better days.

Week 753

Day 5265 - 11/30 **Possibly another scammer**

Today I have been rapidly getting upset. Not only did I get another scam email on my online account (that I take donations on) claiming I ordered something and owe them like \$500, but the person who agreed to buy my dead laptop appears to be scamming me just like the last one. Granted, they only bought it yesterday. But they put in a \$100 offer, and I said that was too low, so countered with \$200, which they accepted. So that was the first time they'd have been reminded to pay. Then the site should have reminded them today, and I sent them an invoice. But they still haven't paid. Well, I will try to not be too mad and maybe they will come through.

I guess I had fun today other than that. I did a little work for one final, then got directions on how to start the other. So things were pretty fun and creative.

The pain in my jaw/tooth is lessening, but still there. I don't have to take too many pills, but I'm still doing between 3 and 4 doses per day. My right eye still has that pain in the butt floater right in the center of my view, which was messing with my focus. I guess that's been 3 months now, and unfortunately the internet search said they can average as long as 6 months, so I'm not looking forward to more months of this. They always disappeared in 1-2 months before, so I don't know why this one is being so slow.

But I try to hang on to hope the buyers will stop being dumb about paying me and I can recover some money. And I try to hang on to hope help comes and I can make it to better days.

Day 5266 - 12/1 **Looking super fat**

Today I guess was pretty ok except for the morning. When I took my shower I took some pictures of me for a 'self portrait' portion of one of my finals. I look even fatter

than I feel. 😞 I'm sure I'm beyond my previous heaviest weight. 😞 I feel hungry pretty much all the time now. I have for I guess the past couple of years. Maybe it was something to do with being on a diet that was so different for so long due to closures preventing me from eating like I used to. I would like to start doing a little workout to get things going, but at this point I think it may be depression more than anything else. And I know from prior attempts even with regular light workouts they don't do really anything for my blood pressure since my diet is unchanged. 😞 Things are too restricted with my current life.

Other than that it was a pretty good day I guess. It was pouring rain for a lot of it, so that was yikes. But I don't have class today, so I just stayed in my seat in the cafeteria.

I did do a bit of test work for one of my finals. I have a little 8x8 square of the same watercolor paper we were given to do our final on. So I tested out how things looked. I hope I do ok with it. I'm worried the watercolor parts may just come out like blobs like they have been. I'm also worried about carrying the special paper to and from school if it's going to be raining. I'll have to be extra careful with that. Technically it's not due for two weeks, so I guess I really don't need to do more than I've done yet, but I'd like to.

The person hasn't paid yet. It absolutely looks like a second scammer. All I can do is try to continue to try to hang on and hope for better days.

Day 5267 - 12/2 Arting

Today was pretty good except for still not getting paid. I sent a second 'invoice' saying they have 24 hours left to pay or I'll cancel the order and give them negative feedback.

The rest of my day was fun playing my game and in the last bit working on a bit for my final. I think it's going to turn out pretty good. I sent a progress picture for the professor to check because I added some stuff that weren't in the base directions.

But today I felt pretty good. And hopefully money and help will come soon for the bills, and I can hang on until then.

Day 5268 - 12/3

Unbelievable scammer

Today I had a rough time at the library. It started ok, but it was pouring rain, so I didn't want to risk moving my art through the rain. So I lost a day I could have worked on things.

Then at just past about noon, the connection started going to crap, right when I was going to play a more bandwidth intense game. So I didn't even get through one game before bad guys started literally flying around and I started getting disconnected. So the game I expected to play a few hours was interrupted and I barely got to play at all.

I pulled the laptop sale, again. I had to immediately relist it even though I'd planned to wait a bit. And I kid you not, within about two hours the person who just did not pay, after my sending 2 reminders and the site probably reminding them 2 times, tried to offer me a buy now deal. I responded with something like, 'oh hell no. Why would I sell you my item that you just spent 4 days not paying for?' I tried to report them, but I guess the site stopped allowing people to do that a couple years ago. There is apparently an invisible strike against their account when they don't pay though, but I was unclear how to set my account to ignore bids from those people, so I asked customer service for clarification on that.

But now I'm a bit worried. Every penny I have is barely enough to cover the critical December bill. The site says they are holding my hard drive sale money until the 17th, and that is barely any money. And unless more comes by the next part of the critical bill in early to mid January I'll be in big trouble. That part is only 50 more, but I'll be at flat zero unless the dead laptop does finally sell very soon.

I am hoping dad sends late turkey day money. Weirdly I haven't heard from him, or gotten any kind of card or email, which is very unusual. I expect though he just forgot since he's getting pretty far on in years.

So I continue to hope help comes, because I'm still extremely tight, and even short, on bills. And I hope help comes in time, and that I can continue to hang on until it does.

Day 5269 - 12/4

Short project

Today was a better day. The connection was good, so I got to play my games without issues. It was warm enough in the library that I had my hoodie off all day. Though that isn't saying much, as I'm basically in full winter layers with two thermal long under pants, a tank top, two T-shirts, and two long sleeve house shirts, not counting my hoodie or pants and regular underwear.

There was no movement on the re-re-posting of the dead laptop, but being Sunday I didn't really expect any. And I think I found the part where I can tell it to refuse offers from people with non-payment strikes. There was also a setting to refuse offers from people in countries outside of my shipping settings. Which is weird, because why have check boxes to say you don't ship to a place if you aren't already going to block offers from there? That makes no sense to me.

In the later afternoon I did some stuff for a project I'm working on in the Monday class. It only took half the time I expected, so that was good. I thought about doing some for the Tuesday project too, but we are going to share them in class, so I figure if there are any critical change suggestions I can still do that, as they are just penciled in now. Once I do ink or watercolor I couldn't do changes.

I'm still very sad all the time. With all the things going on I don't think that will change any time soon. But I guess I'm ok. And I continue to hang on as best as I can.

Day 5270 - 12/5

Drop off Monday

Today I drop off the hard drive from the dead laptop. I'm very sad it sold for about 1/3 of what I'd hoped, but I guess getting \$20 is more than zero.

I have my final to work on for the Monday class, so that should be fun. Hopefully it won't be too rainy. And hopefully I can hang on ok.

Day 5271 - 12/6

Short Tuesday

Today should be a very short class. We are talking about our finals and quickly showing them, so I expect class will only be 1 hour out of the normal 2.5. I can't believe things are almost over. It feels like they just were getting started. I guess after class I can start to finish it, and while the paint literally dries I can play my games. So hopefully today will be fun.

Hopefully help for the bills will come soon. And that there is extra so I can sign up for classes for next quarter. And hopefully I can continue to hang on.

Week 754

Day 5272 - 12/7 Maybe money later

Today was an ok day. I had fun in class and basically finished my final that is due in a week. Other students are just starting for the most part, but some of them are crazy good. And I tell them and they are like, 'eh, it's ok, I guess.' They don't see the potential for what is there, just the flaws and mistakes. I worry as someone older I'll never get a creative position with others like that, literally half my age, who do more creative stuff. But then, I am done and ready for the next thing and they are mostly just starting. So my 'pre-production process' is definitely more streamlined than most.

I'm actually more looking forward to my other final project. I think it should turn out pretty good. Though with these recent projects while I find working with paint and brush is kind of relaxing, I don't like the result compared to what I've envisioned. It's chaotic, unpredictable, and not as precise as I prefer. I know it is likely more to do with practice, tools, and the knowledge of the tools, but I'd be more comfortable with just pencils, pens, or even just rough idea sketching.

I still can't believe the quarter is basically over next week. It still feels like we are pretty much just starting. I still don't for sure have the money to sign up next quarter, which is sad. But I did check on the dead laptop posting since I've gotten no scam offers yet and it did show that someone has put in the minimum \$125 bid. Which that could pay the other crucial bill coming in early January and school next quarter, but it is still going for a week, and they will probably hold the money a couple of weeks even when the person dos pay.

But I had fun today, and all I can do is continue to hang on financially and emotionally, and hopefully help will come soon.

Day 5273 - 12/8

Tummy pain returns

Today I am barely recovered from last night, when I again got the mystery tummy pain. I didn't have any honey, so I guess it's not that. It may be chocolate, because I did have more than usual, but I often have a donut in the morning, so that seems strange. I guess maybe it's just diet and stress. I'll try to take it easy with sugary things the next few days to let my tummy and other parts recover.

I guess today was pretty good. I did some work on a final. It was a watercolor part. I'm still not thrilled with how my work with brushes comes out, but I guess it looks ok. The other half of the project is just pen and pencil, so I think I'll do a lot better on that part.

I guess I had a pretty good time today. I'm still worried about bills, but I'm trying to hang on.

Day 5274 - 12/9

Finals ready

Today I basically finished my other final. I may nit-pick at a few things, but I think I did everything I wanted to accomplish. I could maybe do more with the watercolor, but I just don't like how I can't control it. I don't think I'd learn the kind of control I want in time. I guess it's fine as it is.

This ass was at the library coughing all day, without a mask. If I see him again tomorrow, which I likely will since he's there every day, I'll insist he keep his mask on or get the hell out. The library has a policy if people are sick they aren't allowed in. Sure I coughed a few times during my time there, but this guy was literally coughing and hacking like every 3 minutes, which is not ok.

I guess the day was pretty good. The project took up a few hours, which was less than I expected. I did only get to play 2 of 3 things I expected to, but that's fine. The projects are done, so the time I was expecting to spend Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, working on them is now zero. So that adds up to a lot of extra playing.

Sadly no donations or word on people buying my dead laptop. I don't really expect anything as it has a bid on it, so hopefully that will complete in about a week. So I continue to hang on, and hopefully help will come.

Day 5275 - 12/10

Play day

Today was pretty good. With my projects ready I could just rest and play. Which is good because my throat is pretty messed up from the cold that guy gave me yesterday. But I can rest tomorrow and Monday too. Hopefully I can hang on and help will come for the bills soon.

Day 5276 - 12/11

Destroyed throat

Today my throat is pretty destroyed from congestion and coughing. I can't really talk because I sound like a 12-year-old who's voice is changing. I don't feel super bad overall, but things feel rough. The guy showed up again today, as expected. Within less than 5 minutes he was already coughing regularly. I was getting furious, put on my mask, got up and walked over to him and said, 'Clearly you are sick and shouldn't be here. If you are going to insist on being here, you have absolutely got to wear your mask all the time.' He said, 'oh, yeah.' And then through the day never had it covering his nose. I decided if I should go explain how he's a complete dumb ass and not covering his nose is like not wearing it at all, but I figured if he didn't wear it at all yesterday, trying to explain things which are common sense would be a waste of my time. Someone I know did say another library visitor complained to that guy about his constant coughing. I don't know if he moved, or voluntarily left, or was kicked out, but he wasn't there after that, so I was glad to see him gone.

Overall the day felt rough from my throat being messed up. I didn't cough much, maybe once every 15-30 minutes. I did get to rest and mostly recover. The connection

was pretty garbage for a few hours when I was trying to play, so that was frustrating. But hopefully I got some rest and recovered a bit, and will be feeling better soon.

Day 5277 - 12/12 **Hopefully restful Monday**

Today will hopefully be a restful and pretty quiet day. It's the first day for finals week, so there should be fewer people around. I'd certainly think less would be staying after class. So hopefully I will have a quiet, calm, and restful day.

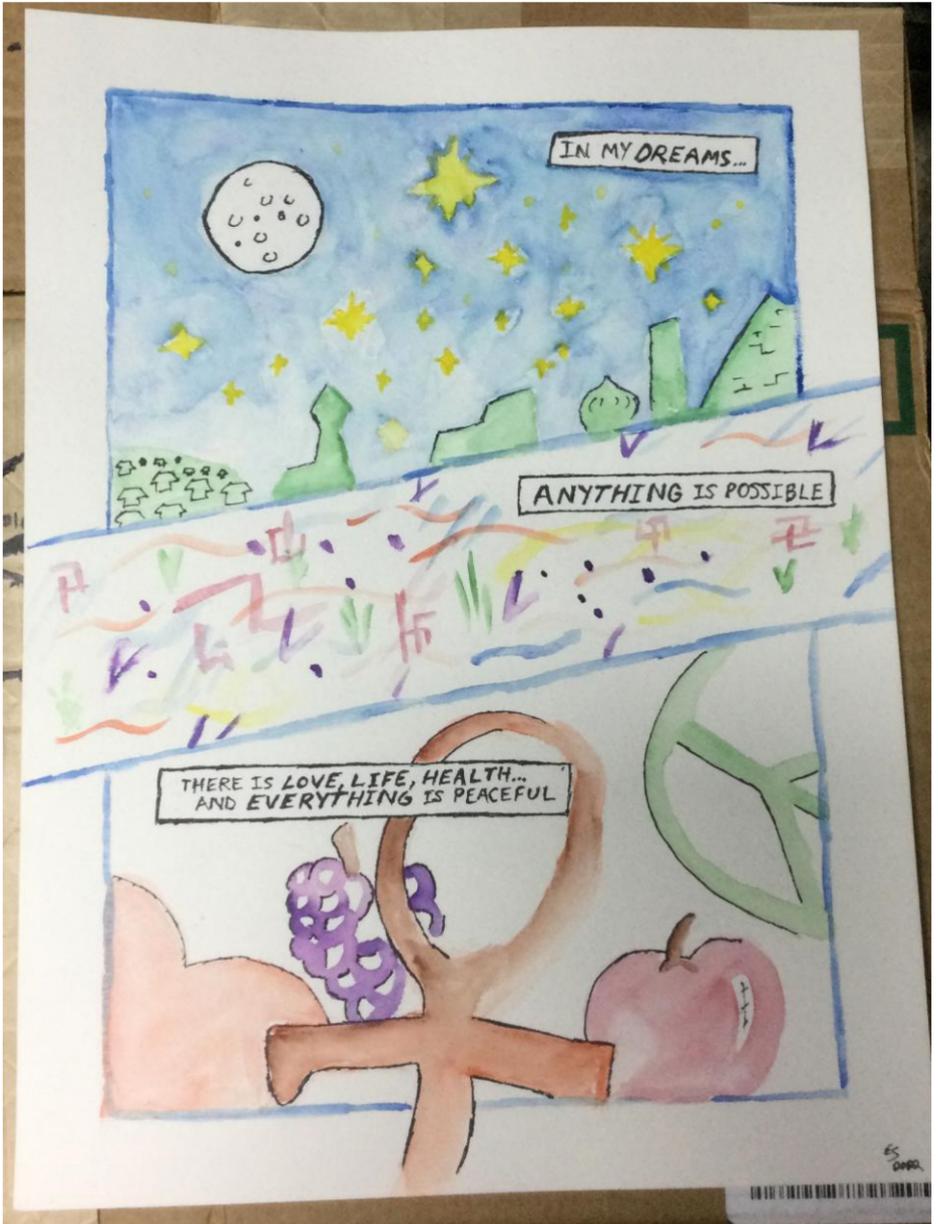
Day 5278 - 12/13 **First final**

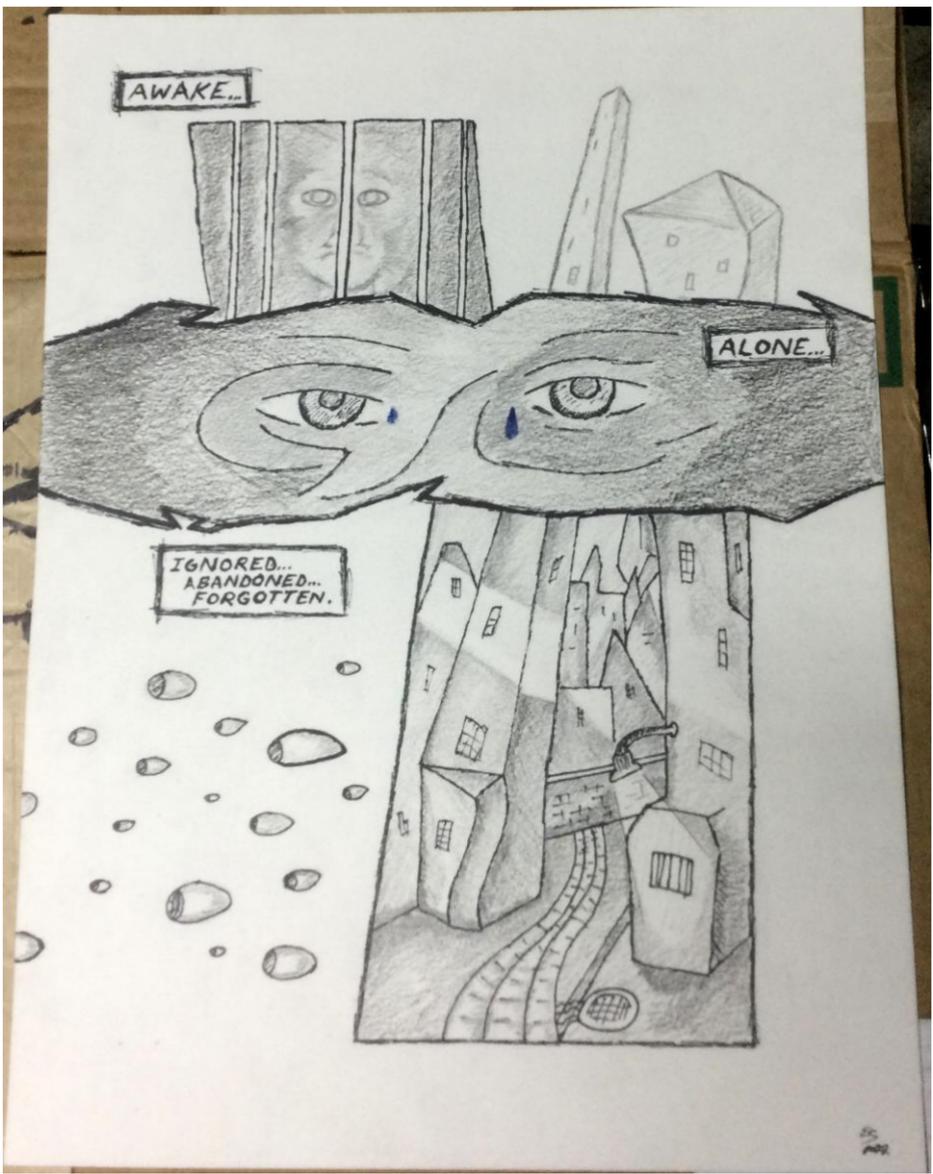
Today is my first final. This is the one I'm actually happier about how the project turned out. Though I'm still not a fan of water colors. Hopefully the day will go ok. It's in the morning, so I'll have all day to rest and recover after. But it's strange to think it's finals week. It still feels like it's only maybe halfway done. I guess due to having one class only meet once a week, and it basically just doing fun activities, instead of lecture, learned theory, or memorization, the time passed much more quickly.

Hopefully the things I've sold will get money to me quickly, and hopefully other help for bills comes soon. And hopefully I can hang on physically and emotionally until it does.

Final project; "I was dreaming, and then I woke up."

2-5 pannels in the comic/graphic novel format, using German expressionism.





Week 755

Day 5279 - 12/14

Pretty sick

Today my cold that guy gave me Friday has gotten worse. I'm barely coughing, but my lungs are completely junked up, and what is worse is there are now other symptoms. My ears are ringing a bit, and plugged since about 11 AM, so there has been a touch of dizziness. There were also some chill feelings for a few hours.

I had a pretty good time in my class final though. We just showed our final and then talked a bit about it. There was one comment though which kind of surprised me. The project was to put important personal things around a self portrait. So I had images of things from my childhood and a cat. (The cat was pulled from a magazine, which we were supposed to pull most images from.) While I did explain how the things were all connected to my childhood, someone pointed out that the board clearly told a story, even without my explaining the meaning behind things. Everyone else in class just did elements of things they were interested in or liked, but it didn't tell a story or connect to their history. So I guess that did maybe make me feel a bit better (about being older.) It proved my age counted for something, had some value, and gave them maybe something to think about in the future that they hadn't thought of (when working on other projects.)

It still feels weird that the class is over. It still feels like we are just at the 'ok, now you know the things, let's apply them,' part. It will be a strange and sudden feeling break I think.

I'll still be on campus tomorrow for one last shower and set of meals before the long break. I'll also visit the professor I visit from time to time. He did stop by briefly to see me in the cafeteria on Tuesday and invited me to hang out in his class, but due to my cold and already being all set up for the day I didn't go.

I haven't been paid for the dead laptop yet. It closed just over 24 hours ago, so I'm not super worried yet. But having been stiffed twice before on payment part of me does worry this will be a third fake purchase.

But the day is done. I am pretty sick. And so I try to stay warm and restful as best as I can.

Day 5280 - 12/15

Goodbye, dead laptop

Today I can finally say goodbye to the dead laptop. The third bid cycle completed, and at nearly 48 hours after the person paid. I packed it up and it's all ready to go in the morning. Unfortunately the site said they wouldn't release the money until the 30th, so I can't actually spend it until then. I think I can sign up for school soon though, as I don't have to pay for about a week after.

That will cover the other critical bill I should be paying with the one in a week or so. It's not actually due until mid-January, so that part can slide to a later date.

But that's basically all the money gone. I maybe can consider getting a clear protector for my laptop, or maybe a fancy art carrying case. I'll have to see exactly how much 'extra' I have after the things are paid. I do need to be really careful because things like gas can add up very fast. And there are more bills just around the corner as soon as March, not counting the big car cycle in mid-July, which I have no idea how I'll cover them.

So the thing is fully sold. A teeny fragment of the loss is recovered. And there are still so many bills ahead I need help for. 😞 All I can do is continue to try to hang on. Hopefully I can get over this cold soon. And hopefully things can be better soon overall. 😞

Day 5281 - 12/16

Some money

Today the sale site said they sent me some money. Which seems strange since they originally said that money wouldn't be released until the 19th. I guess what they meant was I should have it by the 19th.

