



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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Book 15
Digital life, dreaming of a real one

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Where did I see it?

Glossary and Links

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

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

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

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

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

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

MOBA - Multiplayer Online Battle Arena.

monies - lolspeak/leetspeak for "money".

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

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

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

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.

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).