Hopefully I can pay my most important bill soon when that money arrives. I have some going out that hasn't shown up at the bank, so I'd like to be sure that one is in place

before paying. Sadly my big money won't be there until the 30th, if it follows the same pattern, so things like school or the other part of the critical bill will have to wait a bit. 😞

I had a pretty good day today though. The bandwidth was ok. I am pretty warm. And things seemed calm and quiet. That coughing guy didn't show up at all, which I'm glad of (though that's odd with him being in the library every day for the last 1.5 or more years.) So I continue to try to hang on and hope help comes, and that I can make it to better days.

Day 5282 - 12/17

No more trunk

Today my trunk did not open when I pulled the release next to the driver's seat. It's like the lever isn't pulling anything. Some connection inside probably broke. Which means now the only way into my trunk will be by going into the back seat and lower it to go in from behind. A few years ago, I don't even remember how long ago, the key stopped working. It just rotates in the lock and does nothing, so I had to start using the release pulley. But now that doesn't work anymore.

I guess all in all it's not a huge deal, but it will take some serious reorganizing of where I put stuff, I'd guess probably an hour or so to redo it, and then be a pain going forward to get anything. I guess at least the breaks are fixed, and it mostly runs ok.

But it seems a reminder that, even if I feel ok with everything else, which I never do, there is always something broken in my life. And no matter how minor or trivial it may be, it feels like yet another problem that I have that everyday people don't, or could just shrug off and repair easily. 😞

Day 5283 - 12/18

Still rough

Today there really isn't much to say. I still feel congestion in my nose and throat and have an occasional dry cough. My voice is still terribly rough sounding, my ears

ringing and plugged, and I have a bit of asthma that's pretty much always there, though it's so minor it's not really an issue unless I'm trying to sleep. Still, I'm better than yesterday, so hopefully I'll be fully better soon.

Until then I try to hang on to hope help and gift money come soon. And I can hang on physically and emotionally until they do.

Day 5284 - 12/19

Maybe

Today I will maybe be able to pay one of the two critical bills and sign up for classes. I'll have to be very careful to go over how much I have and the timing of when things hit. My big money probably won't get to me until at least the 30th, and that should cover the other part of the critical bill and pay for school. But I have to be careful on the timing. I can't count on getting anything for Xmas. There have been times I've not gotten anything before, or what I did get wasn't usable for bills.

But hopefully today I can be warm in the library, hopefully the connection holds and is stable, and I can continue to recover from the cold.

Day 5285 - 12/20

Mystery Tuesday

Today I don't know what to expect. I am between school quarters, so I'm back to every day is the same. Hopefully things are ok at the library and I can stay warm, do things without interruption, and continue to recover from the cold.

Week 756

Day 5286 - 12/21 Works for now

Today was, I guess, ok. Though oddly I got note that my 125 for the dead laptop is already on its way to me. Similar to the notice I'd get my last payment on the 19th and it was sent on the 16th, they said it would be on the 30th, and now it's sent a week early.

I'm not complaining though. That means I can pay my email bill, and all critical year end bills are then covered. I should also have just enough to squeak in classes next quarter. Although technically I'm only on one class waitlist, and that means I don't have to pay yet. If that doesn't change to registered in the next few weeks I can hold off payment until the quarter actually starts.

I decided to see if I could rearrange stuff in the trunk. Since my car is a 4 door, moving the most used items to the middle side actually is pretty easy to get to going in the passenger back door. I just flop over the back seat, bend in, and it's easily gotten. The problem is that means I'm only actively accessing 1/4 of my available space. The rest has to remain deep storage. I guess that works for now, as I really only need quick access to showering things and some of my drinks. The rest of the stuff in the trunk is used so rarely it doesn't matter. Maybe I'll try to open it later and see if something can be done to re-engage either the lock or the pull release.

My cold is changing a bit. I'm super congested in a sniffly runny nose way now, instead of just very stuffed up. I am coughing more, but it isn't destroying my throat like it used to. And I can feel my lung congestion feels less now, so I think I'm pretty quickly getting better. (Quickly for me at least.) And the stupid cougher who gave me his cold isn't in my corner anymore, though I have seen him somewhat close, he should be far enough I shouldn't have to worry about it. (Though you can still hear him coughing from half way across the floor, probably 30-40 feet away.)

Everything overall still feels pretty terrible. In a time where you visit friends and family, maybe try some new foods you aren't used to at a restaurant, where you are in a

home maybe that's a bit too warm; I have none of that. I am cold. I am alone. And there is no revelry to look forward to. 😞

Day 5287 - 12/22

Feeling sad

Today I'm feeling pretty sad. Nothing really unusual happened, it's just my limitations of my sad life feel very sad today. I played my games and tried to have fun. I watched a show. My cold is more sneezy than anything else, but I only coughed a few times, and the congestion that is there really doesn't bother me. Today I tried my best to hang on.

Day 5288 - 12/23

Unstable

Today the connection got pretty unstable pretty quickly. From maybe noon until 3 games were unplayable. It was literally disconnecting every minute. It was so bad even the video stream at the lowest possible setting would drop every few minutes and stay stuck.

I guess the day wasn't too terrible other than that. Overall I did feel old, tired, out of shape, kind of icky from what I was eating, and as always worried about bills. But all I can do is continue to try and hang on as best as I can.

Day 5289 - 12/24

Eve

Today is I guess, Xmas Eve. Holidays that shift days like that kind of escape me. I know they are coming. I know roughly when they are. But since I can't really celebrate

them my mind doesn't count down the days. I don't have something to look forward to and pay attention to when it is, and what day of the week it is today.

I guess the day wasn't too sad until now. A reminder of how regularly I miss important holidays and how they are just an overly lonely and sad day to me. 😞

Day 5290 - 12/25

Sneeze yuck

Today wasn't as cold outside as I thought it would be. Where in previous years I was shivering and struggling to stay warm, I was pretty much fine this year. I actually saw a few people walking around in shorts, which seems a bit much.

I wasn't feeling too great though. I guess the extra stress and sadness had my GERD going pretty badly, and with sneezing nearly constantly for a few hours, I eventually sneezed about a half cup of yuck. I'm extremely grateful it went next to me and down my extra hoodie, and not on my laptop that I had on my lap. I didn't have any napkins with me though, so I set my stuff to the side and jogged the probably 30 or so feet to the bathroom, which was locked. I had to just wipe up what I could as best as I could with some wet leaves, and later properly wash it off at the car.

I guess I did the minimum I expected with the day, and surprisingly haven't really been uncomfortably cold yet. There was some glare on my screen though, so that made serious play impossible, and the sun started coming into my area as early as 2, so I didn't do much. I guess I did the minimal dailies though, so that is something.

It's later afternoon and there is still time left before I 'go to bed.' But my eyes hurt. I haven't really felt like eating since sneezing yuck. But my dad did say he was sending monies soon, so that is helpful. And both monies for the dead laptop are in my account, officially closing that event in my life. So I continue to try my best to hang on and make it to better days.

Day 5291 - 12/26

Outside Monday

Today I will be outside again. The library is still closed for some reason. Hopefully it won't be too cold. I guess mostly I'll just eat foods I have left over, so that is taken care of. Hopefully the outside bathroom will be open today, just in case I need it. And hopefully I can hang on.

Day 5292 - 12/27

Inside Tuesday

Today I will be back inside the library. I expect it will be super quiet. Hopefully it will be nice and warm. And hopefully the connection is stable, as it's been kind of garbage a few hours a day for the past few days. And hopefully I can continue to hang on.

Week 757

Day 5293 - 12/28 **Cowboy hat**

Today was ok I guess. In the morning the connection was really rough, so much so I almost completely gave up playing. But it cleared after an hour or two, so it was only faulty for a while. In the afternoon I even got into a group in my shooter and finally got a special cowboy hat look I've been grinding for a while, so that was pretty good to finally get that.

A few days ago I signed up for a class that is open. I don't really want to take it, but it might be interesting and it will help pad out the time I have left. But it said I owed more than \$175 instead of the usual \$55. I tried not to panic, but I've been pretty worried since my fee waiver did not appear in the list. I sent an email to financial aid asking what was up with that, and though I never got a response clearly today the fee is the correct amount and the waiver does show, so I paid the \$55 quick as I could and am now fully signed up.

Other than that I guess the day was pretty normal. I had a lunch that wrecked me. Yesterday I was pretty disappointed because I spent like 10 minutes waiting to get deli cut food and when I got to the library I realized I'd been waiting to be helped so long that it threw me off and I totally forgot to get sandwich bread. I guess it was ok, as I had crackers I could have, but I'd really been looking forward to a sandwich.

School still seems totally closed so I had to go into the outside bathroom at the library to at least shave my face. It worked ok. I'm cut and nicked in a few places, but at least I'm not itchy as hell.

My life seems pretty sad lately, but all I can do is try to hang on.

Day 5294 - 12/29

Again, not the right lunch

Today I again didn't get the right lunch. My tummy has been kind of upset lately, so I thought I would get some shredded chicken. But all of the dates showed at least 4 days ago and that didn't seem super safe, so I decided to get a calzone, which made my tummy stay a bit upset. 😞

I guess it was an ok day other than that. The connection was ok, so my games ran fine. I was pretty sad overall due to the holidays. And what with my not having money to buy school supplies for my next class, nor to pay bills, I feel very sad, inadequate, and helpless. 😞 The nice professor I expected could help doesn't have any of the stuff, but another said she could help with most of it. But I'm still looking at probably a minimum of \$20, which I guess I can do, but any money eats into potential bill money. 😞

So a pretty sad day, but all I can do is continue to try to hang on and make it to better days.

Day 5295 - 12/30

Meh

Today was pretty meh. Food was different, but ok. The connection was terrible the first couple of hours, but evened out over time. Nothing special or noteworthy happened.

Things were extra sad for holiday things I wish I could have done, or foods or other comforts I could have had, but that is not my life. And I don't know when it will be. All I can do is try to manage and be as ok as I can be, and make it through to better days.

Day 5296 - 12/31

Eve

Today was ok I guess. I was distracted helping people on the social page for a few hours, but really other than that the day was pretty much a regular day. The next few days will be extra rough, as it's been pouring rain and I expect it will continue while things are closed. But all I can do is try my best to hang on.

Day 5297 - 1/1/2023

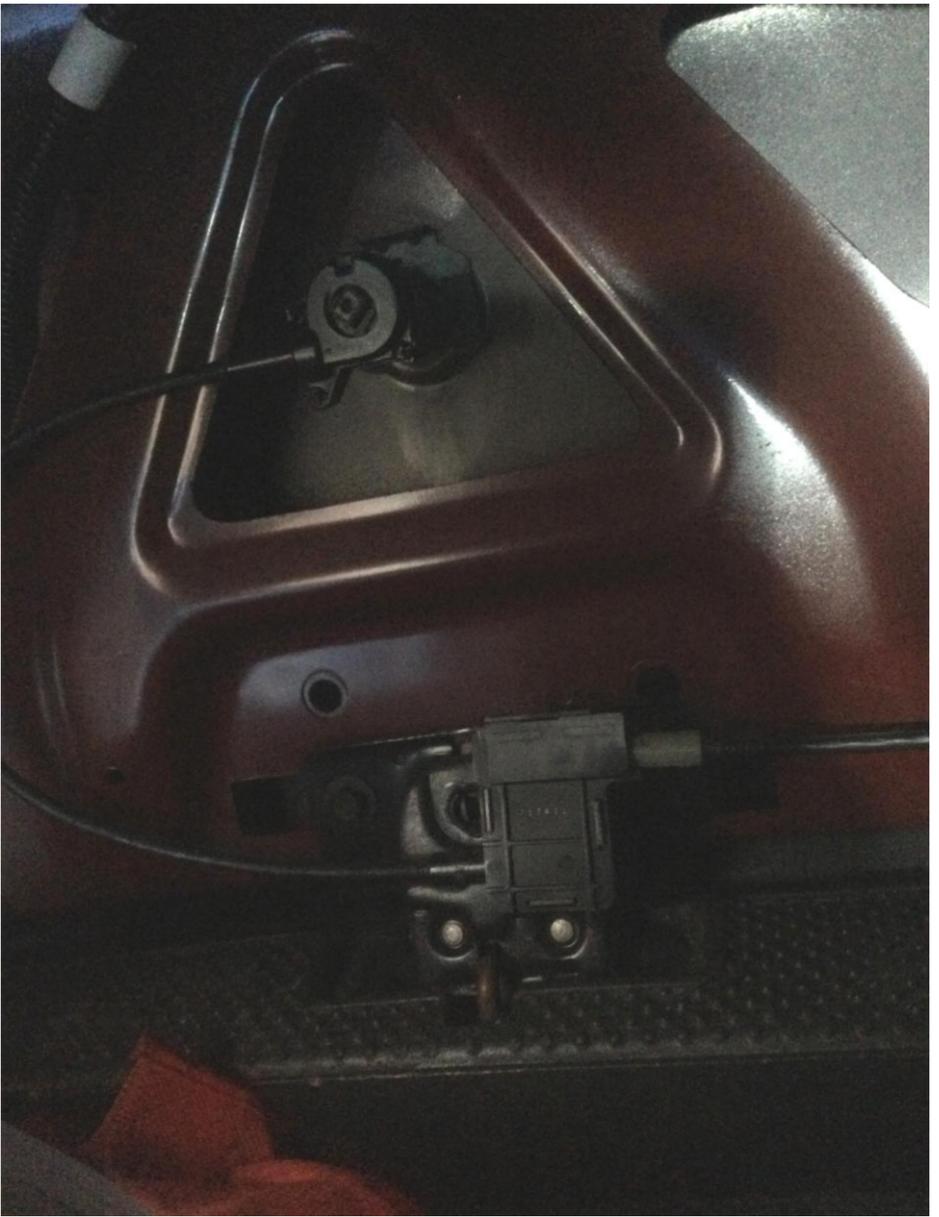
About as hoped

Today at least so far, has gone about as hoped. It's early afternoon and time in my outside spot is over. It's more that my hands and feet are half numb than for any other reason, though I had maybe 30-60 minutes before there would have been too much sun in my area. I did get to do what I expected in my games, so it's fine.

I'm taking a short break in my car now just sitting and warming up. It's not super warm in the car, but it's warm enough my parts feel like they are defrosting a bit.

In a bit I'll rearrange the trunk so I can get to the lock and see if I can open it and get a look at things. I highly doubt I'll be able to just tighten something that's loose to fix it. But who knows, maybe I can see something obviously broken and fix at least one way to open it again. (Edit: Nope. It not only seems to have any obvious parts to try to fix, but it seems to have no way to release it to open. It doesn't seem likely without fully drilling out the lock.) Going in the side through the back seat is ok, but I only have access to maybe 25% of the trunk quickly. Granted I don't really use more than 30-40%, most is just extra storage, so it's not a huge deal, but with how it is currently I can't do things like store water in there. Nor could I do something like put my backpack in there. (Which I really almost never do anyways. I just put it on the side seat.)

Hopefully the rest of the day will go as expected and things will be tolerable. But I still have tomorrow I have to be outside too.



Trunk lock. The top is the lock that just spins, the bottom is the part that latches.

Day 5298 - 1/2

Outside Monday

Today will hopefully be the last outside day for a while. I think there is one Monday in January that is a school and library holiday, but one day is easy enough to get through. I don't know what to expect for today, but hopefully things will be ok.

Day 5299 - 1/3

Back inside Tuesday

Today I will be back inside the library. Hopefully it will be warm and things will be back to normalish. Tomorrow I'll check to see if school is openish to get a shower. Next quarter doesn't officially start up until next week, but things like the book store, and hopefully showers, will be open.

I don't really know what to expect for today, so as always I hope I make it through ok.

Week 758

Day 5300 - 1/4 Expensive paints

Today I had to buy some expensive paints to get ready for my color class. Online they are \$10-15 each. Thankfully I had some credit, so I only had to pay about \$12 actual cash. But I need to buy half a dozen others, which school will hopefully have on sale for \$1 each, otherwise there is no way I could get them without burning every penny I have.

There is a huge storm in the area now. It's only been a bit windy here, and mostly just been super rainy. I guess some parts of the state have flood warnings and power outages, so it's really crazy, and I guess my area has been lucky in comparison.

I am mixed feeling today. On the one hand with ordering stuff and an important class coming up, I feel hopeful. But still being homeless, unable to buy all the supplies I need, and having a very limited life, I still feel very close to death, very alone in my struggles, and helpless.

Day 5301 - 1/5 Suddenly feel very sick

Today I was suddenly feeling very sick for a while. It's about 6 hours after the worst of it, and while I don't feel a whole lot better I think the worst is past. I woke up with my right ear completely plugged and the left about half. They are still ringing now, and I've been sensitive to sound and listening to things at about half the normal volume. My eyes had a similar sensitivity to light and similarly hurt all day. It felt like I had a bad headache in the front of my head. And of course the congestion I've had for a while hasn't gone away. Though in the past maybe week it's changed from an odd dry cough to the regular cough which can cough up yuck.

The worst part happened suddenly after having a breakfast doughnut. (A very chocolate spiced one I don't normally eat.) I felt waves of nausea and like I was going to throw up for about 2-3 hours. I also suddenly felt like I had a bit of a fever. I don't know if

it was an unknown food allergy (I have had that kind before) or some kind of food poisoning. But it threw my tummy so far off I have only had about 8 crackers since then, skipping lunch, and for dinner I expect I'll just have a few more crackers and maybe a tiny bit of salad. I've also only had barely one soda all day whereas I'd normally be at 2 or 3 by now.

I'm trying to be as restful and warm as I can. There is the super crazy storm still. It's been calm most of the day, but a few times it was completely crazy with winds and the power went out briefly a few times. Hopefully I can get some extra rest tonight and feel ok again very soon.

Day 5302 - 1/6

Clear skies

Today I do feel much better, so I do think the bulk of yesterday was some kind of minor food poisoning or allergy that I can't track down. I just have a bit of congestion and ear ringing and pressure left.

Nothing special happened today really. The skies were clear and it was actually a touch warmer. I don't know if I'm in the middle of the storm or if it's finally past and things have calmed down again. But for the moment at least it seems all clear.

Things still feel extremely sad due to no money, but I'm trying to hang on as best as I can.

Day 5303 - 1/7

Nothing special

Today has been a bit windy, but also not as cold as it could be. It hasn't really rained, just a bit of sprinkling. I feel a lot better. My ears are still ringing quite a bit and pretty plugged up. I'm still a bit congested, but mostly better from the terrible event.

I feel very sad and not special today. I suppose nothing has really changed physically or emotionally, everything is as it has been, but I guess I still just feel very alone and lost and not very special or wanted. 😞

Day 5304 - 1/8

Very sad night

Today I am feeling extra sad. I had a very rough time sleeping last night. I thought about dying, and how I may be closer to my death than ever. I thought about kitties I've lost. I cried quite a bit. I wondered if my life would be different if a best friend from my teens and early 20s hadn't died in surgery when we were around 30. I tried my best to push aside that I never want to die, as we all must, and remember to try to focus on the few happy moments I can have.

Day 5305 - 1/9

Probably not a start

Today is the first day of the new school quarter. I have to go to the store in the morning to buy paints for the class, but besides that today will likely not be an actual start. (I'm actually going to post this ahead of Monday so I don't forget in the chaos of the changed schedule.) I have to add the class which may not clear until Tuesday. And the other class said that the lesson may not be available until Wednesday. So I'm not sure exactly when classes will really start up again.

Day 5306 - 1/10

Maybe a start

Today maybe the start of classes. I'm not really sure. It would be the second day on campus. I don't know if I will spend my day in the cafeteria or not. It can actually get

pretty loud in there. I guess we'll see how I feel as time goes on. It certainly is the most convenient since I can just make food and eat whenever I want without needing to pack anything up or change spots.

As always all I can do is try to hang on one day at a time and see how things go, and try to make the best choices for me that I can.

Week 759

Day 5307 - 1/11 Booster poked

Today my arm is kind of sore from being booster poked. I learned last week anyone can get it now. I thought it was still just certain groups of people, so I wasn't paying attention to it. But now I'm booster poked, so slightly less worry about the apocalypse. But overnight when I couldn't stretch my arm got a bit sore in the shoulder. It's nowhere near as bad as previous times though.

The professor I had in a class last quarter where I did art things gave me a bunch of stuff for my color class this quarter. That was super nice of her. 😊 I maybe hopefully don't have to spend too much more than the like \$20 I've spent so far. Most of the paint I got at school for \$1 each, but I did have to keep one of the two \$15 once I ordered online because the school didn't have that color. I could return the other one though, as school had a color I thought they didn't have.

I did one assignment today, so that was good. The online lectures for that class will only be about 1 hour each twice a week, so that is a lot less than I thought. And I'm sure a lot of it I'll be able to run at 2x speed since the professor talks kind of slow and I kind of know some of the material already. Like today was just 45 minutes of general overview stuff, so I did that at 2x speed and just put it in the background and did other things from time to time.

I feel a bit off today. I don't know if I got a bit of a cold from all the rain or if it's just a mild reaction to the poking. But I guess today was a bit better. And hopefully I continue to hang on.

Day 5308 - 1/12

No book

Today was quite the ordeal at the library; not their fault. I went to get a book for a class. I know there used to be a rule that if it was a reserve, and the library closed before that reserve time ran out, you could take it with you until the next day, which would have meant I could have it over the weekend. But they have only older editions with the correct name, or a differently named one that is a newer version. So we went over them for about 30 minutes until I gave up trying to guess which would work and will have to contact the professor, and hopefully she can get things straightened out.

I kind of had to rush a project too. I was going to work on it tonight, but it's due tomorrow, so I wanted to be sure it was finished and turned in today to be sure. The school website was being weird and wouldn't accept the file though. Hopefully it will work tomorrow from the library.

That was really it for anything interesting today. I told someone they could get hot water in the cafeteria food area instead of microing their cup of noodles, but I really didn't talk to anyone outside of that. I've only been feeling a bit off from the poking though in a few ways. It's mostly better but still hurts in certain parts. I expect things to be restful and calm at the library tomorrow though.

Day 5309 - 1/13

Lost to helping

Today I lost a bunch of time helping someone. I don't really mind, but foood, it was probably somewhere around 45-60 minutes of lost time. They didn't know how to turn in a thing for a class, so they were new to submitting things online, new to the school, new to computers, and new to Macs specifically. So since the professor required them to download a .pdf, sign it, then make that into a new .pdf, then upload it, it was this whole long ordeal of stuff the person didn't know how to do. I've never seen a professor require a contract signature like that before. I mean, sure, it was apparently a chemistry class, so something like the lab rule form that might make sense. But they had one for

Covid rules? And for academic honesty? Those make no sense to require signatures for. If you sign up for a class and put those in the green sheet they automatically must agree to them by staying in the class.

I guess the rest of the day was ok. I turned in my assignment in the morning, then did another one in the afternoon, so I'm pretty much clear for the week. Things weren't as tough or time consuming as they originally seemed, but things are just starting, so they may just be starting slow.

I guess outside of some congestion and a tiny bit of poking soreness I feel mostly ok. I'm a bit extra hungry though. I have been for a while. But I try my best to continue to hang on.

Day 5310 - 1/14

Still very rainy

Today there isn't much new except it was still very rainy. I tried to take the day to rest and relax. I don't feel really sick, but I am super tired and worn out feeling. All I can do is try to stay hopeful things will be ok, and I can hang on emotionally and physically.

Day 5311 - 1/15

Rainy times

Today has been another rainy day. I like it quite a bit, but it does mean things are genuinely colder. And of course, it doesn't help my cold. I'm still pretty congested. I guess overall I'm hanging on ok. And hopefully I can continue to hang on until help for the bills and better food come along.

Day 5312 - 1/16

Outside rainy day

Today is a holiday and I expect it will continue to rain, which means I expect a sad rainy cold outside day, with probably very limited safe time to have my laptop out and be online. Hopefully I can continue to hang on.

Day 5313 - 1/17

Back at school Tuesday

Today hopefully should be a regular school day in the warm cafeteria with a good connection and a shower in the morning. I'll be behind on school stuff just a bit as I expect I won't have a chance to do anything for school Monday due to the holiday. I expect I'll be doing school stuff basically every school day, but just a few hours. I may change that to slightly longer on less days though, we'll see.

Hopefully things will be back to normal, money help for things will come, and I can continue to hang on until it does.

Week 760

Day 5314 - 1/18 Gooped eye

Today my right eye has been a little gooped all day. Which for those who aren't contact wearers, is kind of a big problem. The goop can't get out easily, so it's repeatedly irritating the eye more than it otherwise would. Or you could take out your contact, which really can mess with your vision (to have one in and one out.) For me that would effectively mean I can't function as I wouldn't be able to see hardly anything, because more than half of my vision would be blurred.

Oddly, for most of the day my blind spot seems to have been much less bother. Yes, the goop was bad, but overall I felt like I could more often see clearly than I have since the blind spot first appeared, I think around early December. I guess the end of this month will be 5 months with the floater, so hopefully it will be completely gone and things will be normal soon. We'll see in time, hopefully literally.

I did get about half of the reading done for the entire quarter with the one class that has reading, which is super good. Though I have no idea what the point of the reading is. For the material she has gone over so far, it basically said the same things she did, but less. I'm trying to get the names and important facts down, but so much of it seems like super detached rambling and rarely focuses on specific parts, or changes in the art direction.

I also double checked a painting that I need to do for my color class. Which is important that I did that as I'd started kind of doing the project wrong. I guess it's supposed to be two panels and I only thought it was one. I have enough done with sketches to pick a second, so it's no big deal. But it is due Friday just before midnight, when I thought it wasn't due until Monday. So, that was important because I wasn't planning on doing it until Friday, so now I know to swap my planned Thursday and Friday activities.

I guess outside of my eye being goopy I had a pretty ok day. I did school stuff. I got to play a bit. I watched a show. And while I never took off any clothing layers, I was basically warm enough. So I continue to try to hang on.

Day 5315 - 1/19

Wrecked throat

Today my eye stopped being tortured. It is still puffy in the area around my eye, so it's only about half open. But it basically could focus and function just about normally today. The puffiness has remained about the same for the past 10 or so hours, so that does worry me as that is much slower recovery than I thought it would be.

Oddly last night around midnight when the irritation stopped, I guess it almost immediately turned into a damaged throat. I probably sound pretty normal, but it feels like I've been breathing with my mouth open in a very hot desert area. I don't remember coughing or anything odd in my sleep, so it's very confusing.

I did my painting project today. I guess I was wrong about it. Checking the details it only has to be "40%" done, which I don't get. That means from the start of class until when it's due will be 2.5 weeks. While it did take me about 2 hours to do, which was much longer than 1 hour I expected, why do we basically have 2.5 weeks for a project that seemingly has nothing to do with color theory. I am beginning to worry I took the wrong professor to teach me what I need from the class. I did like how he taught the drawing class, but he hasn't really presented any theory so far.

I guess today was ok, and I continue to try to hang on.

Day 5316 - 1/20

Feeling pretty sick

Today I am feeling pretty sick. The yuck in my right eye that turned into a wrecked throat has evolved. Now it is pretty badly ringing ears, a touch of goupiness in the left eye, mild headache, but mostly an even more wrecked throat and icky feeling tummy from all the yuck going straight down my throat from my nose.

The weird thing is that even though I have a lot of bad symptoms I don't really "feel" sick. But yes, if I had the option I'd have been on a couch under a blanket having just soups today. I barely played any games, playing for maybe 3 hours total when I otherwise would have played 2 or 3 times as much. I kept the volume to about 1/2 of

normal. And I watched a lot of shows and killed time. I didn't feel much like playing games, and I couldn't really think, so while I do have an important assignment I barely read 10 pages of it, when I'd expected to read 30-40.

Hopefully I will feel better tomorrow. And then I can do the reading and get rid of this super heavy 1300 page book. (Thankfully I only need to read 6 chapters of it.)

Day 5317 - 1/21

Still very sick

Today I am still feeling very sick. Last night things got worse and worse and from the early evening until around 1 AM I had a pretty extreme fever and chills. It was that extreme level where your body feels like it's floating between different planes, and shards of void ice are crashing through you, making parts of you unbelievably cold.

After 1 AM it pretty much stopped. My temperature turned back to normal and my skin felt ok pretty quickly and I thought I was past the worst of it. But today my ears are still ringing very badly and hurting, feeling kind of like someone has jammed pencils in each ear. And my throat is still completely wrecked, each swallow hurts. I have barely eaten today and yesterday because everything feels like gray mashed potatoes in my stomach. I've actually thought I maybe kind of would like to throw up so I can get all the snot out of my tummy since I have no way to get it out of my body (since I'm guessing it's draining straight down the back side instead of through my nose the regular way.)

A few times I thought, 'it's ok, tomorrow I can have soup for both lunch and dinner,' but I can't because tomorrow is Sunday, not Monday. My brain has been off. So that can't happen until one day later than I've been thinking.

I also lost a ton of VPN use. Like 5 gig today just disappeared. In searching around, it seems like they've reduced the free big plan to 10 gig a month down from 15, and the free basic plan to 2 from 10. (I have one of each using different emails. Though I rarely need to use both.) Which isn't completely terrible while I can be at school. That's 2-3 hours per day of use when I'm at the library. But once school stops that will kill my

shooter play time as what is probably a 15-20 hour average week would be forced to drop to 5-6. I guess there is time to worry about that later.

So today was not great. And all I can do is hope things get better.

Day 5318 - 1/22 **(Hopefully) The final mutation**

Today I am hopefully in the final mutation of my cold. Last night was more of the same; crazy goopy eyes that crusted my eyes closed when I slept, and a lot of rough throat feeling. Not too much fever or chills, just a teeny bit. But this morning things changed again. I woke up instantly panicking because I felt like I was being choked. My throat was pretty congested and my nose completely stuffed up, so when I tried to breathe through my nose I couldn't breathe. So my brain went into panic thinking I was choking to death and started coughing like crazy. I was like, 'no no, calm, breathe, breathing through the mouth is clear... calm... calm...' After a bit I was ok and for the first time in my time since having the cold I felt like I could blow my nose, and so I did.

After that is when the mutation happened. The only way I can think to describe it is if I somehow blew everything out of my nose and throat where it connects to my tummy. And I mean everything, the bad and the good. Things felt wrong. I could feel the cold air, smell at a heightened level, and was aware of things I hadn't noticed before. I was the clearest breathing I have been for months. If I were to describe it another way it would be like how you see sewers in TV and movies; how they are constantly shown with a bit of yuck, and the walls are moist and things are very dark. If you took that, stopped the flow, flushed it out with clean water, then chemically cleaned it, then dried it all out, and gave it extra light, that would be how things feel in comparison. Overly clear, and somehow wrong. Even now nearly 12 hours later it still has that same feel, and smells, of wrong.

There has been no more nasal drip or congestion that I am aware of. That has seemingly stopped. But I can still feel there is congestion in my lungs. I've coughed once every 45-60 minutes and I can feel yuck in my lungs when I do. But if I'm not coughing, things feel basically normal in my lungs. Really the eye goop is the biggest remaining

symptom today. I worry it has ruined my current pair of contacts. I think twice today I had to rinse them. At least I'm praying they aren't ruined. I only have three left. Not three pair, three total. With my prescription being out for probably nearing 2 years I would have to spend \$50 for a new prescription, then \$40 more per box. And these are technically weekly wear, so that should be for 3 weeks. They can last a month per pair easily though, two if they are worn and carefully cared for. But I don't have any money for anything, let alone nearly \$120 for a prescription and at least 2 boxes to hopefully cover a year. 😞 These three last contacts need to last as long as they can since I don't know when I'll get more money that's 'spare'. 😞 But I don't think they are the cause of the goop, as my eyes goop the most when I'm asleep. They goop so much I have to wipe them to open them a few times during the night. If it was contact related that irritation should stop when I take them out.

I guess aside from the odd nose/throat non-congestion change, and the goop irritation, today was a pretty normal day. Hopefully I can feel better soon.

Day 5319 - 1/23

No more fat book

Today I am giving the library back their fat book. It's nearly 1300 pages of name, date, bla bla bla that hasn't told me anything the professor has covered in her lectures. She has a 'mid-term study guide' that we can download, so when that gets close I'll compare and see what I'm missing. And if I am missing anything, then I'll get the book again. I've read until past the mid-term, so only when I need to get it and read more will I do so. So far it has just seemed like a complete waste of time for me.

Hopefully today I can be calm and restful and maybe start feeling better.

Day 5320 - 1/24

Unknown Tuesday

Today I don't know what to expect. My history class will have something new for sure, but I'm not sure what to expect for the color class. Like I said before, he kind of put stuff up for those first two weeks and hasn't changed anything after that. Hopefully things will actually start soon. I still have no clue what the point of that seemingly unrelated first project was for.

Hopefully today I'll be feeling better. Maybe class stuff will be fun. And hopefully help for the bills will come soon and I can continue to hang on.

Week 761

Day 5321 - 1/25 Maybe money

Today I tried to sort out maybe getting some money soon. I got a letter from my ex-employer with bla bla about my retirement they'd paid into changing holders. Apparently the new group is cashing everyone out who's account value is less than 5k and I have been identified as being in that group. I guess the letter says it could be a couple of weeks until they contact me, so I tried to see if I could contact them to speed that up. The people were extremely stupid though and just kept running me in circles saying to call them. I don't get why everyone only does things on phone now. I have 30 minutes a month, not everyone has unlimited phone time. I can't sit on the phone waiting on hold, or who knows what just burning time.

I'm hoping it's going to be quite a bit. My estimate remembering what I made during those years shows it may be, but even if it's just \$750 that would be an extremely large boon. That would mean if my current help I get continues, added to that, I could pay all the bills through the end of the year without worry, and spend the like \$200 getting the contact prescription and contacts for at least a year, possibly two depending how careful I am with them. And at least some of the gift money I get on holidays could actually be used for gifts.

I am not feeling great still. My eye goop has finally stopped, but yesterday my congestion turned to regular congestion, and is probably more. So my throat is completely wrecked in terms of my voice, I'm coughing up yuck now, and I'm a touch wheezy. Though thankfully my throat doesn't hurt like it was with the weird congestion.

So hopefully soon I can sort out how many monies I'll get and make some plans. And hopefully I can finally get better soon.

Day 5322 - 1/26

Still not great

Today I am still not feeling great. Yesterday, especially at night, my congestion got very extreme. I started uncontrollably coughing from about 5 PM on. Not a lot at first, just a few times an hour, but by about 10 PM it was maybe every 5 minutes. I decided to overdose on decongestants hoping it would help. It actually did. It seems like I have to double dose to get any kind of clearing effect. So this morning I did that again, and I expect in a few more hours when I 'go to bed' at night I'll have to do it again.

But my throat is completely wrecked from all the coughing. It's scratchy and any time I try to talk I sound like hell. Thankfully there really is no reason to talk, so I've been quiet all day. At least playing. I did a decent amount of online school typing talk, so my brain has talked quite a bit.

Because of my sick I was moving slow this morning. My day started a bit late. I was taking forever to start the day activities; morning play was late, my assignment starting was late, my after assignment playing was late. It was fine though. It basically meant that I played maybe half what I otherwise would, and really the time of when I do things don't matter at all.

Hopefully tonight the double dose of decongestants will keep me clear and I can get a proper rest. (And hopefully double dosing has no ill effects, as my total taken for the day is about the same, since I double dose but do it less often than the suggested single dose periods.) And hopefully I can hang on with money until help comes, and I can start to feel better soon.

Day 5323 - 1/27

Regular bandwidth

Today I am a bit confused. My VPN free time reset and it showed the previous/full 15 gig. At this point the only thing I can think of is that I did not have 7 (and change) at the start of the last session, but rather 2. The numbers do look very different, but it's the only explanation I have for missing 5 suddenly when my use tracking software

verified I'd only used about 1 gig during that time. And there is a difference of 5 between 7 and 2, so there is that.

I guess other than that it was a pretty regular day. Things are quite though, and nearly all day I was the only one at my table.

Though I am still pretty sick. My ears are still ringing and I have pretty extreme nose and lung congestion, causing me to cough every 20-30 minutes. It wasn't super bad coughing, I'd guess due to the filtered library air, so that was ok, but my throat still seems wrecked. And I am clearly still sick.

Hopefully tomorrow will be a restful day and I can get better soon.

Day 5324 - 1/28

Tried to rest

Today I did my best to try and rest. My ears are still ringing like crazy. My nose is a bit stuffed, and my lungs are pretty stuffed up, so my throat is pretty rough.

Nothing super exciting or good happened really. I tried my best to get as much rest and be as restful as I could. Hopefully I will feel better soon.

Day 5325 - 1/29

Still pretty sick

Today I am still feeling pretty sick. During the day at the library I didn't cough too much, but it was still probably about every 45-60 minutes. My throat didn't feel as rough or bothered; it's more that choking feeling along my throat from all the congestion. 😞

I guess today was ok. I did a tiny bit for school stuff, then mostly played. I wanted to watch some shows, but there's nothing new. I actually only have a very small number of shows these days that I watch. Mostly it's older stuff, or stuff I had to wait for a physical release for because it was on a streamed channel, and I check those out from the library.

I'm trying my best to hang on and get better. Mostly I feel like I can't really control how I feel or how fast I'm getting better. All I can do is hang on.

Day 5326 - 1/30 **Maybe school project**

Today I expect I'll be starting a painting thing for the color class. I have a little over a week to do it, and with how bad I am at painting I expect I'll say it's 'good enough' after a few hours and be done today. But I guess we'll see. I have a complex idea (for me) so we'll see how far I get into it. Or how detailed I care to pursue it.

I don't know what else to expect today. Saturday was warming away from the recent cold weather, but Sunday it started sprinkling and there was a biting cold that came with it. I guess we are not even into February yet, so I should expect it to still be cold, but I'd hoped it was starting to warm up.

Hopefully I can get better and be over my cold soon. I still don't feel great.

Day 5327 - 1/31 **Probably regular Tuesday**

Today will probably be a regular Tuesday. Hopefully I can be restful. I expect I'll do Tuesday class work and be first to do it. (Not surprisingly I seem to be the only one doing them the day they are posted.)

But hopefully I can be restful, warm, and maybe recover from this cold some.

Week 762

Day 5328 - 2/1 Sort of better

Today I am finally sort of better. I am still pretty tired. My ears are still ringing most of the time. And I am still a bit congested and cough yuck on rare occasion. But, this was the first morning I woke up and did not start coughing and feeling like I was being strangled. I've only coughed maybe a dozen times all day. So I may finally be starting to get better.

I got some surprise money. I guess it was another California stimulus? Pretty small compared to previous ones, but completely unexpected. And I went ahead and called the people who wanted to cash out what extremely little retirement money they'd set aside for me. I guess a ton is being taken out because it counts as taxable? But if I'm careful it should be enough for bills for this year, contacts that should last 1-2 years, new boots, maybe a few games, and then maybe bills for next year too. Only one year of gas is accounted for, so just how much of 2024 can be covered will depend on various little things like that, or like if I get cooked meals, as those will add up quickly. Also if there are any emergencies that will eat away at it. I also have that \$200 estimated car repair to consider, but it only affects me less than 1% of the time, and when it does just for a few minutes, so it doesn't seem like a priority.

I called my food stamp person to see if I'd be in any kind of trouble or hold for getting that much, but they haven't gotten back to me. The recording said it could be 24 hours or more, so I won't worry for a while. It's not like I can control it though, it is how much it is. It's about 2x what I'm allowed to make and not report in a month, and my guess is there is some invisible number that is probably like 10k or something before I'd get in trouble.

I guess it was a pretty ok day. Mostly I got to play, but I did do my Thursday assignment since the Wednesday class hasn't posted anything yet. I tried to stay restful and calm to recover from my cold too, but the cafeteria is a bit chilly for some reason. But hopefully I can continue until the money comes, and continue to hang on.

Day 5329 - 2/2

Pretty tired

Today I am pretty tired. I am not as sick as I was, but I think I am still sick enough that I feel pretty run down.

Mostly today was a restful day. I've already finished my class project that isn't even due until Wednesday. And I did all the homework stuff for the week, so I'm free to do whatever this weekend. In my shooter I even finished a big goal, so even with that I'm free to do whatever.

Since I'm still feeling pretty tired, and it's been so cold lately, I hope I can be ok enough tonight, restful enough, and I can continue to hang on.

Day 5330 - 2/3

No penalty

Today I feel ok, but not great. I'm still a bit sick from the cold. Mostly it's settled into ringing ears, a touch of nose congestion, and lung congestion that still makes me cough a few times a day. I think I'm mostly better though.

I may have eaten bad lunchmeat today though. I got some roast beef from the deli and when I was putting it into the bread I noticed parts of it had a golden sheen. I have a vague memory that maybe means the meat is bad? (Looking it up now it's fine, and that's just an effect of how the meat is cut.) My tummy is much more upset than seemingly normal for a roast beef and cheese sandwich.

I got a confirmation call from the food stamp people that my getting money is totally fine. I may have misunderstood what the like 1450 per month limit is for. I guess that's the amount I can make up to without reporting I have income. And I guess things like this that are one shot gains I technically don't need to report at all? And only if it's over that mark, and it's regular income, then I have to report it. Kind of a moot point now I guess, but the important part is I shouldn't have to worry about other big money gains unless it's regular and repeats, like from a job.

Today went quickly. I started updating my site a bit, which some parts I haven't done in a year. I've been very super sad, so it's been hard to find motivation and love for it updating parts people seemingly don't at all care about. Even my podcast I wonder if anyone cares because this time I missed the regular date and no one said anything or asked if I was ok, so I wonder if it's missed at all. 😞

But I tried to rest and get better. I am trying to hang on to what health I can. And hopefully I can hang on until better days.

Day 5331 - 2/4

Big money, different boot

Today was quite the surprise in that the big money has already appeared! I only have access to a part of it until Tuesday, so I just got boots, an art carrying bag, a teeny bit of gas, and a celebration cooked dinner. The bill paying and other stuff will wait until the middle of next week.

I also got tired of my broken boot zipper. It kept not zipping at all today, so I dug into my trunk and swapped it for one of the last pair. It's a thing poor people do; keep the previous pair just in case of something like this. Though really they just have to last until the new ones come Monday, so it probably would have been ok. I guess it would have been a risk though, as my ankle could flop around with it unzipped.

So today things seemed quite a bit easier to hang on. I have hope for some relief with the big money coming in a few days. And I continue to try to hang on until better days.

Day 5332 - 2/5

Art bag

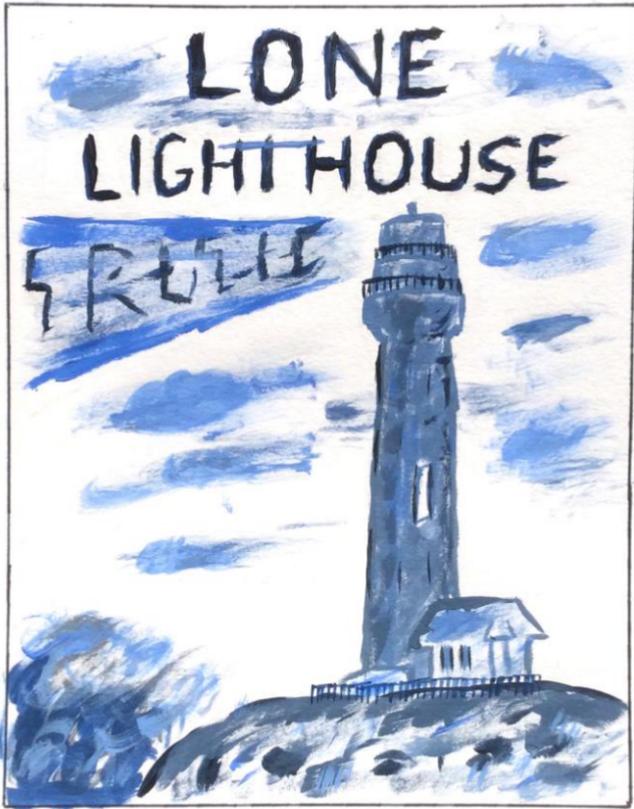
Today I got my art bag. It's a bit different in that it is primarily set up as a backpack. Which without reinforcement to keep it flat is kind of a terrible idea. But it has pockets to carry things, so I've got my pencils and ruler in there, and my little scissors, so

that's good. It also has all the paints, but I'm going to remove those and only carry the ones I need at the time. But it is probably better for my sad life, as those things can stay in the bag since I don't have a proper shelf or drawer to put them in, as a person with a home and regular life would have. If I did I'd have been fine with just a regular over the shoulder one without pockets.

I feel strange today. Maybe it's because I still have some congestion and some coughing, but my mind has also been focused on death and terrible things happening to me. I also feel very melancholy maybe about what I am missing in life and may never have again. I feel like the money for bills and a few small nice things has given me some hope back, but I also feel like I'm stuck in life, again feeling like no one really cares about what I do.

But I know that's not totally true. At least not completely. The art professor lent me lots of stuff so I could do the color class this quarter. The professor I'm friendly with I do know cares (though he's never really tried to help, but I don't blame him, as I'm in a very tough spot.) And when I was working on the last art project a couple of regulars at the nearby group table were very curious about it and thought it was really good.

But I don't know. Today I guess I just feel like I will fall into obscurity, and soon I will be gone, much sooner than I'd like, and only a few will remember me. But I guess that is really all of our fates unless we have some level of fame. And so I try to stay as healthy as I can. And I try my best to not think about my end, and try to hang on emotionally.



Slightly better with brushes.

Day 5333 - 2/6

Break Monday

Today I expect I will have a break. I'm still ahead in the one class by probably half a week, and current in the other, so I don't expect any new class stuff to come up today. I've been trying to update my site, as some parts are a year old, so maybe I'll do that some more.

As always I will try my best to hang on.

Day 5334 - 2/7

Probably regular class Tuesday

Today will probably be a regular class day. Technically I may have access to the big money, but I think I'll wait until tomorrow to start burning it up on bills.

Hopefully today I can be warm enough, restful enough, and have an ok time with class stuff. And hopefully I can continue to hang on and be ok.

Week 763

Day 5335 - 2/8 Spending begins

Today I started spending the big money. I paid my very important year end web stuff, and paid it for two years as my plan estimated I could. It was actually a teeny bit less than the estimate, but that teeny bit will likely be literally eaten up with things like cooked food. I have to be very careful with that.

I got my boots yesterday and they fit really good. They aren't the most comfortable in the world, but for like \$65 they are where I expect them to be. I also got the expansion for my MMO that comes out in a few months, so that's taken care of too.

I held off on paying the car insurance, as I didn't want to hit my card with everything all at once. I'm also going to wait a few days and check my phone before calling about my contacts and exam. I did put in my last pair maybe a week ago. And yeah, the gooping must have wrecked them a bit, or their overall age. That last pair can see a lot better. It's not perfect, as about 25 feet or further things get a bit blurred, but I don't know if that is due to maybe being a quarter step down or if that is because my blind spot is messing with the shared vision and making it impossible to fully focus on anything.

I got a little bit of stuff on sale at school too; some big painting paper and a little bit of paints. I will give some paper to the professor who lent me her brushes and stuff so when she has the next student who is poor like me and needs help she will have a bit extra to help with in the future.

I should feel better. I should feel more relieved. I guess I do in a way, but mostly I feel exhausted. I've been losing sleep lately and I guess I'm still behind because most of the day I've just felt like I'm going to flop over asleep. But I continue to try to hang on as best as I can.

Day 5336 - 2/9

Maybe Kraken

Today I am pretty tired. I'm still pretty exhausted from losing a bunch of sleep lately (for no real reason.) I saw the friendly professor I sometimes chat with in the morning. I guess he's been out around the same time that I was sick. I guess he said he briefly tested positive for the new Kraken strain of the virus. A few of his symptoms sounded like mine, so it's possible I had a low level version of that for those two weeks. I'm fine now except for general exhaustion. So if I had it, or didn't have it, it must be gone by now.

There is still nothing new for my class I was ahead in. Now the project was due, so I wonder why nothing new has been posted. I still don't understand why there were 2.5 weeks to do it. My only guess is maybe this is the first ever class students have that introduce color? Even then it seems too slow, with too complex and too few projects. It's definitely not how I would run the class if I were in a position to do so. I do have a big project due on Saturday for the other class, so I started on that. I guess it hasn't been as bad as it originally seemed. But I don't know, it's a bunch of boring research and such, so it doesn't seem thrilling.

I only had a little bit of time for fun today. The project took me by surprise and I'd spent about 2 hours on it that I hadn't planned on. I was also very tired, so didn't do any stuff for my site like I expected to. And I lost an hour just messing around because I was so tired. But it was a day. I paid another big bill. I'm actually a touch ahead on my estimates, so that is good. And so I try to continue on as best as I can.

Day 5337 - 2/10

Big homework

Today passed pretty quickly. I had a big homework to do that I hoped would be pretty quick, but actually wound up taking nearly 3 hours. I guess it's ok though because now it's finished and I have Saturday, Sunday, and probably Monday, free to do whatever. There is one hopefully small thing I have to do to get ready for a test, but that's it.

I guess I feel mostly ok. There is still a bit of congestion and some cough due to the cold weather, but it is finally starting to warm up. I had my hoodie off for just a bit when I was out. So I continue to try and be as warm as I can, and continue to try to hang on until better days.

Day 5338 - 2/11

Mouse test

Today I tested a new mouse. It was an older design style that I used for a few years before my current one, but with new tech. Weirdly I just wasn't feeling it. I prefer the smaller, more regular shape mouse I've been using for the past 2 years. And the fancier button tech didn't actually feel any different from my current mouse. I mean, yes, in a blind test I could say which is which easily, but 'better'? That I could not say.

I guess today was pretty good. Most of all I am still just very tired. I did find out I'm still a week ahead in the one class I made the picture for. Apparently the 'turn it in' last Wednesday was not the actual turning in. It was just to turn in your partly done work, but I'd finished. This Wednesday is the for real turn it in. So I don't have anything in the class to do until then at the very earliest, maybe even not until next week. It still seems like it's moving at a snail's pace, and that project should have been maybe 1 to 1.5 weeks at most, not the like 3 it's been.

I'm pretty tired, but I guess feel mostly ok in terms of health. So I continue to try my best to hang on.

Day 5339 - 2/12

Still so tired

Today I am still so very tired. 😞 I still had a bit of trouble getting to sleep last night for some reason. I was so tired I actually did do some school stuff that I wanted to do. Not a huge deal, as I should be able to do it in about one hour tomorrow. I did do some stuff on my site though, so it's very close to being a lot more current.

Hopefully I can get ok sleep tonight, and hang on until better days.

Day 5340 - 2/13

Probably relaxed Monday

Today I expect will be a relaxed day. I don't expect one class will post anything (until Wednesday), and the other posts things on Tuesday. Hopefully it will be calm, fairly quiet, and all the buzzing thoughts in my brain finally start to settle. (It's been obsessing over bills that I can pay, but can't because they can't be paid early, or need to wait to be paid.)

Hopefully I will be calm, warm, and get some rest, and have a pretty good day.

Day 5341 - 2/14

Maybe busy day

Today will maybe be a busy day. I have regular class stuff that will be posted, but we also have a test this week that I think I can take any time until Sunday. So unless there is less regular stuff in the week to compensate for the test, this may be a pretty busy day.

Sadly it won't be a busy day with sweetie day things. I don't know when I last did that. I can't even clearly recall the last time I even did the chocolate roses to give to girls in class. This year that's not even an option since the classes are online. There are a few who somewhat regularly sit around me, but that doesn't feel super proper, and being half my age there would be zero chance they would be interested in me in any way.

Today I hope I can be warm enough, things around me are calm enough, and I can continue to hang on.

Week 764

Day 5342 - 2/15 **Mindboggling**

Today was pretty good. It was a quick feeling day, though I didn't do much. I did do a little bit for a class thing, and the next assignment was finally posted. Though the lecture portion was a 10 minute video that I watched at 2x speed. And again, it really said nothing at all about color or theory. And again, we have more than 2 weeks to complete it. A few students have started showing their project, and it's mindboggling how many are not following the directions. People did things like add a second layer when it's supposed to be a flat drawing. (Though I guess I kind of understand this one, as the demo the professor did was on tracing paper so he could move it around before doing the actual painting. So people probably thought he just glued it in place.) Or people used multiple colors when you are only supposed to use one. It's kind of mindboggling how they messed things up with this much time to complete it.

Most of the day I just rested and played. My other class which posts the whole week on Tuesday has a test, so that won't be posted until tomorrow.

I guess the day was ok, though still a bit sad. But I try to continue to hang on.

Day 5343 - 2/16 **Tummy thing**

Today I am recovering from the night time tummy thing again. It is that weird thing that wakes me up and I feel both starving and like I've been punched in the tummy at the same time. (Like just under my ribs down half way to my belly button, just in the front of my body.) I still have no clue what it could be. Maybe it's some kind of crazy muscle cramp since there are areas on my back muscles that seem to reflect a similar kind of pain? My only other guess is it's maybe GERD related.

Other than that it was a pretty regular day and so I continue to try to hang on.

Day 5344 - 2/17

Distracted

Today I have been super distracted. I didn't do something I've been trying to do for a bit. My mind kept wandering all day with other things just being generally distracted by nothings.

I've been trying to figure out what to do for my next color class project. Again it has really nothing to do with color theory that I can tell. The only thing he said about theory was half should be a 'warm tone' and half a 'cool tone', but he didn't actually explain what that means. So anyone who isn't familiar with that would have to go look it up online or something. I have half a week until the sketches are due, and then a full week after that to submit the 'work in progress', and then probably even a week after that before it's actually due, so I'm not at all worried.

I guess today was a pretty regular day, and I continue to try to hang on.

Day 5345 - 2/18

Rabbit hole

Today my brain was very distracted. I expect it was because I felt pretty tired, which is odd for getting enough sleep. But it would think about maybe a product I want to get (since I have some money now) and it would spiral and look at different versions, then eventually just calm down and be like, 'none of these are better than what I have.' (Like what happened with the mouse I tried.) It also spiraled a few times checking various class things, which is like I'm ahead in everything, so I don't know why it was doing that.

I guess there wasn't much harm being scattered today, since I had no serious or important commitments. I guess the day was ok overall, and so I continue to try to hang on.

Day 5346 - 2/19

Made the time

Today I finally "made the time" to do the thing for the website that I've been wanting to do for a couple of weeks now. It's funny (and sad) that I finished updating parts that haven't been updated in exactly one year to the day. Hopefully now that the parts are basically current again I can feel better and update them as needed as time goes on, like I used to back in the day when I wasn't so extremely depressed all the time.

Other than that I am still unusually tired, and extremely easily distracted. I wonder if any part of that is a subconscious reaction to my right eye's blind spot. Though the past couple of days it actually finally seems like it may be clearing up. It's been so long since I got the floater, then the minor blind spot, that I can't even remember what it was like to see clearly without interruption.

Other than that it was a pretty normal day. And as always, I continue to try to hang on.

Day 5347 - 2/20

Inside

Today I can thankfully be inside for at least most of the day and night. I was very worried about it what with everywhere I'd normally go being closed for the holiday. I won't be super warm where I'll be (compared to outside), but I won't have to worry about a connection, or being blinded by the sun at whatever time, or access to food, and hopefully I'll be warm enough that things are ok. Hopefully I can continue to hang on ok.

Day 5348 - 2/21

Still ahead

Today will hopefully be a regular at school day. I am still ahead in the color class, possibly as far as 2 weeks. I still don't get why there is so little lecture or work in the

class, but I guess it's a nice break. The other will probably post the week today and I'll just go ahead and do it all at once. It's easier that way.

But hopefully i can get shaved and showered in the morning, get some micro foods, and be calm and restful. And hopefully I can continue to hang on ok.

Week 765

Day 5349 - 2/22 **A big wind**

Today I am pretty tired. I think because suddenly a big wind came up and caused me to lose a couple of hours sleep last night. It's almost completely gone now, so hopefully I can sleep ok tonight. But it feels really super cold compared to what it should be, so I guess it may still come back.

I guess today was ok. Because I was so extremely tired I could barely think. Doing a homework was tough and took probably twice as long as it normally would. But really that class is done now until next Tuesday, and I have to paint a thing for the other one, and then that one is done for like 2 weeks. So I really don't have a lot demanding my attention.

I guess overall today was ok, and though I feel very tired, I continue to hang on.

Day 5350 - 2/23 **Feels heavy**

Today for some unknown reason my backpack feels very heavy, like nearly double what it should be. My arts bag feels incredibly heavy as well. Though I haven't carried that around before, so I really have no reference on that.

I had some weird cramps in the morning too which haven't totally cleared up yet. Mostly that is on my back, I guess near the bottom of my ribs on both sides, as well as a bit below.

I guess I had a pretty good day though. The art I was doing took double the time I thought it would, and it's not even done. I have details to put on Monday.

I am a bit sleepy, but overall things seem ok, and I continue to hang on.

Day 5351 - 2/24

Still heavy

Today my things still feel extra heavy. My backpack feels like I'm carrying an extra 15 pounds in it, and my boots feel like they weigh double or even triple what they do. I really don't understand why. It may be just because I'm getting older, but it seems very sudden.

I guess I had an otherwise ok time. Things were pretty regular, basic, and quiet. I am not playing my shooter very much because there is very little to get with the new expansion starting Tuesday. So I am peeking at a new game I got recently, but that is really the only thing new or different.

I continue to try my best to hang on.

Day 5352 - 2/25

Literally freezing

Today has been gray and looking like rain all day. It hasn't yet that I've noticed, but it is literally freezing cold. Up in the hills near San Francisco it's gotten snowy, which is completely crazy.

My brain has been really weird lately. All day yesterday it thought it was Saturday, and it's been thinking today is Sunday. I really don't know why.

Other than that the day has been pretty regular, and I continue to hang on.

Day 5353 - 2/26

Rainy

Today it has gotten pretty rainy. The day was a pretty regular day, other than I mostly played a different game. I did watch a show, so that was a bit different, but that was really it. I don't know what to expect tomorrow, but I have a painting to finish, so hopefully my art case will keep the things dry.

Hopefully I can feel ok, and continue to hang on.

Day 5354 - 2/27
Probably rainy Monday

Today I don't really know what to expect other than I will be finishing a painting project. One of my games will be down for a huge patch, so hopefully I can download it and get it all ready for tomorrow.

And hopefully I can be warm enough and dry enough to continue to hang on ok.

Day 5355 - 2/28
Maybe new expansion

Today I will do part of my school week's work, but hopefully mostly I'll be playing my shooter's new expansion. Though of all my play window I really only expect to be able to play half of the time. The company doesn't have a great track record for big release days. They often delay the open, have a massive wait time to get in, or have to take it down again due to some critical bug or other issue. So I guess we'll see how much I get to play.

Hopefully I can be warm enough, not get too rained on, and continue to hang on ok.

Week 766

Day 5356 - 3/1 Not enough sleeps

Today I did not get enough sleeps. Last night I couldn't sleep for a few hours after getting 'in bed', and then for some unknown reason I woke up after only 5 hours of sleep and couldn't get back to sleep. It was actually pretty tempting to shower this morning instead of tomorrow, but I knew that would throw off my brain even more, and I didn't really need to shower that much.

I guess I had a pretty good day though. I got about 2 extra hours to do stuff because of that, so I easily finished my school stuff for the week in the morning, then spent the rest of the day playing and trying to relax. It would be a lot nicer if the school cafeteria were warmer. I don't know why they let it be so cold.

As sleepy as I was I hung on ok.

Day 5357 - 3/2 Two week experiment

Today I am maybe starting an experiment, again. Last night I had 2.5 cookies that had a lot of chocolate. I haven't had that kind in years. A few hours later during the night I got pretty bad mystery tummy pain. So I really don't know, maybe my issue is with chocolate. I have it fairly often in small amounts, pretty much a bit almost every day. So I am going to try an experiment for two weeks of zero chocolate. I'm also going to try to not have brown soda, but that may be just a minimum of one instead. It's the only caffeine I do besides chocolate, and today I'm starting to get a headache and am massively sleepy. But I'll see if my tummy issues change while I do the experiment.

That is really it for the day. I played a lot of my new shooter expansion, watched a few shows, and that was really it. Sadly my area in the cafeteria got really loud, so my ears are ringing from how loud I had to turn things up to hear, but I guess I had an ok day today.

Day 5358 - 3/3

Try again

Today was pretty good I guess. I had given up on a super hard mode thing in my shooter a few days ago because I literally spent hours repeatedly failing. In the meantime I've done regular difficulty level stuff and just been getting used to the new things. I tried it again today, and beat the mission that killed me 50+ times in like 3 more tries. So that was good. I have one more super hard difficulty mission to beat, but hopefully that will seem much easier now that I am much more familiar with things. (Later add; I tried the last mission 25+ more times and it's stupidly hard even with my new knowledge. It doesn't at all seem worth doing.)

Outside of that I just watched a couple of shows, so I guess the day was pretty good. I was warm enough. Things were quiet. And people who sit near me didn't seem bad. So today I held on ok, and I continue to try to hang on until forever better days.

Day 5359 - 3/4

Busted internet

Today was kind of sad. The connection disconnected me about an hour before I'd have normally left and did not reconnect me. Yesterday and today it took 3 tries before getting on, and during the day today I got disconnected a few times for about 5-10 minutes each time. It's not a good sign since once the library connection starts to go bad it seems to stay that way for weeks.

I guess other than that it was a pretty ok day. It poured rain in the late morning until early afternoon. I thought it would keep going, but since then there has barely been a cloud in the sky at all. I was getting worried right before I left though since a couple of people around me were coughing a bit, and a guy at my table had sneezed a few times during the day. It always makes me worried when people are sick there as it's not warm enough to just pack up and go be outside away from people yet.

But I guess overall I held on ok, and can hopefully continue on until better days.

Day 5360 - 3/5

Raining ice

Today had quite a rough start. I couldn't connect at my regular spot in the library at all, so I carried my system all the way across to the other side to see if a different connection point worked. It did connect, so I walked back to my spot figuring if the issue is just connecting it should be fine. And it did work, for a time. When it disconnected I tried walking back and forth again, but that time it didn't work more than a few minutes. So I tried staying in the spot on the other side where it could connect, but it didn't actually connect at all. So whatever is going on in the library is probably happening in all areas. Apparently several complained yesterday about connection issues. But from about 12:30 on things connected ok from my regular spot, and I had the rest of the day to do regular things. My shooter was showing signs of having trouble connecting though after a bit, so I did stop about an hour earlier than usual and just watched shows.

There was quite the crazy rain in the morning though. About 45 minutes after I settled into my regular spot it started raining hard enough to hear quite loud rain on the roof. And it got louder, and louder, and when it was extremely loud I noticed little dots on the ground below. It was actually frozen rain. I continued for only about 20 minutes, and after less than 5 minutes on the ground the ice was already melting, but it was quite the sight. I haven't seen frozen rain or light snow at my elevation in probably 20 years, and probably 20 before that.

All in all today was pretty good, and I hung on ok.

Day 5361 - 3/6

Painting Monday

Today I need to redo some of the most recent painting for class that I did. I guess it's kind of wrong, and even though the directions say what to do, I still think they weren't great, as the style wasn't really explained at all. While I was originally pretty into the professor in the drawing class, I think I'll pass on any future classes with him.

The painting should be ok, maybe even fun, so hopefully I'll have an ok day and hang on easier.

Day 5362 - 3/7

Regular Tuesday

Today I expect will be a pretty regular day. It will probably still be overly cold, but I don't expect anything different. And so hopefully I will have an ok time with my class stuff, and have fun playing and watching stuff after.

Week 767

Day 5363 - 3/8 Extremely tired

Today I am extremely tired. Lately I've been extra hungry as well. I'm not sure why I feel either of those. Half of the nights during the past week I've woken up early, and had very restful sleep, so I assume I got enough. (Save for that one night I only slept 5-6 hours total.) And because I ran out of clear drink a few days ago I've mostly returned to my normal amount of brown drinks during the day and one clear drink overnight (which I often don't drink all of.)

The experiment seems to confirm I have a chocolate "sensitivity." Looking it up online, not an allergy, it matches my symptoms. I guess food "allergies" all qualify under that deadly category with extreme and almost immediate reactions. I did sneak a chocolate doughnut the other day to see if I had any reaction and I was fine. So I would guess it was the near constant daily dose over who knows how long lately that has been doing me in. I haven't seen a lot of change with my tummy and G.E.R.D. symptoms overall, but I have slept very deeply, and I can be on my right side at night much more often. My throat still feels pretty closed up, but that may take a while to settle. So definitely the next week, possibly forever, I'm trying to limit myself to one chocolate thing, maybe two, per week and that's it. I'm fine with it so far. I don't really miss it, but it does limit my snack options, particularly night snacks.

I guess that was really it lately. I did get a super nice donation from someone, but outside of that everything has been pretty regular. And so I continue to try to hang on.

Day 5364 - 3/9 Adding a cheese ban

Today I was mostly recovering from the extreme mystery pain. And I had no chocolate, so either that is not as big of a factor, or cheese is a much greater threat to me now. I guess I wasn't paying attention and had a micro lasagna for lunch, then there was a

meeting in the big conference room that had a bunch of left over pizza, so I got a free big pizza slice. And then, again right around probably 3 in the morning, the mystery pain hit me pretty hard. And if I remember right it got me a week ago, which was also a day I think I got an extra snack pizza slice at school. So at least for now, I'm adding cheese to my list of banned foods. And if I do have any it will have the same limitations I've put on chocolate of just a little, not two days in a row, and only once or twice a week.

I guess once my pains started to settle down things were mostly ok. I played a bit, and watched several shows.

Weirdly, probably due to partly being rainy all day, nearly everyone was gone by about 3:30. There were only a few others nearby me. Though someone was playing the piano, so it was still pretty loud. It felt weirdly sad. I would guess that was either just my own recent sad things or due to the piano music setting a mood.

But overall today was pretty ok. Hopefully I am a step closer to not having the mystery tummy pain anymore, and hopefully I can continue to hang on.

Day 5365 - 3/10

Did not connect

Today was a pretty terrible connection at the library. I totally forgot it had been garbage until I started walking up to the library. My tablet took 3 minutes to connect, and then it was fine until I disconnected in the afternoon (then wouldn't go back on.) But my laptop never connected to the library from my regular spot. I suffered along with barely a connection to the outside connection for the first 1.5 hours, of which I barely got about 15 minutes of use, then I thought to carry my system to a different part of the library to connect.

I guess the day was tolerable other than that. I only did basic things in my games. And though there were many interruptions I got through a couple of shows. Unexpectedly I guess dad sent some Saint Patty's day money, so that was a total surprise. I guess I hung on ok. And I continue to try my best to hang on until better days.

Day 5366 - 3/11

The long connection

Today was pretty good. When I couldn't connect from my regular spot I immediately walked half way through the library to connect, then walked back. I got very nervous walking around with my laptop in my hands, but the connection kind of refuses to work at my regular spot lately. It hung on just fine until around 4, then it didn't work again. I played my usual games and watched a few shows. Hopefully they will fix the connection soon. Though with how it's gone bad a few times a year for a few weeks at a time and they've never changed it, that seems unlikely.

There was an unexpected comment to a comment I made for a class. I made a reference to an old TV show that was popular in probably the early 90s and someone responded about the old rabbit ear antennas. Since it's an online class I have no idea how old people are. It's I guess comforting to know I'm not the only 'older one' there. The professor leaves like 2 days for those to be posted and commented on, then it locks it and people can't respond. That's not really enough time to respond or comment, especially since he's giving no information about the theory. I really think I'd have learned more about color theory, both from the scientific side and the psychological side, if I had just spent a few hours watching videos online. Well, I guess it's a pretty easy class, which is needed for the degree, so I guess that will be an easy pass.

I guess I hung on ok today, and try to continue on to better days.

Day 5367 - 3/12

Still bad connection

Today the connection at the library was still weird. I did not try to fuss though and immediately walked half way across the library to connect. That lasted, weirdly, right until about the exact same time as it died in the afternoon both Friday and Saturday. So it was a fine connection, but it's still weird the routers are being like that.

I was actually starting to have a bad day. I decided to try for a special thing in my shooter (since I did all the other things to progress this week so far), but after more than

an hour stuck repeatedly dying to a boss half way through the thing I had to go to a place and ask for help. Thankfully a person said they would, and it wasn't too tough for us to finish pretty quickly. And they got the special thing too, so that was good.

I guess it was a pretty regular day other than that, not counting the time change which has shifted the light by an hour, which is pretty weird. But I guess I held on ok.

Day 5368 - 3/13

Probably rainy Monday

Today it will be pretty rainy. It's been raining for a few days now. It actually stopped for a day and I thought we'd start seeing warmer weather, but it started raining again. I don't know what to expect for today. I don't have much to do other than one small project. I may start another that isn't due for a few weeks if I don't forget and I'm not too tired.

Day 5369 - 3/14

Probably regular Tuesday

Today I expect will be a regular Tuesday, with regular class things being posted for the week for the one class. I don't expect anything different or strange. And so hopefully I can continue to hang on.

Week 768

Day 5370 - 3/15 **Whacky outage**

Today is another day with a whacky power outage. The school went out Tuesday during the most windy and rainy storm ever. There was one point I was walking and it nearly completely stopped me from walking forward even though I was fully leaning into it. Today they announced they are staying closed through the rest of the week. When I went to check the public library, it too was closed. I checked the public library this morning and despite the site saying they were going to be open, they seemed like they had no power. Later in the day the website showed they would be closed all day. I hope they are open tomorrow and the connection is regular, so things can be back to normal for me.

I guess Tuesday wasn't all bad though. I lost a couple of hours due to waiting for the power to come back on and then moving around. When I discovered my local library was closed, I went to the next closest one. It's actually one I used to go to before I started going to the closer one. It was ok, but then the internet went out after a few hours. Today it was a bit more crowded there with some places (in my regular area) being closed, but the connection held on. I guess basically it was a regular day for me, just at a different library.

Not much else going on, just a weirdness due to the storm which basically seems to be over, and now I just need to wait for things to reopen and settle back to normal.

Day 5371 - 3/16 **Fun day**

Today was a pretty fun day. There is a test this weekend for a game that I will probably be getting in 3 months, so I get to be sure I want to get it, as well as getting a pretty good peek at what I may like to play when it does.

I got to watch a few shows, and things were calm and quiet around me, but I was pretty cold. I had stuff with cheese, but so far my special pills seem to have helped. I'll know for sure tomorrow if I had a pain during the night or not.

Today was a little easier to hang on, though it was still at the different library, but that was something.

Day 5372 - 3/17

Regular day

Today really nothing special happened. Things were back on at my regular library, so things were just a normal day. I thought about bringing a painting project I wanted to do last week, but I thought since it was kind of involved that would be too weird. I can do it next week at school and that should be fine. It's not due until Wednesday. (And even then I think that's only 'partly done' due.)

Day 5373 - 3/18

Famous passing

Today was pretty sad. I got a bit of extra sleep, so that was nice. I played my game test and got to do a special event. And I watched a new show that seemed like it could be interesting.

There was sad news of a famous actor passing. He is the voice of an important regular character in my shooter, so that will be very strange hearing him fairly regularly knowing the actor is gone. They don't know the cause last I checked, but he was only, I think, 60, which is just a little older than me. So now I am again worried wondering how I can have my remaining 35 years if someone who was in assumedly good health, living in a home eating good food, had friends and family who cared for him, and passed from natural unknown causes.

Well, I have what I have and can only try my best that I can to continue to hang on until better days.

Day 5374 - 3/19

Regular day

Today was a pretty regular day. The only thing different was that I got to sleep in a bit, and I got to play a bit more in the test. So I checked out a different class, and some different build options with the class I will probably play at launch. I'll watch some shows in a bit too. And it has been heavily raining off and on. It seems maybe the rain is returning, which it's been pretty dry since the crazy storm on Tuesday.

I hung on ok, though I still feel very sad about many things.

Day 5375 - 3/20

Unknown Monday

Today will hopefully be a regular Monday. With having not been on campus for basically a week things may be weird. I don't expect any destruction or anything, but there may be some weirdness. I have the big painting project to do, so hopefully I can finish that quick enough and hang on ok.

Day 5376 - 3/21

Hopefully back to normal

Today hopefully things will fully be back to normal. Hopefully there won't be too terrible rain. Hopefully I can finish or be done with the painting. And hopefully school things will feel all normal again. As I'm writing this it feels longer than just a few days that things were closed at school. And hopefully I finally can be caught up on sleep from the time change.

Hopefully the week closes out ok, and things feel normal again.

Week 769

Day 5377 - 3/22 Ban on cheese

Today I am pretty sad and sick feeling. I am super dumb because last night I had about 3 medium sized handfuls of healthy cheesy bunny snacks. They are a tiny cracker snack and I didn't even think it would have actual cheese. Well, apparently it does and it triggered close to the nearly worst tummy pain yet about 3 hours after the snack. So for now I am putting a 100% ban on cheese, especially orange cheese. In a few weeks, if I'm ok, I may slightly lift the ban to allow for sometimes white cheese (mozzarella sticks or a rare pizza) as they don't seem to affect me anywhere near as much as orange cheeses. But at least for a few weeks I'm going to try for zero cheese.

I tried to check in with the school doc because I didn't feel as good as I normally would have in the morning, but they basically refused to see me since they 'aren't a primary care physician.' They said I could pay their \$10 fee and do a "consultation", but then they would refer me to someone else, so I saw no point in that. If I'm going to need to go to someone else, I'll just do that directly.

I'm exhausted. 😞 I probably got 1/3 of normal sleep due to the pain. And my muscles are now barely recovering nearly a full 24 hours later. I'll probably get some extra food tomorrow and try to 'catch up'. I didn't eat much today. I barely had a breakfast (over the span of probably an hour) and then barely could eat small soups for lunch and dinner. I was hungry, but didn't feel like eating due to the pains, if that makes sense.

Today all I can do is hope the pain goes away, and try my best to hang on.

Day 5378 - 3/23 Recovery

Today I am still a bit in recovery. I think it was until late morning that I start to feel normal in my tummy. I got some extra to eat today, so hopefully I can get caught up a

bit, if that's a thing. Someone had some extra cookies to give away in little packs, so I grabbed a 2 pack of chocolate cookies without thinking about it. I think it should be ok though, as I had them during lunch, and I had no other chocolate all day.

I finished my big writing project much more quickly than I thought I would. I guess I just 'got into the zone' and did it yesterday and last night, and this morning I just added a tiny bit more. That's good as that means besides doing a tiny thing for the final I'm effectively done and can just be restful this upcoming last week of the quarter.

I'm still confused about the color class. We barely did anything, I think four total projects, and I certainly learned nothing new that I didn't already know. I really feel sorry for everyone who bought the "required materials." At this point I think I've used a tiny bit of four colors of paint that I got on sale at school for \$1 each. I didn't touch the one he said I'd "absolutely need" that I paid full \$10 price for. But the pack of "required" things was something like \$150. I bet probably 75% of all of that went completely unused. Things like an airbrush and it's stuff that it needs aren't cheap and I would be furious if I'd have gotten that pack and had that many unused expensive things. Why were things like that in the pack at all? Those things can't be re-sold back to the store at this point I'm sure.

But my weekend should pretty much be all play time. And then next week is finals, and then the school break for a week before there are classes again. One should be fun doing creative stuff. The other is an online history type like the one I just did, so I should be fairly free to do that on my schedule and not be too cramped on required times. I'm still very worried though, as I think there really aren't many classes I can take after that when things start again in September. I'm in no better a position to get a job than when I started so long ago. And no one I've met along the way really seems interested in helping me find something.

I guess all I can do is continue to take things as they come, and try to stay hopeful my future will be better, brighter, and I can continue to hang on.

Day 5379 - 3/24

Stable connection, unstable game

Today was pretty good. I was a bit sleepy in the morning, but I guess ok. The connection at the library stayed stable, so that was good. But my game test wasn't. I had to wait in a queue for nearly an hour, played maybe an hour, then got dropped, then had to go back in the queue, repeat. But as the day went on it got as low as only a 15 minute queue, but then later in the day it went back up to an hour. I guess it's fine though. I got to test the class I wanted to check, as well as two others, which was enough to know, as I thought, those aren't the class for me. I may continue to peek at things, but I'll more likely go back to my main class and take an extended look at other abilities to see which build I like the most.

I was a bit oddly hungry, but these past 6 or so months that's kind of always been there. It seems the more odd tummy things I have the more hungry I feel overall. I had maybe more chips than I expected today, but I only had one soda instead of what would normally be 2 or sometimes 3. I just felt really hungry, and kind of not thirsty.

I guess that was really it. I did watch a few shows too, so overall I guess it was a pretty relaxed day. So I guess I hung on a bit easier.

Day 5380 - 3/25

Probably a last test day

Today was probably the last day I'll test the game that's having a test weekend. At this point I've learned all I can from it and am sure of my choice for launch. And I've played more than 20 hours, maybe more, so that is already a good chunk of playtime value for the price.

I'm a bit tired feeling, though I slept very good last night. I'm not entirely sure why, but since my last big tummy pain I've put a ban on brown sodas after about 4, usually around when I have "dinner", and I just do clear soda or just water after that.

I guess it was a pretty good day. Things were calm and quiet at the library, though it seemed unusually cold. I didn't take off my hoodie until just after noon. The storm that

has been here seems settled for the moment and it's been clear, but I guess it's supposed to come back next week. It seems like it's going to stay cold much longer than normal. 🙄

But I guess I hung on ok today, though I have nothing really special or interesting to look forward to these days. I think the next few weeks will be pretty basic days. Which I guess, if nothing new bad happens, is a good thing.

Day 5381 - 3/26

Feeling a little strange

Today I am feeling a little strange. I'm not sure why. It's that feeling like I'm forgetting something again. I guess maybe it's because of the close of the quarter and school being in finals next week and I know I'm going to be thrown off by the week after being at the library.

I guess today was ok. I played the test weekend a bit again. I didn't intend to, but there was something I wanted to check and then it was like, 'well, it's 3 more months until launch, I may as well play a bit more while I can.'

I guess it was a pretty good day. It got more crowded than I would have liked. There were a few coughing near me, not a lot, but I do worry. But I was warm enough and the connection was ok, and that was enough.

Day 5382 - 3/27

Last Monday with these classes

Today is the last Monday of this quarter. I have a final to do, which is open notes, so I'm not very worried. And then my stupid color class has something on Wednesday that I'll turn in today, and something Friday, which I think is actually past when the quarter really should end. I don't know what the teacher is thinking having something due on what will be beyond the last day for most, and have it be a discussion thing. People will do the bare minimum for it at best, and not care.

Hopefully it will be an easy day and I can hang on ok.

Day 5383 - 3/28

Last Tuesday

Today is the last Tuesday of the quarter. At this time I should have all of my class stuff done and I'm just relaxing. I expect population to be half or less starting today, tomorrow at the latest, and probably a ghost town Thursday. But school is still the best place for me to be having a shower, micro, and stable and very fast connection. But next week I won't have a choice really, and all I can do is hope the library is ok. And that I can continue to hang on until better days.

Week 770

Day 5384 - 3/29 **Pouring rain**

Today in the morning and afternoon it was completely pouring rain. So hard at one point that I couldn't even remember the last time it rained that hard. (Not counting the complete storm a week ago.) By the late afternoon it cleared. And now in the early evening the sky is mostly clear, though I expect once it's night it will probably come back.

Nothing really special happened today. As expected it's pretty much become a ghost town at school. Some were here until around 2, but after that it's basically empty. I think after about 4 I was the only person in my area, and I only saw maybe half a dozen others in the entire cafeteria room.

I guess I had a pretty good day. I played my games, watched some shows, and tried to relax. Tomorrow will be the last day at school, then a week off, so that will be strange. I'll be happy because the library is much warmer and much quieter, but sad because I may not have shower access, and I definitely won't have access to cooking food. And people can sit near me. (At school the tables aren't very close, and they are kind of small, so no one else would sit at my table with my stuff set out.)

I guess I hung on ok today, and I will try to continue to hang on.

Day 5385 - 3/30 **Dry day**

Today was a dry day. It didn't rain after the early morning, though it looks pretty cloudy and gray. It got very busy and noisy at lunch, surprisingly so, but as I expected there were only about half a dozen people in all of the cafeteria before and after that. I'm kind of upset at myself for forgetting hot dogs. For a few weeks now I've done that and had my Friday and Saturday food ready to go. I guess it should be fine, but the lunchmeats all seem not the best for my tummy by comparison lately.

I guess it was a bit easier to hang on today, but the next 1.5 weeks are probably going to feel odd.

Day 5386 - 3/31

Blood in the eye

Today things were closed, so I finally set up my eye doctor appointment for today, mostly to get a new contact prescription and order some, but also to check on my floater and blind spot. I had to do my best to hold it together during the vision check because my left eye saw even the tiny letters just fine, but surprisingly the right was like 'what letters?' 🙄 At that size all I saw was the lit box area. I could only see the largest of the 5 tested settings. (Edit on Sunday; in good news my right eye seems to have been recovering very quickly since this appointment, after 4 months. I can actually read this text, with difficulty, closing my left eye.)

The explanation got into some very technical stuff about the layers on the back of the eye and things I don't understand. Because of my backing in Psychology I do know a reasonable amount of biology, so I'm familiar with rods, cones, the iris, how the image is flipped, etc. But, apparently one of two things has happened. The first, and most unlikely, is high blood pressure caused things to go bad and corrupt and explode. But due to my statement about the floater being in one place, but since the blind spot has been moving around, this seems the more likely scenario. This gets into the overly complex back layer of the eye that I don't understand, but I guess my eye is maybe not quite normal and the floater grabbed onto something it shouldn't have, tore it loose, and caused a blood spray. That blood is over a part of my eye which is used to see right in the middle.

So the good news is that, yes, eventually that blood splatter should break down and my vision will eventually be clear again. The bad news is there is nothing that can be done to speed it up, or clear, that blockage. And, since I guess the back layers on that eye aren't normal, possibly due to a very bad head trauma when I was maybe 8 or so, it is possible another event like this could happen again in the future, though extremely unlikely, even more so to be right in an area that's my central focus point.

I guess though that blood pressure can alter eye stuff and so I may want to do more checking into if getting back on medication would be covered or not. Though with my life limitations there's not a whole lot I can do to keep the pressure down.

So I guess despite it starting with the day being too cold to spend more than a couple hours outside on my laptop, the news from the eye doctor is good. Though he did make my right eye all wobbly so he could look inside. The left pupil is like 1/3 of the maximum size, whereas my right is like 90% of its fully open size, and looks like a wobbly shaped pizza dough. Things should be normal tomorrow though, and I can now rest hopeful that eventually my small blind spot will eventually go away, knowing this isn't some major issue that will continue to get worse.

Day 5387 - 4/1

Strange experiment results

Today I have been continuing the tummy pain experiments, and I'm getting some odd results. Since mostly completely banning both chocolate and cheese I've learned two things. First, yes with cheese, I have to be extremely careful. I got a salami and white cheese pack the other day for lunch and dinner that I normally get and after eating only a few 2" round slices of cheese I was already not feeling great. Which is weird that I probably had several full ounces of cheese maybe a week ago and was fine. So that still needs to be pretty highly banned and monitored. However, since my last pain incident my tummy has either felt full or completely empty, like it's lost the ability to judge any inbetween value. But since slightly lifting the full chocolate ban to have some every 3rd day or so, it seems on those days it does get some kind of scale back, and I don't go from full to feeling starving again only 30-60 minutes after eating. The hunger slowly returns, as it should, seemingly on the days I've had some chocolate.

So I don't really know what that means. It seems, like with needing at least 1 soda with caffeine a day, I also need some chocolate? But not too much or it can trigger the extreme tummy pain at night? And how much is the limit? Maybe I'd guess maybe 2 Easter chocolate eggs / kisses worth is about what is on the chocolate doughnut? And if I have that minimum in a day, how much more before it affects me negatively? And do I

need that 'dosage' every day? I certainly haven't enjoyed feeling like I'm starving 95% of the time, nor do I want to become 'that guy who's always snacking' like you see in shows or movies.

I guess that was really it for the day. It was basically a normal Saturday at the library other than that. Though I was somewhat aware this is the first of the next 8 days of being at the library. I'm sure that will pass quickly and not feel too weird, but it certainly will feel different.

Day 5388 - 4/2

Not great leftovers

Today I am very sad about my food. I spent kind of too much money getting healthier cooked food yesterday. I found a machine to check my blood pressure and it showed I was in a pretty dangerous range, so I wanted some better food in the hopes that would help. And even though my eye issue was likely not caused by blood pressure the doc showed me a bunch of pictures of what happened to people who had issues due to blood pressure and other related issues that caused eye problems, so that worries me. But today the leftovers didn't taste great and they upset my tummy a bit. Which is unusual since I've done these leftovers several times before without issue.

I felt kind of off today I guess. I didn't really feel like playing a lot, playing maybe only 60-70% of normal and spacing out with nothings or watching shows instead. I guess maybe I am just sad and worried about my health, especially my vision, and the biggest changes to improve that are extremely difficult, or otherwise impossible, for me due to my sad life.

But I continue to try my best to hang on. And hopefully things will work out ok.

Day 5389 - 4/3

Library Monday

Today will feel strange. I'll start the day trying to see if the showers are open over at school, but after that my day will just be at the library. It shouldn't be too terrible. Usually there is enough bandwidth and stability to do whatever I want. And the recent connection weirdness seems to have cleared, either directly by tech support fixing it, or indirectly by being force shut down and restarted due to the storm last week killing power for a few days. Hopefully the day won't be too bad. Things certainly could be worse. And so I continue to try to hang on.

Day 5390 - 4/4

Tuesday at the library

Today will likely be much the same as Monday. These library days during the school break will likely all feel pretty much the same. But I continue to try to hang on, and hopefully will make it to better days.

Week 771

Day 5391 - 4/5 Tired day

Today I don't know why, but I am very extremely tired. I got enough sleep but for some reason I am just borderline exhausted.

I guess it was a pretty regular day. I played a bit and watched some shows. I guess it was a good enough day, but I could have been more comfortable. I could have had much better food. And I would have liked to be somewhere I knew people cared for me. 😞

Day 5392 - 4/6 Reversed

Today was pretty strange. I did get a shower and stuff in the morning at school, so that was good. But when I got to the library things were turned around. I thought I was hungry, set out a breakfast next to me, but then spaced out and just did junk nothings. I didn't eat, nor did I jump into the game I play in the morning. Before I knew it more than an hour had passed and it was time for lunch. I saved my breakfast for a night snack and will eat it later. I actually completely forgot to do my morning game until after it was time to stop playing my afternoon game. I guess it was because I felt very sleepy again, and overall felt a bit odd.

I guess it wasn't a bad day though. I played my games. I watched my shows. The food from the store wasn't great, but it wasn't as bad as it could be. So overall it wasn't a terrible or bad day. My eyes hurt and I have bad headaches, probably low-level migraines all day, but overall I hung on ok.

Day 5393 - 4/7

Back pain

Today I have a mysterious back pain. It's weird because I'm ok sitting, but when I try to stand up and straighten my back my lower and mid back hurt, like I pulled or strained something. It's very strange that it only hurts when I straighten.

Other than that I am still just really tired. I feel really extra hungry too, like I need real cooked food. I guess that is probably due to the week now of not even having micro food. It's just all cold lunchmeat or ready to eat type foods. I have had some grapes lately, as they seem to be back in season. They kind of wreck me though. My body isn't good with fruit lately.

I didn't play too much due to my being extremely tired. I just watched some extra shows. But I guess I hung on ok.

Day 5394 - 4/8

Shows

Today I felt pretty tired again. I am feeling very hungry lately too. I guess it was a pretty regular day, though I didn't feel like playing a lot, so I watched extra shows.

I still have the strange mystery back pain though it's not too bad. I still totally forget I'll feel a bit weird when I stand up. It's not super painful, just a weird cramp type feeling and with no knowledge of how it happened.

I guess I hung on ok, though tomorrow may be a bit rough since I'll have to be outside all day because the library will be closed.

Day 5395 - 4/9

Ok bun day

Today was, I guess, about what I expected. In the morning I went to the food store and got a few things for the day. I went to the outside the library spot. The connection

was fine. There were some people around most of the day. I played a minimum of games and watched a show, then the sun started to come into the area, so I went to a different spot to watch a few more things on my tablet.

There was no celebration of me, but I didn't expect there would be. I think maybe there will be a few things online, and probably something from dad eventually, but that will likely be it. With my sad life I can't celebrate the day as I'd like, but I guess for what my life is it was about as I expected and nothing bad happened.

Day 5396 - 4/10

Another cycle starts

Today will be the first day for new classes. The in person class is 'life drawing', so I expect I'll be super bad at it, as I have a very hard time with living things, but maybe it will teach me basics to not be so bad.

Hopefully the day will be ok and maybe I can even have some fun.

Day 5397 - 4/11

Casual day

Today should be a pretty casual day. I have an online class that will post stuff Tuesdays, so I will probably do at least half the week's work today, like I did last quarter. It's technically history, but it's another art related one, so hopefully it will be at least a little interesting.

Besides the new classes I don't expect anything new or interesting will come up Monday or Tuesday, but hopefully I can continue to hang on ok.

Week 772

Day 5398 - 4/12

Look so fat

Today was mostly a good day. The during class part was pretty fun. We practiced doing super quick line drawing sketches of people doing various poses, at 1 minute each. Then we went outside and did a longer 10 minute sketch. One of the super cute girls was drawing me, so I drew her. I claimed 'she started it' and she and her friend giggled. When the time was up she asked to see her. It was pretty good; not the worst but not super great. And she showed me her me. I said, "Awww. I look so fat." 😞 And it made me sad.

The drawing was accurate. It was really good. I mean no one would know it was me who wasn't in the class, there weren't facial details. It was just an outline and scribbly sketch of a figure. But I looked fat. 😞 And I knew it was accurate. 😞

When the apocalypse started and I was nervous and shaking all the time I probably lost some weight I'd been trying to lose for a few years. I'd guess I'd gotten down to somewhere around 180-190, from probably 220. But now I've regained it, and more. I'm probably the biggest I've ever been in my whole life. I wouldn't be surprised if I were pushing closer to 240 or more these days. 😞 And that makes me very sad. At the start of my homeless time I was probably close to what an ideal weight would be for my size, build, and genetics at around 160-170. But now I feel like I've bloated up out of control since then. Lately I feel like a sausage beign squozen and my skin is about to pop. 😞

I feel fat. I feel tired. I feel hungry almost all the time. And I feel old. 😞 When I think about how I look I don't envision a fat me. I don't picture baggy and sunken eyes and jowls. But it is there. 😞 And it is how I am. 😞 And I don't know if, or when, I can ever change that. 😞

Day 5399 - 4/13

Still way off

Today I am still feeling way off. I'm still hungry to the point where I feel like I could eat 100% more food than I normally do, and drink maybe 20% more. And I feel so exhausted I feel like I need at least 4 more hours of sleep, or more. It doesn't seem normal, but I guess it has been generally increasing for 6 months to a year. I've checked online before and it usually just finds results in depression or sadness, which I guess makes sense, but it seems like it should be something of greater connection to happen for so long and to this degree.

I guess the day was ok other than that. I did a little bit of stuff for a class, but mostly I played, watched shows, and otherwise tried to relax. I guess things were ok, but with the extreme hunger and exhaustion I feel pretty off in general.

Day 5400 - 4/14 Hacked headphones

Today I guess I feel pretty good. Yesterday I was feeling a bit happy, and though I think I lost a few hours of sleep, I still feel a bit better than normal.

Lately I have been doing a lot of research and testing with some older headphones I have. This newer tech, Dolby Atmos, is starting to show up in games. My main MMO uses it, so I tested it, and the positional sounds are insane. The 3d-ness is subtle, but some things like voices 'behind and to my side' are so much more realistic I jump in my seat thinking they are real. I've been a bit sad discovering it as I thought I'd have to either change to that older headphone all the time, or get new ones. But I actually found online recently that people have hacked the main headphones I use to get them to work. The reason it doesn't by default is that it uses special software and drivers so you can do things like check the battery percent, or add simulated 5.1 or 7.1 sounds, or use special EQ settings. But I don't use that stuff, and if I charge regularly there's no reason to check the battery percent with the software. Plus it beeps if it gets past a certain low point, so I know to plug it in. So the people online say changing to a generic driver makes it so you can use Atmos (at the loss of the connection to the special software.) And so woووо, my

game I play kind of the most sounds awesome now. Right now I think it's the only game that uses it, but I know another one I pre-ordered due out in a month and a half uses it too. And hopefully more will in the future. (I found out the 'generic driver' was also updated this year, while the special software ones hadn't been since 2018.)

It was a pretty regular day other than getting a couple of pencils for class. But I got to play my games, was a bit extra hungry, but mostly ok on food, and things were quiet and calm, so I held on ok.

Day 5401 - 4/15

A little more

Today I had a little more food than normal. Mostly I don't feel hungry. I actually don't think I eat much in terms of calories. And maybe not being as hungry will help balance my sleep. During the week, in food, I'd guess my recent calories is probably only about 750-850, which sounds like not very much. I'll have to check what is 'average'. But if I do something like get an extra spaghetti for lunch on a day that would make that closer to 1k, which still sounds low. That's just food though, not soda. (Which I guess would average 450-600 more.)

I guess today I am pretty ok. I played a bit longer in my MMO than usual. And I barely got to play my shooter because the server was having issues. But I did some daily stuff, which was enough since I can't get into important group stuff. So, overall today was ok.

Day 5402 - 4/16

Extra bread

Today I feel super tired. I got a bit extra sleep, and dreamed a lot, but I still feel like I didn't sleep enough.

I got an extra sandwich bread today, and spread my usual lunchmeat between the two breads instead of one. It was just an extra 6" x not even 3" bread, but it helped me not

feel as hungry. I guess that is a good thing, but it seems strange because normally I'd have 1-2 "servings" of chips, so I'd think overall it would be about the same since I didn't have chips today and didn't want to get an entire new bag to have some.

I played a fair bit today, doing extra stuff I wanted to do in my MMO and less in my shooter since I'm at a 'meh' point in their seasonal content again. But overall I suppose it was a pretty good day.

Day 5403 - 4/17

Scribbly Monday

Today will probably be a lot of scribbly drawings in class. We aren't getting formal training in terms of a lot of techniques so much as getting one and practicing using that a lot before the next. I guess that makes sense since we are just doing people, but I kind of expected we would do parts first. Like this week is hands, the next arms, then legs, etc.

It's pretty fun so far though, so hopefully I can hang on a bit easier.

Day 5404 - 4/18

Online class day

Today is a day where I do all my online class stuff and just hang out in the cafeteria all day. It's pretty loud in there sometimes, but nowhere near what it was before the apocalypse. By about 3 it's pretty empty, and by 4 there are only about a dozen in the entire cafeteria area, so it's pretty quiet and only really noisy about 4 hours.

Hopefully I can relax and do fun things, and class won't just be all names and dates and boring things, and the day will be a bit easier to hang on.

Week 773

Day 5405 - 4/19 **Not calorie counting**

Today was a pretty ok day. Though I am still currently starving and I even got double my normal food calories. Checking a website, for my age and a 'sedentary lifestyle', I am supposed to have 2000-2200 calories per day. Which would explain my being hungry a lot, since that would be not only 50% more food than I normally get in a day, but also 50% more drinks. But the weird thing is it said to have 500 less if you want to lose weight, which should be about 1 pound a week lost. Yet for the past about 6 years I've been eating the same, and I'm in that category at probably around 1500 per day average (when we include drinks), yet in that time I've gained probably 40 or even 50 pounds, not lost.

Now I'm not a nutritionist, and I know things aren't as simple as all calories being the same, but that still feels strange to me. Sure, in the past 6 years half of that has been over 50 years-old, and I have had ever increasing stress, both emotionally and physically, but it still seems strange that it felt like I was getting enough food before, but now I feel like I'm starving a lot of the time, and I've gained so much weight.

I don't know what to do. Yesterday and today I ate at least 50% more than normal, yet I still feel just as hungry as if I hadn't. And if I've already been gaining weight, adding more food doesn't seem like the right answer. At least not foods I've been eating. I guess I do still have some old vitamins. I could try having some of those and seeing if that helps at all. But I don't know how to stop feeling starving and exhausted all the time.

Day 5406 - 4/20 **Goodbye for now pizza**

Today I am exhausted. Last weekend I had 2 slices of cheese on a sandwich, so I thought that meant I'd recovered and could have small amounts since I experienced nothing bad after. I've been so hungry lately that I thought I'd try a French bread pizza

(probably 4x the calories of the normal kind of lunch pizza I'd get.) I haven't had that kind since before the apocalypse, and it was always very filling. I had one of the two parts and waited about 30 minutes and felt fine, so I had the other, and still I felt fine after.

But nearing the 10-12 hour later point I started to not feel fine anymore. The tummy pain returned. It wasn't as bad of a pain as before, feeling more like muscle sprained and a bit of gassiness than actual pain, but it was painful enough that the entire night I probably lost half of what would have been my sleeping time.

But I don't get it. Back when I first got my big money I got an actual pizza to celebrate. I had a piece for lunch, a piece or two for dinner, for a couple of days in a row and I was fine. And that was not even 2 months ago. But last night, from one lunch French bread pizza, pain. I can't seem to narrow down what kind of cheese is the greatest threat, which is very sad as it was an easy purchase for days I did not want to eat meat. I'd just get some string cheese, and done, no meat for that day. But for now, at least while I'm homeless and can't recover my diet balance, I guess I should put all cheese things on full ban; pizza, lasagna, cheese flavored snacks like chips, all of it. If I can't predict what will or won't cause me pain I will just avoid all of it for now.

I guess today was fine. I am recovering from the pain still, but I think I should be fine soon. I'm exhaustedly tired, but I expected that. But I got to play and watch shows as normal, so I hung on ok.

Day 5407 - 4/21

Feels like chills

Today and actually for a few days I think, I've had kind of a low level skin chills, or like my hairs are standing up, along my arms, sides of my legs, and parts of my back. I don't know if I got some kind of cold, about three people left class early on Wednesday, or if maybe everywhere I've been lately has been just a bit too cold for me. It's supposed to be in the low 70s outside today, but lately it's been peaking closer to the 60s, much too cold for what it should be this time of year.

I had a pretty good time today. I'm probably hitting more of a pause point than not with my shooter, that happens every few months, but it gives me a chance to play other

things I'm interested in. I've gotten four games in the past few months at half or more off, so I have something I'm playing offline, and then 3 more to play after that, so this is a rare time I have plenty of things that are new to play besides my 2 main games.

But I still feel exhausted. I feel bad and sad about my food options lately. And I feel particularly old, alone, and unwanted. I'm hanging on ok though. I feel ok with things, though I'd prefer different.

Day 5408 - 4/22

Love the planet

Today I love my planet, but I really do every day. There was a "celebration" on the grassy area outside the library. But besides a 20 foot climbing tower, one booth where you could pet live chickens, and one booth that had endangered reptiles, most were just 'green clubs' and local company propaganda. ('Woo look at us, a local company, and how we are being green.') That's not as much of a celebration as people just showing what they should already be doing.

But I miss the green. Barely anywhere around is really green here. Mostly it's steel and concrete and dots of green sporadically. I suppose forests and trails and such aren't super far, but it feels like there is less and less as time goes on. I guess that is probably just my perception, and my lack of ability or options to go anywhere. I've thought now and then I might like moving to a northwest state, as they are very forested, but I would probably be way too cold. Anything much under the mid 60s and I'm too cold.

I guess it was a pretty ok day. I had fun with my games and shows. I had plenty of food, so I wasn't really hungry, but my tummy didn't really enjoy the food I had. I'll probably avoid meat tomorrow and just get fruit to balance out. (I've been trying extra meat as a few sites pointed to 'a lack of protein' as one cause for always being hungry.) So I guess I hung on ok. I tried to hold the planet and green in my heart, as I always do, but I wish I had more forest around me, and I had a nicer forever home to stop as much waste as I am forced to make (due to all the micro and other food packaging.)

Day 5409 - 4/23

No fruit

Today I was pretty sad about my food choice, as there was no mixed fruit I wanted. There were bigger containers of sliced fruit things, more than double the size I wanted, but that is not a good day's meal for me.

I didn't feel like playing my shooter at all today. I do have other things to play and have fun with, so I just spent a bit more time in my MMO, then played an offline game, and then watched some shows.

I guess today was pretty ok, but I still felt a bit off, a bit sad, and a bit exhausted.

Day 5410 - 4/24

Fun class

Today will be my fun class day. I'm still pretty terrible with drawing, but this class is teaching me basics of understanding how to draw the people, so I really didn't expect to get better until closer to the end.

Hopefully I can make good food choices with my limited options. And hopefully today will be pretty fun, and I can hang on a bit easier.

Day 5411 - 4/25

Tuesday class

Today will be my online class. I'm actually kind of concerned. Not for me, but for everyone else. We are supposed to do 2 quick things per week, and respond to others. But in the first week we had things only about 5 of something like 30 people did the thing. And then maybe only 10 did the second. With such a low response rate it becomes impossible to respond and do discussion things. Last quarter with the online class (same teacher and format) everyone did great. But this time I wonder if the professor is going to have to press people to do it because so many just didn't do it.

Hopefully today will be pretty good, not be too loud, restful, and I feel a bit better than I have been lately.

Week 774

Day 5412 - 4/26

Too tired

Today I am super tired. I don't know why but the last couple of nights I've had a very hard time getting to sleep and lost 2-3 hours per night.

I got a little extra food and I'm still starving feeling. It's almost as if no matter how little or how much I eat I am starving feeling less than an hour after eating my last meal. Though I didn't have chocolate today, and I still wonder if a certain amount is somehow connected to my tummy correctly gauging my hunger. I wonder if it's something connected to dairy since I used to have cheese somewhat regularly.

I guess today was ok. I had fun in class. There were 2 model people, which was different. During the break one said they liked my drawings. 😊 It was super nice because my stuff is still pretty much terrible to super basic. During another point where there was a lecture demonstration I saw them both behind my stuff talking about it. I wondered what they were saying.

I played my game a bit and watched some shows. There is a new class coming with an expansion in about 6 weeks for my MMO and I looked at a preview of their abilities. I think for the first time since I started playing I may be actually tempted to change my main. I'll have to see what things look like at actual release. What a strange thought that was, to change bodies after being in that one body for basically 7 years for all the things. I mean, sure, I have several alts and some I've actually done quite a bit on, but with my main I've done everything; all the quests, all the dungeons, all the skill lines, everything. I guess if I did swap it wouldn't change the fact that *I* did those things. I, the person, did them. But it's an odd thought.

I guess I hung on ok, and it's actually finally starting to warm up a bit.

Day 5413 - 4/27

Too tired to think

Today I am too tired to think. I started my day at the regular Thursday time, but for whatever reason I was not sitting in my spot until about 30 minutes later than normal. And it took over an hour to settle down, focus, and even have my breakfast; a task that normally takes 10 minutes. During the day I could not think or focus on anything. It wasn't until probably 3 that the fog even began to lift and I could begin to think. And at that point I'm basically 'having dinner' and watching my last show or two of the day.

I guess it wasn't a bad day, but I had hoped to do a homework, and I couldn't. I just tried to rest, relax, and got past the feeling I'd flop over asleep at any second.

I guess people were saying it got hot. I even saw a few wearing shorts. Now not quite evening sitting in my car I'm rapidly building up to a sweat, so I could see how it would have been nice and warm during the hotter parts of the day.

But I guess things were ok, and I held on ok.

Day 5414 - 4/28

Slightly better

Today I am feeling slightly better and more focused. I was able to do the homework I couldn't do yesterday, so that was the most important thing. I had a bit of extra fun with my MMO. My shooter is still kind of on hold as I'm still in a limbo spot of feeling like my gains aren't worth the time I'm spending there. And since I have other things to play I may just continue that break until a special event starts sometime next week.

I am still very tired and having difficulty focusing, but I guess I'm hanging on ok.

Day 5415 - 4/29

Still pretty sleepy

Today I am still pretty sleepy. Last night I got a new weird tummy thing. I don't know if I was just hungry or what. I'd had some yummy strawberries and cake about 3 hours earlier, so it seems strange I'd have a starving feeling so quickly at night. I can only describe the feeling like as if I'd swallowed an old-school metal jack. It was right around my belly button, in the same kind of depth that the other pain happens, but it was a sharp pain just in that very small 3" sort of area, not the entire front section of my body like the night pain normally is. I wonder if all of the extra hunger and weird reactions are related to something like an ulcer. I remember back when I first had them I looked up the symptoms, and I don't think they matched, whatever the reason I dropped the theory, but I've been meaning to recheck. I guess I started to not feel the pain after about an hour after eating my morning foods, but it still seemed strange.

I guess today was pretty normal other than that. I was still pretty sleepy, and the library got more crowded than usual, but other than that it was a pretty regular day.

Day 5416 - 4/30

Freezing cold

Today the temperature has plummeted. The skies were pretty gray in the morning and while I had my hoodie off in the library when it opened, by noon I was cold enough I had to put it back on. When I left in the early evening my teeth were chattering from the cold outside. If it is any colder tomorrow I'll for sure need to put winter layers back on for a bit.

There were again too many people at the library. I did remember to check ulcer symptoms and only half of them matched. The cure though was listed as antibiotics and regular antacids. I think I have plenty of antacids, so I'll just do a regular dosage in the morning and evening, if I feel like I need it or not. (Instead of rarely as needed as I have been.) Then in maybe 2-3 weeks when it should be healed, if my issue is an ulcer, then I'll check back in with small cheese doses and see if there's any pain. It still feels like this is

more likely to be a temporary thing that came up (like an ulcer) than that I've suddenly become borderline allergic so late in life.

I played and had fun. I watched a few shows. So I guess today was pretty ok other than too many people for me to feel comfortable in the library and it being too cold. But I guess I hung on ok.

Day 5417 - 5/1

Probably fun day

Today should probably be a fun day. I like my drawing class even though I'm not learning anything to immediately get better. Though I didn't really expect that was possible, so I try to do my best and have fun.

Hopefully I'll get my new game code for the one that was gifted to me so I can download it. During class would be the perfect time, as the connection in that room is significantly faster than the other places on campus. (I would guess because I heard that building is where the entire campus connection starts, so that building may be before it's split.)

Hopefully today will be pretty fun and I can hang on easier.

Day 5418 - 5/2

Maybe new game

Today I can maybe play my new game after I do my online class stuff. It would depend when I get the code to download. If I didn't get it Monday then I may not have the speed or time to get it before I leave today.

Hopefully class will be ok, I can play my new game, and I can hang on a little easier.

Week 775

Day 5419 - 5/3 **A forgotten day**

Today I apparently forgot to write. I discovered I'd forgotten when I did the Thursday writing. I had a good time with my drawing class, though we started doing faces, which I am super horrible with faces. I remember I played and had fun in the morning, but after class I was downloading something, so I didn't play after. There was a bit of a sprinkle, but it was a good day.

Day 5420 - 5/4 **Microwave brownie banned**

Today I am adding the little brownies that come in a couple of my micro dinners to the fully banned food list. Yesterday, and the last time a few weeks ago, during the night after eating, I had a pretty bad night time tummy pain. It wasn't as bad as cheese, nor as quick since it took closer to 12 hours to affect me, but it did wake me up, and I did lose a few hours of sleep. It took about 8 hours for things to start to feel normal again. So again this is a weird one, as chocolate on doughnuts seems ok every few days, but this little 2" brownie seemed to pretty well wreck me.

Today was a pretty relaxed day. I did all my Tuesday/Thursday class stuff on Tuesday, so mostly I just rested, played, and watched shows. I did turn in one assignment, and peeked in on another that I need to do a small thing with, but really I didn't do school stuff today.

I feel pretty tired from the tummy pain keeping me awake, but I guess my day was pretty ok other than that. And so I try to continue to hang on.

Day 5421 - 5/5

Surprise bagel

Today I had a sort of surprise bagel. I'd gotten it in the morning expecting that I would get shredded chicken and make little sandwiches, but there wasn't any, and I got chicken strips instead. So I guess since I had chips, I just had that and forgot about the bagel for sandwiches. It worked out ok though, as I was pretty hungry in the evening when I was getting ready to leave the library, so it was a nice surprise to find.

There was an older, I'm guessing homeless, lady who brings a cart thing with her into the library. She started coughing and sounding like she was going to die. I was considering reporting her because they really shouldn't let people that sick stay, but I was about 20 feet away, so I theoretically should have been safe, and I figured I was leaving pretty soon anyways. If she comes back and sits near me I will report her and be like, 'oh hell no,' because that's not ok.

I guess it was an ok day. I played my games and watched shows and had fun. It was about as good as I could expect.

Day 5422 - 5/6

Stupid sick people

Today I was worried about stupid sick people at the library. First there is the regular there who sits sort of behind me (about 15-20 feet away), who is probably homeless though he denies it. He was hacking and coughing and sneezing and sounding like he was in the same situation as the lady yesterday. Next, some older lady was hacking and coughing in the seat behind me. I was going to tell her put a mask on or get the hell away from me, but she moved maybe about an hour later. Do people not get how viruses work? Do they not understand how immune systems work? I don't get it. Why are they in a public place when they are very clearly horribly sick.

I guess it was a pretty ok day other than that. I played my games and had fun. I did some stuff with guildies in the morning, so that was fun. Then I played a bit of something

else before watching some shows. I guess it was a pretty restful day, save for the insane stupid sick people around me. 🙄

Oh, I did get word on a game refund finally going through, so that is good. A game that I'd been really looking forward to for years finally launched in an absolutely unbelievably horrid state. It is one of the few things I've ever even considered refunding. I don't understand how it released in the state it did. The AI is unbelievably stupid, and they don't really come close to fulfilling the promises they made. If it can be fixed, it's likely years away from being good. I don't want to hold onto the copy and hope that happens. It seems too unlikely.

But I guess overall I hung on ok, and hopefully I stayed safe from all the sick people.

Day 5423 - 5/7

Ok day

Today was an ok day. It wasn't anything special in my games or shows, but it wasn't bad. There were again too many people in the library. I guess maybe it's near mid-terms because there were a ton of high school people around.

I have had I guess a low grade migraine today though. My eyes have been hurting in the back a bit, and my ears are ringing a bit, and I've had a bit of a headache. I'm pretty tired too, but I hung on ok.

Day 5424 - 5/8

Hopefully dry Monday

Today will hopefully be dry. It's been very rainy for a while now. The weather app shows it isn't going to be above 60F until Friday when it looks like it may be going back to proper spring weather. Hopefully I will have fun in the drawing class and hang on ok.

Day 5425 - 5/9
Hopefully dry Tuesday

Today will hopefully be dry too. I love rain, but it should be very warm spring time now. I think last Thursday it rained pretty hard, but it's been clear since, so hopefully today will be warmer and maybe even moving back towards shorts weather.

Hopefully I will have a good day and can hang on ok.

Week 776

Day 5426 - 5/10 Probably food poisoning

Today I feel very terrible. Last night I got the mystery pain, but not as intense, and the greatest symptom was nausea, which isn't normally a strong one, or there at all. Today, more than 16 hours after the initial incident I still feel just about as terrible, which isn't normal at all for the mystery pain. Though I've also felt cold all day, basically having chills without shivering, maybe a bit of fever, and a migraine. These are more often associated with food poisoning. Which if my food wasn't properly kept frozen would explain it. I got a chicken pot pie, which I probably haven't had in a year or more. And when I opened it I thought it odd that the top wasn't still a bit frozen, but instead was doughy mush. I trusted that it would be ok since I was cooking it. But now it occurs to me that may have been due to it not being properly frozen at the store, so who knows how long it hadn't been frozen for.

I felt bad enough that I didn't go to class. I just felt moderately nauseous all day and wanted to be free... just in case. I barely ate anything all day. I had a bagel in the morning, and a soup for lunch, but when it got to dinner I had about 6 bites of a second soup, then just ate the chicken and carrots, and tossed the rest. I just didn't feel hungry at all. I mean, I kind of felt very hungry, but my tummy was still grumbly, and I still, more than anything else, felt nauseous.

I did do a bunch of research on abdominal issues. And even though my symptoms didn't really match anything, particularly any major issues, I will probably have to look into an appointment and getting checked out if I have another mystery pain issue. Frequency is increasing in general and my tummy still never feels like it used to before the events started, even on the best of days.

So today it has been very tough to hang on. Hopefully I can be restful tonight and will feel at least a bit better in the morning.

Day 5427 - 5/11

Tender spots

Today I feel a bit better. I do think it must have been food poisoning. I did watch a pretty long medical video about abdominal issues though and it pointed out something I didn't know to try. Apparently one set of issues originates in the 'upper right abdomen' and you can check for some of the issues by putting pressure just under the right ribs in the front. Sure enough poking there doesn't feel great. It doesn't really hurt, it kind of mostly just makes me feel a bit more nauseous, and along the muscle vertically is sensitive, but if I don't poke it I don't really notice anything.

It indicates some things though. Mostly that region is most often associated with irritable bowel, GERDS, and certain kinds of blockage. Which are either things I know I have issues with, or were possible thoughts on what was going on (before seeing the video). There are one or two possibly dangerous things to watch for though. One is Gall stones, and the other appendicitis. Though my symptoms don't line up for these. These are an all the time pain with sudden onset that don't get better. They just have varying degrees of more or less bad. So really I am left with it's probably an extreme reaction to foods, and those reactions trigger into my existing condition. I will keep eyes on it though. I won't poke myself there anymore, but if I remember I will check in maybe a week and see if there is still some sensitivity then.

Since my full cheese ban and extreme chocolate control started I have seen some good changes though. I almost never have the acid issues and the frequent grumbling of my tummy has stopped. And I have slept very deeply and restfully. I think it has been as many as 8 years since my rest has been as good as this can be. And I haven't really had to worry much about feeling sick after a few minutes of being on my right side. I can't sleep on it all night, but being on that side for up to a few hours seems fine.

But I do worry, so I will continue to ban and be mindful of what I eat. Recovery could be a very long while with my limitations.

Day 5428 - 5/12

Feeling very sick again

Today I feel almost as bad as when I first got food poisoned. Last night my tummy felt so bad I was crying from the pain. 😞 When it settled down slightly it still grumbled and felt like it's been in knots. I don't think it's stopped feeling like that since Tuesday night. 😞 It feels like someone punched my stomach several times. 😞 I maybe have a bit of fever, and I've felt like I've had chills and been cold all day. 😞 And all I've wanted to do is lie down, but I don't know if that would be helpful. It may make me feel worse. 😞 I have barely eaten and I don't really feel hungry. I skipped breakfast, don't expect I'll want a night snack, and for food all day I've probably had a dozen bites of chicken total, maybe a dozen crackers, and half a dozen watermelon bites.

I feel very terrible and hope I get better very soon. 😞 I don't like feeling like if I throw up I'll probably feel better. 😞

Day 5429 - 5/13

Feeling worse

Today I kind of feel worse. 😞 I did get really good sleep last night, but my stomach still feels punched and nauseous. 😞 My tummy still hasn't stopped twisting and gurgling. And this may be dehydration, but there kind of feels like very small sharp pains in my right and left sides, a bit towards the back. I probably have some fever, and chills feelings, and probably a bit of headache. I don't know if I have had shallow breathing this whole time, but I barely notice my breathing, and at times it feels like I'm forgetting to breathe. Though I'm sure that is just weird time dilation due to everything going on with my body.

I've barely eaten or drank anything today. I ate 1/4 of a bagel for breakfast, in teeny pinch sized bites. Another 1/4 of it for lunch along with 4 slices of salami and three crackers. And throughout the rest of the day and for dinner I had the other half bagel and

2 more slices of salami. I'm kind of hungry and do have another bagel and plenty of crackers, but I don't think I'll eat anything more. I'm just too punched feeling and nauseous to feel genuinely hungry. For drinks I barely had 1/5 of one soda, 1/4 of a sport drink, though I did have a lot of water for me, probably 32 oz.

I'm definitely keeping my eyes on my symptoms, but today I feel more exhausted, less hungry, and overall still just want to lie down and rest with quiet and do nothing. 🥱

Day 5430 - 5/14

Wolfed some fries

Today I am feeling slightly better. My tummy isn't turning all of the time, just some of it, and mostly the feelings of nausea, fever, and dizziness are gone. (Though a few times during the day there were periods they came back for a bit, but not all at once, and not all the time.) I didn't have a ton to eat. I ate about 1/3 of a doughnut I got. And throughout the day I barely ate a small lunch of 2/3 of a bagel and 6 pieces of salami, and maybe a dozen crackers. I did drink a bit more, having a full sport drink, one soda, and probably 36 oz of water. Nowhere near my normal amounts, but it's more than I have been.

Something did surprise me after leaving the library. I actually did feel hungrier and thought maybe I'd try some fast food and get maybe a small hamburger and small fries. By the time I got there my tummy decided not to chance the hamburger, but I did completely wolf down the fries, so that is something. Hopefully I'm on my way to recovering.

Hopefully I'll be better soon. And hopefully this is/was just some food poisoning and I'll be back to normal soon. But only time will tell.

Day 5431 - 5/15

Hopefully better Monday

Today hopefully I can be mostly better and not feeling sick. I expect I will probably skip breakfast, but hopefully I will have a regular lunch and dinner. I maybe will have a dessert snack, but I bet I will skip a during the day snack. I think I should be mostly better, but my appetite seems like it is being slow to return.

I've actually really been wanting strawberries since Thursday, but the store hasn't had any pre-cut ones, and the boxed ones don't look great. For some reason they have sounded like something my tummy would actually want to eat.

Hopefully I'll be feeling a bit better today, and all the way better soon.

Day 5431 - 5/16

Maybe mid-term

Today I may do my online class mid-term. It may not unlock until later in the week. I'm not sure. Hopefully I can have a restful day, and hopefully will be almost or completely better from my poisoning.

Day 5433 - 5/17
Just strawberries

Today I still am not totally recovered. The symptoms are actually a bit weird at this point. The most noticeable is an overall muscle strain type feeling in my tummy area and mid and lower back. It really feels like I did 100 sit-ups and overstrained myself more than anything else. A small part is a general upset feeling. Not to the point of worrying me, more like my tummy is just being very picky about what it wants to eat. It is enjoying strawberries for dessert snack and breakfast, but almost anything else it has varying degrees of do not want. Like it wants no Pepsi at all, which seems the most strange going from an average of 3 a day. Today it was ok having all the micro lunch and dinner that I got to eat, which is a first. I have been throwing parts of various meals away because I just haven't been hungry enough lately, or my tummy changed its mind about it.

There really aren't other symptoms. I mean, sure, overall I still feel extra tired. But is that due to not having a caffeine drink in a week? Not eating as much as normal? Having crackers instead of normal sugary type night snacks for nearly a week? I can't say. Nausea may still be there a tiny bit, but again it more just feels like my tummy just isn't interested, or is slightly sore feeling. And there really hasn't been any fever, chills, or dizziness in the past couple of days. And today I am walking and generally moving at my normal pace. (Instead of very gingerly doing things due to extremely punched feelings.)

I wonder if tummy doesn't want Pepsi for something in it specially that causes it to get a bit upset, or if maybe this whole time it has been much worse for me than I thought, or both. If I completely stay away from it will my tummy be fine with cheese and chocolate again? I have had an odd extreme craving for pizza lately, but I really don't think it's worth the risk of a mystery pain episode, or worse since I'm still so recently recovered from the food poisoning.

I am slowly overall getting better. Though all of these changes lately do worry me and I may eventually need to go to the hospital and get tested for what is going on. It still does seem very strange and sad for my diet to take such extreme shifts lately.

Hopefully I can get better soon and go back to eating without too much worry.

Day 5434 - 5/18

Ok day

Today things were almost normal. I did a shower in the morning. I skipped breakfast because my tummy still feels a bit in recovery. But I ate all of a big lunch, and a regular dinner, and things were ok. There was a bit of a punched feeling, but only very slightly. At this point it more feels like cramped stomach and back muscles, like I did 100 sit-ups and regret it.

Hopefully tomorrow I will be even more normal.

Day 5435 - 5/19

Maybe smog tomorrow

Today I got up about 1.5 hours earlier than I otherwise would have to go do smog close to when the shop opened. Apparently somewhat recently they changed owners though. When I got there the place was empty, with only one mechanic sweeping outside. He said the fee is now \$110 (double last time), with no free retest if it fails, I need an appointment, and I have to leave the car there all day. I set up an appointment for a week from now. Looking at the book as he turned the pages I saw only some days had them, and there were at most 2 per day. It's like, if the shop is empty now, and there are that few appointments, maybe the shop isn't worth coming to anymore. That's a sign they don't care about customers anymore.

So in the evening I checked for other possible spots close by, and there is one not too far from school. I don't know if it also charges more than people used to (their last mention online of a price was from 8 months ago), so we'll see. At the very least there are a dozen reviews in the last few months saying it was 30 minutes or less for them to get it done. None of this 'leave it all day and we'll do it when we feel like' B.S.

The rest of the day was ok, but not as expected either. Around 11 AM the Internet just died even though I showed a connection. It came back at about 2, died again at 3:10, came back at 3:45, died again, came back again, then I left. In total I was lucky to get half

of the online time I expected. But I guess it was enough to do enough things in my games, so that is something.

I also ate pretty normally today. I did get a cinnamon roll for breakfast. And though lunch and dinner were a bit smaller, I was hungry and had them without issue. Last night I had nearly double what I expected of dessert cake and strawberries, so I think I'm returning to normal.

Though I did again have a taste of Pepsi, just four small swallows, and my tummy is still like, 'nope, I still want none of that.' So for whatever reason it still is one of the few things that slightly upsets my tummy, which seems very odd, but it's fine. I just worry because it's the only thing I drink with caffeine, and historically when trying to stop I've needed at least one a day or I get headaches and am really exhausted feeling. Though it has already been 1.5 weeks since I've had more than a few sips and I don't think I've had headaches, so maybe I'm over it.

I'm still paying attention to how I feel, both overall and specifically with touching or gentle poking on my tummy. I do seem to very slowly be getting better, so I'm feeling less worried as time goes on.

Day 5436 - 5/20

No smog, yes trunk

Today was full of unexpected things. I suppose it started when I got up early to try to get to the possible new smog place before it opened. This first surprise was the most unexpected. I checked to see how my oil level was before going in to the food store, just in case I needed to get more before the smog, and I accidentally pulled the trunk release instead of the hood. What the hell, it popped right open like nothing's been wrong. I closed it and did it again, and again. All 3 times the cable had normal tension and it worked normally. I may have made a mistake rearranging things back to the easy normal access because it's been feeling like there has been no tension in the line, and I suppose it could mysteriously fail again, but working three times in a row, and again after leaving the library, seems like I can trust it to work normally again. I have no clue how, or why, it righted itself after months of not working, but it makes me happy.

I did find the shop ok, and actually arrived about 10 minutes early. I was not only first, but the only cars around were ones left over from previous jobs. I thought, 'cool, I'll get in right away and still have plenty of time before the library opens.' Well, time passed and it should have opened. At 15 past when it should have been open it still wasn't open. A short while later someone came by, then left. At just over 30 minutes past when it should have opened, I called. There were 6 rings, and no answer. About 10 minutes later a second person showed up, and I said no one was around, and he told me he was there yesterday (Friday) around 4 and there were a bunch of people lined up because the machine had apparently broken and the guy told him to come back this morning. He left. I waited about 5 minutes then also left. I guess I'll try again Tuesday since it's right next to school. They are open Sunday, but if there was no sign or any notice Saturday, I have my doubts whatever needs fixing will have happened during the day.

I guess I had a pretty fun time in my MMO, but I kind of cut my time short because there is a timed event in my shooter and I'm trying to get to the point that I can finish by the end of the weekend. I played that for a bit and actually almost got to the goal today. I could have maybe completed it, but it was time to stop and watch shows, and I had plenty of time to finish Sunday.

So I guess today had some odd events; two good, and one neutral. My tummy feels pretty normal. And the stomach area muscles seem to be much closer to feeling normal as well. So maybe soon things will be back closer to normal for me.

Day 5437 - 5/21

Feeling sad

Today I am feeling a bit sad. I'm not entirely sure why. I had a good day with extra play time in my MMO. And in my shooter I did get to the goal I'd been looking for with the special event.

I guess maybe it's just tummy things and all the diet changes lately. I've really been craving pizza lately, I think probably more for emotional needs than body needs, but I haven't really thought even a single serving slice would be worth the risk with all my tummy issues lately. And I think that makes me sad that I, at least for now, have to so

carefully monitor diet and foods, and that it seems like a reminder this might be forever. This may be due to my getting older. This may be something I can never have ever again. Losing clear sight in my right eye. Losing certain foods. Even if it's temporary it feels like my hair and my ability to not be chubby; a thing that may be a permanent loss.

Day 5438 - 5/22

Hopefully good Monday

Today will hopefully be a good Monday. I pretty much feel normal now. There were no weird tummy pains or feelings. And all the tummy and back muscles are almost totally normal again. So hopefully I can have fun in class. Hopefully I can eat foods that are normal and feel balanced. And hopefully I can continue to get better.

Day 5439 - 5/23

New shooter season

Today I don't really know what to expect other than a new season starting in my shooter. Hopefully the day will be restful and I'll do normal school things. And hopefully I can continue to recover and get back to at least homeless normal.

Week 778

Day 5440 - 5/24 **Probably have a cold**

Today I probably have a cold. I don't really feel bad, but I'm sneezing maybe 2-3 times an hour and my throat and lungs feel congested. I suppose it could be allergies too. I also feel very super tired.

I decided to do my Thursday class stuff this morning since I was in a tired/neutral mood. So now I'm done with all the things for the long weekend and can just relax. Assuming my smog goes fine. I'll check that in the morning. I tried Tuesday, but the machine was still broken.

Overall today was a pretty good day I suppose. I'm very tired, and a bit hungry. My tummy still strangely isn't very happy with Pepsi. I have had about 0.5-1 the past few days and it's like part of it is digested fine, but something remains and just feels a bit like lumpy mud sometimes. I guess I don't have to drink it anymore, but I have a ton that I got on sale before I got food poisoned and it would be a shame to just dump it. Plus I still worry that I used to have about 3 a day, and so going down to none of that caffeine seems odd.

Day 5441 - 5/25 **Apparently forgot**

Today right before I left school for the night someone emailed and asked where my sad story for the week was. Normally I write myself a note in email when I'm offline the night before and move it to my inbox so I see it in the morning. But last weekend there was a shift of email type and my email program I was using doesn't support the new format, so I can't use that anymore. The new one I did finally get set up doesn't seem to work offline, which is really annoying.

It's weird because I remember thinking about it. I guess in the time between my getting to school and when I'd finally settled in, I just forgot to do it. I guess I'm getting

older and my brain is getting more wobbly. 😞 Just this morning when I was playing my MMO I thought of something, so I tabbed out, and apparently I completely forgot I was playing. I must have been tabbed and doing other things for at least 10 minutes before I remembered.

It was nice that the one person said they were worried about me and checked in, but it was sad that I didn't hear from any others, or didn't hear sooner. 😞

I guess it was a pretty ok day though. The day did start with wasting time though. I tried the smog again. I got there about 10 minutes after it opened and there were two others already waiting. I waited about 30 minutes, and at that point I was like, well, with the time it would take them to do the other 2 people, plus me, plus it's now 9:10 and they aren't even here yet, I wouldn't be done until after 10. So I didn't want to keep waiting. Hopefully they will be there tomorrow and it will be ok. If not that would be Saturday, Tuesday, Thursday, and then Friday that it didn't get done. I guess I'd try again Monday if it doesn't happen tomorrow, as everything is closed and I really have nothing else to do.

I guess I had fun with my games. They were fun for sure, but I'm still pretty exhausted feeling from the allergies or cold or whatever it is. Plus all this getting up a bit extra for smog doesn't help.

I guess today was a pretty ok day, but I hope tomorrow goes smoothly with smog and maybe I can feel a bit less tired.

Day 5442 - 5/26 **Finally smog**

Today I have finally done the smog, and with that paid the registration with plenty of time before it's due. It wasn't easy or quick like it should have been, especially if we count the days he wasn't there or the machine was broken. Or that my car was sitting there, apparently doing nothing, for like 45 minutes just running while he's like, 'oh the machine has to recalibrate', and helping other people. But it doesn't matter now. It's passed. It's paid. It's done. I don't have to worry for at least 2 more years.

I guess my day was pretty ok other than that. I had to cut my morning MMO time a bit short due to that putting me behind, but also because there was a streamed show I

wanted to watch, which was new and different and super fun. I had fun in my shooter for a bit after. And watched some shows after that.

I had one Pepsi today, without any real issue. I had a clear drink too. Weirdly my tummy doesn't seem to get as thirsty as it did before the recent food poisoning. I'm probably only drinking half what I did before that. Maybe it's because I'm sometimes having water, but overall it still feels like I'm drinking less, and I don't feel like I need more. All my symptoms and pains are gone. So things seem totally back to normal. Hopefully I can avoid the mystery tummy pain and recover whatever has been lost.

So today turned out pretty good, and hopefully tomorrow will have less worry and be even better.

Day 5443 - 5/27

Celebration dinner

Today I decided to get a celebration dinner for passing smog. It's not so much to celebrate that as it is the removal of all the stress that brings. Every time I go and wait for that I feel like I'm going to throw up from all the extra stress (of the thought of not passing.) So having passed is a huge relief and I don't have to worry about that for about 2 years.

I had a pretty good day. I slept a bit extra. I played my games. I did some dungeons with guildies, so that was fun. And I watched a few shows. The day was pretty calm and restful too. There weren't too many people sitting close, and no one seemed sick. Though I was chilly most of the day and sneezed a few times, so I still have my allergies or cold going on.

Hopefully tonight I can get some extra rest and continue to get better and recover.

Day 5444 - 5/28

Sleepy day

Today was a sleepy day. I lost a couple of hours of sleep last night. I'm not sure why, but I just had a hard time getting to sleep. I guess it was a pretty good day though. I had fun in my MMO. I did a special thing in my shooter. (Though it took way too long. I had no idea it would take 3+ hours.)

There weren't too many people around me, and it was a super quiet and restful day, which is good for how sleepy I am.

Day 5445 - 5/29

Outside Monday

Today I will have to be outside. It will feel pretty sad, I'm sure. It will certainly be different to not have class, even tomorrow too since that will be the start of my week.

It was very gray and cold Sunday, so maybe today will be the same, which is actually better for an outside day as it's easier since I don't have to worry about the sun or heat.

I'm sure it will be weird to be outside for a day. It feels like it's been months, but I know I was out on bunny day, which was barely a month ago.

Hopefully the day won't be too bad and I can hang on ok.

Day 5446 - 5/30

Week start Tuesday

Today will be a strange start to the week with it being Tuesday and showering and it being my first day there this week. I guess there isn't much to expect save for my class things probably getting posted around noon.

Hopefully the day will be fairly calm and restful and I can have a good shower and micro foods and be fairly restful.

Week 779

Day 5447 - 5/31 **Different drawing**

Today was pretty fun. In my drawing class we did drawings with 'mixed media' on a different kind of surface. It wasn't the best due to proportions being off, but it was different and fun.

I guess that was really it for my day. I was pretty exhausted, so my brain was pretty sleepy. I don't even clearly remember most of the day, but I know I played my MMO, watched a show, did class, played my shooter for a teeny bit, then watched another show. But it's all kind of a blur.

Hopefully tomorrow will be restful and maybe I can get some extra sleep tonight and be not so tired.

Day 5448 - 6/1 **Tiny cheese**

Today I feel ok. And I did last night, which is good since I unknowingly had some cheese yesterday. I decided to get a food I don't normally get and tasted the cheese, and then noticed a little bit on the picture on the box.

Since I have been craving it so much I wonder if maybe the food poisoning reset things a bit. Like with how I don't really seem to want or crave Pepsi since then. I think this weekend, probably Sunday, I may test with a single cheese slice. And then if that test is totally ok, next week I may be bold and get a micro pizza. I'd guess that is only 2-3 ounces worth of cheese, likely about the same as a slice. If things seem fine I may try a micro lasagna the week after that. And if I can have that and things are fine, then things likely have been reset and I don't need to constantly worry.

In my reading about possible issues there were a few that were things that could naturally 'pass', and so if I'm fine with cheese again I wonder if that was the case. Maybe there was some blockage, or stone of some kind, and now it's passed.

I guess I had a pretty good day. There was a bit of school stuff I did very quickly, and most of the day I played, watched shows, and rested. I am still so very tired.

Day 5449 - 6/2

A bit acidic

Today my tummy is a bit acidic. It doesn't really happen much these days thankfully. Since banning cheese, even more so since the food poisoning, it has been pretty acid free. But I did hot dogs for food today, and it hasn't been very happy with that choice.

I guess today was pretty peaceful other than that. I played my games and watched shows, and just very briefly peeked at some class stuff.

Something odd did come up a couple of days ago. An ex of mine died, and the family didn't post a reason why. She was a couple years younger than me. I always cared a lot for her, and part of me hoped we'd reconnect and maybe have a happily ever after. When we were together timing was bad for me, and later when things cleared for me, timing was bad for her. But the reality is that I don't think she ever cared for me as much as I did her. And she hasn't talked to me in, I think, more than 25 years. Which is absolutely no small amount of time. So she'd already left my life a very long time ago.

It kind of makes me think of others too from 'that circle' of people I once knew. They all abandoned me, pretty much right around that same time. I always wanted to be friends or do stuff with them much more than they wanted with me. I wonder lately if it ever meant anything. If they haven't cared to stay friends or talk in that long, are the memories of them worth anything to me?

Well, I have today, and hopefully I still have many years ahead. And all I can do is try to hang on to what of me there is left, and maybe someday I can be in a better place to try and build more with the time I have in the future.

Day 5450 - 6/3

Maybe small poisoning

Today I have felt a bit off. Yesterday my tummy got a bit acidic feeling, and I ate hot dogs all day. This morning I thought I'd get more gentle food and got shredded chicken and crackers. Even though the chicken said it was packaged today I don't think it was fresh. Since I ate some I've had the same muscle cramped punched feeling as a few days ago when I was badly food poisoned. But it's not as bad, maybe only 10% as intense, but definitely noticeable.

I guess it was a pretty ok day though. I actually started a school paper that isn't due for 3 weeks. Tomorrow I'll hopefully mostly, or completely, finish. I was thinking this weekend is the last one before both my new MMO expansion and a monster smashing arcadey game come out, both of which should be super fun. So if I do the paper now, that removes probably half a dozen school hours I would need later, freeing it up for playing instead.

I guess overall it was a pretty regular day. Fairly quiet and calm, I played and watched shows, and nothing especially new that was terrible (or wonderful) happened.

Day 5451 - 6/4

A bit punched

Today I am feeling a bit punched still. My tummy muscles are feeling a bit strained and I don't really feel like eating. Weirdly with this time the sharp pain feels like it's on my left side, about where the pelvis top pokes up. It's not a whole lot worse than yesterday, but it does feel a bit worse and I've barely eaten. I had a blueberry muffin for breakfast, maybe 10 pieces of salami, about a dozen crackers, and maybe half of my normal drink amount (none of which was soda.) I thought about getting some chow mien to see if that would help settle things and be something my tummy would want to eat, but the more I thought, the more I realized that's a lot greasier than I think it is and it would probably be a bad idea, so I decided to pass.

I did do the school paper, which surprisingly only took about an hour. I guess I just need to tweak it a bit and it should be ready.

I guess besides feeling punched a bit today was a pretty good day. My tummy has been gurgling a lot, which is usually a sign it's dealing with something, so hopefully that should clear up soon. And hopefully tomorrow I'll feel ok.

Day 5452 - 6/5

Big game day

Today I will hopefully feel better from my recent light food poisoning. I have my new expansion for my MMO to look forward to. Hopefully that is ready and the server is back up early enough to play. And then right before I go offline for the night the arcadey monster killing game releases, so I have that to look forward too as well.

Hopefully I'll feel better, and today will be a calm, restful, and fun day.

Day 5453 - 6/6

Probably all the class stuff

Today will probably be a day spent doing all of the online class stuff for the week so I can have that time later to just play my new things. Of course it doesn't really matter, since time spent is time spent whenever, time is time, but it's nice to do it all Tuesday and then not worry about needing to do anything Thursday. I can just add that to Friday, Saturday, and Sunday for days to play.

But hopefully today I will feel recovered from my lesser food poisoning. And hopefully I can get through class stuff quickly to move on to fun things.

Week 780

Day 5454 - 6/7 **Feel ok, but veerry tired**

Today I feel ok in my tummy, but overall still completely exhausted. I drew pretty badly in class. It's about getting better though, in terms of practice and theory, not quality of work, so it's fine. I had fun in class though, and am having fun with my new game things, so that's good. Maybe tomorrow I will be daring and test a micro pizza for lunch and see if it affects me at night. Though my body still hasn't wanted Pepsi at all. When I had it a few days ago I had a few sips and tummy was like, 'nope, do not want,' so I stopped. Which still seems strange after averaging 3 cans per day the last few years and for most of my life. Since my food poisoning I'd barely gotten up to 1/2 a can per day. It still seems overly odd and I wonder if the removal of caffeine is why I feel so exhausted.

Well, it was a pretty good day. I should only have a tiny bit of class stuff tomorrow and then the rest of the weekend to rest and play, so that should be good.

Day 5455 - 6/8 **So very tired**

Today I am very tired. I don't know why but I had a hard time getting to sleep last night. I have been extremely hungry too, so much so that after I had lunch it felt like I hadn't had any, so I got a hamburger from the cafeteria.

I did finish school stuff early, so I had a fun day today playing the new stuff in my MMO, watched a few shows, and played very briefly in my other new game. But overall it seemed restful and fun.

Day 5456 - 6/9

Cheese test

Today was a super fun day. I played with some new stuff in my MMO pretty much during my day play time. I watched a show after. Things were restful and calm and the day passed quickly.

I also did a cheese test. I got a single slice of cheddar for my sandwich and it was fine. Anywhere between 2-4 hours from now is the usual pain window if it's going to happen, so I'll see later if I have a bad reaction. But I don't know, it really feels like cheese will be fine again. (The way it was. I will still be lactose intolerant to some degree I'd guess.) Really the only things my tummy kind of immediately seems to always react to is chocolate, that I still seem to need to keep control of, and Pepsi, which sometimes I'm ok with half a can, and other times I'm done after a few sips. More experimenting will be required for sure.

But today so far has been super good, at least for my sad homeless life.

Day 5457 - 6/10

Cheese experiment pass

Today I am feeling fine. Which means the first cheese experiment of a single slice was perfectly fine. My tummy did make a little noise and I had a bit of trouble sleeping, but that has happened a few nights now and I'm also having a bit of sneezing, so I may have a cold or something.

I had another super fun time with my MMO. I barely played my other games and only watched a couple of shows. It's a bit weird to play a different class that is so different from my main. I keep instinctively trying to do certain abilities and I'm like, nope that's not what that button does. It's fun to do something different for a bit. I'm actually getting close to max level, and then it will be pretty much just back to my main. But I still have all the new story stuff to do still.

So far today was very fun. I'm super tired from losing sleep lately though. If I don't have a cold I don't know what that is about other than maybe the overwhelming

stress I always have. There have been some pretty bad dreams. 😞 But today was good, so I continue to try my best to hang on.

Day 5458 - 6/11

Sleepy

Today I am still extremely sleepy. I again lost a couple of hours of sleep last night. I'm not exactly sure why, but I have been pretty snifflly and sneezy, so maybe I've been fighting a cold or allergies at a low level and that is why my body is extra alert and not sleeping easily lately. I had more bad dreams too, but don't remember them. I think I was maybe crying in my sleep though because my eyes had a hard time opening. 😞

Thankfully I had a pretty good day. I played my game and had fun and watched a show. Things were quiet and calm and most of the day I was alone at the table, so I wasn't worried about sick people being around me.

Hopefully I can get some extra sleep tonight and don't lose more sleep.

Day 5459 - 6/12

Nearing quarter's end

Today is the second to last week of the quarter, not counting finals. I guess it's not a very strange thought, but I am worried I'm running out of classes. Continuing is the only thing keeping student loan people off my back, so it will be worrisome if I can't continue. Plus, then it would be weird to visit and do showers and use the microwave. I'm sure barely anyone would notice and no one would question either, but still. I certainly shouldn't hang out there all day if I don't have classes.

But today is today. I can only look a very short distance ahead, if at all, with how my life is, and continue trying to do the best with what I do have.

Day 5460 - 6/13
Hopefully good Tuesday

Today hopefully will be a good class day and things will be smooth and I have time to play too. Hopefully I will get enough sleep. I may do a lasagna test too since the last cheese test was fine.

Hopefully I can continue on, and be as happy and feeling ok as I can.

Week 781

Day 5461 - 6/14 **No ink / Passed lasagna test**

Today had a panic moment. I went to start work on my final (which I'm leaving in the classroom to keep safe) and right when I started my pen had no ink. Yikes! Thankfully the professor had one I could borrow. It's probably only a couple of dollars so I can get another over the weekend.

I also passed the lasagna test pretty easily. I had an expected reaction like I did before any of the recent pains had happened, so maybe indeed things reset after what seemed like food poisoning. Or maybe there was a blockage of some kind in my system that passed, but either way I will stop my constant worrying and downgrade it to mild tracking. I'll have maybe one 'big' cheese thing per week and then recover before more and I guess like before it should be fine. It's maybe the constant little things that I have to worry about more than a big thing that causes constant exposure and maybe wears my resistance down. I don't know, but I'll try to not worry anymore.

That was really it for the day. I had fun in class. I was a bit extra hungry, but I think I'll manage ok. I'm still pretty tired, but a lot of my focus seems to have come back. (I did have 2 pepsi yesterday, a first since the poisoning, so maybe that helped increase alertness.) But I try to continue to hang on and hope I'll be ok.

Day 5462 - 6/15 **Tired of blurry**

Today I am tired of my eyes being blurry all the time. I think I'll probably call my eye doctor and ask if maybe the prescription is too low. It's like everything past about 5 feet away is blurry. So all the people I see, anything when I'm looking past my laptop, it's all not clear. I think he may be erring on the side of too weak because I use my computer a lot, but I'd rather risk screen headaches than have things always blurry when I look up.

I guess my day was pretty ok other than that. I'm still very tired, but I had fun playing my games. And I only had a little bit of school stuff to do, so mostly I just relaxed. I guess it was a pretty good day.

Day 5463 - 6/16

Sniffles

Today was pretty good. I played and had fun and things were pretty peaceful, quiet, and stable. I was pretty sniffly though. I still don't know if it's allergies or a cold.

My tummy has been pretty upset at the hot dogs I made to eat today. They are the fanciest ones, so I guess I'm just done with preparing hot dogs to eat later. Sure, it's less grumbly than the cheaper ones, but having that feeling for up to a few hours after eating one isn't great.

I guess all in all today was ok though.

Day 5464 - 6/17

Sneezy day

Today is a very sneezy and sniffly day. I was worried a few times when I was sneezing several times in a row, but there weren't really people around me, so it was fine.

I did spend time with my guild in my MMO, so that was fun. I watched part of a movie that I'd forgotten about, so that was good too.

I guess today was pretty good, but there was much sneezing and sniffing and at one point I felt a bit hot from it, so that wasn't the best. But, overall today was pretty good.

Day 5465 - 6/18

Unexpected guildies

Today I did some unexpected stuff with some guildies in my MMO which was pretty fun. Then I did some other stuff, and queued for a random dungeon and apparently got matched with another guildie. It was crazy they recognized me, and that we both had queued randomly in the same probably 5 second window and got matched together. So that was pretty fun.

That was really the highlights for the day. My tummy still seems back to normal, as I had a single pizza slice last night and was fine. My eyes are still annoyingly blurry all the time, so I really think the prescription must be off. It's bothering me so much because I'm kind of claustrophobic, and so the constant blur is causing a bit of panic to set in since it feels like I'm trapped, even though I know it's just everything is blurry. I have an appointment for Friday.

I guess all in all it was a pretty calm day.

Day 5466 - 6/19

Hopefully ok holiday

Today I hope it will be an ok holiday. Things are closed, so I'll have to be outside of the library. I should be reasonably warm, so that should be good. But as with all outside days I'll probably only have 2/3 of my regular online time, maybe even only half. But all I can do is try my best to enjoy what I have and hopefully I can hang on ok.

Day 5467 - 6/20

Last Tuesday class

Today will be the last Tuesday class before the final next week. It feels exciting to almost be summer and have a bit of a break again, but also fearful, as I feel no closer to a

job than when I started. And what if there are no more classes I can take in September to keep financial aid off my back?

All I can do is try my best to hang on, try to enjoy what I can, and hope for the best choices I can have living this terrible one day at a time life. 😞

Week 782

Day 5468 - 6/21 **Better eyes**

Today my eyes are being better. Things 10-15 feet away still aren't in clear focus though. It's not as bad as blurry only 5-10 feet from me, but still I wonder if the prescription is off. The appointment is Friday, so I'll know soon enough. Oddly my right eye blind spot is improving. I can actually read this text pretty well closing my left eye, so I don't think any blurriness is from them fighting each other on a focal point.

It was the last day to work on my final in class. I might like to work on it more, but it is too big to safely carry around with me. The cubist figure is pretty good for a first real attempt at it, though I think the smaller test piece I did is a bit better proportioned. It's strange to think that class is effectively over now.

I'm still very sniffly and sneezy, so that is still going on and feels weird. I guess it's not messing me up other than that though.

Today was pretty calm and restful though, and I had fun in class. Though some of the other students are way better than me, so I still question if this is the right path and how I'd ever be hired up against such others.

Day 5469 - 6/22 **Sleepy day**

Today is a pretty sleepy day. I took a pretty leisurely shower in the morning because I was so sleepy, then never really woke up. I guess it doesn't matter. I had about 1 hour of school stuff that I did and then the rest of the day was just relaxing with games and shows. I'm almost done with school stuff too. I have some stuff to get ready for the final, but that is about it.

Hopefully the weekend will be pretty restful and maybe I won't feel so sleepy.

Day 5470 - 6/23

Blaming sugar

Today I had my visit with the eye doc. In good news we just chatted and he didn't charge me. But I guess from my description, especially since today when I went it was the clearest vision day in months, variable vision like that is usually not a prescription issue. His guess is that it might be a blood sugar related issue - specifically something like diabetes. Which that seems unlikely since I checked that maybe 5 years ago and I was right in the middle of normal in terms of sugar levels. However, these last couple of months I have gone through some pretty big diet changes. There was the cheese ban, the almost complete chocolate ban, and the recent complete stop of Pepsi, which has changed to be about 1-2 per day (with the rest being other sodas.) So it's possible there was some shifting of things there.

But it seems odd. On an average day where I have class, between getting up and going to class I've had a doughnut, probably 1 soda, and whatever I had for lunch, all within about a 3 hour window. So being short on sugar with that mix of raw and refined sugars seems unlikely. I suppose, and this is his fear, that I may have some kind of imbalance that needs to be fixed with medicine, as apparently imbalance with blood sugar can cause a part of the eye to swell up, making it impossible to correctly focus vision.

He said the checks like blood work should be free with my coverage, though any visit is a minimum of \$25, so that would add up very quickly even with free testing (if that is true.) I guess I should look into it, but I don't know how easy it will be to find someone, nor how long it will take, with everything going on. And I'm still absolutely terrified to go to a hospital for any reason these days.

I guess that is good news, but it means control is really completely out of my hands. Unless I just do things that are totally random like pound sodas and track when I have what and see if X affects vision in a positive way.

All I can do for now is try to mentally keep track of things, and hope I'm ok, and if I do have it checked out that it's cheap, quick, and easy.

Day 5471 - 6/24

Brain doesn't remember

Today I am pretty exhausted. I didn't sleep for about 2-3 hours last night, so I'm super tired. My brain doesn't remember the day. My body did things on automatic. I know I had some fun with guildies in my MMO for a bit. I played my new game in the afternoon for a bit, which I haven't done as much as I originally expected I would. And I watched a show.

I guess my day was pretty basic and restful. Though I was worried for a bit when someone was sitting at my table for a few hours constantly blowing her nose and sniffing. But I guess overall the day was pretty good.

Day 5472 - 6/25

Another forgotten day

Today was another forgotten day. I mean, sure, I remember playing in my MMO, taking a break for part of a show and lunch, playing my new game, then watching more show, but nothing really stood out in my memory.

I am still very exhausted. I don't know why, but again I lost a couple of hours of sleep last night, and then had some bad, and I suppose good, dreams.

My time today was pretty good and calm, and I had fun, so I guess overall it was pretty good.

Day 5473 - 6/26

Monday of nothing

Today will be mostly a day with nothing specific to do. I have what will probably be an hour of school stuff to get ready for a final, and then nothing else of importance. After that I'm free for the summer, so it will likely be a day of mostly trying to rest and relax with the usual job searching. Hopefully it will be a good day.

Day 5474 - 6/27

Probably not a final

Today I don't think the final will be up for the online class. I think it's effectively counted as a Tuesday/Thursday class even though it's online and can be done whenever after posting. So the test probably won't be up until Thursday. If it is then it should be pretty quick and easy to do. I think for this person's class before, and the mid-terms, it's only taken about 30 minutes.

Hopefully I can have a good and restful day and maybe be recovering some of the lost sleep.

Week 783

Day 5475 - 6/28 **Too hungry, too full**

Today was pretty good. We had my in person class final, so it was earlier than usual. That threw off my tummy since there was no break. Even though I had lunch early before class, by the time it was nearly up I was starving. I spent too much getting a meal in the cafeteria. It will be the last one until I return in late September. It was not only too much food, but having dinner 2 hours later I hadn't recovered and so I felt sort of overly full.

It was a pretty good day though. I mostly got to play my normal amounts, and I watched a couple of shows, so things were pretty relaxed. It's odd to be at the end of another quarter and still feel no closer to a job or solid path in life. But I guess I can only continue on one step at a time.

Day 5476 - 6/29 **Swollen**

Today I am dealing with a bit of a swollen tongue. It's like when it's just a bit, but the sides got pokie because of the teeth, then it's all overly sensitive when eating or swallowing. It's not too bad, but eating is not the best or easiest. I noticed too I've been absent-mindedly scratching at my right arm; specifically the back of the hand along the top to almost my elbow. Last night those areas were a bit swollen too. So I wonder if something affected that area, then got into my bloodstream, and that is why my tongue is swollen.

I guess it was a pretty good day though. It was strange to be the last real day on campus. I mean, sure, I'll be here to shower twice a week and have a quick micro lunch very early on those days too during July, but that's all I'll do. (August will hopefully also still be a twice weekly morning shower, but the cafeteria will likely be closed.) My big

time and routine of being there for class or hanging out around class times is done until I maybe go back in late September.

But my life is what it is, one day at a time, and so I try to continue on.

Day 5477 - 6/30

Tired day

Today I am pretty tired. I think I kept waking up last night or something. I remember being not fully asleep all the time.

I guess today was pretty ok. I had fun playing, and spent time catching a streamed show. There were some late teens kids across from me sniffing and coughing that had me worried, so hopefully I am ok.

I guess today wasn't terrible for an official summer start.

Year 16

Day 5478 - 7/1

Stupid hot

Today is stupid hot. It's been around 75F or less lately, but all of a sudden it's spiked up to the mid 90s and it's almost early evening now.

I guess today was ok. There were some people at my table, but they weren't too bad. The connection was kind of garbage though. I decided not to spend the time in my MMO like I'd planned because I didn't want to drop during a group activity. I played my new actiony game, which was pretty fun, but even that got dropped as many as four times an hour. It cleared a bit in the afternoon but still had issues.

I guess it was a pretty good day, but now in the heat I'm sweating, and it will probably be a few hours until it actually cools off.

Day 5479 - 7/2

Still hot

Today is still pretty hot. I guess it will stay pretty warm until Wednesday when it will cool back down to the mid to high 70s.

I had some different lunchmeat for lunch, I think sobresso, which was pretty tasty but quite a bit greasier than the regular salami I think. So, my tummy feels a bit off. Not sick, not upset, just not fully settled I guess.

It was a pretty good day for resting and playing. There was a girl at my table and she would eat one chip every 5 minutes. I was right on the verge of losing it after a few hours, but then I left. It's like I get you want to keep quiet to not be rude, but it is actually more rude constantly eating for hours than to be louder and eat enough to get full all at once. But the connection was stable, so playing my games was good and uninterrupted.

Day 5480 - 7/3

DMV

Today I have an appointment at the DMV. It's set for an hour before the library opens, which I picked that time because I wasn't sure if they would be, so hopefully it will be like 15 minutes and done, and then I can be there and ready before it opens. But I don't know. I still have no real idea why I have to go in person instead of just doing it online like I have been. I'm going to guess they want a new picture and maybe fingerprints or something. I guess I'll see and keep my fingers crossed it's quick and easy.

Hopefully today will go easy, quickly, and I can settle in for what will be a first Monday of the summer.

Day 5481 - 7/4

Outside pew pew day

Today is pew pew day, which means all the places I could be will be closed. All I can really hope for is it's not too hot outside of the library so I can be in the outside spot, and that power and the connection are ok. Thankfully it is just the one day, with Monday and Wednesday as normal. So as long as nothing tragic happens I should easily recover mentally and physically tomorrow and be back to homeless summer normal.

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.

Podcast 4780

Where did I see it?

Wondering where you may have seen my day subtitles before? Here's a list. 😊

Day 4771 - Movie; Aladdin (1992).